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THADD WHITE/BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

Windsor Commissioner Randy K. Whitaker was sworn in to his second term in office Thursday with his mother, Ruth, holding the Bible. Commissioner Whitaker was re-elected in November and sworn in Thursday morning by Bertie County Register of Deeds Annie Wilson.

## GUARD

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Commissioner David Overton, who also retired Thursday.

"He has been a wise counsel and has been a wonderful public servant," Hoggard said.

Following his remarks, the three men who were elected in November took oaths of office. Newly elected Commissioner Hoggard was the first to be sworn in followed by Commissioner Whitaker, who took the oath for his second term in office.

Mayor Lewis Hoggard was then sworn in to his first term. He immediately thanked his predecessor and Commissioner Overton for their work.

"Thank you Mayor Hoggard for all you have done. You have served our community well," the new Mayor Hoggard said.

He thanked his predecessor for

captaining Windsor through troubled waters and said the town's citizens were "proud of your service."

He then turned to Commissioner Overton.

"Your 50 years of service is amazing," he said. "We have been fortunate to have you serve our town and you have been a big part of everything accomplished here for a long time."

The newly seated mayor then expressed his appreciation for those who supported his election, and all of the town's citizens.

"I'm glad to be here," he said. "I grew up in Windsor. I love Windsor. I will do my best for the citizens and will work with the commissioners to do what is best for all of our citizens."

Later in the meeting, the new mayor said he wanted the town's leadership to continue to be proactive.

"I don't want us to wait for the punches to land," he said. "I want us to be out front and stay ahead."

Commissioner Whitaker expressed his appreciation for being re-elected and also said he was looking forward to serving another term.

"Congratulations, Mayor Hoggard and Commissioner Hoggard," he said. "I look forward to working with you."

Commissioner Camille Rascoe also offered her congratulations.

"Welcome, mayor. Welcome, Commissioner Hoggard," she said. "I look forward to working with you both."

Commissioner Randy Walston and Commissioner Cathy Wilson also expressed greetings to the newly-sworn in officials.

Following the greetings, Commissioner Walston nominated Wilson to continue to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem. Commissioner Rascoe offered a second, and the motion passed without objection.

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## WREATHS

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will be a moment of silence to remember the fallen, prisoners of war, those missing in action and those who have served and are serving the great nation's armed services.

There will be Honor Guard there presenting the colors along with the national anthem at both locations.

There will be a presentation of the wreaths for the eight branches of service, which include United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Space Force, United States Coast Guard, United States Merchant Marines and the United States Prisoners of War or those Missing in Action.

### About Wreaths Across America

In 1992 a company called Worcester Wreath found themselves having a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Morrill Worcester remembering his boyhood experience in Arlington, he realized he had the opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the help of Maine

Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each year passing.

Until 2005 the annual tribute had gone quiet for several years, when a photo of the stones at Arlington adorned with wreaths covered in snow began to circulate the internet. The project then suddenly received national attention.

Requests from thousands poured in from all over the country from people that were wanting to help with Arlington.

Due to being unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state for each branch of the military and for POW/MIAs.

In 2006, with the help of Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veterans wreath ceremony in

Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501-c(3) organization to continue and expand this effort along with supporting other groups around the country who wanted to do the same.

In 2008 it was unanimously voted by the US Congress that Dec. 13 was "Wreaths Across America Day".

In 2014, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers laid over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond, including ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11 tragedies.

The wreath laying ceremonies are still held annually, on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as the world's largest veteran's parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

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## COVID

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second-highest number of new cases (52) and highest number of active cases (53).

Perquimans had the third-highest number of new cases (29) and fourth-highest total of active cases (23). Bertie County was fourth in new cases (25) and third in active cases (24). All area counties except Gates County (15), Hertford County (11) and Bertie (2) reported decreases in active cases last week.

New COVID-19 hospitalizations in the region declined last week. According to the Centers of Disease Control's COVID data tracker, 8 new hospitalizations for COVID were reported at area hospitals over a seven-day period ending Saturday. Eleven new hospital admissions were reported over a similar timeframe the previous week. The majority of hospitalizations were at Albemarle Medical Center, where 9 patients — 11% of all in-patient beds — were being treated on Monday.

ARHS data also show that COVID cases at con-

gregate housing facilities in the region had fallen to 50 as of Friday. Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation continued to have the largest share of the cases — 44 — while also reporting five deaths. Outbreaks at Chowan River Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Currituck Health and Rehabilitation Center have been resolved, ARHS said.

