

Opinion

Your Thoughts

Take advantage of offerings at Historic Hope Saturday...

To the Editor:

Please consider this a thank you, and an invitation to events at Hope Plantation.

1 - On Friday, Feb. 20, 2016

The Board of Historic Hope wants to extend a big "thank you!" to local merchants - Laska's, Bunns, The Town House, The Heritage House, Hammerheads Oyster Bar and Ella's - and many other wonderful cooks for sharing from their kitchens; soups, breads, cornbread and desserts.

Their generosity to the Festival of Soups, and your purchase of tickets will help with getting the King-Bazemore House painted.

The event is from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

We thank the community for its support.

2 - African American Day Lecture: Dr. James K. Bryant

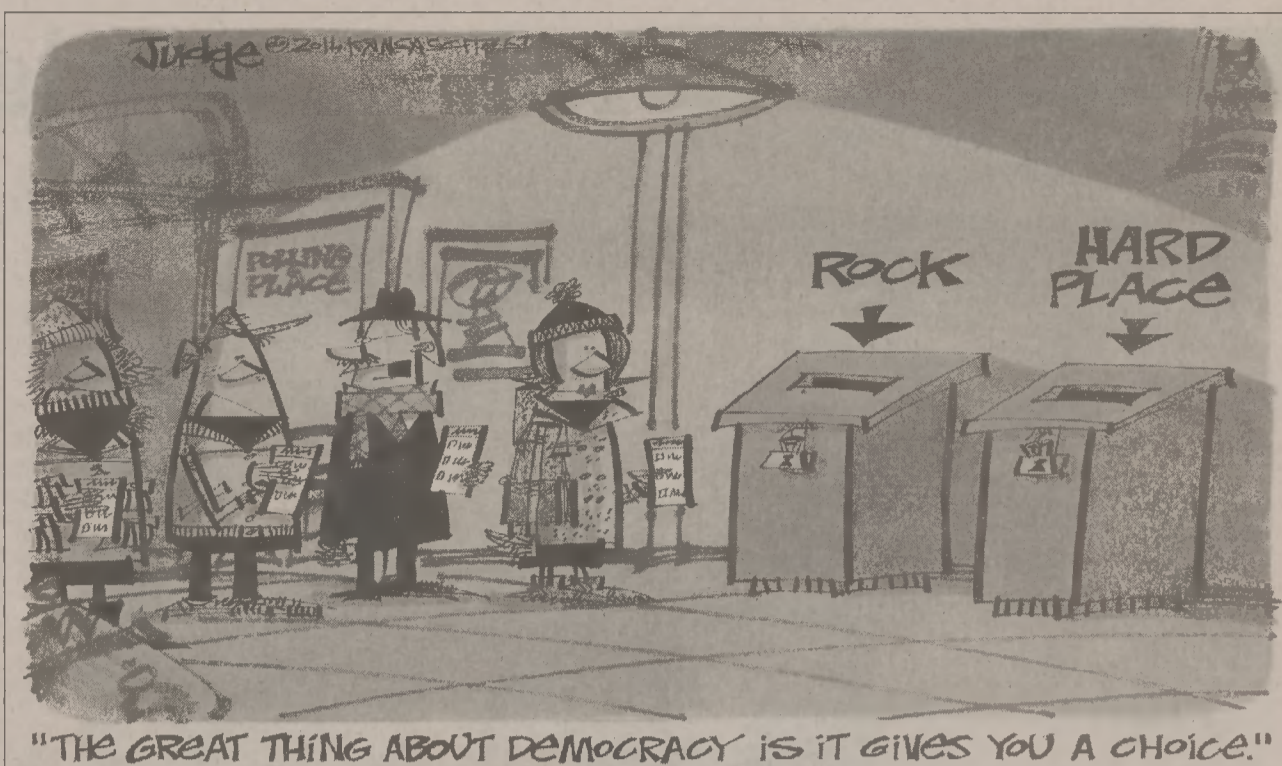
"African American Military Contributions During the Civil War" will be the topic of the discussion, presented at 10 a.m. followed by additional information from Elbert Bishop and Mary Helen Thompson at 11 a.m.

