



• Last-gasp effort gives Wolfpack victory over West Columbus. • Lady Gators grab Three Rivers Conference win over South Columbus. • Gators shock Trask. • Lady Rams run past Wake Tech. • Gator netters nip Red Springs in Three Rivers Conference match. See page 1-B.

Published since 1890 every Monday and Thursday for the County of Columbus and her people.

# The News Reporter

Monday, April 11, 2016



Volume 125, Number 82  
Whiteville, North Carolina

75 Cents

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- Car wrecks across county take two lives.

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- Work-day yields Community Garden at museum.

## DIDYOB?

Did you observe ...

*Did you observe hundreds of Columbus County High School Juniors visiting SCC Wednesday and Thursday for Career Exploration Days? ... An elated Mark Bannerman winning first-place overall at the N.C. Azalea Festival Art Show in Wilmington Thursday night? ...?*

## County Deaths

**Whiteville**  
Estelle Summersett Walker  
Zilphia Lee Hall  
Plummer Smith  
**Evergreen**  
Billy Carroll Lee Sr.  
**Chadbourn**  
Kadeem Javon Keel  
**Tabor City**  
John Tisdale  
Irene Long  
**Hallsboro**  
Jenny Richardson Wilson

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Whiteville.com  
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Staff photo by FULLER ROYAL

## Play ball

Members of the Civitans Dixie Youth Baseball team take Harritan Field Saturday to be introduced during opening ceremonies for the Whiteville Optimist Club's 47th season of baseball.

## Potential for wildfires grows

By JEFFERSON WEAVER  
Staff Writer

A month into the spring fire season, N.C. Forest Service officials are gearing up for what could be a big summer.

Statewide, N.C. Forest Service (NCFPS) workers are gearing up for what could be a busy summer fire season.

"Long-term forecasts are calling for drier-than-normal weather, with thunderstorms in May and June," said NCFPS District Eight Forester Shane Hardee. The district covers Pender, Bladen, New Hanover, Brunswick, Sampson, Duplin and Columbus counties.

Dry weather and cloud-to-ground lightning are a worrisome combination, he said.

"That combination could mean some severe fire risks in our entire area," Hardee said.



A North Carolina Forest Service crew working a fire.

The wetter than usual fall and winter made fire prevention work easier this year, Hardee explained, but past rain doesn't play as big of a role in wildfires as current conditions.

Even with a rainfall surplus for the fall, winter and spring, the fire danger chances remain high

See Fires, page 2-A

## Duke Energy awards \$249,526 to SCC

Duke Energy and Southeastern Community College have announced a \$249,526 investment in the college from the Duke Energy Foundation to prepare students for careers in advanced manufacturing.

The funds will be used to replicate the floor of an advanced manufacturing facility through the purchase and installation of a mechatronics manufacturing training system and complementary hydraulics, pneumatics and mechanical trainers with supporting simulation software.

Project GAME (Growing Advanced Manufacturing Excellence) will enhance current continuing education advanced manufacturing training and establish a Mechatronics Engineering Technology Degree program. This strengthens the pathway from high school to job placement through curriculum that addresses an employer-identified manufacturing skills gaps.

Drawing upon the principles of mechatronics, students will master the skills to install, maintain, troubleshoot, and repair sophisticated equipment in an integrated manufacturing system. This system's approach closes the educational loop by incorporating hands-on experience with practical knowledge needed to be a successful multi-skilled technician.



John Elliott, second from right, presents the check to SCC Director of Industrial and Workforce Training Mark Lennon, left, Dr. Tony Clarke and SCC Vice President of Workforce and Community Development Beverlee Nance.

"The equipment that this grant is providing will enable Southeastern Community College to increase our contribution to economic development and educational attainment in Columbus County," said SCC President Dr. Tony Clarke.

"Southeastern Community College is committed to training a workforce equipped to meet today's business needs," said John Elliott,

Duke Energy's director of government and community relations. "We are pleased to strengthen our partnership with the college to develop a highly-skilled workforce that will attract and retain businesses in the region for years to come."

This grant is part of Duke Energy's \$30 million investment in

See SCC, page 2-A

## Hearing today on Best's bid for new trial

■ DNA results that show a 490 trillion to one chance Best didn't commit 1991 murders of Baldwin couple here will be part of hearing.

By BOB HIGH  
Staff Writer

It took 23 years for court proceedings to bring Norfolk Junior "Fuzzy" Best from prison to a courtroom for a judge to hear his attorneys' motion for a new trial for the Whiteville man who has been on death row since his conviction in 1993 of first-degree murder in the slayings of an esteemed local couple.



Best

The hearing begins at 1 p.m. today (Monday) in Superior Court in Whiteville with Judge Douglas Sasser presiding. District Attorney Jon David is expected to represent the state in a bid to rebuff claims

Best's attorneys claim the state withheld evidence that implicated two white males in the November 1991 killings, and the motion disputed the date of the murders. However, state law in 1993 required the state to only share evidence it intended to use in a trial.

made by Best's lawyers.

Although Best was convicted by a Bladen County jury, the hearing was moved here to accommodate court personnel.

The Baldwin murders is the most notorious case in Whiteville history since the 1903 killings of a bootlegger and his assistant led to the last public hanging here in 1904 when Jabel Register paid the ultimate price for his crimes.

480 trillion

Best still claims he didn't murder and rob local photographer Leslie Baldwin and his wife Gertrude in their Burkhead Street home

See Best, page 4-A

## Grandmother killer receives 30-plus years

By JEFFERSON WEAVER  
Staff Writer

The Supply man who killed his grandmother in Hallsboro in 2011 will serve at least 30 years in prison.

Jesse Vernon Pace, 34, pleaded guilty to second degree murder and armed robbery Thursday in Superior Court here. He was represented by defense attorney Kevin Peters. Chris Gentry prosecuted the case before Judge Douglas Sasser.



Pace

Pace was facing first degree murder for the killing of his grandmother, Betty Larue Smith Pace, in June of 2011, according to his arrest warrant. Under the plea agreement, he was sentenced for second degree murder. As part of the plea, Pace admitted slashing the woman's throat and stealing her cellphone, credit cards and car. The credit cards were discovered when authorities searched his Blackbeard Drive, Supply, home, according to the indictment. The car was later found in Soldier Bay, on the Brunswick County line near Ash, according to the District Attorney's office.

The defendant's return to Columbus County Superior Court was a circuitous one because of his admitted ties to the Folk Nation alliance of gangs.

A Sept. 4, 2014 Safekeeping Order signed by Columbus County Sheriff Lewis Hatcher says Pace was a "high ranking member" of the group, and ordered the murders of inmates as

See Pace, page 4-A

# Teacher brings imagination to science

By SHALON SMITH  
Staff Writer

Kim Adams always knew she'd be a lawyer. Her grandmother was a teacher she had admired growing up but she knew she'd never teach because it was just too much work.

Her mind was changed her senior year of high school when she fell in love with chemistry. She went on to major in Chemistry at UNC-Chapel Hill and received the N.C. Teaching Fellows Scholarship. After exposure to a variety of classrooms in the Teaching Fellows program, she set her sights on teaching in high school and received a master's degree in the Art of Teaching from UNC-Wilmington.

Adams said coming to work at the Columbus Career and College Academy, where she has taught each of her five years in the field, is an adventure and a roller coaster ride.

"I love the students' thoughts, ideas and creativity. I never know how or what my day will bring; no two days are the same. My students make my day with their questions and comments, their curiosities at the world and how much they love to share about their lives," she said.

Adams said there are difficulties when teaching a variety of learning styles and personalities. She teaches a laboratory-based course so her students have the opportunity to move around and discuss their thoughts and beliefs on the subject matter but individual learning styles



CCCA's Kim Adams listens to a student explain the concept of diffusion in his own words.

and personalities still present obstacles when trying to reach each student. Some of her students are able to show her how much they understand of the material while others remain challenged.

"This difficulty makes

teaching a lot like a puzzle to solve that changes daily," Adams said.

Other than differentiated teaching, Adams named funding, time, and testing as challenges to the teaching profession.

"These [challenges] aren't as much fun as differentiation and don't change daily. Funding is always in the news for education reform as well as the number or scope of standardized testing," she said.

Adams has come up with

creative means of differentiating lessons for students in her biology classes. She said the lessons and activities in teaching evolution are fun and watching students take on roles of animals in natural selection is one of her favorite

activities to observe.

In focusing on the creativity of the students, Adams' favorite student assignment directs the students to take four to five of their favorite animals and create a new one based on those characteristics. By doing so, the students get a chance to review the subject matter while showing off their imaginations to the class.

"They tend to get very excited and competitive about it. Sometimes we have an animal survival-of-the-fittest competition to see which animal is most adapted for the environment," she said.

Adams wants her students to enjoy the time and the classmates they have in high school. She also wants her students to know that they will learn more from the subjects than they think if they are open to the idea of learning.

The teacher of biology, chemistry, Earth and environmental science, and physical science said it was an honor to be selected by her peers as hard working and deserving.

"I'm still amazed I was selected," she said.

Preparing lessons for each of the courses she teaches and a job at a café in Leland where she lives keeps the single woman Adams pretty busy. She said she doesn't have time for much else other than work but recently made time to work on her green thumb.

"I just started a garden that is time-consuming but I hope to translate the knowledge I'm gaining from it into my classroom in the fall," she said.

## Bolton water customers to receive adjustments

By JEFFERSON WEAVER  
Staff Writer

A raft of unusual water meter readings in Bolton will result in a one-time adjustment for around 60 customers.

Bolton aldermen approved the adjustment Tuesday at the suggestion of Mayor Shawn Maynor and Town Administrator Frank Wilson. The town will use an adjustment policy that has been in place for years, determining an average bill based on six previous months.

"We don't know where the problems came from," Maynor said, "but we did see an unusual amount of changes in consumption for a number of town water customers, and we have been hearing the complaints."

The town's basic water service fee is \$15.50 for the first 2,000 gallons. The February and March billing cycles showed unusual increases, Maynor said. Some bills had only a minor increase, but others had significant changes. Several residents attended Tuesday's meeting to voice complaints about their bills and problems with water meters.

"Some of those bills, you know someone hasn't been able to use that much water," Wilson said. "They might live alone, or be gone a lot, but their bill jumped way up."

Wilson pointed out that his bill was one of those that was higher than normal. He

discovered a float valve in a commode was malfunctioning, causing the bowl to run constantly.

