

2025

Yadkin County *Our Home*

**A celebration of the people, places and events
from the past year that make
Yadkin County a special place to call home.**

A SUPPLEMENT OF
THE TRIBUNE AND *The Yadkin Ripple*

LONGTIME Clerk of Court Retires

KITSEY BURNS HARRISON
kburns@yadkinripple.com

Yadkin County's longtime Clerk of Court Beth Holcomb retired in March 2025. Holcomb served as the elected Clerk of Court since 2014 but has been with the Clerk's office since 1983.

"It's been an honor to serve as Clerk," Holcomb said.

Holcomb reflected on her early days in the Clerk's office when her father, a former Yadkin County Commissioner, told her maybe someday she would be the Clerk of Court.

"I thought, 'oh, no, there's no way I can do that,'" she said with a laugh. But as the years went on and she learned the ins and outs of the court system, she knew that she could, in fact, go on to serve in the top position.

Holcomb also reflected on the many changes with technology she has seen in her work, from the days before fax machines and email and copiers with a collate feature. She recalled having to hand sort papers and line up the pages by hand for the court calendars.

"We've come along way," she said.

Working with the public in the court system is a job that takes a special level of perseverance and patience. It's something Holcomb is known for and has passed on the importance of that to



COURTESY PHOTO

BETH HOLCOMB

the staff of the Clerk's office.

"It's not an office where anything good is going on. We're seeing people at their worst," she said. From death, divorce, foreclosures, traffic tickets and criminal cases, Holcomb said the only happy things they see in the office are adoptions.

"They don't want to be here but we have got to do what we can for them," Holcomb often reminds her staff. "Be understanding and sympathetic, but firm."

While the job is one that deals with tough times for people, Holcomb said she has always



COURTESY PHOTO

Retired Yadkin County Clerk of Court Beth Holcomb (left) and newly sworn-in Interim Clerk of Court Brooke Snow.

enjoyed her work and those she has worked with over the years.

"I have been so fortunate," She said. "I have always worked with the best people."

As for retirement, Holcomb said she is looking forward to some down time, and most of all more time to spend with her family.

Brooke Snow will serve as the interim Clerk of Court for the remainder of Holcomb's term and is planning to file for election to the position in December for the 2026 election.

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Memorial Day

OBSERVANCE HELD IN

Hamptonville

KITSEY BURNS HARRISON
 kburns@yadkinripple.com

A steady rain for much of Monday set a somber tone for Memorial Day ceremonies held locally in May 2025.

In Hamptonville at VFW Post 10346 the solemn occasion was marked, beginning with Local Scout Troop 699 leading the pledge of allegiance. After a presentation of the flags of each branch of service, local veterans MSgt. Rand Ellington and Sgt. Tim Kelly spoke.

Ellington shared his story of being a career Marine and an elder in the group following 9/11 when he saw many young Marines die in the line of duty. He spoke of their great sacrifice. Ellington also shared about his relationship with the family of Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel F. Swaim, of Yadkinville, who was killed in Iraq on Nov. 10, 2005 while searching for insurgents. Ellington said he grew up not ever telling another man that he loved him, but his close friend Mike Swaim, Daniel's father, taught him the important lesson of expressing his love.

"So now, every time we talk, I let him know I love him and his wife. So don't be afraid to tell someone who love them, Daniel can't tell him he loves him back," he said.

Kelly also reflected on the lives of those lost in service and the importance of honoring those lives.

"[Today] is about those who gave their last breath, so that we could live free. We remember the faces, the names. Some of those names are etched on the granite walls. Others were carried silently in the hearts of those who served beside them," he said.

"[I'm] reminded of how close I came to being one of those we remember today. And I don't take that lightly. I'm blessed to be standing here in front of you, and I'll continue to stand here anytime I'm asked, because I owe it to them. I carry their memory with me, and I speak for them, because they can no longer speak for themselves. We don't mourn them because they were lost. We honor



PHOTOS BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Scouts from local Troop 699 lead the pledge of allegiance at a Memorial Day ceremony held Monday in Hamptonville at VFW Post 10346.



