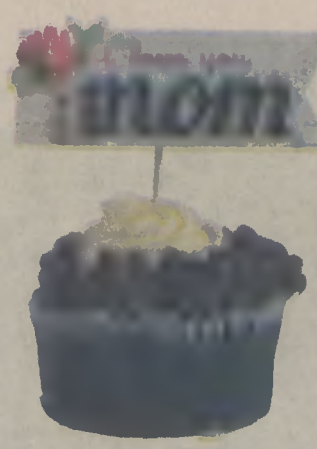


**Bertie Ledger-Advance** \$1

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THURSDAY • MAY 7, 2020



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# Commissioners: 'Do what we have to'

THADD WHITE  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – It may be an uphill battle, but all isn't lost.

Monday night, the Bertie County Commissioners began their first public discussion of the decision made by the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) to temporarily close the Sans Souci Ferry.

Commissioners said they would seek every opportunity

to make sure the ferry remains open, but admitted the cost of operation and maintenance made it a daunting task.

Bertie County Economic Development Director Steve Biggs, who has led the efforts of the county in regard to the ferry, told the commissioners he has spoken to both DOT and legislative leaders in regard to the ferry.

Last week, Tim Hass of DOT confirmed to the Bertie Ledger-

Advance that the ferry would be closed as of June 13. He said it was a temporary measure made to save the cost of operating the ferry. No timetable for its resumption was given.

Biggs said DOT officials told him the ferry was closed 175 days between July 2019 and April 2020 due to high water, both at the landing and on the river.



RUSS RUSSELL / Bertie Ledger-Advance

See FERRY, 8 The Sans Souci Ferry is slated to close June 13.

## State set to open

THADD WHITE  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – North Carolina will move into Phase 1 of reopening from COVID-19 tomorrow (Friday).

N.C. Governor Roy Cooper announced Tuesday afternoon he has signed an executive order entering the state into Phase 1 of recovery due to the leveling of cases in the state and other metrics.

While the governor is working to ease the state back into normalcy, Bertie County is facing an increased number of cases of COVID-19. As of Tuesday, there were 51 confirmed cases of the virus, 18 of which are active. There have been 31 recoveries and two deaths in Bertie County.

On Monday night, Bertie County Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper told the Bertie County Commissioners the COVID-19 task force in the county suggested keeping the county offices closed even with Phase 1.

The commissioners agreed to keep the county offices closed except by appointment only until further notice.

The order for North Carolina will removed the "essential business" designation, but will keep business closed which involve close contact, including salons and entertainment venues.

## WORK UNDER WAY



THADD WHITE / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Several houses along U.S. 13 north of Windsor are being demolished after being bought out due to constant flooding concerns. This house was on the corner of U.S. 13 and Joyner Street in Windsor.

## MCC names leader

Beddard takes helm on July 1

WILLIAMSTON - On July 1, Wesley Beddard will become the ninth president to lead Martin Community College (MCC) since 1968.

He was recommended by the MCC Board of Trustees to the N.C. Community College System State Board on April 1, and was approved by the state board on April 17.



Wesley Beddard

Beddard, originally from Ayden, earned a Master of Business Administration from Campbell University, a bachelor's degree from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) and an associate degree from Mount Olive College.

He has also completed 39 semester hours in North Carolina State University's (NC State) Ed. D program in Higher Education: Community College Leadership. His certificates include: "Future Community College Administrators Leadership Institute" from the UNC-CH Center for School

See BEDDARD, 8

## Bertie County couple wins N.C. Lottery Cash 5 prize

On a whim, Tony Rawls, a real estate broker from Colerain, logged into his home office desktop around 6 p.m. on April 3, bought Cash 5 tickets for that night's drawing, and woke up eight hours later to an email congratulating him for winning the \$375,990 jackpot.

Rawls and his wife, Jolene Morris, are big fans of Cash 5 and they started using Online



Play for its convenience.

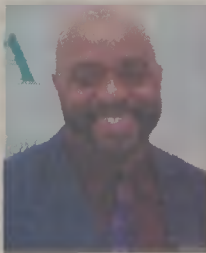
"I like the account part and I like being notified," Rawls said. "I don't have to check

my ticket." After waking up in the middle of the night, and seeing the congratulatory email, Rawls wasn't sure he was seeing things right.

"Of course, it's 4 o'clock in the morning and you're not wide awake, and I woke up my wife and I said, 'Come here and look and see if you're see-

See LOTTERY, 8

## Dr. Smallwood completes program



Dr. Otis Smallwood

RALEIGH — Bertie County Schools Superintendent Dr. Otis L. Smallwood was among 45 superintendents from across the state to graduate for the NCSA Next Generation Superintendent Development Program Cohort VII.

The program is designed to support the growth, expansion and en-

hancement of superintendents using the North Carolina Superintendent Standards, according to Jack Hoke, Executive Director of the N.C. School Superintendents' Association.

The year-long program was comprised of six face-to-face sessions

See SMALLWOOD, 8

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**GOOD MORNING, LOUIS BROWN OF LEWISTON WOODVILLE**

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