"It's hard to say if there is one cause for all of them, or if there might be a bunch of problems," he said. "Each meter will have to be checked, and we'll have to see if the problem is on our end or the homeowner's side of the meter."

Several aldermen asked about the condition of the meters, and whether they need replacement. ABCD Construction, which contracts public works services for the town, is responsible for checking the meters. A Brunswick County firm repairs any that need work, Maynor told the board.

The adjustment option hasn't been used on this large of a scale before, Wilson said, but is a common practice in the town. The policy has been in place for years.

Maynor said Wednesday that the town staff was going

over the affected bills, and looking for customers who might not have complained. He said the staff was also working to determine exactly how much the adjustment will cost the town in lost water fees.

"We don't know exactly how many there are," he said. "We know of at least 60-plus. We won't know about the money until we determine how much and how many bills were affected."

Wilson said residents can save themselves money as well as helping the town by taking a close look at their own water systems.

"Old gaskets, leaky pipes - any of those things can drive your bill up and waste water," he said. "If it's between the street and the meter it's the town's problem, but if it's between the meter and the house, the customer is responsible. The town has no control or liability over a broken pipe in your house."

## SCC

Continued from page 1-A

North Carolina's Community Colleges' focus on technical education and support of business and industry.

Individual community colleges can apply for funds through the N.C. Community Foundation.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of representatives from Duke Energy, N.C. Community College System and N.C. Department of Commerce.

On Saturday, during the SCC Foundation dinner, the presentation of the check to the college from Duke Progress Energy was repeated for the trustees and guests.

## Red Cross blood drive is April 14

The Southeastern Community College Student Government Association will host an American Red Cross blood drive in the Nesmith Student Center on April 14 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Contact Meg Sellers at (910) 642-7141, ext. 416 to schedule an appointment or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code SECC.

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Mark and Annamaria Bencze Cartret recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in Miercurea Ciuc Romania, the bride's hometown. Miercurea Ciuc, also known by its Hungarian name of Csikszereda, lies in the beautiful Transylvanian region of the Carpathians.

The couple was given a formal dinner hosted by the Bencze family which was attended by nearly 100 family members and friends.



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# Animal Control sees 94 percent adoption rate

By JEFFERSON WEAVER  
Staff Writer



**Dogs like this one have a much higher chance of adoption at the Columbus County Animal Shelter than in years past, according to a recent report. More kennels were empty than occupied Wednesday.**

the strong, ongoing commitment of both the shelter team and the volunteers of the Animal Shelter to these animals," Prince said.

"It takes an amazing amount of effort to place this many animals into homes."

Prince pointed out that the American Humane Society puts the national average survival rate of dogs brought into a shelter at 44



**Empty kennels and catboxes are more common at the Columbus County Animal shelter than in recent years.**

"These results represent the strong, ongoing commitment of both the shelter team and the volunteers of the Animal Shelter to these animals. It takes an amazing amount of effort to place this many animals into homes."

Animal Control Supervisor Joey Prince

Last year was a good one for lost dogs and cats who ended up in the Columbus County Animal Shelter – better than for many shelters across the country.

During the 2015 calendar year, the shelter took in 3,223 dogs and cats.

The number was just about split evenly between canines and felines, according to Animal Control Supervisor Joey Prince.

The intake total was in line with previous years, but the shelter's report to the state showed a reassuring new number – of those 3,200-plus animals, 94 percent were adopted or returned to their families.

The county shelter had been under fire in previous years, when adoption rates occasionally dropped below 50 percent.

Of the pets that ended up at the shelter, 1,617 were dogs and 1,606 cats.

Owners were reunited with 88 pets, while 2,927 went to new homes or rescue organizations across the country.

No wild animals were taken in last year, and the county agency works with volunteers when investigations involve large animals such as horses, goats and pigs.

Prince credited the improvements to the hard work of his staff and volunteers, and the broad reach of the Internet and social media.

"These results represent

percent. On average, only 29 percent of cats that enter animal shelters nationwide are placed into homes, he said.

He said a large part of the shelter's much better than average results are due to social networking.

"The shelter's new software, donated by the Columbus Humane Society, allows for our animals to be posted

online on over 20 sites," he said. "In addition, both the Dogs of Columbus County Volunteer Page and the Urgent Cats of CCAC Whiteville spend countless hours sharing and fundraising to ensure our animals find a new home."

Local animals have been flown to Pittsburgh, Pa., Denver, Colo., and Maine, Prince

said.

The staff of the shelter works every day to find homes for unwanted animals, but community involvement plays a major role as well.

"Residents have played a major part in improving the shelter," he said. "We are getting more local people interested in helping the animals."

He noted that as approval

of the shelter has risen, so has the community's support. A new sign at the shelter was donated by a local benefactor who wants to remain nameless, and a new exercise area is being constructed with donated labor and materials.

"The shelter has had large donations of food, supplies and money, which have allowed for better care for the animals of the shelter," Prince said.

"In addition, donations, both locally and from online sources, have also made possible an increased level of medical care, the new sign and other benefits. Without these donations, what we do just would not be possible."

The shelter's fiscal 2015-16 budget was \$239,410, resulting in a cost per animal of around \$74.

The budget includes personnel costs, shelter and vehicle maintenance, medical care for animals, and operating expenses.

The Columbus County Animal Shelter is located at 288 Legion Drive in Whiteville. Its hours are Monday through Friday from 12 noon until 4 p.m.

For more information, call 641-3945. An adoption fair is held on the third Saturday of each month.

Prince said despite the improving numbers, his goal is still "for no animals to come through the shelter."

"Until we can get our spay and neuter rates up," he said, "we're still going to have unwanted animals."

## Fires

Continued from page 1-A

with only a few days of drying weather.

"We have a lot of fires that result from people looking at the forecast, and burning the day before or after a rain event is forecast," Hardee said. "In spring, it doesn't take long for the wind to pick up, the sun to come out and things to dry out."

"You can have safe conditions in the morning, and by afternoon be in a hazardous situation," Hardee said. "Afternoon and evening thunderstorms will be back with us soon, and if the ground is dry, a single bolt of lightning can cause major problems in the right conditions."

Brian Haynes of the Raleigh office of the N.C. Forest Service said officials are keeping a close eye on long-term weather forecasts and trends.

"At this time all indications are for a normal fire season in the southeast throughout the summer," he said. "I say this with the caveat that one never knows how Mother Nature will choose to dole out rain, wind, and of course lightning."

"It's also important to note that we are currently shifting from a strong El Nino, which peaked in November, to a La Nina through late spring and summer," Haynes said. "This type of weather pattern typically brings increased temperatures and a decrease in precipitation. History tells us that the last two strong El Ninos were followed by strong La Ninas in 2008 and 2011."

Lightning was blamed for the 2011 Holly Shelter fire in Pender County, which burned thousands of acres for weeks in the state forest. Severe drought conditions led to a string of fast-moving fires throughout the area that year, but none reached the scale of the Holly Shelter blaze. Dozens of firefighters from across the country as well as fire units from across the state fought the fire for weeks before it was contained. Respiratory issues related to the smoke and debris were recorded as far away as Columbus County.

The 2008 Tussock Bay fire in Bladen County was smaller than Holly Shelter, but also lasted for weeks. In addition to Columbus County NCFs teams and equipment, volunteer firefighters from several local stations assisted in that blaze.

Columbus County's largest fire hazard – the Green Swamp Preserve – is home to several controlled burns every year, thus reducing some of the fire

hazard there. The burns are part of a regular program coordinated by The Nature Conservancy and involving the NCFs and Wildlife Resources Commission.

In both 2008 and 2011, local Forest Service crews stayed busy fighting multiple fires throughout the district, to the point that on one particularly busy day in 2008, NCFs crews were on at least one wildfire in each of the district's counties at the same time.

The area's proximity to the coast – and strong onshore winds – can affect fire weather, Hardee explained.

The winds tend to fan wildfires across areas that were once subject to massive burns that went unchecked, refreshing and fertilizing the soil by destroying the understory vegetation.

The burns allowed beneficial plants and animals to flourish in the longleaf pine and maritime forests.

Most commercial timber planters are past the safe burning time, Hardee said, but many homeowners are still burning yard debris or clearing fields.

"You need to practice all the safety precautions, and learn

the weather," he said. "Be aware of what's happening outside, and check the forecasts to see what's expected. Make sure you never leave any fire unattended, and that you have sufficient fire control tools and water handy at all times."

"More than 42 percent of all wildfires in the state are caused by careless debris burning," Haynes added, "so if it dries up and folks start lighting up without taking precautions, such as having fire suppression tools (shovel, water, etc.), keeping their fire small, not burning on dry and windy days, or don't keep a watch on their fire, etc. – then all the forecasts can change. Needless to say, keep an eye on the weather, especially if you plan on burning."

Although there is potential for severe drought conditions in early summer, Hardee emphasized that the fire risk is always present.

"We've seen fire burn through flooded forests, across the top of the water," he said. "It doesn't matter how much water you've had, or how much is coming, but how much is there right now."

Hardee said Forest Service

employees are trained to help landowners assess fire risks as well as create forest management plans. In addition to individual assessments, the NCFs offers educational events like the Forest Management for Women seminar, which is tentatively planned for May. The

seminar will cover not just estate planning and tax concerns with forest and timber sales, but safety and management plans as well.

"We have shifted our emphasis toward more supportive of timber owners, rather than law enforcement," he

said. "We'll still cite someone for a burn that gets out of control and causes damage, but there's a difference between bad luck and bad intentions."

"We'd rather prevent forest fires through good management than have to fight them," Hardee said.



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# Plea accepted in shooting death

The second twin in a December 2012 shooting death pleaded guilty Wednesday to lesser charges.

District Attorney Jon David announced that, Lapolean Ricky Cooper, 35, of Tabor City, pleaded guilty to attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon and second degree kidnapping for his role in the death of Gilberto Antonio Segovia on Christmas Day, 2012. Superior Court Judge Douglas B. Sasser sentenced Cooper to a minimum of 219 months and a maximum of 288 months in the Department of Corrections.



L. Cooper

Segovia, 51, of John Coleman Road, Tabor City, was killed at 12:25 a.m. on Christmas Day 2012. He was found on the front steps of his home, investigators said. The victim's girlfriend, Amy Jane Wilson, 35, was kidnapped but escaped unharmed.

Richard Napoleon Cooper, Lapolean's twin brother, was found guilty by jury of felony murder, conspiracy in armed robbery on Jan. 27. He was sentenced to life in prison, without parole.