Sgt. Tim Kelly speaks at Memorial Day service held in Hamptonville.



Local veteran David Webb salutes during the flag ceremony portion of a Memorial Day service held Monday at VFW Post 10346 in Hamptonville.

them because they live with courage, purpose, and an unshakable commitment. And while the pain of their absence never truly fades, we owe it to them to live lives worthy of their sacrifice," Kelly said.

"Before we leave here today, I ask you to do one thing in their honor. Live your life with the kind of purpose and courage they showed in their final moments," Kelly concluded. "Don't let their sacrifice be just history. Make it a legacy. Today, let us commit to more than just remembrance, let us commit to action. Let us strive to be citizens worthy of their sacrifice. By lifting others up, by strengthening our communities and by definitive defending liberty in whatever way we're called. To the gold star families who carry the weight of loss every single day, you have our return of gratitude. Your loved ones will never be forgotten. And to those we remember today, we see you. We honor you, and we vow to carry forward your majesty, not just today, but everyday."



Members of the Yadkin County Honor Guard at Monday's Memorial Day ceremony held at VFW Post 10346 in Hamptonville.

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YADKIN COUNTY RECEIVES Charters of Freedom

STAFF REPORT

A grand celebration of freedom and patriotism was held Thursday in Yadkinville as the nation's 70th Charters of Freedom setting was formally dedicated at 101 S. State Street. This setting, the 42nd of its kind in North Carolina, includes full-scale replicas of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Civil Rights Amendments.

As guests settled in for the event, Yadkin County Board of Commissioners Chairperson David Moxley welcomed the crowd and acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

A touching invocation followed, with everyone bowing their heads in prayer led by Pastor Chris Hauser of South Oak Ridge Baptist Church.

The Presentation of Colors was conducted by the Yadkin VFW Post 10346 Honor Guard, and the National Anthem was beautifully performed by retired Yadkinville Police Chief Dawn Pardue, moving everyone in attendance.

Yadkin County Commissioner Cliff Collins then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following this, Commissioner Ricky Oliver took the podium to recognize other community leaders in attendance, including Clerk of Court Brooke Snow, Sheriff Nick Smitherman, Yadkin County Board of Education members (Kenny Gooden, Michael Norman, and Tim



COURTESY PHOTO

Vance Patterson, of Foundation Forward, presents the Charters of Freedom to Yadkin County Chairman David Moxley at a ceremony held Thursday in downtown Yadkinville.

Weatherman), Yadkinville Mayor Pro Tem Monta Davis-Oliver, Town Manager Mike Koser, and Police Chief Phillip Scott.

A recognition of sponsors and contributors was then delivered by Commissioner Tim Parks, who gave thanks to CW Electric Co., Yadkin Concrete, along with county employees Dwayne Stanley and Caleb Poplin.

The ceremony then shifted to a presentation by Foundation Forward, Inc., the 501(c)(3) nonprofit that partners with communities across the country to build these Charters of Freedom settings. Foundation Forward's Communications Director, Mike Unruh, recognized the members of their team who were in attendance, including Connie and Perry Snider, Larry and Amanda Coffey, Don Ramsey, Dr. David Streater, and Ron Lewis, before introducing the organization's Founder, Vance Patterson.

Upon the first time laying his eyes on the Declaration of Independence in the National Archives, Patterson said that he "got goosebumps". Then he read the Constitution's first three words — "We the People," and Patterson said; "I actually got a lump in my throat", and his wife, Mary Jo, was "wiping tears out of her eyes." The couple wanted to bring that experience to their hometown of Morganton. Two years later, they dedicated the first replica Charters of Freedom display, which includes life-size replicas of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights.

