

Bertie Ledger-Advance

THURSDAY • APRIL 30, 2020

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Second death in Bertie Co.

Governor's order extended

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's extension of the Stay at Home order last week coincided with another uptick in the number of COVID-19 cases in Bertie County.

Gov. Cooper last week extended the Stay-at-Home order through May 8, and later continued the closure of all on-site schooling, and extended virtual learning through the remain-

der of the school year. The extended order, which was accompanied by a plan to re-open the state, came as Bertie County's confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 38 and announced a second death in relation to the virus. As of Monday, the county had 19 active cases, 17 recoveries and two deaths.

Albemarle Regional Health announced the second death and

See COVID-19, 3

Two face more charges locally

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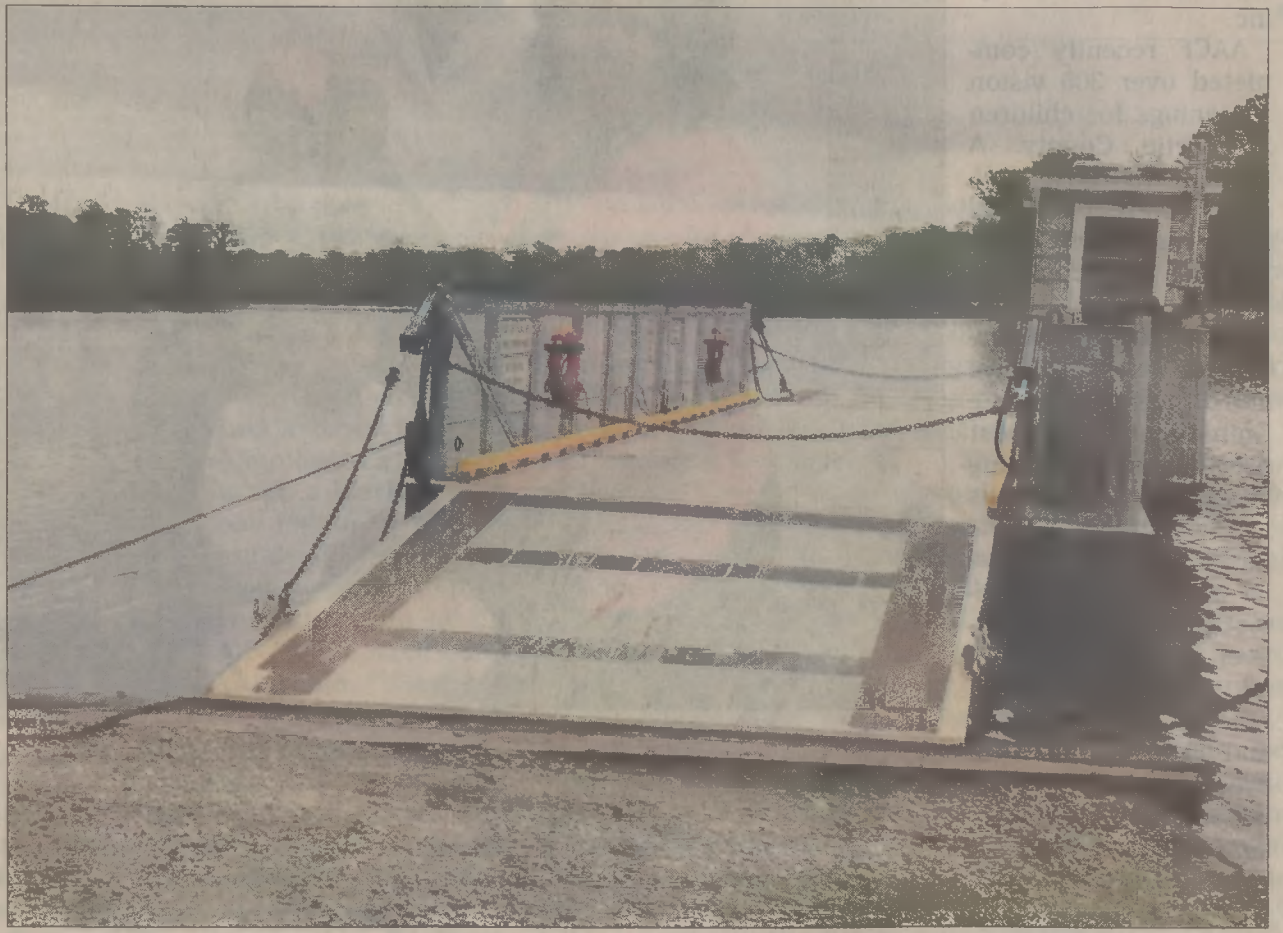
GREENVILLE – Two Bertie County men charged by Martin County authorities, now face local charges.

