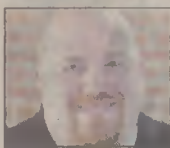




OUTINLEFTFIELD
Thadd White says change is both good and bad.

A4



FOURTH&LONG
David Friedman is curious about the Tar Heels' future.

A5

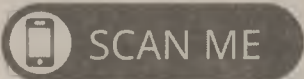


MEDITATING
Sylvia Hughes says begin reading with the Bible.

A7



Bertie Ledger-Advance



Volume 124:
No. 3

Bertie Ledger-Advance

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Thursday · January 20, 2022

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Improvements planned for 4 school buildings

GENE MOTLEY

For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Some special face-lifts could be coming.

Bertie County Schools Superintendent Dr. Otis Smallwood briefed the county's Board of Education at their monthly meeting Jan. 11 on some of the Capital Outlay Plans in the works for the upcoming year at the county's eight schools.

BCS Maintenance Director Matthew Bond gave a PowerPoint presentation on four different schools' various needs and potential costs.

"Like with everything we're seeing nowadays, there's sure to be some additional costs," Bond noted.

It was pointed out as an example that there are schools that have more classroom space than rooms currently in use, prompting remarks from board vice-chair Norman Cherry regarding utility usage and cost.

"It's all being paid," said Bond, "because it's all under

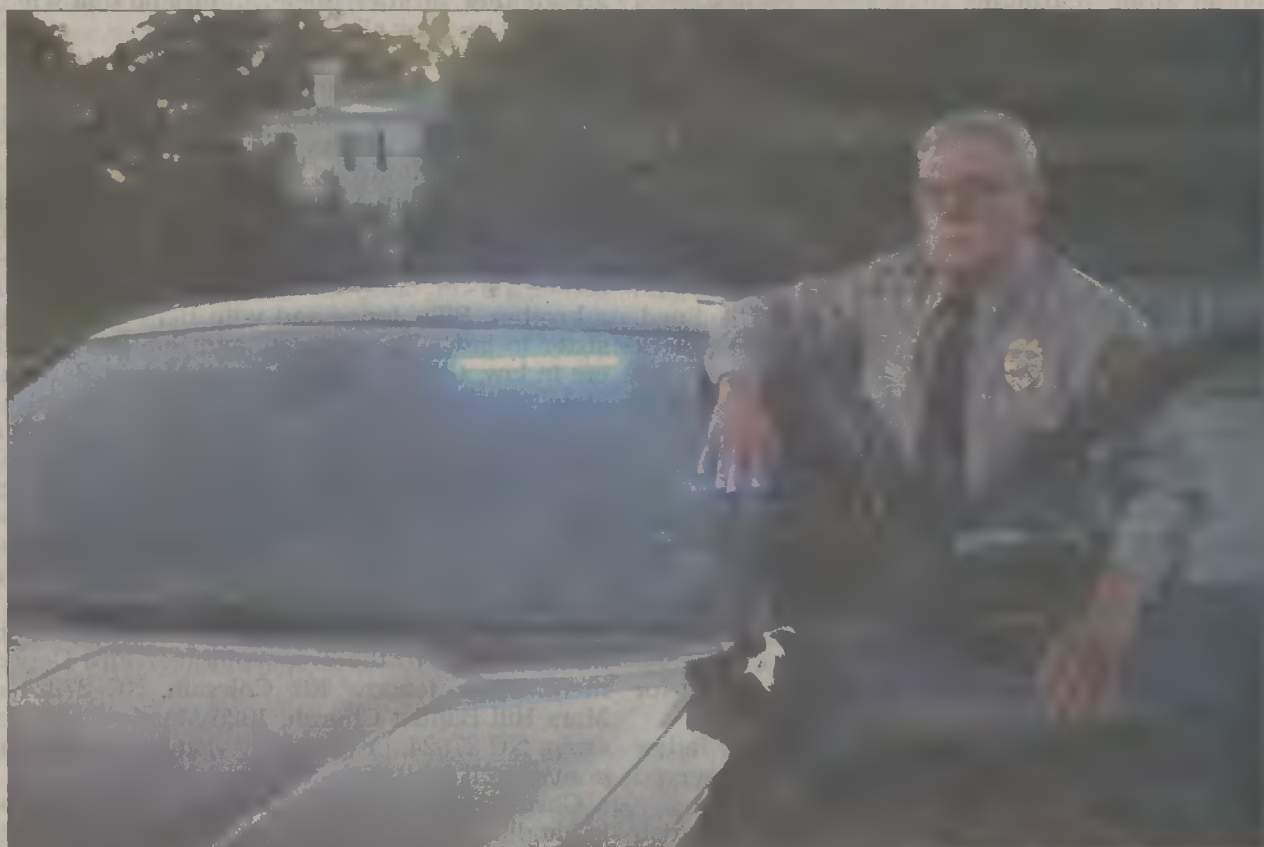
one roof. Anytime you've got a classroom that's unoccupied it's being heated and cooled like it had 30 students in it."

"This is something the public needs to know when we discuss whether a building needs to operate," Cherry inquired. "Because you could have a building built for 400 kids, but you only have two."

Upgraded needs varied by school, as did costs. All six schools had Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) needs, with Bond declaring the installation of a new HVAC Control System (\$15,000 per school) was not only more cost efficient, but also would allow for remote control, as opposed to individual thermostats for temperature changes.

Other needs ranged from improved parking lots, window and door replacement and/or upgrades, gymnasium accouterments such as bleacher repairs, roofing

See **SCHOOL**, A3



ANDRE ALFRED/BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

Aulander Police chief Jimmy Barner serves two communities — the western Bertie County municipality along with Murfreesboro in neighboring Hertford County.