The region's positivity rate — the percentage of COVID-19 tests that come back positive — rose to 8.16% for the week ending Dec. 4. That's an increase of nearly half a percent from the previous week.

ARHS also released data on Friday showing that more than 1,000 residents of four counties have now received either a booster or third dose of vaccine and more than 2,300 have gotten a booster/third dose in Pasquotank.

Perquimans continues to have the second-largest number of residents getting a booster/third shot: 1,623. Currituck, Gates and Hertford also now have more than 1,000 residents who've received a booster/third shot.

## FILING

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offices until such time as a final judgment on the merits of plaintiffs' claims, including any appeals, is entered and a remedy, if any is required, has been ordered," the High Court said.

The order went on to move the primary date from Tuesday, March 8 until Tuesday, May 17.

While ending filing, the state court did issue an order that those who have filed will not need to refile once it reopens.

"Any individual who has already filed to run for public office in 2022, and whose filing has been accepted by the appropriate board of elections, will be deemed to have filed for the same office under the new election schedule for the May 2022 primary unless they provide timely notice of withdrawal of their candidacy to the board of elections during the newly-established filing period; and except to the extent that a remedy in this matter, if any, impacts a candidate's eligibility to hold the office for which they have currently filed."

Though filing is paused, there have been several already filled out paperwork to seek election in Bertie County and around North Carolina.

In fact, Bertie County already has a primary shaping up for county commissioner in District 2. Incumbent Greg Atkins is seeking a second term on the board, but is being challenged by school district administra-

tor Michael White.

Also filing is Corey Balance Sr., who is seeking the Bertie County Commissioner seat representing District 2 for the second time. The incumbent, Tammy Lee, is seeking re-election but has said she will not file as a Democrat, but will instead seek the seat as an independent candidate.

Commissioner Ron Roberson has filed for election to the District 5 seat, which he was appointed to fill upon the resignation of Ernestine Byrd Bazemore, when the latter was elected to the N.C. Senate.

Incumbent Bertie County Clerk of Court Vasti F. James, a Democrat, filed to retain his seat as well.

With longtime Sheriff John Holley announcing his plans to retire at the end of his current term, two of his deputies are seeking the office. Tyrone M. Ruffin of Aulander and Timothy Hardy of Windsor have each filed to succeed Sheriff Holley.

At the state level, a host of lesser known candidates have filed for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Richard Burr.

On the Democratic side, they include Rett Newton of Beaufort and Constance "Lov" Johnson of Charlotte. Republicans include Benjamin E. Griffiths of Cleveland, Lee A. Brian of Clayton, Lichia Sibhatu of Raleigh, Jen Banwart of Holly Springs and Charles Kenneth Moss of Randleman.

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## Mediacom offering 2022 scholarships

**GULF BREEZE, FL** - Mediacom Communications is offering \$60,000 in scholarship support for high school seniors who plan to obtain further education. The scholarship program is in its 21st consecutive year and Mediacom's investment will award \$1,000 World Class Scholarships to 60 high school seniors.

Scholarship recipients are given the flexibility to use the financial awards to support post-secondary college costs or vocational training from an accredited institution starting in the fall of 2022. Award selection is based on academic achievement and leadership.

Applications for Mediacom's World Class Scholarships are available online: [mediacomworldclass.com](http://mediacomworldclass.com).

Information recently was sent to all high schools in areas where Mediacom delivers its high-speed internet services. School officials are asked to encourage seniors to submit applications on or before the February 15, 2022 deadline.

"Our company makes it a priority to give back to communities in which we do business, and we believe one of the best ways is to invest in promising young students who will be our future leaders," said Mediacom Regional Vice President Doug Frank.

Applicants do not have to be Mediacom customers but must live in areas where Mediacom's fiber-rich broadband network delivers Gigabit-speed internet service. Recipients

will be selected from the 22 states where Mediacom's residential customers reside. A complete list of communities in Mediacom service areas is included with the online application. Inquiries may be sent to [scholarship@mediacomcc.com](mailto:scholarship@mediacomcc.com).

### About Mediacom

Mediacom Communications Corporation is the 5th largest cable operator in the United States and the leading gigabit broadband provider to smaller markets primarily in the Midwest and Southeast. Through its fiber-rich network, Mediacom provides high-speed data, video and phone services to 1.5 million households and businesses across 22 states.

The company delivers

scalable broadband solutions to commercial and public-sector customers of all sizes through Mediacom Business, and sells advertising and production services under the OnMedia brand. More information about Mediacom is available at [mediacomcable.com](http://mediacomcable.com).

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