The couple established Foundation Forward, Inc. with the three principles of "providing education on American History and Civics so people know how the government is supposed to work, providing easy access to see the documents in a local setting, and providing communities a place to honor and reflect". The Pattersons then began building settings in various locations across the country. To date, these projects span 17 states, including Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, and as far



COURTESY PHOTO

A local veteran signs the guest book at a ceremony unveiling the new Charters of Freedom monument in downtown Yadkinville.



COURTESY PHOTO

Retired Yadkinville Police Chief Dawn Pardue sings the National Anthem during a ceremony to unveil the new Charters of Freedom monuments.



COURTESY PHOTO

A family visits the newly installed Charters of Freedom monument in downtown Yadkinville.

north and west as Wasilla, Alaska.

The setting also includes a display of the Civil Rights Amendments, which encompasses the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, and 24th Amendments that abolished slavery, guaranteed citizenship, gave voting rights to all citizens (male and female), and eliminated the Poll Tax.

Patterson challenged the crowd to bring their children and friends to the Charters of Freedom and "tell them about how their freedoms and rights give them an advantage over the rest of the world to pursue their passion, to chase their dreams, to accomplish their goals and get out of life what it is they want to get out of life."

Vance presented a signed certificate commemorating the event to Yadkin County Commissioners Chairman David Moxley.

Following his remarks, Patterson returned to the podium to read each of the seven Articles of the Constitution. As he concluded, a powerful ceremonial cannon volley echoed in the distance, adding a dramatic and reverent tone to the proceedings.

The honorary cannoneers for the event included County Commissioners David Moxley, Cliff Collins, Ricky Oliver, and Tim Parks, along with local veterans David Shore, Randy Miller, and James Cline.

For more information, please visit www.chartersoffreedom.com or call 828-522-1400.



COURTESY PHOTO

A ceremonial miniature cannon volley is part of the special presentation held Thursday for the installation of the Charters of Freedom monuments in downtown Yadkinville.



COURTESY PHOTO

Author Allan Wolf on stage at the Willingham Theater for a special presentation for Yadkin County third graders.

AUTHOR VISITS YADKIN COUNTY as poetry and space collide at the

Willingham

STAFF REPORT

Renowned author and poet Allan Wolf visited the Willingham Theatre in Yadkinville on March 21, 2025 and delivered three high-energy performances for third graders from across Yadkin County.

Wolf is a poet and an author of approximately 20 books for young people, including picture books, poetry books, and novels. He is also a performance poet who travels all over the country sharing author talks and poetry presentations. Wolf's visit was made possible by a Yadkin County Education Foundation Collaborative Grant, which is organized by the Shallowford Foundation. The grant was

written by three media coordinators, Tammy Poindexter, Lisa Wright, and Kim Caudle, and three third grade teachers, Sidney Matthews-Gunnell, Jessie Stotler, and Johnna Pettit.

The event was entitled "Poetry and Space Collide" and included a copy of Wolf's book, "The Day the Universe Exploded My Head," provided to all third grade classrooms and elementary media centers. Yadkin County students read this book as they completed their science unit on space in their classrooms. The grant also purchased a model of the solar system that students put together for each third grade classroom in the county. On March 21, the students traveled to the Willingham Theater in Yadkinville, where Wolf performed several of his poems while also sharing his vast knowledge of space.

One third grade student, Dalton, said his favorite part was when Wolf acted out the planet's personalities that had been given to them in the book. Another student, Alysse, said her favorite part was when Wolf juggled and that she learned more facts about the solar system. Wolf also shared about the process of writing focusing on poetry. At the end of each show, Wolf presented each student with a bookmark; he also graciously provided a



Yadkin County third graders attend an interactive poetry reading with author Allan Wolf at the Yadkin Arts Council's Willingham Theater.

free, autographed book for one student in each show. Students left the show with a head full of knowledge about space, an excitement about poetry, and a smile on their face!

Students are now writing their own space poems and will be publishing them in a book. The grant for this event allows each third grade classroom and elementary school library to purchase a copy of the book in which the student poems are published. The major goal of this project was to build excitement for reading — especially poetry — and to enhance the classroom instruction on space.

