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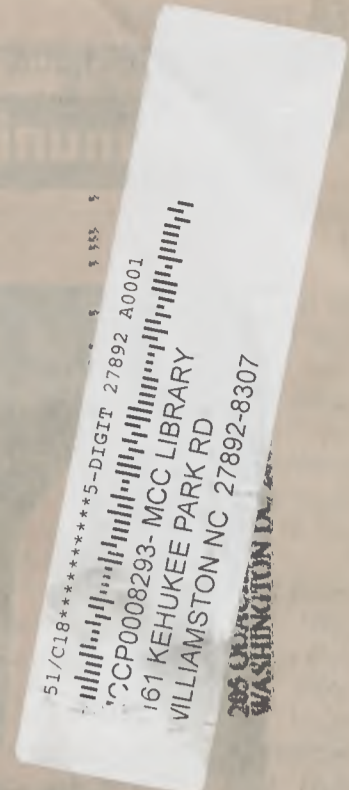
# Bertie Ledger-Advance

THURSDAY • JUNE 11, 2020

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## Bertie has lowest unemployment

### Local businesses lauded for keeping people working

**THADD WHITE**  
*Bertie Ledger-Advance*

**WINDSOR** – For what many believe is the first time in history, Bertie County had the lowest unemployment rate in North Carolina. Figures released late last

week show Bertie's unemployment rate at 6.4 percent in April, far less than the state average and about one-third of the county with the highest rate (Dare at 24.5 percent). Bertie County is one of 23 counties in North Carolina

with rates between five and 10 percent for unemployment. A staggering 77 counties are above 10 percent. The rates are dramatic due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. "To my knowledge, this is the first time that Ber-

tie County has ever led the state with the lowest unemployment numbers for any month of the year," Bertie County Commission Chairman Ronald D. Wesson said. "Bertie is fortunate during this pandemic that many of its major employers are 'es-

sential businesses' – Perdue, Bertie Correctional, Bertie County Schools, Bertie County local government, Food Lion, etc. "Normally our lack of retail establishments hurts our growth, but we will take this good news with a smile," he added.

See **UNEMPLOYMENT**, A3

## Registration begins at local schools

### Pre-K, Kindergarten students must enroll

**THADD WHITE**  
*Bertie Ledger-Advance*

**WINDSOR** – Those wishing to register their students to begin kindergarten or pre-K have a variety of options. Bertie County Schools, Bethel Assembly Christian Academy and Lawrence Academy are all accepting enrollment for the 2020-2021

academic year. Bertie County Schools is currently accepting applications for Pre-K for children who will reach four years of age by Aug. 31. Those wishing to enroll in Bertie County Schools must pick up an application package

See **REGISTRATION**, A3

### HOME LOST TO FIRE



This house on Main Street in Roxobel was destroyed by fire the weekend of May 30. The home was a complete loss, but there was reportedly no injuries. The Roxobel Volunteer Fire Department was the lead agency for the fire.

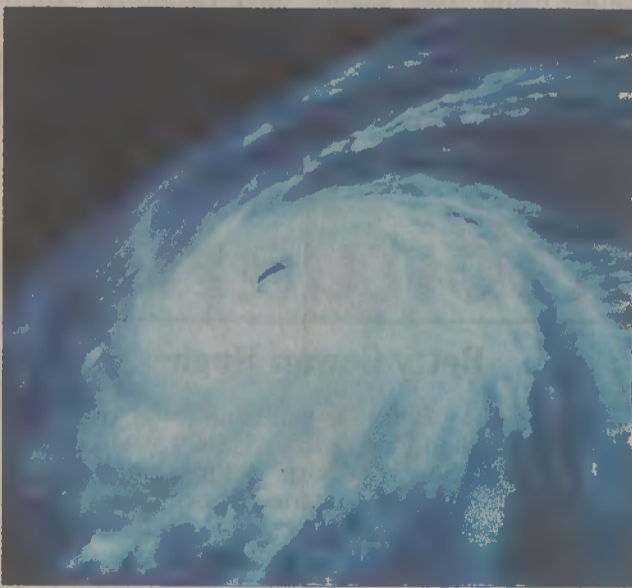
## 'Active' hurricane season kicked off June 1

### Season will likely see many named storms

An above-normal 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is expected, according to forecasters with NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Climate Administration) Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service. The outlook predicts a 60 percent chance of an above-normal season, a 30 percent chance of a near-normal season and only a

10 percent chance of a below-normal season. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. The NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting a likely range of 13 to 19 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which six to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), in-

See **FORECAST**, A5



Keep up with hurricanes by tracking them along their path thanks to a Hurricane Tracking Chart provided in today's edition by the Bertie Ledger-Advance and Roanoke Electric Cooperative. **Page A6**

### Emergency leaders urge special caution

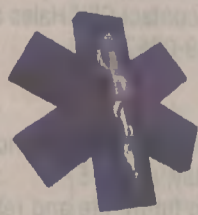
**BY THADD WHITE**  
*Bertie Ledger-Advance*

Bertie County emergency and public safety leaders are urging the public to be prepared and be safe in the event a hurricane strikes the county. The preparedness is especially important in the wake of the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19, according to Bertie County Emergency Management Direc-

tor Mitch Cooper. "This is a new year for us as far as preparing for sheltering," Cooper said. "We are encouraging people to be prepared to stay in place for 72 hours if they live in a safe structure. Bertie County Sheriff John Holley, Windsor Police Chief Justin Jackson and Aulander Police Chief Jimmy Barner joined Cooper in urging

See **EMERGENCY**, A5

### In this edition



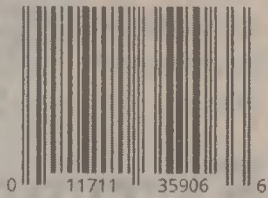
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