

Changes

From A1 the coming months," Gov. Cooper said. "This is what we need to do to slow the spread of this illness and protect the health and safety of North Carolinians."

The order also orders certain businesses to close, including hair salons, barber shops, Bingo parlors, bowling alleys, movie theaters, live performance venues, nail salons, tattoo parlors, indoor exercise facilities, health clubs, skating rinks, spas and others.

"I know today's orders cause hardship for a lot of people. I do not treat these decisions lightly," he said. "We made them in the interest of health and safety."

As the situation has progressed, there have been changes in the county and town operations throughout Bertie County.

Bertie County officials



Pastor Chuck Gray (red) speaks to his congregants as they gathered in the parking lot of Windsor Assembly of God.

officially closed offices to allow "appointment only" meetings.

Vidant Bertie Hospital is screening employees and patients at the door. They have also announced a policy of not allowing visitors

other than certain circumstances.

There is a listing of local businesses and services and their current operating hours on page A2 in the Out & About section.

One of the biggest

changes is closing school for another six weeks.

Bertie County Schools Superintendent Dr. Otis Smallwood said the district is mostly concerned about the safety of students and staff,

but is working towards making sure students have access to meals and distance learning plans are in place.

"Our top concern is the health and well-being of our students, staff and their families," Dr. Smallwood stressed. "Procedures are currently underway Monday through Friday to make sure students in Bertie County continue to have access to meals."

"Currently, our teachers and upper level administrators are working - either remotely or at the Central Office, respectively - to develop a distance learning plan, which will be launched on Monday, March 30," he continued. "This plan is being created so students and parents can have access to online content, which can potentially benefit every child."

Dr. Smallwood said while the plan isn't

perfect, the district is working to provide for as many students as possible.

"It is not a perfect plan; we know that not every child in this county has the device(s) needed or access to the Internet," he said. "However, we must remember that we are not in this crisis alone, and we will do everything we can to make sure all students continue to learn during the closure of schools."

"Six of our schools will be equipped to serve as drive-up Wi-Fi stations in order to assist those without Internet services in gaining access to online learning tools," he added. "We appreciate the patience and support of our staff, and families as we navigate these uncertain times."

Thadd White can be reached via email at twhite@ncweeklies.com.

Bertie

From A1 North Carolina among the 8,502 people who have been tested.

The ongoing crises has the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the White House recommending people not gather in groups of 10 or more. N.C. Governor

Roy Cooper has signed a ban on gatherings of 50 or more.

Other measures being recommended include self-quarantining at home if possible and maintaining social distancing (six feet or more) in public places.

The CDC also recom-

mends regular and vigorous hand washing, and says people should do their best to avoid touching their face.

Officials are recommending people stay home when they are sick, and contact their primary care provider or a health department

in non-life-threatening illnesses.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), people may be sick with the virus for one to 14 days before developing symptoms. The most common symptoms of Coronavirus

disease (COVID-19) are fever, tiredness and dry cough. Most people (about 80 percent) recover from the disease without needing special treatment.

More rarely, the disease can be serious and even fatal. Older people, and people

with other medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease), may be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill.

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Relay

From A1 challenging time - cancer patients and their families are counting on us," she added.

Parker went on to say the volunteer committee that steers the Relay For Life event in Bertie County has decided to postpone the event until later this year.

This decision came on the heels of the American Cancer Society making the decision to cancel more than 750 events through mid-May.

Currently, Parker said Bertie County organizers are planning to hold the event on Friday, Oct. 2 at a place to be determined.

The event is normally held at Roy L. Bond Jr. Stadium on the campus of the former Bertie High School. While the Falcons are set to be open on that date, holding Relay on the site could prevent practice



Relay For Life has been postponed and will likely take place on Oct. 2.

or a potential make-up football game should one be needed.

In the past, Relay For Life has been held on the walking track in the town of Aulander adjacent to the John Asa Drew Field of Dreams and the Aulander gym.

Organizers have made no decision as to where the event will be

held in October.

"All participants will receive details as soon as final decisions are made and invited to support our event just as enthusiastically as they are now," Parker said.

She said while the event has been postponed, those still wishing to contribute to the

Relay fundraising are welcome to do so.

People can donate to Bertie Relay For Life by going to acevents.org and entering the zip code 27983 to reach the Bertie County Relay event and donate there.

Donations also can be made through the ACS Fundraising mo-

bile app and through Facebook.

In May 1985, Dr. Gordon "Gordy" Klatt walked and ran for 24 hours around a track in Tacoma, Washington, raising money to help the American Cancer Society with the nation's biggest health concern: cancer.

Gordy spent a gruel-

ing 24 hours circling the track at the University of Puget Sound.

Friends, family, and patients watched and supported him as he walked and ran more than 83.6 miles and raised \$27,000 through pledges to help save lives from cancer.

As he circled the track, he thought of how he could get others to take part. He envisioned having teams participate in a 24-hour fundraising event.

The next year, 19 teams were part of the first Relay For Life event at the historical Stadium Bowl and raised \$33,000.

Bertie County joined Relay For Life in 1994, becoming the first county in North Carolina to participate in the fundraising event.

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Adopt-A-Pet Program

Bertie County Humane Society

252-325-3647



RIPLEY

I'm RIPLEY - I was FOUND near AULANDER. I'm a young male Terrier/SETTER mix (about 40 lbs). I have short BLACK & WHITE fur and a TAIL that CURLS over my back. I'm very friendly and I need to FIND A NEW HOME. Call for RIPLEY. ~ 252 325 3647



CHASE

I'm CHASE. I'm a smallish YOUNG male SHEP-mix (about 35 lbs) with a CUTE personality. I was surrendered to the shelter because I was "too active". I do like to RUN and PLAY. If you like to RUN or if you are a BIG KID, Call for CHASE. ~ 252 325 3647



DEXTER

I'm DEXTER. I'm an adult male POINTER-mix with a LOVING personality. I'm mostly WHITE with black and brown spots and BROWN EARS. No one has come for me so I'm looking for a NEW HOME! Call for DEXTER! ~ 252 325 3647.



ACE

ACE is my name and I am an adult male LAB-mix about 50 lbs. I have thick BLACK fur and a BOBBED TAIL. I am SMART!! I WALK well on a leash, SIT on command - I'll even DO THE DISHES - hahaha. I will be your BEST DOG EVER! Call to VISIT ACE ~ 252 325 3647.

"A dog wags its tail with its heart" ~ Martin Buxbaum

The Bertie County Animal Shelter is located on the County Farm Road in Windsor and check us out on Facebook.com.

