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Amanda Hoggard encourages believers to control their spirit.  
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Bertie High School will be in an 8-team 1A conference.  
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Mark Rutledge says if the home office stays, the 'desk' must go.  
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Bertie Ledger-Advance

SCAN ME

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# Bertie Ledger-Advance

THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 25, 2021

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## Students may return in-person March 22

**BY GENE MOTLEY**  
*For the Bertie Ledger-Advance*

**WINDSOR** – It was back in March 2020 when N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper ordered all North Carolina schools to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was thought to have been for only a few weeks. Now it's been almost 12

months since Bertie County Schools students have appeared in a classroom for live instruction. But that's about to change. On Monday evening at a called meeting of the Bertie County Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Otis Smallwood made a recommendation for a return to in-person learning under Plan

B which requires in-person social distancing along with a hybrid attendance schedule that includes continued remote learning for those families that chose to do so. "If COVID-19 metrics permit, the recommendation is to transition to Plan B with continued implementation of health and safety protocols," the superintendent's

recommendation read. Bertie County now joins the other Roanoke-Chowan region counties (Hertford, Gates, Northampton, Martin and Chowan) with a plan in place to aid students, parents, and stakeholders with the adjustment back to in-person instruction. Bertie's move to Plan-B will begin on March 22.

"This will start with the beginning of our fourth nine-weeks," Smallwood said following the meeting. "Unless the (state legislature) comes up with something more stringent, this is the plan we will start up with regardless of what they decide in Raleigh."

See **SCHOOL**, 5

## Sheriff: Scam says jury duty was missed

Holley says never provide money

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

Don't be scammed! Bertie County Sheriff John Holley said scam calls are making their rounds throughout Bertie County – this time



specifically citing missed jury duty. "The callers are telling people they missed federal jury duty in Elizabeth City," Sheriff Holley said. "They are then telling them they must pay between \$1,500 and \$2,000 to avoid a contempt order that has been lodged against them." At times, the scam-

mers are using names of actual deputies from the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office or Elizabeth City Police Department.

But, the sheriff insisted there are numerous things wrong with the calls.

"First and foremost, if a judge issues a contempt order for us to pick you up, we'll be by in person," Sheriff Holley said. "There's no way to buy your way out of a contempt order. If one were actually issued, one of my deputies would give you a free ride to the magistrate's office and there wouldn't be a way to

See **SCAM**, 5



Kitchen fires and portable heater fires are both dangerous during the winter months.

## Heater, kitchen safety needed

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

Residents of Bertie County are being urged to be cautious as the winter continues.

State Fire Marshal Mike Causey issued a press release late last week saying North Carolinians using portable heaters should be careful as they cause risk of ignition.



Lee

While agreeing whole-heartedly with Causey, Perrytown Fire Chief Bud Lee says his department also regularly deals with kitchen fires during the winter.

Lee said the two – portable heaters and kitchen fires – are by far the two leading reasons

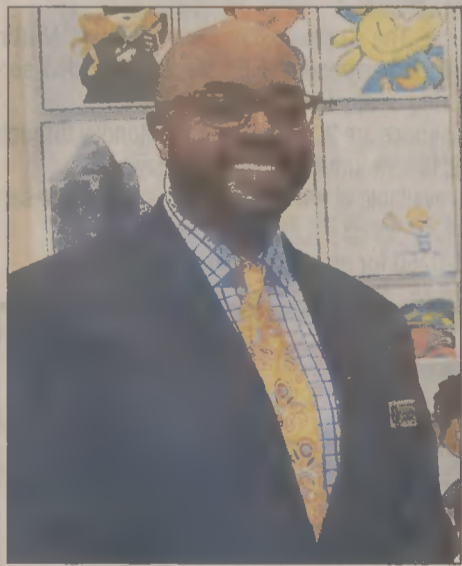


Causey

his department is called out in the winter.

Causey, who also serves as Commissioner of Insurance, reminded citizens of the dangers of portable heaters following a fire in

See **FIRE**, 11



Dr. Otis Smallwood, a native of Bertie County, is Superintendent of Schools.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## 'I am Bertie Black History' series: Smallwood

**LISA CHERRY BALANCE**  
*The Cherry Vine*

Dr. Otis Smallwood, a former student of Bertie County Schools, could have chosen to share his leadership talents, being at the helm, with any other school district.

Yet, he opted to return to his foundational roots, to impact and nurture the lives of students and families in his hometown. He is, no doubt, "Building A Better Bertie" for the communities that are near and dear

to his heart. He is Bertie Black History.

TCV1: What community/street did you grow up in as a Bertie County youngster?

OS1: I grew up in the heart of the Indian Woods community on Indian Woods Road (Windsor).

TCV2: What's your very first thought/memory of life in Bertie?

OS2: My memories of Bertie are reflective of the sense of community (and of course church – Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church).


Most of the families were meager income earners, but we managed to make it on family, fellowship and, of course, believing in Christ.

TCV3: What age did you develop a love for education?

OS3: Well, I am not sure exactly what age, but it was in elementary school. I can remember coming home from school every day telling my momma that, "I was not a dummy today!" LOL. It was in high school

See **SMALLWOOD**, 6


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