The two conspired with Richard Dale English, 42, of Nichols and Green Sea, S.C. to commit the crimes, according to Sheriff's Det. Jeff Nealey. English had a previous romantic relationship with Wilson, according to testimony. English pleaded guilty last April to second degree murder, and received 219 to 275 months as part of a deal where he testified against the Cooper twins.

## Pace

Continued from page 1-A

as well as law enforcement officers.

"The defendant is beyond the control of the Columbus County Detention Staff as well as Sampson County Detention Staff," the order reads. "The defendant is a high ranking leader of the Folk Nation Gang and has placed hits on multiple inmates and officers."

He was originally transferred from Columbus County to the Sampson County Detention in Clinton, and then in 2012 he was moved to Central Prison in Raleigh "for his own safety," according to the District attorney's Office. Pace was brought back to the county Wednesday, and appeared in Superior Court Thursday for the plea.

On its website, the State Bureau of Investigation (in a section on gangs in the state) lists Folk Nation as an "alliance of a number of street gangs," with chapters active in drugs, crime and human trafficking in North Carolina. The umbrella group is mainly comprised of African American and Latino street gangs, according to the SBI, but has affiliates of all races across the country. It was created by Larry Hoover, a leader in Chicago street gang community, according to the SBI.

Pace was largely raised by his grandmother, according to court documents and testimony, and the aggravating factors sheet in his plea file says he used his relationship with her to obtain money and support from the woman. The woman had been dead several days when her body was found in her Hallsboro home, according to the District Attorney's office.

Authorities began seeking the defendant after he attempted to use her ATM card, according to the District attorney's office and detectives on the case at the time.

In 2008, Pace was arrested and convicted of assault on a female, speeding to elude arrest and other charges, according to the Department of Corrections inmate database. His file on the website and court documents show he pleaded guilty to a reduced charge, and received probation. Probation was later revoked due to an unspecified violation, according to the DOC. The previous conviction, as well as Pace's relationship to the victim, were cited by the court as aggravating factors in the sentencing in his felony sentencing worksheet, used by the courts to determine sentence terms.

As part of the plea deal, Pace was sentenced to 251 to 311 months in prison on the murder charge, with 109 to 140 additional months on the robbery charge. His transcript of plea shows he was credited with 1,113 days served in jail, and a civil judgment of \$11,567 for restitution was ordered.

## Crime briefs

### Larceny

A Bladen County man faces charges for allegedly stealing two cameras.

An arrest warrant shows Matthew Lee Shipman, 31, of Red Hill Road, Clarkton, was charged with felony larceny in the December 2015 case. The warrant accuses Shipman of taking a Sony DS-505 camera, and a Kodak Easyshare camera, with a total value of \$1,327, from Christopher Scott Stephens of Prison Camp Road, Whiteville. Shipman was held under \$5,500 secured bond.



Shipman

Columbus County deputies charged a Pine Circle Drive man with possession of cocaine and maintaining a dwelling April 6.

Warrants show Darquale Kwame Richardson, 22, of Pine Circle Drive, Tabor City, was arrested for allegedly possessing 9.49 grams of cocaine and maintaining a vehicle for drug purposes. Richardson is alleged to have used his 2001 Saturn automobile as part of a drug enterprise, according to the arrest warrant. He was also charged with misdemeanor possession of cocaine, according to his jail admittance records.

Bond was set at \$7,200.

### Truck

A Thomasville man was jailed here after allegedly taking a woman's truck March 26.

Warrants show Thomas James Heiden, 25, of Julian Street, Thomasville, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle. He was released on bond.

The warrant shows Heiden took a 1999 Ford F-150 belonging to Irene Spivey Long without her permission. The truck was valued at \$6,000, according to the warrant.

### 'Things of value'

Whiteville Police arrested a Pine Log Road man for allegedly stealing a car in March.

Arrest warrants show Jeffrey Darius Williamson, 28, of Pine Log Road, Whiteville, allegedly took a 1999 Mitsubishi Eclipse containing "things of value" March 12. The warrants did not detail the valuables.

Williamson was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle, larceny, and two counts of failure to appear. His bond was set at \$4,500.



Williamson

### Cocaine

Warrants show Darquale Kwame Richardson, 22, of Pine Circle Drive, Tabor City, was arrested for allegedly possessing 9.49 grams of cocaine and maintaining a vehicle for drug purposes. Richardson is alleged to have used his 2001 Saturn automobile as part of a drug enterprise, according to the arrest warrant. He was also charged with misdemeanor possession of cocaine, according to his jail admittance records.

Bond was set at \$7,200.

### Vehicles

Two thefts involving utility vehicles were investigated by deputies April 7.

Charles Monroe Norris contacted the Columbus County Sheriff's Office after discovering someone had taken a 16', dual-axle trailer, valued at \$3,500, from his property at Hilburn Road, Whiteville, according to incident reports from the sheriff's office.

In an unrelated case, Sherman Lee Campbell told deputies someone took a \$7,000 tractor and finishing mower from Chaunceytown Road, Lake Waccamaw. The theft was reported at 10:57 p.m.

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## Best

Continued from page 1-A

although a recent DNA test, announced in December 2015, showed there was only one chance in 480 trillion that Best didn't cut Leslie Baldwin's throat and then rape and stab Gertrude Baldwin until she died.

Best's attorneys claim the state withheld evidence that implicated two white males in the November 1991 killings, and the motion disputed the date of the murders. However, state law in 1993 only required the state to share evidence it intended to use in a trial. This law was changed a couple of years after Best's trial and now the state has to share all evidence against a suspect.

Defense attorneys Michael Unti and Sharon Smith were appointed by the N.C. Indigent Defense Services in 2010 to represent Best, and they filed a multi-page motion in the spring of 2014.

### Conditions of bodies

Best was "targeted" by Whiteville police and the SBI, the motion claims, as the leading suspect because he didn't have an alibi for a certain time on Saturday, Nov. 30, 1991 - the date the state says the Baldwins were killed.

The lawyers claim the state ignored conditions of the bodies discovered on Tuesday, Dec. 3, by a Whiteville police

officer after being alerted by a neighbor of the Baldwins who went to the home to see why the couple hadn't been seen for two days.

The defense team claims an independent pathologist and an experienced crime-scene investigator determined from the state's evidence the Baldwins died after 7:10 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 2. The defense says the condition of the bodies showed their deaths could not have been three days before they were found.

### Eliminate Best

This, Best's lawyers claim, would eliminate Best as a suspect because he was smoking crack cocaine with a woman in Chadborn on Sunday and Monday, Dec. 1-2, spending a huge sum of cash the state says was stolen from Leslie Baldwin, who was known to have a large amount of money in his pockets almost all the time.

Best did yard work for the Baldwins on Saturday, Nov. 30, and the state claims he saw the large sum of cash when Baldwin paid him for his labor that day. The state showed Best returned to the Burkhead Street home that night and committed the crimes.

Best's motion stated the state's medical examiners did not set a time of death, and

## Crashes kill two

By JEFFERSON WEAVER  
Staff Writer

A single-vehicle crash Friday night killed a Robeson County man and seriously injured his wife near Boardman, and a Chadborn man died after colliding with a tree Thursday.

The deaths brought to four the total number of highway fatalities in less than a week in Columbus County.

In the Thursday crash, Assistant Coroner William Hannah said Kadeem Javon Keel, 24, died when his car struck a tree on Chadborn Hwy. Chadborn police investigated the crash, Hannah said, which occurred just before 8 p.m.

Witnesses told Hannah that Keel had passed through the Peacock Road intersection at a high rate of speed, and apparently lost control on a curve in the 5700 block of Chadborn Hwy. The car went across the center line, struck a ditch, and collided with a large pine tree, Hannah said, rotating around the tree before coming to a stop. Parts of the car were embedded in the tree, Hannah said. Keel was pronounced dead on the scene. Chadborn Police investigated the crash, Hannah said.

On Friday, Billy Carroll Lee, 56, of Broadhead Road, Lumberton, died after his 2005 Buick overturned in water off U.S. 74, according to Sgt. Daniel



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Hilburn of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Lee's wife, Becky Williamson Lee, 61, was ejected in the crash. She was transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Hilburn said.

The couple was moving to a new home near Chadborn, Hilburn said. Lee was driving west on U.S. 74, roughly 1.4 miles east of Boardman, when he apparently ran off the road in the median, overcorrected, and ran off the right shoulder. The vehicle overturned, coming to rest on its roof in deep water, Hilburn said.

"Some passersby used a chain to turn the car back over," Hilburn said, "and tried to give Mr. Lee first aid."

Lee died at the scene, Hilburn said.

The vehicle was traveling the posted speed limit at the time of the crash, Hilburn said.

The fatalities were the third and fourth in less than a week in the county. A Riegelwood couple died when their minivan collided with a logging truck on N.C. 11 on April 3.

this "allowed the prosecution to advance a theory that was unsupported by scientific analysis, and was inconsistent with physical evidence known at the time of trial."

### 2 other suspects

The defense's pathologist claims the murders "most likely occurred sometime late on Monday, Dec. 2 or early on Tuesday, Dec. 3." The bodies were found at 3:40 p.m. on Dec. 3.

More defense claims involve incrimination of two white male suspects, including a Whiteville High School student who reportedly boasted on Monday, Dec. 2, 1991 at school that he had killed two older people during the weekend.

The second white suspect was an older male who reportedly told his girlfriend in Myrtle Beach, S.C., that he had robbed, beaten and killed two people in Whiteville. The stepbrother of this suspect reported the theft of his car on Dec. 2, and Best's lawyers claim this same car was "spotted acting suspiciously in the Baldwins' neighborhood in the early hours of Dec. 3, 1991."

### Print questioned

The attorneys also say police interviewed the high school student, but did not get any DNA, hair or other samples for testing, nor did police search his home, and his clothing was not collected for testing.

The older suspect was stopped by police in Arkansas, and investigators interviewed him by telephone, the motion claims.

The defense also questions the "ridge" print found on the paring knife discovered by Leslie Baldwin's body. Lab notes from the SBI show a fingerprint expert "initially determined the ridge detail on a paring knife was of no value."

### 1st DNA case

An SBI report showed the

fingerprint "was in blood on the knife which indicates the print had to have been put on the knife after blood appeared." Attorneys say this statement contradicts testimony at trial that the print was "made by a bloody finger."

Best's case was unusual in that it was the first time DNA was ever used in a Columbus County criminal case. Best's motion states, "more than 70 unidentified Caucasian hairs were found at the crime scene, including some Caucasian pubic hair on Gertrude Baldwin's arm, and in her pubic hair comings, plus there were "Caucasian hair fragments" under Leslie Baldwin's fingernails.

