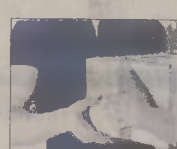




FOURTH&LONG
There's a reason I don't run the Miami Dolphins.
Page 4



GRACE&TRUTH
Grow, increase, advance... all where you find yourself.
Page 5



FARMERTO FAMILY
Boxes will be distributed in Askewville starting next week.
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SCAN ME

Volume 123:
No. 13

Bertie Ledger-Advance

THURSDAY • APRIL 1, 2021

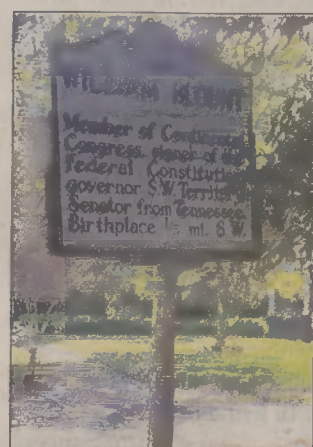
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Historic marker in Windsor.

Repair/ replace signs

A new opportunity to support the N.C. Highway Historical Marker Program will help repair or replace damaged historical highway marker, N.C. DOT announced.

The program has partnered with the non-profit North Carolina Literary and Historical Association to establish a historical marker maintenance endowment fund that will allow the public to make financial contributions to support the maintenance or repair of highway historical markers.

For more than 85 years, the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program has erected markers along the state's roads to mark locations of events and people of historical significance.

When markers are damaged by collisions or weather, the cost to repair them can be high. In fact, in recent years the marker program has spent on average one-third to one-half of its available annual budget on these kinds of maintenance needs.

Three historical highway markers soon will be repaired or replaced through the fund, including a marker for Ella Baker in Halifax County, one for Torhunta in Wayne County and one about Squire and Sarah Boone in Davie County.

Visit the association's website at www.ncdcr.gov/HistoricalMarker-Endowment to contribute.



FILE PHOTO

Blood drives like this one - held at Lawrence Academy in 2018 - help keep the American Red Cross supplied.

Blood drive set April 12

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Despite downswings in the active cases of COVID-19, the need for blood has never stopped.

Blood donations, however, have been paused in many areas leaving the American Red Cross in need of blood, especially type O blood.

This spring, the Red Cross

is teaming up with INDYCAR® to urge people to help keep the blood supply on track by donating blood or platelets.

As a thank you, those who give blood April 1-15 will automatically be entered into a drawing to win a trip for four to the 2022 Indianapolis 500. Those who give will also have a chance to win one of five \$1,000 e-gift cards.

The next local opportunity to give blood will be in less than two weeks when the Rotary Club of Windsor hosts a blood drive from 2-6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12 at the Windsor Community Building.

Lewis Hoggard, who chairs the Windsor blood drive, en-

See DRIVE, 2

Surface: One journey ends

BY CAL BRYANT
Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald

RICH SQUARE - Where did the time go... Sallie Surface keeps asking herself that question as the 38-year veteran of Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA) eyes the end of a long and productive career of helping those in need.

Surface, who was first employed by CADA in 1983 as its Manager of Community Services, has served the organization as its Executive Director since 1990. She plans to retire on June 30 of this year.

"There is never a good time to retire since you will always have something you want to accomplish before you do," said Surface. "You just reach a point when you decide this is the time."

She admitted that the next few months will run the gauntlet between sadness and happiness.

"The daily interactions with



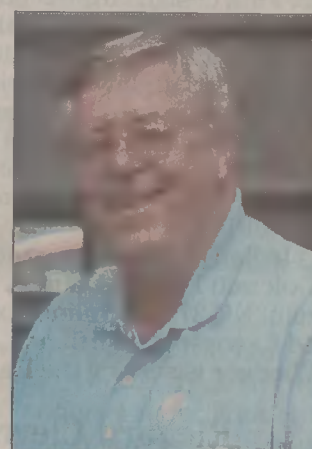
FILE PHOTO

CADA Executive Director Sallie Surface (right) is joined by, from left, Dr. Jeffery Fields of Halifax Community College and Weldon Mayor Julia Meacham at an event held in June 2019.

staff will be missed," she noted. "I've been very fortunate to have had a job that I enjoyed and thought that we,

as an agency, were making a difference in the lives of oth-

See SURFACE, 3



Billy Smithwick

Windsor mourns 'Chief'

Billy Smithwick touted for fire, tourism work

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - For more than five decades, Billy Smithwick was known for his wealth of knowledge when it came to emergency management.

Then, for the majority of his senior years, he was known for his role in helping develop Windsor into a tourist destination.

In both roles, he was beloved by the community he served.

That community is now in mourning after William "Billy" Jordan Smithwick, 77, of Winwood Drive passed away Tuesday at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville.

"Billy was an exceptional person, all the way back to when he earned his Eagle Scout Award," Windsor Mayor Jim Hoggard said. "I guess for many years, what Billy was known for was his emergency work. He was in the fire department for over 50 years, instrumental in rescue work and taught emergency services at Martin Community College. No one met or exceeded the accomplishments in emergency services like Billy."

"More recently, when

See SMITHWICK, 3

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**GOOD MORNING,
JIM HARRELL
OF KELFORD**

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