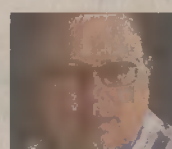




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Sylvia Hughes says being humble is the way to learn.
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Pastor Webb Hoggard says don't be caught just staring up.
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Sports Editor Jim Green bids Bertie & Martin counties adieu.
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SCAN ME

Volume 123:
No. 20

Bertie Ledger-Advance

THURSDAY • MAY 20, 2021

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BCSO investigating shooting death

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

POWELLVILLE – A Friday afternoon shooting turned into a murder investigation over the weekend.
Bertie County Sheriff John

Holley said his office has several leads – including possible suspects – in the weekend murder of James Calvin Watford, 58, of Colerain.
“We are working a number of leads and on the look-

out for a few individuals we want to talk to,” Sheriff Holley said. “The fact they are avoiding us honestly makes me feel like we’re on the right track.”
Watford was reportedly driving erratically when a

concerned motorist turned around to check on him. Watford then pulled into the driveway of a home and the motorist asked if he was okay. He reportedly said he had been shot and asked the person to call 9-1-1.

Bertie County EMS arrived and helped get Watford stable enough to be airlifted to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville. He died there early Saturday morning due

See INVESTIGATION, 3

Crash claims 2 lives

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

MERRY HILL – Two Washington County men died in a two-vehicle accident here last Thursday (May 13).

First Sgt. L.M. Hill said the two men were traveling south on N.C. 45 at the same time a tractor carrying a disc was moving in the same direction. The driver of the car failed to reduce speed and collided with the disc being pulled by the tractor.

Both men in the car died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. The driver was identified as 35-year-old James Jamaal Cameron of 34 Village Drive in Plymouth. The passenger was Ladarius Kendall Hunt, 28, of 1321 Mackey's Road in Plymouth.

First Sgt. Hill said excessive speed was a factor in the crash. No charges will be filed.

The driver of the tractor escaped without injury.

See COLLISION, 3



LEWIS HOGGARD / Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce

Bertie Sentry Hardware's Bradley Phelps (right) talks with customer Jerry Ford Tuesday morning. Neither man is now required to wear a mask or socially distance due to lifting of restrictions in North Carolina.

'NORMAL' WITHIN SIGHT

Town, county officials welcome governor's order

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

Relief.

Both Windsor and Bertie County officials are happy to see N.C. Governor Roy Cooper lifting most restrictions which have been in place for the past year due to the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19.

“Obviously, the governor

and our local county and town leaders had to do their best to follow the science,” Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lewis Hoggard said. “Having said that, it is certainly good for everyone to see businesses back at full capacity and those with the vaccine able to shed their face coverings.”

Last week, following the

recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control, Gov. Cooper lifted many of the remaining restrictions left in the state, including removing the mask mandates for most settings.

“We can take this step today because the science shows our focus on getting people vaccinated is work-

See READY, 5

Truck strikes man

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – A pedestrian and two vehicles were involved in an automobile accident on Bull Hill Road near Windsor Monday morning.

N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Z.B. Mize said a Toyota Tacoma was parked partially on Bull Hill Road when a F350 operated by Earl Dempsey of 416B N.C. 45 in Merry Hill failed to reduce speed and made contact with the Toyota.

“At that time, the Tacoma struck a pedestrian,” the trooper said.

The pedestrian, identified as Donald Ray Hoggard of 916 Bull Hill Road in Windsor, was taken to Vidant Bertie Hospital where he was subsequently airlifted to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville. His condition was considered critical.

Dempsey was also transported to Vidant Bertie Hospital where

See PEDESTRIAN, 3

BCS: Hard work during pandemic to be rewarded

BY GENE MOTLEY
For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – After teachers and others in education spent a year overhauling instruction, adapting to new guidance and going back to the drawing board multiple

times making sure they got it right, they deserve a huge round of applause.

Later this spring they'll get something more than that following unanimous approval by the Bertie County Board of Education of a plan to reward their efforts dur-

ing the past year's COVID-19 pandemic. And this good news came one week after Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3-7).

“With the COVID relief money we received from the federal government we are allowed to pay a stipend,”

said Bertie County Schools Superintendent Dr. Otis Smallwood in his personnel report before the board at their monthly meeting here on May 11.

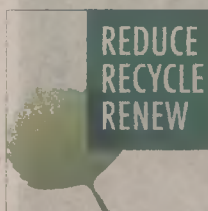
“Therefore, I am recommending that we give all our employees, full and part-

time a one-time supplement for all their hard work during this pandemic,” he continued.

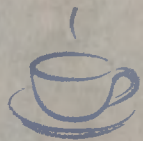
Smallwood said issuing the rewards were contingent on the Federal Program Sec-

See SCHOOLS, 3

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GOOD MORNING,
WILLIE HEALY
OF GARNER

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