Experts testified for the state that DNA tests showed the odds were 1 in 18 that Best was not the donor of semen found in Gertrude Baldwin. That meant there were 380 other black males - six percent of Columbus County's black male population - would also be suspects.

### Substitute expert

The DNA testimony at the trial also showed there was just one chance in 5.5 billion that the semen came from Leslie Baldwin.

The defense claims the defense's DNA expert was a substitute at the last minute, and had only two and half hours to review the state's evidence. As a result the expert and defense attorneys Craig Wright and Harold "Butch" Pope "were not adequately prepared to present an in-depth, comprehensive impeachment of the state's DNA case," according to the motion.

It was discovered before trial that Best had been released from the county jail by mistake a few days before the murders. He was being held on a probation violation, and a jailer mistakenly allowed Best to be released.

## Corner roll calls begin Saturday

By JEFFERSON WEAVER  
Staff Writer

Whiteville residents can learn more about their police department by attending "Neighborhood Roll call," starting this Saturday.

Chief Jeff Rosier said sergeants and patrol officers will meet on specific corners to begin their shifts, rather than at the station, so the public can attend the roll call and get a better perspective on department operations. Officers will also have time to meet residents and answer questions, discuss problem areas or other concerns after the official business is complete.

Saturday's inaugural neighborhood roll call will be at MLK and Lewis Street. Roll call

starts at 7 p.m. each night, with a briefing to officers heading out on the street and instructions from their supervisor for the evening patrols.

Future dates and locations include: • Woodfield Road and Oliver Street, April 30 • Pine-wood Drive and Burkhead Street, May 14 • Pinckney Street and Oliver Street, May 28 • Sunset Ave. and Spruce Street, June 11 • Lewis Street and Thompson Street, June 25 • Lovemill Road and Hay Street, July 9 • Evergreen Street and Mary Lane, July 23 • Holly Circle and Vine Street, Aug. 13 • James Street and Pine Street, Aug. 27

For more information, call the police department at 642-5111.

# APRIL SPECIALS

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<b>Rock Star</b> 16 Oz. <b>2/\$3.00</b>	<b>AMP</b> 16 Oz. <b>2/\$3.00</b>	<b>6 Pack Cans Coke Products</b> <b>3/\$5.00</b>

## Sam's Pit Stop

WHITEVILLE - 2 Locations: 503 Jefferson Street & 1707 South Madison Street  
BOLTON: 1128 Green Swamp Road • HALLSBORO: 4236 Sam Potts Hwy.  
• DELCO: Hwy. 74-76 • LAKE WACCAMAW: Old Hwy. 74, across from post office  
• CHADBOURN: 101 Strawberry Blvd.



Rozier educates inmates on the dangers of AIDS at the Cumberland County Jail.

## Rozier laid to rest in Evergreen

By SHALON SMITH  
Staff Writer

Chadbourn native Ashley Rozier II was found dead in his home in Fayetteville on March 26. Rozier was the long-time director of the Cape Fear Regional Bureau for Community Action, a community-based non-profit organization that provides free HIV tests for those in need in Fayetteville.

"He was always doing something. Working, helping other people - whatever was going on, he was helping other people.

"I remember he would stand in the middle of the street in downtown Chadbourn with balloons and a March of Dimes can collecting money," Rozier's sister Vickie Rozier-Machen said.

Retired West Columbus teacher Ethel Johnson remembers Rozier from the first day he stepped into the high school as being well read, a good thinker, and an even better organizer.

She remembers Rozier urged the young men to hold the door for the women and young ladies at school.

"He was a special individual. He came to West Columbus on a mission. I believe it was in 10th grade that he ran for student government president. It was around 1974 and he won the election. He had a plan - and a lot of nerve - and didn't mind expressing himself. A lot of young people today don't have the courage he had at such a young age," she said.

Rozier also helped bereaved families whose loved ones could not afford burial insurance, often paying out of his own pocket for their burial through the funeral service he also worked for.

"Different people have come to me and told me he'd take the last penny out of his pocket and give it to them for food, help them get a place to live," Vickie said.

Rozier would often visit hospitals to seek out patients without family, and sit by their bedside until they passed on.

"He was that kind of person. He gave his all - there was no half-stepping," Vickie said.

Rozier often volunteered for political campaigns, from local campaigns to those in the national spotlight. As a teenager, he served as campaign



Ashley Rozier II

manager for C.W. Williams when he was the first black candidate elected to the Chadbourn Town Council.

In 2008, he campaigned in Fayetteville for Hillary Rodham Clinton and got to meet the current presidential candidate and former President Bill Clinton.

When Rozier started the Minority AIDS Speakers Bureau in 1991 (now the Cape Fear Regional Bureau for Community Action), he slept on the couch so every dollar donated could go back to the cause.

The foundation began without the support of state or federal money; Rozier made sacrifices to keep it running and eventually grew the organization to the point of establishing a board of directors, hiring a grant-writer, and gaining government support.

"I was expecting Ashley to run for Senate or the House of Representatives - it surprised me when he told me he started the foundation," Johnson said.

A purpose of Rozier's community organization was to educate minorities and homosexuals about sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS and focused on an area of Fayetteville that many people avoid.

Rozier had a rapport with folks in that neighborhood

and his team would often pass out condoms, teach proper condom use, educate residents about safe needle use, and visit inmates in jail.

"They went any and everywhere to help everybody," Vickie said.

"He'd go places police wouldn't go," Rozier's mother Pearlina said.

Locally, Rozier worked with residents of Evergreen and members of St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church in Evergreen to bring a sense of community to the church. He had remodeled and performed repairs on parts of the church.

"Folks don't realize how much he helped them around here. Wherever he saw a need, he just went in and did it," Pearlina said.

Johnson, a mentor to Rozier, was shocked upon hearing news of his passing.

"I was concerned about Ashley working with the AIDS program and in those various neighborhoods. I feared for him. I just don't feel comfortable about his death - he was such a giving person," she said.

Over the years, Rozier was recognized for his efforts and received numerous awards including the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, Citizen of the Year Award from the Fayetteville NAACP, Trailblazer Award from the N.C. Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, Outstanding Advocacy Award from the N.C. Senate, and Most Outstanding Citizen in Community Involvement from the N.C. Humans Relations Committee to name a few.

"I knew Ashley as a non-conformist. He was very individualistic and concerned of humanity. He believed in those inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. He saw people as having rights given to them from the creator of this universe," Johnson said.

Rozier was a graduate of West Columbus High School and attended East Carolina University.

He enjoyed basketball and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery wearing the colors of his favorite college team, the UNC Tar Heels, and his signature hat in white and Carolina blue.

"He was simply a man before his time and he was not afraid of being different," Johnson said.



William Seth Jackson, fourth grader at Edgewood Elementary School in Whiteville, was the overall winner of the Columbus County Community Farmers Market post contest. This year's promotional poster will feature his artwork. Taking part in the presentation were, left to right, board members Susie Rockel and Donna Brown, and Whiteville City Schools arts teacher Sally Medford.

## Farm mart poster winner honored with \$50 prize

An Edgewood Elementary School fourth grader was honored as overall winner of the Columbus County Community Farmers Market annual poster contest for his artwork stressing the theme of the contest, "Buy Local, Eat Fresh, Be Healthy."

William Seth Jackson was recognized as overall winner in the contest and was awarded a \$50 Farmer Market Gift Certificate, a framed winner's certificate, and a framed copy of the 2016 promotional poster featuring

Jackson's artwork.

A panel of independent judges selected the winners: kindergarten, Tristan Jeffries and Sidney Miller (co-winners), Whiteville Primary; first grade: no entries; second grade, Eli Williamson, Whiteville Primary; third grade, Julissa Buchanan, Edgewood Elementary; fourth grade, William Seth Jackson (overall winner), Edgewood Elementary, and fifth grade, Jimena Munoz Lopez, Edgewood Elementary. The students' artwork was

judged on originality, artistic quality, adherence to theme, use of color, and message communicated.

The overall winner was selected from the grade winners.

Each grade winner was awarded a framed certificate and a \$25 gift certificate from the Farmers Market.

The poster contest is sponsored each year by the Farmers Market, the Columbus Regional HealthCare System, and the Columbus County Arts Council.

## U.S. Cellular continues 'Community Connections'

U.S. Cellular is continuing its "Community Connections" program for the second consecutive year to support local youth organizations. Last year, the company sponsored more than 700 school groups and youth sports teams through a partnership with Pear, an online platform that connects local brands with local community needs.

Beginning today, academic and athletic groups (K-12) in

eastern North Carolina can sign up at [www.pearup.com/uscellular](http://www.pearup.com/uscellular) to receive sponsorship from the company to go towards the needs of their group.

"As a neighbor and dedicated member of the eastern North Carolina community, U.S. Cellular is committed to supporting programs and organizations that have a positive impact in the lives of our youth," said Jeremy Taylor, di-

rector of sales at U.S. Cellular. "These organizations provide valuable learning experiences, and this program provides an easy and fun way for the community to rally together to support them."

Through the "Community Connections" program, U.S. Cellular sponsors hundreds of local youth groups, school programs and sports teams, such as little leagues, youth soccer clubs, and school dance teams.

### BIRTH

## Duncan

Brett and Crystal Bennett Duncan of Whiteville announce the birth of a daughter, Emma Reese, on Dec. 13, 2015 at Betty H. Cameron Women's Hospital in Wilmington. She weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces.

Grandparents are Dave and Henrietta Wyatt of Leland and Eddie Ray and Beverly Duncan of Clarkton.



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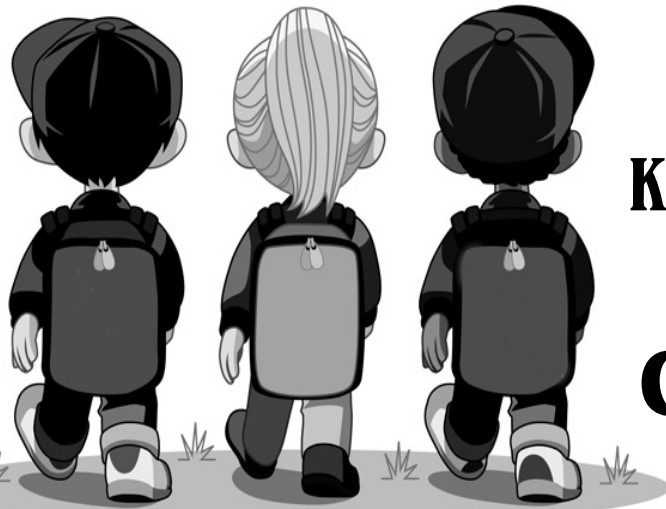
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# Friday ‘boom’ was military

By JEFFERSON WEAVER  
Staff Writer

Although the mystery remains behind several unexplained “booms” that reverberated across the southeast recently, Friday’s lunchtime noise was easily explained.