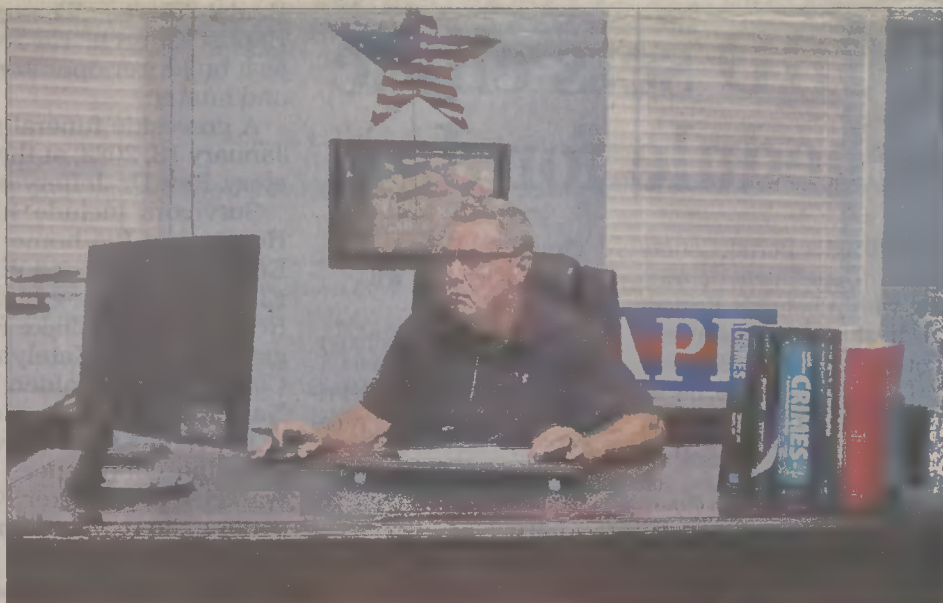
Hero in the family Jimmy Barner protects and serves

SARAH DAVIS

Eastern North Carolina Living

A television commercial for a popular genealogy website concludes with the question, "Who's the hero in your family?"

If you are one of Jimmy Barner's children, you're probably pointing at him — Chief of Police in Aulander, a lieutenant on the Murfreesboro Police Department, and a former sergeant with Vidant Company Police — but he's probably pointing back at them. His daughter Lauren is a dispatcher for Vidant Eastcare; son William, a sergeant with Lake Royale Company Police Department (Louisburg) and a part-time officer with Aulander Police Department; or son Clay, a full-time EMT and firefighter with Roanoke Rapids Fire Department, a part-time paid firefighter with Davie, and a volunteer for the Ahoskie



ANDRE ALFRED/BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

Aulander Police Chief Jimmy Barner works at his desk.

Fire Department.

Perhaps it's nature in the Barner family to serve, but it's definitely nurture. By word and example, Jimmy teaches his children to give back to the community.

First sworn as a police

officer by then Police Chief Steve Hoggard in Ahoskie, Barner began his service in law enforcement in 1992. In the twenty-nine years since then, Barner has served in Ahoskie, Murfreesboro, Aulander and with the Vidant

Company. Such is the typical life of a police officer; almost any officer seen on one force one day might be seen on another another day or even that same day.

See **BARNER**, A3

COVID cases soar in Bertie County

JULIAN EURE

The Daily Advance

New COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and infections at congregate housing facilities all soared this week, as the highly contagious omicron variant continued to surge across the eight-county health district.

New cases increased by more than 2,260 this week, which is more than double the number of new cases reported last week. Nearly 26,000 cases of COVID-19 have now been reported in the eight counties since the pandemic began.

Two counties in the dis-

trict — Pasquotank and Hertford — reported more than 400 new cases in a week, the first time that's happened.

Two others — Bertie and Chowan — reported more than 300 new cases.

Active COVID cases actually fell from last week by 143. Every county in the district save two — Gates, which saw active cases go up by 47, and Bertie, which saw a one-case increase — reported fewer active cases.

COVID cases at nursing homes, assisted living facilities and Albemarle District Jail more than doubled from last week.

Golden LEAF grant will aid Lewiston Woodville center

AHOSKIE - Roanoke-Chowan Community College is the recipient of Golden LEAF Foundation funding for two projects totaling \$778,200 to increase adult continuing education in the community.

A Universal Technical Training Center is being established on the college's

main campus in Hertford County, and the college is assisting the community education centers in Lewiston Woodville in Bertie County, Rich Square and near Conway in Northampton County.

Golden LEAF awarded \$368,200 through the Community-Based Grants

Initiative for the Universal Technical Training Center to provide funding for the renovation of an existing building on campus into a 'state-of-the-art' technical training center. This center will continue many of the workforce training courses now offered at the college as well as add some new

certification and diploma programs, according to R-CCC President Murray J. Williams.

"We are excited to announce the establishment of a new state-of-the-art technical training center which will serve as a hub for distance and hands-on learning to meet the needs

of local business and industry in the Roanoke-Chowan area," states President Williams. "We appreciate the support from the Golden LEAF Foundation to help us meet workforce development needs locally and look forward to preparing students with industry-recognized credentials and

certificates for productive careers in our area."

The universal technical training center grant will also fund adult education for the new Lewiston Woodville Educational Vitality Center, including funds for scholarships and transportation if

See **GRANT**, A3

In this edition



GOOD MORNING,
CHARLES EVANS
OF MERRY HILL
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