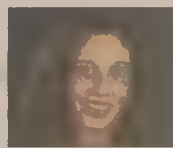
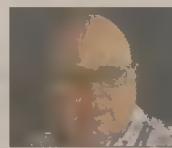


GRACE&TRUTH
Pastor Webb Hoggard recalls a mistake he still regrets.
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SMALLTOWNGIRL
Leslie Beachboard says there is much to be thankful for.
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AROUNDHERE
It's good to be right - especially twice in a row, Jim Green says.
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SCAN ME

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No. 17

Bertie Ledger-Advance

THURSDAY • APRIL 29, 2021

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Select a new plan

Medicaid plan must be chosen by May 14

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Time will soon run out for recipient's to make a selection for their Medicaid health plan. The Bertie County Commissioners received an update from Bertie County Department of Social Services Director Cindy Perry about the upcoming Medicaid transformation.

There will be a new way to receive Medicaid health care. According to Perry, the program is expected to launch on May 15, and recipients will have until May 14 to select an option from various plans. If recipients do not select a plan before the deadline, a plan will be automatically selected for them.

Most recipients will receive the same Medicaid services through new health plans. A health plan is a group of doctors, hospitals and other providers. They work together to provide health care services. Everything will come from the same plan. Each plan will provide the same physical health, behavioral health and medicine. It will just be offered by different providers with each having additional benefits.

North Carolina Medicaid Direct is the state's current health care program for Medicaid members. It will continue to provide the same services including

See **CHOOSE**, 3

Mass clinics proven a success

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - As it usually does, a time of crisis revealed why Bertie County is a great place to live.

With the COVID-19 pandemic raging in the county, there came welcome news of a vaccine which would help alleviate the symptoms of the disease and likely keep people safe from the worst of the Coronavirus.

The only issue was how to distribute the vaccine in the most efficient way possible.

The vaccine was issued to Albemarle Regional Health Services, of which Bertie County is a member, and the organization reached out to Bertie County for assistance.

Bertie Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper said the group immediately identified some concerns, including needing to keep people in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This aerial shot of Bertie High School (foreground) and Bertie Middle School show how the facilities were put to use to allow as many cars as possible onto the campus and not disturb traffic on U.S. 13.

their vehicles, give them shots and monitor them for 15 minutes.

"After discussions with all parties involved, we decided the high school/middle school

area was the most efficient place to allow for a steady flow and reduced waiting times," he said.

Bertie County Schools Superintendent Dr. Otis Smallwood

said he was happy to work with ARHS and the other agencies to allow the use of Bertie High and Bertie Middle schools.

See **CLINICS**, 3

Clean-up efforts aided water flow

BRANDON HERRING
NCD&CS

WINDSOR - As Hurricane Isaias brushed the Carolina coast in early August, a tornado spun off in the outer bands, touching down in Bertie County in the middle of the night.

At about 1:15 a.m. on Aug. 4, the tornado started spinning on the ground, traveling northwest for 10 miles and widening as much as six football fields along the path. When the tornado dissipated about 11 minutes later, de-

struction was left behind. Two people were killed. More than a dozen others were hurt.

The worst of the damage was found along Morning Road, near Woodard Road, southeast of Windsor. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimated the tornado's wind reached 140 to 145 miles per hour - an EF-3 on the five-category scale.

According to the preliminary report from NWS, "the tornado completely destroyed several mobile homes and stick built houses

in this area. It flattened seven single-wide and double-wide mobile homes, leaving unrecognizable bits of debris. The fatalities and injuries occurred in the vicinity of morning road."

"It did so much damage. It blew my mind," said Vic Thompson, the director of Bertie Soil and Water Conservation District. "Even for people who go there today, they can see [remnants of damage] and imagine just how bad it was."

See **CLEAN**, 3



One of the waterways that was cleaned up after Hurricane Isaias.

MCC expands cosmetology to Bertie Co.

WINDSOR - The former Bertie High School's old sports complex building recently got a "new do" and opened as cosmetology labs for Martin Community College (MCC) on March 25.

The Bertie County School system renovated and furnished the space to

make it possible for MCC to expand its Cosmetology program into Bertie County and make it possible for Bertie High School students to earn College credits while still in high school.

The new labs are located directly across U.S. 13 North from the new Bertie

High School near Windsor.

The N.C. State Board of Cosmetic Arts approved the space for use in mid-March and the students began using the labs on March 25. Prior to occupying the labs, the students were engaged strictly in



One of MCC's new cosmetology labs in the old Bertie High School athletics building.

See **COSMETOLOGY**, 3

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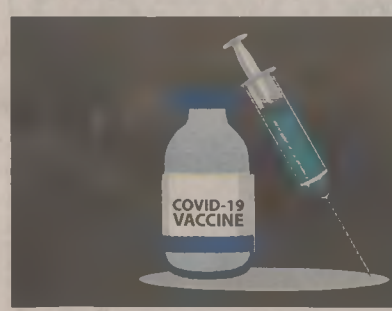
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