The National Weather Service (NWS) reported that military aircraft were conducting maneuvers off the coast Friday, and several of the aircraft may have broken the sound barrier, creating a sonic shockwave.

Steve Pfaff of the Wilmington NWS office was conducting a school tour of the weather office when the “rumbling” occurred.

“I actually felt it myself in our office while giving a presentation to Cape Fear Academy children,” Pfaff said.

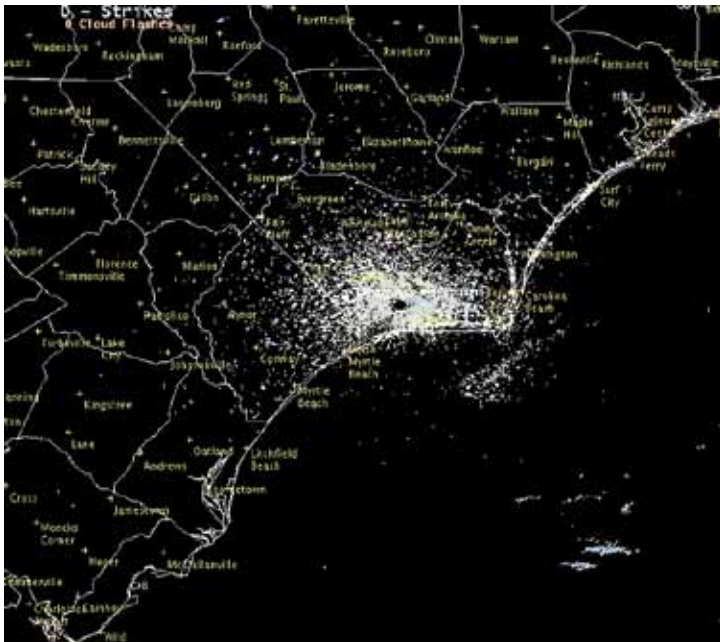
Rumbling noises or a possible earthquake were reported as far inland as Lake Waccamaw, but the NWS determined that this time, the boom was likely military – and a material used to hide airplanes may have provided the answer to the mystery.

Weather radar picked up signatures of aluminum “chaff” ejected from military aircraft around the time of the boom.

The chaff is launched by airplanes to confuse radar and guided missiles, according to the book series, Jane’s Fighting Aircraft.

The chaff is generally made of thin, long strips of aluminum, which is detected by weather radar as well as weapons systems. Jets expel the material, then rapidly accelerate away from the chaff “cloud” – leading to sonic “booms”.

“The chaff is dropped from aircraft doing maneuvers and is often detected on weather surveillance radar since it behaves like rainfall,” Pfaff said. “Usually the radar signature



**A radar image shows floating chaff offshore Friday. Military aircraft were flying through the area at the time, and were the most likely culprits for the mysterious “booms” felt throughout the area.**

for chaff becomes oriented into thin lines as the individual pieces are carried downwind of where they were released.

“Thus the radar indicates there were military aircraft operating off the coast and some of these aircraft are likely able to break the sound barrier creating the sonic boom sensation that was felt by many across Southeastern North Carolina,” he said.

Residents of the entire region have been keeping their ears open since a series of unusual “booms” occurred recently.

While the noises were loudest in southern Columbus County – deputies were dispatched to investigate at least one such noise – they have also been reported in the Delco and Farmers Union communities.

Some of the “booms” may have come from exploding or malfunctioning electrical transformers that came into

contact with storm-damaged trees, according to Duke Progress Energy.

Similar noises have been reported along the Carolina coast and in the Southeast since colonial times.

Nicknamed “Seneca Guns,” the noises are thought to be the result of tectonic plates in the earth’s crust shifting and grinding offshore.

Similar noises were heard before the recent earthquake that rattled southeastern North Carolina and damaged buildings as far north as Washington, D.C.

They have been documented by scientists as far back as the New Madrid and Charleston earthquakes of the 1800s.

There were no seismographic reports associated with the noises Friday, Pfaff said, although tremors are not tracked by or reported to the NWS.

# Locals nominated for Women of Achievement

By CLARA CARTRETTE  
Staff Writer

One woman and six high school seniors from Columbus County are among the 48 nominees for the YWCA Lower Cape Fear 31st annual Women of Achievement Awards.

Linda King of Whiteville is an adult nominee. Young leader nominees are Meghan Gore of Nakina, Carly Boyd of Tabor City, Jordan Maguire and Shay Greene of Clarendon, Caterina Torelli of Whiteville and Logan Elkins of Cerro Gordo.

The 48 nominees have demonstrated excellence, accomplishment and commitment in their careers, schools and communities. Residing in Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender counties, adult nominees are separated into nine categories: arts, business, communications, education, environmental, health and wellness, public service, volunteer and Rachel Freeman Unsung Hero.

# Sunshine Run scheduled May 14 for Leah Starnes

The second annual Sunshine Run is set for May 14 at 8 a.m. at Daddy Joe’s Yogi Bear Campground in Tabor City.

Pre-register by May 1 for \$25, \$35 after May 1, with registration beginning at 7 a.m. on the day of the run.

To request a pre-registration form, email [ksdoodle@yahoo.com](mailto:ksdoodle@yahoo.com).

T-shirts will be available for \$7, long sleeve T-shirts at \$12, and bracelets \$2.

This year’s profits will go to Leah Starnes to continue helping with the monthly expenses, including lodging, mileage and meals associated

High school seniors are recognized in the Young Leader category with three students receiving \$1,000 scholarships.

The awards program, open to the public, will be held May 5 at the Wilmington Convention Center to recognize and support the nominees. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$65 per person and can be purchased online at [ywca-lowercapefear.org](http://ywca-lowercapefear.org) or by phone at (910) 799-6820 before Friday, April 22.

The Women of Achievement Awards are YWCA Lower Cape Fear’s signature fundraiser to celebrate women and young leaders in the community. Since 1985, more than 300 Women of Achievement have been honored. The event raises key support for YWCA programs and services that promote racial justice and gender equality for thousands of women and their families in southeastern North Carolina.

# Engagement



**Lydia Diane Parker  
Bryan Jason Spencer**

# Parker-Spencer

Milton and Tish Parker of Whiteville announce the engagement of their daughter, Lydia Diane, to Bryan Jason Spencer, son of John and Melinda Spencer of Greensboro.

The bride-elect graduated from Whiteville High School and earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in business management from Coastal Carolina University.

She is an accounts payable specialist at EPES Logistics in Greensboro.

The groom-elect graduated from Southern Guilford High School and earned an Associate’s degree in applied science from Guilford Technical Community College.

He is a Pressman 1 in flexographic printing at St. John’s Packaging in Greensboro.

An 11 a.m. wedding is planned for June 12 at Castle McCulloch in Greensboro.

# Professional FORUM



## Area Experts Answer Your Questions & Offer Their Best Advice

A special thanks to these professionals for sharing with our readers answers to many “frequently asked” questions in their areas of expertise. We hope you’ll enjoy this series for the next 9 weeks, and will find some helpful information here.

### Q. What causes whiplash and how long before you have symptoms?

**A.** Whiplash occurs when the neck suffers from an abrupt forward or back motion. While this occurs most commonly during a car accident, whiplash can also occur during participation in aggressive sports such as body football, soccer, or boxing. Sufferers of whiplash may also experience symptoms that are not easily identifiable such as depression, anxiety, irritability, inability to concentrate and poor memory. Depending on the nature and severity of the injury, these symptoms may develop over a period of days or weeks. Therefore, it is important to seek chiropractic care for your whiplash injury as soon as possible.

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### Q. I keep getting bites on me and no one else in my house is being bitten, could I have bed bugs?

**A.** Yes, that is a possibility. Not all people react to bed bug bites and people that do have delayed reactions. Most studies suggest that it takes about 10-14 days for the reaction to appear. Reactions to bites can vary significantly between people ranging from mild itchy welts to a more severe rash. Bite symptoms often appear in rows or clusters due to the fact that bed bugs will feed along the fold of a bed sheet (similar to cattle at a trough). It is important to realize that the presence of bed bugs can NOT be diagnosed by a medical doctor based on bites alone. If bed bugs are suspected, call McDuffie Pest Control for an inspection today!!!!

#### McDuffie Pest Control

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1-800-441-8278

**Dana McDuffie**



### Q. I need to run an obituary in the newspaper. How do I submit them, and how much does it cost?

**A.** The News Reporter offers free and paid obituaries. All obituaries, free and paid, can be viewed in The News Reporter and online at [Whiteville.com](http://Whiteville.com).

Free obituaries include information about the immediate family including the number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. You can include a photo for \$15.

The cost of a paid obituary depends on the length of the write-up. Information should include full name, age, date of death, where they passed away, where they were living when they passed, who they were the son or daughter of and who they were preceded in death by. If they served in the military, include which branch of service. Brief biographical information should also be submitted so that we know the Columbus County connection.

In addition to family information, in a paid obituary we need to know when and where the funeral service will be with date, time, who is officiating the service, the funeral home handling the service and where burial will be. Also submit who the survivors are. A photo can be included with a paid obituary.

Once information for a paid obituary is submitted, I can tell you how much it will cost based on the final size.

The funeral home can email your obituary information to me at [laurieroy@whiteville.com](mailto:laurieroy@whiteville.com), call me at 910-642-4104 ext 275, send a fax to 910-642-1856 or bring your information to The News Reporter.

We are here to help you create an obituary to remember a loved one now and generations to come.

**Laurie Roy**  
The News Reporter  
127 West Columbus Street  
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### Q. Do baby walkers help children learn to walk sooner?

**A.** Quite the contrary. Baby walkers have been shown to be dangerous and to inhibit normal development. Baby walkers sent an estimated 8800 children to the hospital in 1999.

There are no benefits to baby walkers. Walkers delay normal muscle control and mental development. Most walker injuries happen while adults are watching. Caregivers simply cannot respond quickly enough. Therefore, walkers are never safe to use, even with close adult supervision. Try alternatives that are just as enjoyable but much safer such as stationary exercisers, playpens (which are great safety zones), and high chairs. Keep your child safe...throw away your baby walker.

