

INSIDE: Bertie's Conference adds two members...

Bertie

Ledger-Advance

THURSDAY • JANUARY 21, 2021



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BCS to continue remote learning

Winter sports, activities remain suspended

BY GENE MOTLEY
For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – Remote learning will continue for Bertie County Schools students through the third quarter of the 2020-21 school year, which began Jan. 6 and runs

through March 11. At their Tuesday evening Jan. 11 meeting, the Bertie County Board of Education unanimously approved a recommendation from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Otis Smallwood to continue with Plan-C, all remote-learning

for the next nine weeks of the school calendar. Danny Perry, BCS Director of Safety and Security, cited results of a parental survey on face-to-face learning. Respondents at only one school (Colerain Elementary) of the eight surveyed in

the school district favored a return to the classroom. Board members, along with the Superintendent expressed their concerns over making a change, leaving Bertie schools with remote learning for close to one full year. "This COVID stuff has really made havoc," said Dr. Smallwood. "Taking two

steps back and one forward certainly has imperfections, but we have been working through it. We were presented three options and I think we've done the very best we can in the students' and staff's best interest." The five board members pretty much stood in agree-

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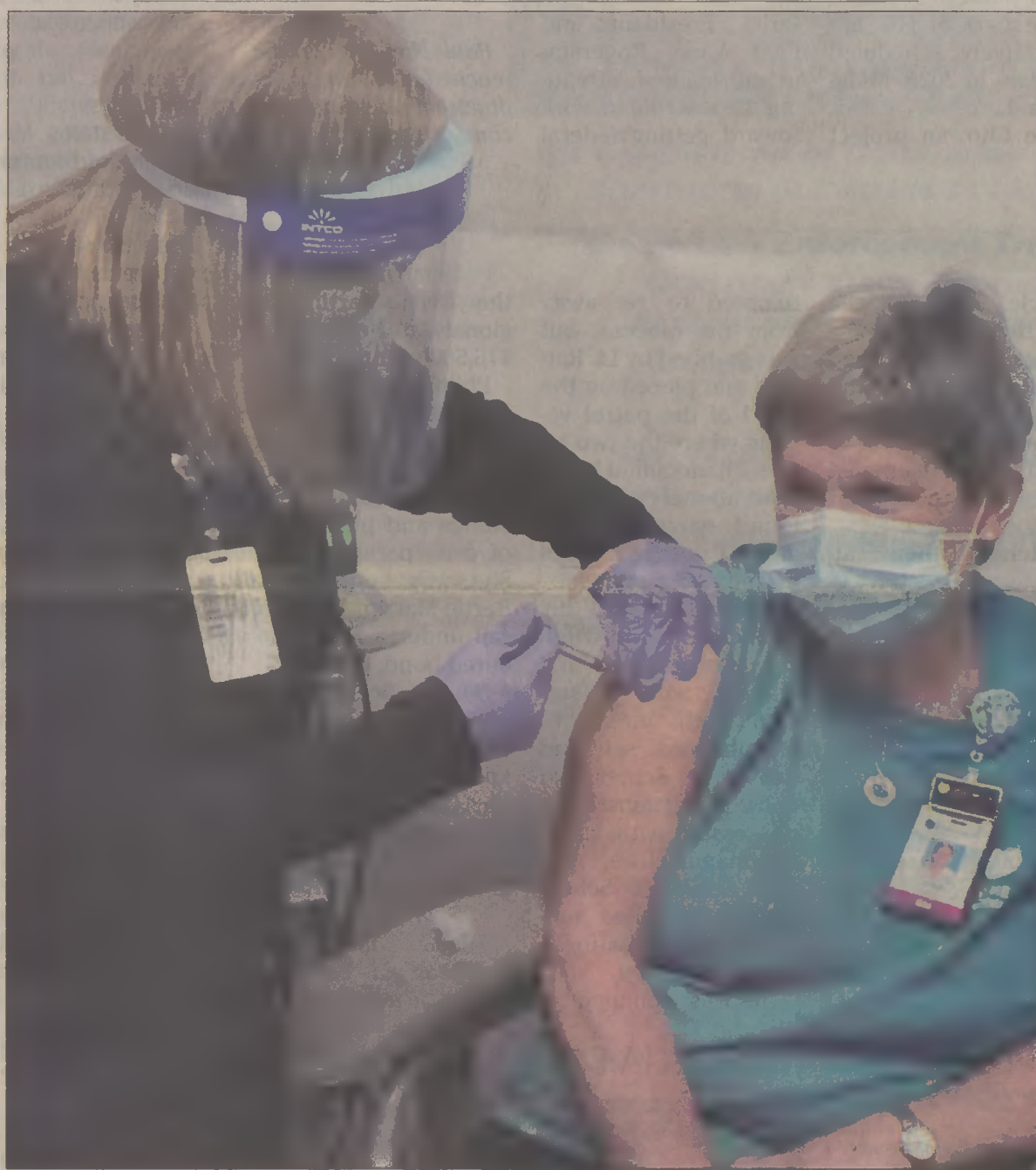
WPD: Drugs found in car