Yadkin County Schools leaders offered their thanks to the Shallowford Foundation and their dedication to local schools by offering the Yadkin County Education Foundation Collaborative Grant.

"Thank you to all of the third grade teachers and elementary media coordinators for their hard work implementing all parts of the grant. Finally, a big shout out goes to the Yadkin Arts Council and staff members Tim Harrison and Sarah Smith, who not only allowed us to use their beautiful space, The Willingham Theater, but also made the shows happen."

"Allan Wolf is a dynamic speaker who makes poetry come alive," said Tammy Poindexter, who played a major role in organizing this event. "Our students were learning



A Yadkin County third grader on stage at the Willingham Theater for a reading and science demonstration by author Allan Wolf.

facts while having loads of fun, and it was through the use of poetry. So many students were able to see and hear how poetry can come alive through Allan's presentation. I hope this event will inspire our students to write and maybe one will become a published author one day."

Be sure to check out other books by Allan Wolf, including his two newest works that are coming out on July 1, 2025: "Junius Leak and the Spiraling Vortex of Doom" and "The Gift of the Broken Teacup: Poems of Mindfulness, Meditation, and Me."

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The logo for K & V Heating & Air Conditioning is displayed. It features the letters 'K & V' in a large, stylized, black font with white outlines, set against a blue background with a white and red horizontal stripe. Below the letters is the word 'INC' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the letters is a red circular logo with a white stylized 'T' inside, followed by the word 'TRANE' in a bold, red, italicized sans-serif font. Below the logo, the address '304 NC Hwy 67 • East Bend, NC 27018' is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Below the address, the website 'kvheatingandair.com' and the phone number '• 336-699-2088' are written in a red, sans-serif font. Below the website and phone number, the text '24 Hours Emergency Service • FREE Estimates on Installation' is written in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there are three logos: 'DISCOVER' with the tagline 'Make every payment yours', 'MasterCard', and 'VISA'. To the right of these logos, the text 'FINANCING AVAILABLE' is written in a large, black, serif font. At the bottom right, the text 'TNNC276548-1' is written in a small, black, sans-serif font.



PHOTOS BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

YCM volunteers pack up lunch to-go for ticket holders of the annual Empty Bowls drive-through soup and salad event fundraiser.

Empty Bowls

fills community need

KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

kburns@yadkinripple.com

Yadkin Christian Ministries held its annual Empty Bowls fundraiser in March. This event has become a tradition in the community and is one of the group's largest fundraisers.

"YCM would like to thank our caring community for the tremendous outpouring of support for our largest annual fundraiser, Empty Bowls," said Director Beth Steelman. "This is the 14th year that we have conducted this project. Each year we gain new community partners to support our efforts. Our faith supporters helped us be able to distribute over 500,000 pounds of food to our neighbors who are food insecure in 2024."

Yadkin Christian Ministries operates two locations in Yadkin County, one in Yadkinville and one in East Bend where it distributes food to those in need.

Each year the agency reminds the community of the ongoing need by holding the Empty Bowls event where ticket holders get a salad, bowl of soup, dessert and a handmade pottery bowl. Local potters donate their work for the cause as do several other local businesses including Taste of Italy, and Vernon's Cake Carousel. Other



Handmade pottery bowls are given to ticket holders at the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser benefiting Yadkin Christian Ministries.



Soup is served at the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser hosted by Yadkin Christian Ministries.

supporters include Cracker Barrel, the Yadkin Moose Lodge and Pepsi. This year there were more than 40 area business supporters for Empty Bowls.

Numerous volunteers for Yadkin Christian Ministries make sure the event, which continues as a drive-through meal pick up, goes off without a hitch. Inside and outside the Moose Lodge smiling volunteers dish up soup, pack up salads and deliver them carside to ticket holders.

Yadkin Christian Ministries next major event is the annual postal food drive slated for May 10 where donors may place canned food in their mailbox to be delivered by postal workers to the ministry.

