WELCOMEHOME
Rob Burke names to lead Chowan men's basketball.
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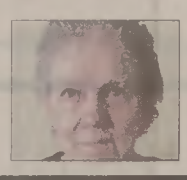

REMEMBERMOM
Sylvia Hughes remembers her mother at Mother's Day.
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Sarah Hodges Stalls learns stress, infiniy and doughnuts.
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Bertie Ledger-Advance

SCAN ME

Volume 123:
No. 18

Bertie Ledger-Advance

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School board okays interim budget

BY GENE MOTLEY
For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – Vowing to provide all its students "access and opportunities to reach their full potential," the Bertie County Board of Education gave its approval to Superintendent Dr. Otis Smallwood's 2021-22 proposed financial plan/interim budget resolution at their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 20.

"This is to ensure that our budget plan and our strategic priorities are in line with one another," Dr. Smallwood said in his introduction. "We want to keep our children at the forefront of everything that we do and to give them everything they need to be successful here in Bertie."

As part of this year's plan for the student success preparation process, district leaders sought to address many of the pressing needs that exist throughout the school system.

There is some good news for county taxpayers: the Board is requesting nearly $3.03 million in local funding from the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. This represents a reduction of $151,267 over last year's appropriation to fund local budget priorities ($3.18 million).

See **BUDGET**, 3

Event delayed until '22

Memorial Day program will not be held

WINDSOR – For another year, safety first.

While North Carolina wrestles with the process of returning to some semblance of normalcy following the COVID-19 shutdown, it is important to continue to safeguard the health of citizens in Bertie County.

Mike Causey

For that reason, the organizers of the annual Memorial Day celebration have decided to delay the event until 2022.

"It is possible we could work things out to hold the ceremony, but most of our attendees are senior citizens and we decided to err on the side of caution," Bertie Ledger-Advance Editor Thadd White said. "At this point, it's still too early to tell where we'll be at as a state, but we needed to

See **MEMORIAL**, 9

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Clockwise from top left: Bearing Fruit by Sis Hall, Early Spring Vases by Jaqueline Perry and Cashoke Creek at Shipyard Landing by Bailey Phelps.

Arts Council announces winners

WINDSOR – The Bertie County Arts Council is pleased to announce the ribbon winners in the annual Members Juried show.

The Members Juried Show is presently on display in the Gallery at 124 South King Street in downtown Windsor. Each of the award-winning artists will receive a cash prize in addition to the ribbons and praise from visitors to the gallery. All items in the show are for sale.

"Bearing Fruit," an oil painting by Sis Hall, was awarded the First Place ribbon by Margie Sawyer, the judge of the show. Sawyer, an artist and art instructor at College of The Albemarle, commented

See **WINNERS**, 3

Native will lead fisheries

Kathy Rawls named to directorship

RALEIGH - When Kathy Rawls becomes the new director of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries on May 1, she will have plenty of experience to draw on.

Kathy Rawls

Rawls has been with the Division for more than 25 years, the past seven as the Fisheries Management section chief.

She also will be the first woman to head the agency since the Fisheries Commission Board became the Division of Commercial Fisheries in the late 1920s.

"There are already a number of women in pivotal roles at the division, and I do feel a responsibility to represent them and other female colleagues, but I also know that gender is not part of the job

See **RAWLS**, 9

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Alvin Smith reached four million safe miles for Perdue.

Alvin Smith reaches 4M safe miles

LEWISTON WOODVILLE — Perdue Farms truck driver Alvin Smith of Robersonville, is celebrating a milestone – four million consecutive accident-free miles driving professionally for Perdue.

He's the first company driver to achieve the milestone, the equivalent of approximately 160 trips around the Earth.

"It's an honor driving trucks. Before each trip, I check the map and plan the first stop. I check everything to make sure it is ready to go," Smith said. "I pray. I really believe in the power of prayer and also getting yourself prepared before each trip."

Smith, 63, started driving for Perdue in 1982 and averages about 110,000 miles a year. He

See **SMITH**, 9

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