

INSIDE: Simons celebrates 103 years...

# Bertie Ledger-Advance

THURSDAY • JULY 30, 2020



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## Bertie is second to recognize Juneteenth

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WINDSOR – Bertie County became just the second county in North Carolina to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday.

During the regularly scheduled meeting of the

Bertie County Commissioners, the board unanimously approved making June 19 a county holiday.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19 that the

Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

It came two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become

official January 1, 1863.

Commissioner Ernestine Byrd Bazemore asked for the board to add discussion of an additional holiday at the beginning of the meeting, and the board agreed.

When discussion began, Commissioner Bazemore said she would like the coun-

ty board to consider adding the holiday to commemorate Juneteenth.

"This is the oldest known celebration that ended slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865," Bazemore said.

See JUNETEENTH, A5

## EMS staff grieve

County confirms death of EMS employee

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WINDSOR – Bertie County officials announced the death of a current EMS employee last Wednesday, July 22.

The county confirmed the death of the employee who had contracted COVID-19, but had since tested negative for the disease.

"We are heartbroken, to hear of this loss, and we send our thoughts and prayer to the family as they work through this difficult time," Bertie Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper said.

On June 30, the employee was the subject of a press release in which Bertie County officials said a second EMS employee tested positive. Since that

See GRIEVE, A5



MICHELLE A. MICHAEL / Contributed Photo

This is the Colerain business district, which is on South Main Street.

## Colerain Historic District named to National Register

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COLERAIN – The Colerain Historic District has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts worthy of preservation for their significance in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture.

The Colerain Historic District – which covers Academy Street, Britton Street, Cedar

Street, Glover Street, Main Street, River Street and Winton Street – was one of seven North Carolina places recently added to the register.

The application, submitted by Michelle A. Michael, describes the town's historic district as encompassing most of the corporate limits of Colerain.

"Colerain is a small agricultural community in northeastern Bertie County at the intersection of N.C. 45 and N.C. 42," the narrative explains. "The Chowan River is approximately one mile east of

the intersection of East River Road. The principal roads follow the same road system illustrated on the earliest maps of Eastern North Carolina and Colerain dating to 1770.

"The historic district encompasses approximately 115 acres within the corporate limits of Colerain," it continues. "The boundaries of the district follow the basic boundaries of the town limits with adjustments for vacant and noncontributing properties on the edge of the bound-

See COLERAIN, A6

## Cases rise again

Bertie Co. reaches more than 200

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WINDSOR – The confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Bertie County continue to escalate.

In the last week, the cases have risen by 38 as the county's confirmed cases have climbed to 219 as of late Tuesday afternoon.

Of those 219 cases, 33 are active in Bertie County with 182 people having recovered. There have been four confirmed deaths.

Bertie County confirmed four new cases on Tuesday after seeing the total rise by 10 on Sunday.

"At this time, we have no information that supports these large increases are related to large employers such as Perdue, the prison/jail,

See COVID-19, A5

## State board requires more One Stop voting options

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WINDSOR – The Bertie County Board of Elections is working to meet new requirements handed down from the state level.

Bertie County Elections Director Shelia Holloman said

the board has submitted early voting plans previously, but one of them does not meet new requirements.

Last week, N.C. Board of Elections Executive Director Karen Brinson Bell handed down new requirements to help allow for additional early voting due to the COVID-19

worldwide pandemic.

Brinson Bell said the new requirements would help ensure everyone in North Carolina who was registered could vote, but avoid long lines and unnecessary risk during the pandemic.

"If we do not take these measures, we risk much lon-

ger lines at voting sites and greater possibility of the spread of the Coronavirus," she said. "These are not acceptable risks in this important election year when we expect turnout to be high."

The new directives call for more early voting sites in some counties, as well as

extended weekend hours for voting.

The order mandates that each county board of elections have at least 10 hours of weekend early voting available on the weekends of Oct. 17-18 and Oct. 24-25.

See VOTING, A5

### In this edition



- Church & Faith ..... B3
- Classified ..... B4
- Life & Style ..... A3
- Opinion ..... A4
- Sports ..... B1

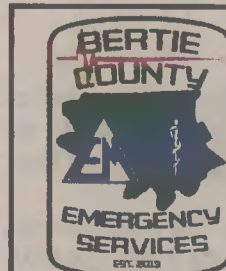


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