For more information on Yadkin Christian Ministries, call 336-677-3080.



Tasters enjoy samples from Sanders Ridge Winery in Boonville at the 20th annual Yadkin Valley Grape Festival held Saturday in downtown Yadkinville.



PHOTOS BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Hanover Park, Yadkin County's oldest vineyard and winery, pours tastings for guests at the 20th annual Yadkin Valley Grape Festival in Yadkinville.



A wine taster sniffs her sample at the Elkin Creek Vineyard booth at the 2024 Yadkin Valley Grape Festival held in downtown Yadkinville.

Wine galore AT ANNUAL Grape Fest

KITSEY BURNS HARRISON
kburns@yadkinripple.com


The wine was flowing the tunes were playing on an October Saturday afternoon in downtown Yadkinville for the 20th annual Yadkin Valley Grape Festival. Wine lovers were greeted to perfect fall weather with clear and sunny skies.

"It's a chamber of commerce day," said Yadkinville Mayor Eddie Norman. Norman has often praised the work of the Yadkin County Chamber which hosts the event each fall.

At last year's festival, Chamber Director Bobby Todd reflected on the beginnings of the festival almost 20 years prior when it was a small event tagged on to that year's Harvest Festival. The festival has continued to grow since that time but remains on the smaller side, something that is a draw for its many return visitors who say it's like spending time with family.

Wineries from the Yadkin Valley, mainly Yadkin and Surry counties, were pouring on Saturday as well as a few wineries from further afield.

In addition to the wine tastings, there were several food trucks on hand and live music throughout the day, including local favorite Camel City Yacht Club which kept attendees grooving with some smooth yacht rock to while away the afternoon.



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PHOTOS BY ALLI PARDUE

Long-time vendor Glenda Edgell shows a local man some of her tomatoes at the Yadkin Farmers Market in August 2024. The man is participating in the N.C. Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), with his voucher poking out of his back pocket.

YADKIN Farmers Market

SEES GROWTH WITH NEW VENDORS, NEW CUSTOMERS,
AND NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

ALLI PARDUE

Yadkin Ripple Intern

Last summer was a busy one at the Yadkin Farmers Market, which offers fresh produce, local goods, and a chance to support small businesses.

Located on Tennessee St., behind the community park, the market operates from May to October, welcoming visitors on Tuesdays from 3-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. This long-standing initiative is backed by the Yadkinville Town Council and serves as a small — but vibrant — hub for local commerce and community engagement.

One standout feature of the Yadkin Farmers Market is its participation in the North Carolina Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).

This program, which runs from July 1 to September 30, provides eligible low-income seniors with vouchers to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, honey, and herbs from certified farmers' markets across the state. The goal is twofold: to improve the nutrition of older adults and to boost business for local farmers. This year, the program is available in 50 of North Carolina's 100 counties.



A Yadkin Farmers Market sign on the corner of U.S. 601 and Tennessee St. displayed in August 2024. Though the market is open on both Saturdays and Tuesdays this year, Saturday remains marked out from a previous year.

Glenda Edgell has been selling her goods at the Yadkin Farmers Market for more than ten years, and she is a participating vendor in the nutrition program. She notes the importance of the program in helping seniors access fresh, local produce.

"We get a lot of nice folks come in here every week," she said, highlighting the loyal customer base that frequents the market, many of whom benefit from the SFMNP vouchers.

The market has also seen new faces among its vendors this year. Marie Sagraves, of Marie's Mountain Soaps, sells produce, plants, homemade soaps and self care products. This is her first year at the Yadkin Farmers Market, and



Dixie St. Clair, a veteran vendor at the Yadkin Farmers Market, sells apples, peaches, and plums to a customer from her truck bed in August 2024.

she was certified for the senior nutrition program just last Saturday, she said.

"I'm a people person," she said, expressing her excitement about interacting with the community and participating in the program.