#### Columbus Pediatrics & Adolescent Care

800 Jefferson St., Suite 116, Whiteville  
642-2642

**Lacie J. White, PA-C**



### Q. Why wear diabetic shoes?

**A.** Diabetic shoes and inserts are specially designed to reduce the risk of skin breakdown in diabetics. People with diabetic neuropathy or numbness in their feet may not know how much at risk their feet actually are. An ulceration under the foot can develop in a couple of hours. The primary goal of therapeutic footwear is to prevent complications, which can include ulcerations, calluses, or even amputations for patients with diabetes. In addition to meeting strict Medicare guidelines, diabetic shoes must be prescribed by a physician and fit by a qualified individual, such as a certified pedorthist, or certified shoe fitter. The shoes must also be equipped with a removable orthotic or heat moldable insert. The diabetic shoes and inserts work together as a preventative system to help diabetics avoid foot injuries and improve mobility. Our diabetic shoes come in many different styles, a vast size selection and designs with the highest level of comfort and support. These shoes are made with genuine leather or other breathable fabrics and materials, and are properly designed for good foot support.

#### Atlantic Prosthetic Services

200 Jefferson St., Whiteville  
640-2939

**Jeffrey McDonald, CP, BOCP**





# Editorials

The News Reporter, Monday, April 11, 2016

## With rise in car crashes, the need for overpasses is significant

Crashes along highways in Columbus County are on the rise. North Carolina Department of Transportation Crash Data shows that on average 20 people died in car crashes in the county each year.

It's 20 lives too many.

Some of those passengers and drivers have died as a result of being hit by a car crossing U.S. 74-76. It is long time that Death Alley be something of our past and not part of our future.

Not to mention the number of passengers or drivers who

**The point**  
The state owes it to its severely injured drivers to ensure that all roads are as safe as possible the years. and that overpasses are State data built where there are sure shows that to be fatalities if nothing in the last is done.

few years the number of injuries

casualties on our roads in the county peaked at 1,640.

Our roads are full of problematic drivers.

Speeding, texting and driving under the influence of alcohol are all too common. That's why the design of our roads is so important.

Major upgrades along U.S. 74-76 are underway now. They are changes that will save many lives in the future.

There are two new overpasses on the books. One at Old 74 begins this week and construction of a Hallsboro overpass isn't far away.

The improvements made in recent years are significant and were desperately needed.

The overpasses, safety cables, removing trees far away from the roadway, the resurfacing of the bad pavement that caused wrecks every time it rained, are upgrades that are worth every dime.

However, they do not solve all of the issues.

Let's not forget the great need for additional overpasses. Lets give overpasses at Boardman and Lake Waccamaw the green light too. Let's save lives.

## Quotes of the week

*"When some people decide to become dishonest recipients of controlled-substance prescriptions, the availability floods the streets of this county. This ultimately results in the large number of overdoses, including deaths."*

**Steven Worthington, Commander, Sheriff's Drug Unit**

*"Capitalism is a wonderful thing but so is the little socialism. It makes the cake sweeter."*

**Ervin Stocks, urging Columbus County Commissioners to consider subsidies as part of the deal for Columbus Regional to take over Columbus County Home Health operated by the Health Department.**

*"You can call it a fire tax, or a Cornflake tax, or whatever you want, but it's still a property tax increase."*

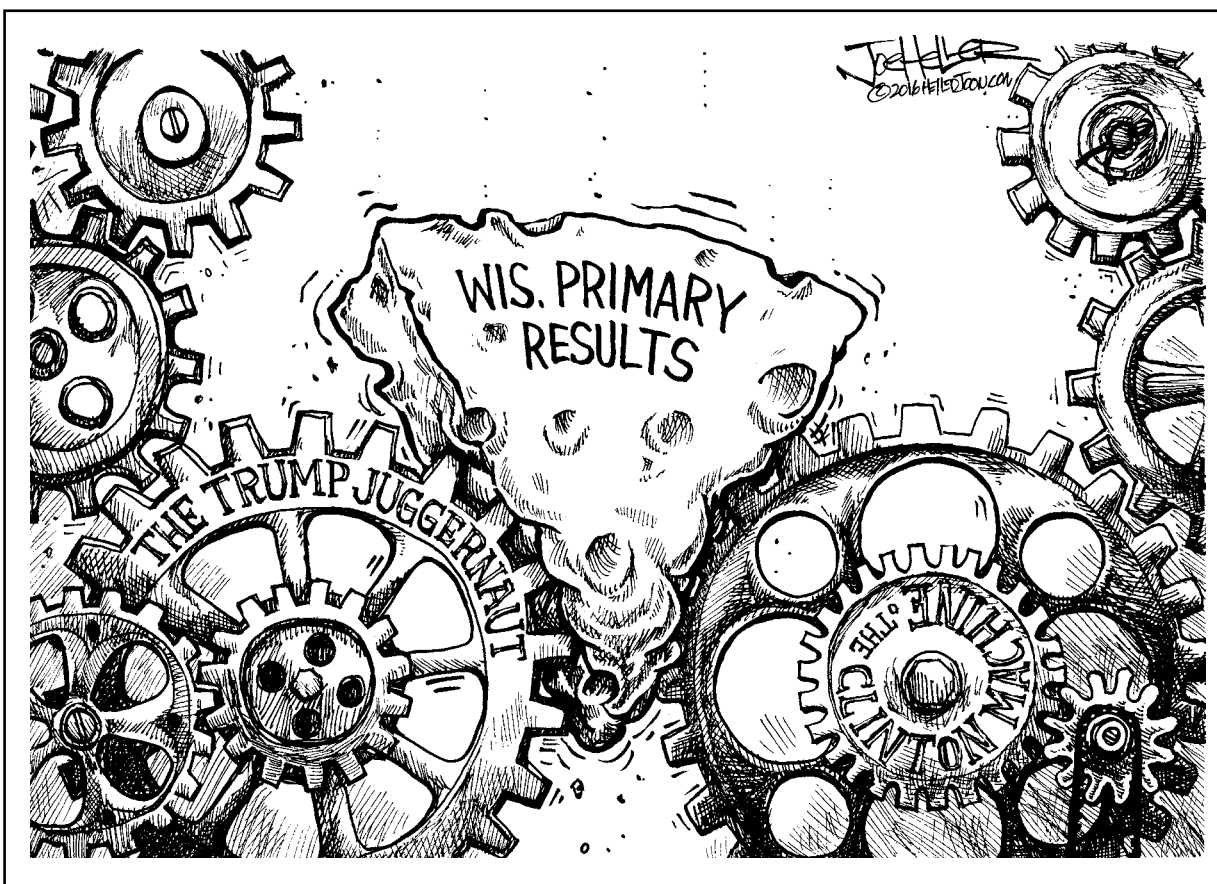
**Chadborn Town Councilman David Worley on the night the board rejected a manager's proposal for a new 4 cent per \$100 value fire tax proposed by Town Manager Bob Jones.**

*"We're a long way from writing a check or starting work."*

**Whiteville City Manager Darren Currie after receiving proposals from firms seeking to clean up mold at the historic City Hall, a former U.S. Post Office closed last year due to extreme mold issues.**

*"I cried, I hollered and yelled when I found out. I just couldn't believe it!"*

**Curtis Cruse of Delco upon winning \$1,000 a week for life in the North Carolina Education Lottery.**



## Manties, manicures and manbuns

By **JEFFERSON WEAVER**  
Staff Writer

I have never really been a slave to fashion.

My taste in clothes is stuck firmly between 1930 and 1960; as far as hairstyle, I guess mine could be described as well-groomed barbarian, except on Saturdays. Most Saturdays, I end up with twin braids reminiscent of a less-well-groomed barbarian. My only requirement for footwear is that shoes (usually boots) be easy on the feet, and reasonably resistant to snake bites, stomping horses, and political promises. The latter, by the way, is far harder to clean.

Although I border on blushing to even broach the subject, my underwear choices are even simpler. Yes, I will fight you for my military-issue silk weight base layers, followed by long woolens; I occasionally wear a so-called Farmer John when the weather isn't quite freezing. Some things, however, a man really doesn't need to talk about, and as far as I am concerned, underwear is one of them.

Neither should a man who calls himself such model, much less own, a pair of "manties."

I actually saw some of those... things ... on display in a clothing store recently. They are simply the latest attempt to turn men into something pliable and feminine. I'm fairly sure that whole trend started as a communist plot, but before they fell, even the communists had standards. The societal gelding movement just picked up the flag and carried on.

Manties, by the way, are men's underwear cut and designed to look like women's unmentionables, apparently from the "bloomer days." They even come in the same colors as women's underpinnings – one particular company, a well-known national brand, offers matching his and hers sets. Frankly, I ain't sure why such is needed, since you can't tell the difference between the two models. There again, I am a simple country newspaperman who wears a Farmer John from time to time. I can't be much of a judge of haute couture, considering I have to look up the spelling whenever I write those words.

I reckon manties are the perfect accessory for a "manbun."

I come from a line of generally

hairy men, even though most men in my family, at least back to the War Between the States, were far better barbered. After a weekly regimen of trims and cuts up into my early 30s, I now only get a haircut every six or seven years, whether I need it or not. Never mind shaving.

As such, my hair is significantly longer than that of most men, and many women, but I like it that way. It's actually cooler in the summer, due to sweat, and obviously warmer in the winter.

Orphaned baby possums and squirrels find my long hair reassuring. Small children enjoy playing with my braid. It's a handy place for an extra knife, inkpen, or hoof pick (I am not making this up).

My bride does most of the work – after we have coffee and prayer in the morning, she does whatever she feels necessary to make me slightly less frightening to small children and the public at large. I don't know if it's called a fishtail or a fishscale, a French braid or a flip, but Miss Rhonda actually enjoys messin' with my hair. I am thankful she loves me so much.

All I can figure is that these odd children wearing manbuns don't have the privilege of being married to a wonderful woman who likes hair. Of course, for many of them, I fear the first syllable of the word is inaccurate.

I was positive the manbun thing, where a guy grows just enough hair to ball up on the back of his head like a hardworking grandmother, was just a silly fad, like the guys wearing their hair in crown-rings like a Disney princess. That trend quickly fell away, thank goodness.

The stretch from Frozen cartoon character rings to Zulu warrior or Nordic Berserker wasn't far, but those fellers just couldn't make it.

