**PICTURETHAT**

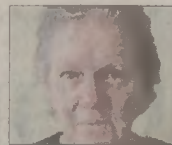
Andre' Alfred says regardless of issues, America is still great.

A4

**FOURTH&LONG**

David Friedman writes about baseball, hot dogs and ethics.

B1

**MEDITATING**

Sylvia Hughes says think, read and pray.

B4

**SCAN ME**Volume 124:
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Two set to seek District 4 school board seat

Norman Cherry won't seek re-election after one term

THADD WHITE
Group Editor

While a longtime public servant has decided not to seek re-election, the seat he currently holds on the Bertie County Board of Education will be contested.

Norman M. Cherry Sr., a longtime county commissioner and school board member, did not file for a second full term on the school board by the end of filing July 1.

The seat he holds - District 4 covering Lewiston Woodville, Kelford and

Roxobel - will be contested, however, as his opponent four years ago and a first-time candidate will see election.

Vivian Saunders is seeking the seat again after filing for the school board on June 30. On the final day of filing, however, Saunders received an opponent when Vernetta M. (Vernetta) Henderson filed. Both candidates are from Lewiston Woodville.

The other two seats on the school board had only incumbents file. Rickey Freeman will seek re-election to the District 2 seat representing the Merry Hill area. He is unopposed.

See **FILING**, A2

BRANDICE HOGGARD / BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

Fireworks lit up the sky over the Cashie River Sunday night during the Freedom Fireworks.

ARHS director Betts to retire, take Suffolk job

Betts named new CEO of Obici Healthcare Foundation

CHRIS DAY
The Daily Advance

Battle Betts, who led the region's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, is retiring.

Betts, director of Albemarle Regional Health Services since 2016, is retiring to take over as new CEO and president of the Obici Healthcare Foundation in Suffolk, Virginia, he said last week. His last day with ARHS is July 29. Bertie is one of eight counties that make up the regional health

department.

Betts, 50, began working at ARHS in 1994 at age 22. His first job was in health education.

"I started out doing worksite wellness," Betts said June 28, after attending his final meeting of the ARHS Board of Health.

Betts was a veteran of ARHS when he took over for former director Jerry Parks in December 2016. While ARHS has not yet announced his replacement, another ARHS veteran is expressing her interest in the position.

"I would be honored to speak with our board about

See **BETTS**, A3

Weather can't dampen freedom celebration

BRANDICE HOGGARD
Staff Writer

The Windsor-Bertie Chamber of Commerce and the town of Windsor were pleased with this year's annual Freedom Fireworks event turn out on July 3.

This year the event was back and better than ever with an exciting lineup of musicians and vendors with fireworks at night.

Although the weather tried to put a damper on the pre-Independence Day events this year, it still did not do so. People near and far still came out to enjoy the fireworks show along with the live entertainment.

Windsor Mayor Lewis



BRANDICE HOGGARD / BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

The R.T. Johnson Band performed during the Freedom Fireworks.

Hoggard said the events went well and thanked those who gave a helping hand.

"The event went real-

ly well despite the rain showers," Hoggard said. "I would like to thank vendors, Windsor Police Department, town employees

and, most importantly, the attendees who make the event worth doing."

This year's entertainment began at 5 p.m., when people near and far converged at the Roanoke/Cashie River Center and are were to walk through the exhibits to learn about the ecological and cultural history of Bertie County and the area around the Roanoke and Cashie rivers.

There was a diverse selection of vendors that were also available for patrons starting at 5 p.m. The vendors ranged from Y'all Eat Yet, Holiday Concessions, Speller's Enterprises,

See **FIREWORKS**, A3

Bertie Co. School Nutrition receives good news

JOHN FOLEY

For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie County Director of School Nutrition Tiwana Smallwood may sleep a bit easier now knowing summer school plates will be full of nutrition.

Smallwood oversees the nutritional program for Bertie County Schools and is responsible, along with her team, for the nutrition of the county's students even during the summer.

While inflation, along with the rising cost of wages, have presented never before experienced pressure for school nutrition programs across the state,

there is good news for those in Bertie County concerned about school food programs.

Last month, Congress passed, and President Joe Biden signed, the 'Keep Kids Fed Plan' bill to extend additional funding and flexibilities communities can use to provide children healthy meals this summer.

The bill provides support to schools and Day Care providers to deal with skyrocketing wages and food costs and supply chain challenges.

"The current problem of inflation has challenged

See **NUTRITION**, A3

SECU Foundation awards scholarships

On Monday, June 20, seven students currently in Martin Community College's (MCC) Nurse Aide I (NA I) program were presented with Bridge to Career Cohort scholarships awarded by the N.C. State Employee Credit Union (SECU) Foundation.

The students will complete the course Aug. 31.

The NA I program prepares students to provide personal care and basic nursing skills for the elderly. Emphasis is on the role of the nurse aide; communication; documentation; infection control, safety; resident's rights; common disorders/diseases of body systems, aging changes; personal care and grooming; accurate measurement of vital signs; elimination; nutrition; death and dying.

Many NA I students use



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The SECU Foundation awards seven more Bridge to Career Cohort Scholarships to MCC Students. Left to right back row: MCC's President Wesley Beddard, Sidajiah Sheppard Ferguson, Jakia Rascoe, Lance Joyner, and MCC Vice President Dr. Brian Busch. Front row left to right: Aliyza Mcleoud, Latrica Hines, Ashiya Outlaw and Kanisha Duggins.

this credential as a stepping-stone toward becoming a Registered Nurse. Starting this year, MCC has

a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Roanoke-Chowan Community College (R-CCC) to provide ten openings for MCC students in their Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program. This will allow MCC students to transfer their credits and credentials to R-CCC and complete the ADN program there. NAI certification is one of the requirements for entry into R-CCC's ADN program.

A total of 24 health care students received one of the 30 SECU Bridge to Career Cohort Scholarships awarded to MCC for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. These scholarships may be used for registration fees, books, certification fees, course supplies, and other educational expenditures

See **AWARDS**, A3**In this edition**

GOOD MORNING,
BLANCHE GASKINS
OF COLERAIN
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