Penny Efird, a veteran vendor who attends with her mother Sammy Kieffer, has observed the market's growth this year. She said they usually see a "parking lot-full" — especially on Tuesdays. This surge in activity is likely attributed to the reopening of the market on Saturdays after a hiatus a few years ago, which had conditioned the community to prioritize Tuesday visits. Some of the Yadkin Farmers Market signage still has Saturdays marked off.

Mark Gibson, another vendor who owns Hallelujah Hive and sells all natural beeswax products, agrees that Tuesdays are a steady day for business.

"It's a supplement. I don't get great business, but I get enough business," he said about the farmers' market. Originally from Pennsylvania, made evident by his accent, Gibson moved to North Carolina to be closer to his family. He said he has found the local community to be exceptionally welcoming.

Dixie St. Clair, another long-time Yadkin Farmers Market vendor who sells produce from her husband's family orchard, has noticed an increase in young people at the market. This reflects a broader trend of healthier eating habits among the younger generation.

The Yadkin market has improved this year with more vendors and more customers, she said, signaling a positive shift in the market's vibrancy and appeal.

The increase in younger customers combined with initiatives like N.C.'s SFMNP has established the Yadkin



PHOTOS BY ALLI PARDUE

Marie Sagraves, of Marie's Mountain Soaps, at her booth in August 2024. This is her first year at the Yadkin Farmers Market, and she was recently certified as a vendor for the N.C. Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

Farmers Market into a community gathering point that brings together people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life.

And just like their crops, the vendors hope the market's impact on the community will keep on growing.

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PHOTOS BY ALLI PARDUE

Community members stand amid some light rainfall watching the firework show at Yadkinville's Independence Day celebration on Saturday.

YADKINVILLE CELEBRATES *Independence Day*

ALLI PARDUE
Yadkin Ripple Intern

The Yadkinville community celebrated Independence Day with a big event downtown on July 6, 2024.

Hosted by the Town of Yadkinville and the Yadkinville Fire Department, the event featured vendors, food, entertainment, a parade, and fireworks, creating a festive atmosphere for the community.

Unlike many other July 4 celebrations that start bright and early in the morning, Yadkinville's event kicked off in the afternoon at 5 p.m. The parade started at 7 p.m., and fireworks lit up the sky at dark.

Dozens of food trucks and vendors filled downtown, from Live Like Norah to Appalachian Mountain Brewery. Vendors sold everything from Korean corn dogs to fresh produce, but cold treats like lemonade, blueberry smoothies, and giant snow cones were the big hits on the hot and humid July day.

Some local churches even provided free refreshments



Sophia Luper and Jacob Campbell enjoy Korean-style corn dogs from the Astro Dogs food truck at Yadkinville's Independence Day celebration on Saturday.

to help attendees beat the heat. South Oak Ridge Baptist handed out free water and soda, while Collide Church served up free snow cones.

Attendees brought their own lawn chairs to the festivities, scattering them about the grounds to relax and enjoy live entertainment from Krystal King — a country music singer from Hickory.



PHOTOS BY ALLI PARDOUE

Folks watching the parade wave at softball players from Yadkinville Elementary School on top of a Yadkinville fire truck during Yadkinville's Independence Day celebration on Saturday.



South Oak Ridge Baptist Church advertises free soda and water on Main Street and awaits the parade at Yadkinville's Independence Day celebration on Saturday.



Softball players from Courtney Elementary School ride in the parade and wave at the crowd at Yadkinville's Independence Day celebration on July 6.

After two hours of revelry, the parade began at 7 p.m. Main St. was lined with people on both sides, eager to watch the procession.

The parade included the usual array of emergency personnel, floats, big trucks, and tractors. It even featured a fleet of motorcyclists.

After the parade, storm clouds loomed. It began to rain shortly before the fireworks show was set to start, causing some community members to wonder if the fireworks would proceed.

But the rain did not deter the celebration. The firework show went on just a few minutes later than planned, providing a sparkling conclusion to Yadkinville's Independence Day celebration.



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