But I will be dast if I didn't see a guy with a manbun on a recent trip to a large city. Not only did he

have a manbun, but he had beads in his beard.

Beads, of all things.

I wanted to strangle him with my Viking braids.

Girls can wear beads in their hair, and look cute and flirty. Horses can wear beads in their manes if their owners absolutely insist on doing so.

Men can wear bracelets, or necklaces made of beads—I have a string or two of 16th century trade beads, interspersed with bone and teeth, that I occasionally wear to town on Saturdays, usually when I have the opportunity to frighten vegetarians and liberals.

But one just does not put beads in a beard.

It insults the beard, and that is grounds for a dry shave with a dull pocketknife.

But I am sure that we'll survive these latest effeminate affronts to male society; after all, we survived the short-lived metrosexual revolution.

At least I could understand why some women liked metrosexuals—they smelled like women, liked many of the same things, but were still basically guys. Guys who dressed very well, and who you could take out in public without worrying about a foul smell coming from the bed of the truck (most of them didn't drive trucks anyway). I find it significant that the birth rate dropped during that period of time in fashion history.

While I do take pride in presenting a clean, respectful and professional appearance, I was also taught that cleanliness shows more through a man's actions than his fingernails.

There's usually more honor in a rime of grease or a bleeding callous than a strawberry-watermelon detoxifying lotion. I'll trust a hand dripping fresh Go-Jo long before I will one shining with an herbal-scented dermabrasive scrub.

I am deeply distrusting of any man who has better fingernails than most women. That isn't to say everyone who values skin care is suspect, but just as there are good dogs, there are plenty of mad biters, too.

As far as I am concerned, men are supposed to be men, and women are supposed to be women. And

See Weaver, page 9-A

## My Spin Are you better off?

By **TOM CAMPBELL**

If the 2016 election cycle ever leaves the focus on personalities and gets down to issues, we might focus on questions like candidate Ronald Reagan asked voters in 1980: "...Are you better off than you were four years ago?" In North Carolina, the answer depends on who you are and where you live.

North Carolina's overall economy is improved. Syndicated columnist and NC SPIN panelist John Hood recently wrote, "Since June 2013, North Carolina employers have added some 252,000 net new jobs. That's an increase of 6.2 percent, a rate significantly higher than the national average of 5.1 percent." He says that since mid-2013 our state Gross Domestic Product

has grown by an inflation-adjusted 3.2 percent, higher than the national average of 2.5 percent and 2.4 percent in the Southeastern

U.S. Per person income has risen 3.6 percent, compared to 3.4 percent nationally and 3.3 percent in the Southeast.

A recent Economic Snapshot by the NC Budget and Tax Center looked at county-by-county data. Policy Analyst Tazra Mitchell, reported, "Where you live matters for your ability to get ahead and this county-level data shows that inequality of opportunity persists across the state."

Those living in urban and ex-urban areas are enjoying the improved economy, while those in rural counties struggle. 17.2 percent of our population has an income below the poverty level. Sixty-three counties, many in the rural east and far west, had higher poverty rates than that average, ranging from a low of 9.7 percent in Camden County to 33.1 percent in Robeson.

I reported some of this in a recent speech and one audience member asked what could be done to improve rural areas. That question has plagued state leaders for decades and my response was that we're really not much closer to answers today than when it was first raised.

Many of today's struggling communities were built and thrived in a time when folks came to town, often by horse and buggy, to sell crops and buy goods. As factories were built many left to take higher paying jobs, an exodus that has only accelerated, exponentially exacerbated by folks now shopping on the Internet. Vacant storefronts now line once viable communities and work is scarce.

There's no "magic bullet" and no federal or state funding that will fix rural problems, but it is in all our best interests to help, since our state will be forced, either by courts, state law or moral obligation to pour more resources into propping up schools, social services and healthcare.

Some honest evaluation needs to begin by acknowledging that most small towns will never be what they once were, but each has individual strengths and opportunities to counter threats. All need to do whatever they can to encourage

See Campbell, page 9-A

## Write us

Send letters to the editor or contact editorial page editor Les High at [leshigh@whiteville.com](mailto:leshigh@whiteville.com), or mail them to PO Box 707, Whiteville N.C., 28472.

All letters must be signed and include a phone number, which will not be published. Letters are limited to 400 words and must be signed and include the author's community.

Authors are limited to one letter every 30 days. Letters about business and personal disputes will not be considered. Letters are subject to editing.



Jefferson Weaver





Photos by BUTCH BLANCHARD and CASEY GEER

More than two dozen volunteers work on the new Community Garden at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville.

## Work-day yields Community Garden at museum

By CLARA CARTRETTE  
Staff Writer

Typical of Columbus County's neighbor-helping-neighbor attitude, a large group of people showed up at the N.C. Museum of Sciences at Whiteville Saturday, March 26 to help plant a community garden.

"We had a great turnout for our community garden work day," said Casey Geer, the museum's natural sciences education specialist. "The Whiteville Rotary Club and the community really pulled together to make this garden happen because our first work day was rained out. In total, we had 26 volunteers come out and help, and those were just the ones who actually signed in.

"I bet there were more. We had all sorts of people come by to volunteer - the general public who had heard about the garden, a local Girl Scout troop seeking service hours, local families who regularly visit the museum, students from elementary school to college age, and of course, the Whiteville Rotary Club."

The Community Garden was made possible by a district grant from the Whiteville Rotary Club and Rotary District 7730 (Southeastern North



Planting one of the six garden beds.

Carolina).

Geer said there are now six raised garden beds at the museum. Two beds have an array of flowers planted in them, three beds have a large selection of vegetable plants, and one bed is designed to be a sensory garden full of delicious smelling herbs and soft textured plants.

"We have developed a P.L.A.N.T (Preschoolers Learning About Nature Together) Club for kids ages 3 - 5 that is centered around this community garden," Geer said. The community can ind

more information about this program by stopping by the museum or contacting Geer, at (910) 914-4185.



These guys provided heavy duty manpower.

"We are also working to develop more garden programs for all ages," Geer said.

"We are so grateful for the

grant the Whiteville Rotary Club has given us to create such a beautiful and educational space," Geer added. "We

truly appreciate the enthusiastic support we have received from the community for this project."

## Museum starts a garden club for kids

By CLARA CARTRETTE  
Staff Writer

There's a new garden club in town for members ages 3 to 5.

Casey Geer, education specialist at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville, is organizing a summer program for little kids that involves six raised gardens recently installed and planted at the museum.

The P.L.A.N.T. Club (Preschoolers Learning About Nature Together) will be an abbreviated summer camp for kids ages 3 to 5 who will learn about different environmental topics. She will



Youngsters work in the museum gardens.

use as a teaching tool the Community Garden that was planted in raised beds

March 26 by her, Whiteville Rotary Club members and community volunteers, from

tots to seniors.

Camp sessions will be held April 23, May 7, June 4 and July 2 from 10 until 11:30 a.m., regardless of rain or shine. The cost is \$25 and registration will be at the first session.

Summer and late summer session dates will be announced later.

During the sessions, children will read a book about nature, go outside to explore the topics they learned, enjoy a healthful snack and create a fun nature themed craft.

For more information contact Geer at Casey.Geer@naturalsciences.org.

## Tea with 'Mary Poppins'

Pop into Bowers Auditorium at Whiteville High School on Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon to meet "Mary Poppins" from next month's WHS musical and enjoy refreshments provided by WHS' Karen Slusarczyk and her Prostart class.

The cost is \$5 per child and includes one child's ticket to see the show Mary Poppins.

WHS theatre instructor Julia Heckathorn encourages participants to bring their cameras to take pictures with Poppins and several of her friends.

Performances are slated for 7 p.m. on May 6 and 7, and 3 p.m. on May 8.



Chaley Honeycutt as Mary Poppins.

## Campbell

Continued from page 1-A

start-up businesses that create jobs, with help such as free or reduced rent, taxes or fees. Some can evolve as bedroom communities providing desirable amenities. Others can reinvent themselves into tourist destinations, retirement communities or specialize on arts and crafts, like pottery or

antiques.

Here's the bottom line: each town or county has some feature or benefit that can be exploited. Local leadership has to decide and be determined to survive and thrive in today's environment. The help they desire won't come from outside. It will come from within.

## Weaver

Continued from page 1-A

no, I am not dumping on tomboys or guys whose interests just don't extend past the front porch. There is nothing quite so fetching as a girl in overalls or camouflage - unless it's a young lady who has gone to the trouble to dress her best. I do not expect every man to have a bushy beard and a deer slung

across the hood of the truck.

I do, however, have a problem with men who apparently lack enough red meat in their diets to say "No" when a woman suggests they buy matching lacy silk underwear, bead a scruffy little beard, and wear their hair like their grandmother on a bad day.



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Marie L. Campbell, D.N.P.





Parent volunteer Nicole Hopkins, County Manager Bill Clark, County Commissioners Edwin Russ and Amon McKenzie, Chamber President Jennifer Holcomb, Philip Honeycutt of Honeycutt Produce, Chamber Chairperson Terrie Edmund of Joe's Barbeque, Missionary Church Alliance Pastor Justin DuBose, CCA Principal Steve Auld, and Whiteville City Manager Darren Currie look on as CCA's only senior, Victoria Moody, cuts the ribbon.

## Called workshop on home health slated April 18

By ALLEN TURNER  
Staff Writer

The Columbus County Board of Commissioners will hold a special called workshop Monday, April 18, at 5 p.m. to discuss procedures for selling or leasing the Columbus County Home Health Agency ran by the Columbus County Health Department.

"Whether we sell or lease our Home Health Agency, there is a process the county will have to follow," Clark wrote in a recent email. "There are a lot of procedures we will have to follow."

Three pages of North Carolina Statute 131E-13 set out the requirements a county must follow to lease or sell such an agency.

The requirement that the purchasing entity "provide the same or similar" services, the county hold a public hearing and make copies of proposals available to the public, are among them. The meeting will be held in

the Commissioners' Chambers in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex at 112 W. Smith St., Whiteville.

Columbus Regional Healthcare System (CRHS) had agreed in earlier discussions with the county to lease the agency, which has been losing money for at least two years and is on track to lose \$500,000 this year.

The hospital wanted the county to guarantee a subsidy of \$500,000 during its first year of operating the agency and \$250,000 the second year.

Commissioners last Monday rejected a proposal to lease the agency to the hospital for 10 years at a cost of \$1 year with the proviso that the county subsidize the operation for at least two years. Commissioners instructed County Manager Bill Clark to continue negotiations with subsidies off the table.