3 - New Exhibit Civil War Artifacts

The exhibit is provided by Vic Thompson and will be open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

We hope that you can take advantage of what Hope is offering on this day.

Nancy K. Davis
Windsor



Our Thoughts

More than just when you are supposed to...

SMALL TOWN GIRL



Leslie Beachboard

With this past Sunday being Valentine's Day, people were busy buying flowers, candy and making plans to go to a favorite restaurant.

My husband, Shenon, and I went out to one of our favorite restaurants, as always it was busy.

I noticed all of these couples all dressed up and excited to celebrate their love on Valentine's Day.

It made me start to think - why does it take a special occasion like Valentine's Day to make some couples put forth the effort?

I understand that in 2016, people are busier than ever with jobs, kids and responsibilities.

In the beginning of most relationships, people started out by doing those extra special things. As most

relationships blossom and get lives get busier, these things fade.

I see it, as couples should always try to do the little things for one another and just not on a day such as Valentine's Day, a birthday or an anniversary.

Once in a while, pick up some flowers just because or even simply stop by the convenience store on the way home and pick up their

favorite snack or candy and drink.

Plan a date night, even if you just cook dinner at home. Plan sometime just for the two of you to enjoy each other.

I am a busy mom of four, who works full-time. Sometimes I don't know if I am coming or going. It can be very hectic, but I would not change it for the world.

Before I came back to work full-time, my hectic afternoons were filled with trying to help kids with homework, while cooking dinner, making sure my toddler was not into something bad and preparing for the next day.

Looking back on it now, it was the simple things like when my husband walked through the door with my Mt. Dew and M&M's

that were so appreciated, and helped me keep my sanity.

It's the simple pleasure of sometimes sitting down in a restaurant without booster seats, kid's drinks being spilled or business to discuss just for a simple dinner and conversation.

This is helpful because it takes you out of the hectic day-to-day life and helps relieve some stress.

So why wait and do this a day like Valentine's Day when it is almost expected? Plan something during the year when it is least expected, but much needed.

Leslie Beachboard is a Staff Writer for the Bertie Ledger-Advance. She can be reached via email lbeachboard@ncweeklies.com.

Other Thoughts

Bond referendum will have impact on area...

By CURTIS WYNN

Roanoke Electric Cooperative

On March 15, 2016, North Carolina voters will have an opportunity to vote for major investments in education, parks, safety, agriculture, and water and sewer infrastructure. These investments under the Connect NC bond referendum will have a direct impact on our members and our rural communities—and will do so with no tax increase!

At Roanoke EC, we are rooted in the local community and owned by the members we serve. One way we look out for members is to express our view on legislative issues and elections that impact the quality of life in our community. The Connect NC bond referendum gives voters a decision on investments that will make a significant impact in our community. I encourage support of the bond referendum.

North Carolina's Primary Election will now be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. When voters go to the polls, this bond referendum will be listed on the Primary Election ballot.

This \$2 billion bond will strengthen the economic capacity of our state through investments in education, parks, safety, recreation, and water and sewer infrastructure primarily in rural areas of the state. It's been

15 years since the last bond of this kind was approved and the need for improvements is real.

The best news is that no tax increases are necessary. The Connect NC bond allows our state to pay for 50-year assets with 20-year financing. As one of only 10 states with a Triple-A bond rating, North Carolina will be able to borrow money at historically low interest rates and continue our tradition of responsible financial management.

Local projects the bond will fund include:

- Improving Merchants Millpond State Park

- Improving Medoc Mountain State Park

- Halifax Community College Improvements

- Roanoke-Chowan Community College Improvements

In addition, our local towns, counties and water and sewer authorities will be able to apply for loans and grants to fund water and sewer infrastructure projects. As election time draws near, Roanoke EC will be communicating to our members the positive impact of the Connect NC Bond.

I encourage your readers to learn more about the Connect NC Bond Referendum and to vote for the referendum on March 15, 2016.

Curtis Wynn is President and CEO of Roanoke Electric Cooperative.

Valuable resources... if you use them...

