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WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 31, 2018



Warriors bow out

SPORTS | B1



Racers begin the Spooktacular 5K Saturday on York Street in Windsor, led by a group of younger runners.

Cecil among three killed while in Fla.

Colerain man fatally injured in hit-and-run

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

CHIPLEY, FLA. — A Colerain man was one of three men killed by a hit-and-run driver last week.

George Cecil, 52, of Colerain lost his life while working to help those recovering in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

Cecil was working in Chipley, Fla. to repair power lost in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael when a driver — reportedly under the influence — struck him, along with two other men with his pickup

truck.

The crash occurred Oct. 24, and Cecil was killed along with Ryan Barrett, 22, of Roanoke Rapids and James Ussery of Chipley.

Florida Highway Patrol Sgt. R.C. Livingston said John Goedtke, 37, of the Tampa, Fla. area was heading north on State Road 77 when he veered his car onto the road's shoulder and struck the three men.

Goedtke then fled the scene on foot, but was tracked down and detained by the Washington County Sheriff's

See THREE, A5

SPOOKTACULAR

Annual event goes well despite weather



Mary Gray, dressed as Minnie Peairi, with her mother, Cecilia Williford Gray, during the costume contest sponsored by the Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce.

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - The weather didn't stop the race.

The 9th Annual Bertie Spooktacular was a success despite the wet and cold conditions the morning of the event.

The annual event brings runners from all over to Bertie County, which helps raise funds for the Good Shepherd Food Pantry.

"We couldn't have asked for more enthusiasm from the participants. We appreciate all of the support from

the community," said Spooktacular committee member Michelle Leicester.

Runners could pre-register for the event, and attendants were available at 8:30 a.m. the morning of the race to sign up last minute runners.

According to Leicester, approximately 30 runners signed up the morning of the run.

The opening ceremony began at 8:50 a.m. with Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce Director Lewis Hoggard welcoming the runners, vendors

See SPOOKTACULAR, A7

Bertie County now eligible

RALEIGH — Three more North Carolina counties affected by Hurricane Florence are now eligible to apply for federal assistance to help pay for the cost of debris removal, emergency protective measures and permanent repair work to damaged infrastructure.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that state and local government agencies in Bertie, Davidson and Orange counties may be eligible for grants under FEMA's Public Assistance program,

See ELIGIBLE, A6

Believing in the power of prayer

BY ANGELA HARNE
The Times-Leader

WINTERVILLE — A thyroid cancer survivor is battling brain cancer.

Frances Baker, 68, a native of Edenton, who has lived in Windsor for the past 60 years, was driving home from church March 18 when she pulled over to talk to her friend, who was out for a Sunday stroll.

Timing is everything, some say.

While talking to her friend, Baker felt the left side of her

face twitching.

"I knew I was having a stroke. I'd noticed my speech was slurred," Baker said.

She asked her friend to call her son, Neil, who also lives in Bertie County. He took her to the local hospital, where medical personnel conducted a CAT scan, ruling out a stroke.

Doctors believed Baker had suffered a seizure and started her on anti-seizure medicine. She was discharged, but as she was being wheeled to the exit, her face started twitching again.

She was administered additional medicine through an IV and released into the care of her daughter, Shannon Powell, who is a nurse. She was referred to a neurologist. Additional tests were run, including an MRI.

"It is purely divine intervention," Baker said, explaining the doctor told her he found a tumor on her brain, which he believed was cancer. "They said they won't know until they take a piece out. He told me he could do it next Tuesday, unless I had

See POWER, A5



ANGELA HARNE / The Times Leader

Frances Baker (right) is recovering from brain cancer with support from her daughter, Shannon Powell (center) and grandson, Jonathan Powell, 3. Baker is also a thyroid cancer survivor.

In this edition



- Awareness.....B8
- Church & Faith.....B6
- Classified.....B4
- Obituaries.....A2
- Opinion.....A4
- Sports.....B1



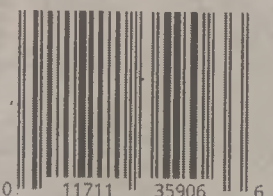
GOOD MORNING,
DR. JIM HARRELL
OF KELFORD

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