Bertie County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Kenny Perry said deputies were investigating multiple breaking and entering crimes

throughout the county. The investigation led to Maj. Matt Roebuck and the investigations unit working closely with the Martin County Sheriff's Office and agencies in Pitt County.

Recently, Martin County authorities arrested four men in connection with a string

See CHARGES, 3



MICHELLE LEICESTER / Bertie Ledger-Advance

The Sans Souci Ferry will be closed June 13 due to cutbacks related to the COVID-19 virus.

Sans Souci Ferry set to be closed as of June 13

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SANS SOUCI – Budget cuts in the N.C. Department of Transportation has led to the temporary closure of the Sans Souci Ferry.

The historic inland cable ferry, in existence since the early 1900s, will cease operation on June 13, according to Tim Hass, Communications Officer with

NCDOT. It is one of only three remaining in North Carolina.

"We hope to have the Sans Souci ferry back in service as soon as possible, but the date for resumption of service has yet to be determined," Hass said.

A letter was sent canceling the contract with the ferry operator as of June 13.

The N.C. Department of Trans-

portation has said they are suffering budget-wise due to the COVID-19 virus. Revenues from gas taxes have been drastically reduced due to people remaining off the roadways as part of the governor's stay at home order.

The Bertie County Commissioners and Windsor/Bertie

See FERRY, 3

Chamber Director: Meetings may stay virtual

Social distancing may have changed the way business meetings are conducted not only now, but into the future.

At the Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce, one of the main modes of communication during these trying times of COVID-19 has been virtual meetings.

"We had 13 virtual meetings during the second week of April as an example," Chamber Executive Director Lewis Hoggard

said. "With just the click of a button or two, we can now interact with people in other offices, other towns, other counties, other states and other countries."

Video conferencing has been around for a number of years, but seemed to be used mostly when someone was unavailable to attend personally. Big international companies have used video communications to try to bring employees together over long distances without having

to spend the money and time of making the meetings in person. The talk of video with audio began almost a hundred years ago with the development of moving pictures.

The first real success of merging these mediums into a live commercial format was in the 1964 World's Fair in New York City connecting to Disneyland in Los Angeles, California. After



Windsor/Bertie Chamber Executive Director Lewis Hoggard attends a meeting on Zoom.

See MEETINGS, 3

Bertie-Martin Regional Jail writing manual 'as they go'

SARAH HODGES STALLS
Adams Publishing Group

WINDSOR – Practices such as social distancing are easier implemented in some places than others.

A jail facility is not the easiest place to conduct social

distancing and other practices to curb the spread of illnesses.

Larger facilities around the state have racked up numerous counts of COVID-19 cases within their walls of their facilities.

To date, the Bertie-Martin

Regional Jail, a 90-bed facility serving both counties, has no known cases of COVID-19 affiliated with the facility.

As the earliest waves of COVID-19 struck, BMRJ officials did not wait on guidance to be handed down to them.

Instead, Administrator Terrence Whitehurst and BMRJ Board Chairman John Trent came to the table to develop protocols to manage the storm.

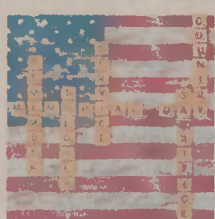
"Mr. Whitehurst and I came up with a plan of action and Mr. Whitehurst has executed

that plan of action to the tee," explained Trent.

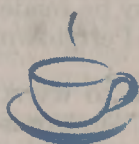
This plan was made "from scratch," according to Trent, who brings a law enforcement background to the table in addition to White-

See JAIL, 3

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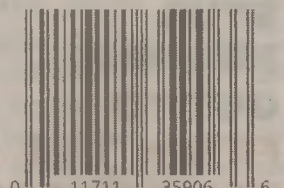
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