AROUND HERE



Jim Green

At the risk of being too obvious with a shameless plug or product placement (as LL Cool J would say), I want to talk about a few valuable resources that high school coaches can use to get their information to the media.

If you haven't heard about these resources, they are Max Preps, Game Changer and Hudl.

When I was in this area years ago (1989-2000), these resources didn't exist. Back then, we didn't even have email.

Every bit of sports information that appeared in the paper came from phone calls between myself and coaches. We did have a fax machine, and ever so often results or other items would come in that way.

I remember getting phone calls from coaches from Jamesville and (then) Bear Grass High School after midnight when they returned from long trips to Cape Hatteras.

Fast forward all these years later, and tech-

nology has overrun all of us. But some of it is good, and valuable to the media if used correctly and in a timely fashion.

MaxPreps is a news service for high school sports that began several years ago.

Coaches can take their scorebooks, or game film after they've broken it down, and put the information from each game online.

I am not sure how long it would take to upload information, but I'd venture to guess it would be around the same amount of time it would take for coaches to call me and provide it over the phone.

Many football and basketball coaches I

know use Hudl to upload their stats, and when done correctly, I can garner every bit of information I need regarding a particular game. They can also upload video of players' highlights for recruiting purposes.

GameChanger is more extensive, but one of my favorite programs, for baseball and softball.

To take advantage of all of its capabilities, though, coaches need to keep really accurate scorebooks. There are still coaches in middle and high school that only mark down when runs are scored and some don't know the difference between a hit and a fielder's choice.

For the newspaper, I tend to like more detail for baseball and softball than just the line-score and leading hitters, such as a scoring summary (in the form of a narrative). That takes a little more time, and only GameChanger (that I know of) allows for that.

These resources were invaluable to me

last spring, when Martin County had five teams playing at home at the same time in the first round of the state baseball and softball playoffs. I got photographs of all these games, and the information came from the coaches - whether it was by phone call or through MaxPreps or GameChanger.

The same rule still applies though. Whether you upload information to these sources, call, fax or email, we still need it by deadline (11 a.m. Tuesday for Wednesday's edition).

Some coaches would rather use these resources, and that is fine by me. It doesn't matter how you get the information to me - these resources, fax, phone or email - as long as we get it.

If you don't, you are missing out on some great ways to have your athletes recognized.

Jim Green is Sports Editor for The Bertie Ledger-Advance. He can be reached via email at jgreen@ncweeklies.com.

Bertie Ledger-Advance

Proudly Serving Bertie County for 167 years

THE BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1928 THROUGH THE HERITAGE OF THE WINDSOR LEDGER AND THE AULANDER ADVANCE. THE NEWSPAPER TRACES ITS HISTORY TO 1832 WHEN IT WAS FIRST PUBLISHED AS THE WINDSOR HERALD AND BERTIE COUNTY REGISTER

Kyle Stephens
Group Publisher
kstephens@ncweeklies.com

Angela Harne
Group Editor
aharne@ncweeklies.com

Thadd White
Editor
twhite@ncweeklies.com

Kyra Ruivo
Staff Writer
kruivo@ncweeklies.com

Leslie Beachboard
Staff Writer
lbeachboard@ncweeklies.com

Jim Green
Sports Editor
jgreen@ncweeklies.com

Michelle Leicester
Creative Services
mleicester@ncweeklies.com

Jessica Mobley
Advertising Manager
jmobley@ncweeklies.com

Lanny Hiday
Copy Editor
bertienews@ncweeklies.com

THE BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE (ISSN 051-700) IS PUBLISHED EACH WEDNESDAY FOR \$26.69 (PLUS TAX) PER YEAR (N BERTIE, HERTFORD, MARTIN, NORTHAMPTON, CHOWAN AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES) BY COOKE COMMUNICATIONS NORTH CAROLINA, LLC, 109 S. KING ST., WINDSOR, NC 27983. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT WINDSOR, NC AND ENTERED AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.

POSTMASTER:
ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE, P.O. Box 69, WINDSOR, NC 27983.

CONTACT US:
BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE
P.O. Box 69,
WINDSOR, NC 27983.
PHONE: (252) 794-3185
FAX: (252) 794-2835