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – Driving with a suspended license landed a Windsor woman and one of her passengers in jail Friday. Windsor Police Chief Justin Jackson said Officer Jessie Mizelle was patrolling when he noticed a car operated by a woman known to have a suspended license. The ensuing traffic stop led to the recovery of heroin, marijuana and more than \$300 in U.S. currency. Mizelle stopped a car driven by Chelsey Phillips on Granville Street near the intersection with Belmont Street. Once he approached the vehicle, Officer Mizelle noticed the driver had unbuttoned her

see DRUGS, 2

FIRST VIDANT BERTIE HOSPITAL COVID-19 SHOTS

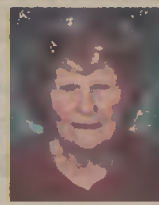


Debbie Spruill of Vidant Family Medicine - Windsor was the first person at Vidant Bertie Hospital to get the COVID-19 vaccine when she did so late last month. Spruill is a Registered Nurse with Vidant Health.

Mrs. Dotsie will be missed

THADD WHITE
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WINDSOR – The collective of Windsor is mourning the loss of one of her most beloved citizens. Dotsie Leary Dunlow, better known throughout Windsor and Bertie County as "Mrs. Dotsie," succumbed to a brief illness on Wednesday, Jan. 13. "She was an iconic figure here," Windsor Mayor Jim Hoggard said. "Everyone knew her. Everyone liked her. She's really going to be missed. I'm very saddened, and so is our community."



Mrs. Dotsie

see DOTSIE, 3

Funding shortfall puts I-87 projects on hold

PAUL NEILSEN
The Daily Advance

Financial shortfalls have forced the N.C. Department of Transportation to delay construction on many parts of the proposed 213-mile Interstate 87 project from Raleigh to Virginia, a move that will push back the \$1 billion project by several years.

Marc Finlayson of the Highway 17/64 Association told participants on a virtual "I-87 Work Session" sponsored by the North Carolina East Alliance this week that a number of factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have hurt NCDOT's bottom line. "Most of the work we expect to be done has been

pushed off at least several years and in some cases to the back end of the 10-year STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program)," Finlayson said, referring to DOT's road-planning document for 2020-29. NCDOT's financial challenges started with Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Hurricane Florence in 2018

as the agency had to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to repair damage from the storms. "That was well beyond the money they had set aside to manage that," Finlayson said. COVID further hurt NCDOT as people stopped driving during the pandemic and that led to a dramatic decrease in gas tax revenues.

"It's been really an unfortunate series of events that has caused DOT to have some financial difficulties," Finlayson said. "The good news is that as things improve, I am confident that DOT will move projects back to the left of the time line to

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