The workshop has been called to discuss those procedures and requirements.

(Nicole Cartrette contributed to this story.)

## Christian Academy holds grand opening

By SHALON SMITH  
Staff Writer

A small group of local officials, business leaders, and parents attended the grand opening ceremonies for Columbus Christian Academy (CCA) at the campus on Warrior Trail formerly owned by Waccamaw Academy.

Columbus Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Holcomb welcomed the crowd to the event and welcomed CCA as a new member of the chamber.

CCA Principal Steve Auld, who many years ago was a camp counselor at the Ambassador Camp at Lake Waccamaw, said it has been interesting for him to come back and be in Whiteville. He also stressed the importance of a variety of educational offerings in recruiting businesses and families to the area.

"A private school in the county is very important. There are people who will move into the county looking for a private school – a Christian school.

"This school is a very important part of Columbus County and Whiteville," he said.

"We serve the community and we serve two counties, so it has far-reaching effect, also. We want to be a very integral part of the community and serve and be a point of pride of the community and county."

Pastor Justin DuBose of the Missionary Church Alliance, the church that owns CCA, added the alliance is about partnerships in the community. "I would just love to see the Lord use us, collectively, to continue to impact the community in a positive

way," he said.

Southeastern Community College President Dr. Anthony Clarke attended the event and said, "Any time we can support education in Columbus County it's a good thing—whether it's Columbus County Schools, Whiteville City Schools, or private schools. We're always hoping for a partnership and

to get the juniors and seniors some free college classes and get them on to college."

Missionary Alliance Church began as a small church in 2006.

The school built a separate high school campus on Alliance Drive in Whiteville. CCA first opened in 1977 at the old Missionary Alliance

Church building on Madison Street in Whiteville and later expanded to property on Calhoun Street. The former Waccamaw Academy campus in 2012 allowed the church, preschool, elementary school and high school to be under one roof.

CCA will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year.

## WHS students to honor local veterans

Students in Dawn Strickland's Honors American History II classes at Whiteville High have interviewed local veterans who have served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East.

They have created visual projects to document the interviews and their projects

will be on display during A Night to honor Our Veterans in the Whiteville High School media center Monday, April 18 at 6 p.m.

The public is invited to join the students for food and fellowship and to celebrate the veterans, and all local veterans are urged to attend.



**"You either get bitter, or get better. I chose to get better."**

## Democrat convention April 16

The Columbus County Democrat Convention will be held Saturday, April 16, at the Columbus County Courthouse. A meet and greet reception will begin at 10 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts and the official business meeting will begin at 11 a.m.

Elected officials and candidates for office will be present to give updates on current issues and campaigns. All delegates are asked to come early and register during the reception.

I lost one breast to cancer in 1999. Then, in 2013, a mammogram and ultrasound revealed cancer in my other breast, and it, too, had to be removed. It was an aggressive cancer, and after the mastectomy, I began treatments at Gibson.

I liked going to Gibson because it is local. And, because it's a part of Duke, I felt I was getting the best care. Now I go back every three months for my check-ups. They take good care of me, and so far, I've been doing fine.

I've had cancer twice. I just take every day the good Lord gives me as a blessing and live it to the fullest. I chose to get better.

Nancy Sykes  
Two-time Breast Cancer Survivor



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# Sports

The News Reporter, Monday, April 11, 2016 - Page 1B

## Last-gasp effort gives Wolfpack 2-1 victory over West Columbus

By DAN BISER  
Sports Editor

For six full innings, whatever the two-time defending state 1A champion Whiteville Wolfpack was trying to do with the bats was simply not working against longtime rival West Columbus and Viking freshman left-hander Cole Benton Friday night at Legion Stadium.

After being shut down by Benton's pitching and flawless West Columbus defensive play, the Wolfpack went into the bottom of the seventh inning trailing the Vikings 1-0. The visiting WC team was just three outs away from handing the Wolfpack its first loss in its last 25 Three Rivers 1A-2A Conference regular-season games dating back to 2014.

"They had been getting us out in just about every way you can," said Whiteville head coach Brett Harwood. "Cole wasn't really overpowering us, but he was surely effective and they were making the plays on defense.

"We went into the last inning just hoping to find a way to at least scratch a run across," added Harwood, who noted that Cole Benton had faced only two batters over the limit through the first five innings, allowing one hit and not giving up a walk.

Ironically, the freshman lefty did not record a strikeout as the Viking infield converted nine ground ball outs and catcher Hunter Norris cut down two WHS base runners on steal attempts. The Vikings also pulled a big double play in the third inning when rightfielder Ozzly Johnson made a big catch on a shot by Connor Grainger and made the throw to first base to double off Taylor Smith, who had sprinted to second on a hit-and-run attempt.

In the meantime, White-

ville sophomore right-hander Brooks Baldwin had thrown seven complete innings, having allowed only four hits. Baldwin yielded an earned run to the Vikings in the fourth inning when Gage Hammonds led off with an infield single and later scored from third on a ground-out to shortstop by Trey Benton.

But in the bottom of the seventh inning, Whiteville shortstop Taylor Smith led off and was hit by a pitch for a second straight time. First baseman Connor Grainger followed and became the first player in the game to draw a walk.

WCHS coach Jeff Lamb brought on right-hander Cody Benton, Cole's twin-brother, in relief to face WHS catcher Nick Hood.

Hood laid down a bunt between the mound and the third base-line for a base hit that loaded the bases with no outs. Cody Baldwin then managed to register the only Wolfpack strike-outs of the night, fanning Hunter Harwood and Grayson Ward back-to-back.

With Baldwin at the plate for the Wolfpack, a wild pitch allowed Grainger to score from third and tie the score at 1-1. The switch-hitting Baldwin then drew a walk of a 3-2 pitch to reload the bases.

Sophomore second baseman Will Hinson came to the plate and worked the count to 3-2 before driving the ball through the middle to bring Smith home with the game-winning run.

"I tried to be patient," said Hinson after being mobbed by teammates and coaches following his game-winner. "I knew my teammates had confidence in me so I just concentrated on taking a good cut and making some contact."

Harwood said that while his Wolfpack has struggled with its hitting in several games this

year, he has been pleased with the way his team continues to play hard and keep its composure in difficult situations.

"Some nights just don't go as well as others, but we know that we still have to keep the intensity," added Harwood, whose squad had opened conference play last month with a 7-0 road victory over the West Columbus team. "We did what we had to, and Will came up with the clutch hit. We dodged a big one tonight."

Whiteville continues to lead the Three Rivers Conference baseball standings with an 8-0 record while West Columbus slipped to 3-5.

"West Columbus' conference record is just about the same as it was at this time last year," Harwood said. "But look at what they did after that, winning four straight play-off games and then giving us all we could handle in regional finals."

Lamb concurred.

"Tonight was a disappointment because our guys played so well and just lost out in the end," Lamb said. "This season is a long way from being over. We expect to be playing them again."

Whiteville, now with an 11-3 season record, got its lead-off batter on base in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth innings, but failed to cash in each of those times.

Baldwin finished strong for Whiteville, retiring 10 of the last 11 Viking players he faced.

He recorded one strike-out and walked a batter.

Whiteville will travel to take on second-place Fairmont Tuesday night at 7 in a key TRC match-up.

West Columbus' season record now stands at 10-7. The Vikings will play host to South Columbus Tuesday night at 7.



Photos by Grant Merritt

### Mound clash

Whiteville sophomore Brooks Baldwin (left) and West Columbus freshman Cole Benton square off on the pitcher's mound in Friday's Three Rivers 1A-2A Conference baseball game at Legion Stadium. Whiteville rallied for two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to squeeze out a 2-1 victory over the visiting Viking squad. Whiteville was held to two hits through the sixth inning. The win put Whiteville's TRC record at 8-0, and West Columbus fell to 3-5 in league play. Coach Brett Harwood's WHS squad is scheduled to travel to Robeson County Tuesday to take on the Fairmont Golden Tornadoes at 7 p.m. Fairmont is 7-1 in Three Rivers Conference play with its lone loss coming against Whiteville in its earlier conference clash last month. Coach Jeff Lamb's West Columbus team will play host to South Columbus Tuesday at 7 in another key Three Rivers Conference game. In Friday's other baseball match-up between Columbus County rivals, South Columbus defeated East Columbus 12-2 in six innings.

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Shawn, Age 5

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## Girls soccer

### WCHS garners back-to-back shut-out wins

West Columbus picked up shut out wins of 6-0 against St. Pauls on Wednesday and West Bladen on Thursday in girls soccer. The Vikings improve to 5-5-1 overall and 2-2 in conference play.

Madison Arnold scored four goals and added an assist in the road win over St. Pauls. Lexi Bowen had one goal and two assists. Toneisha Williams also scored for the Vikings. Emma Leah Dippel contributed an assist.

Arnold and Bowen each scored twice in the win over visiting West Bladen. Arnold had three assists and Bowen two. Williams and Madeline Shaw scored the remaining two goals. Peyton Sasser had 11 saves in goal for the Vikings.

Red Springs rebounded from a 3-1 halftime deficit to tie South Columbus 5-5 on Wednesday. Whitney Ward scored four times for the Stallions. Mary Katherine Zokal had two assists. The Stallions currently have a one and one-half game lead over Red Springs for the top 2A spot in the TRC

Whiteville traveled to West Brunswick and brought home a 4-2 win. Madison Hinson scored twice. Mia Shelley had one goal and two assists. Logan Schultz also scored for the Wolfpack. Ashley Carter and Abigail Owens each contributed an assist. Goalkeeper Cailin Baldwin had nine saves. The Whiteville JVs fell to West Brunswick 3-2.

East Columbus will travel to West Columbus and Whiteville visits South Columbus Monday.

### Gator netters nip Red Springs 5-4 in TRC match

**LAKE WACCAMAW** - After splitting the six singles matches, the host East Columbus Gators came out the winner in two of the three doubles matches to pull out a 5-4 Three Rivers Conference boys tennis victory Wednesday over Red Springs.

It was the Gators' second conference victory by a 5-4 score in as many days as they had edged South Columbus by that margin on Tuesday.

Results follow:

**E. Columbus 5, Red Springs 4**  
**Singles:** Tavo Palacios (EC) def. B. Padron, 6-4, 6-3; R. Capote (RS) def. Marco Borja, 6-3, 6-3; Hector Palacios (EC) def. S. Lopez, 6-3, 6-2; R. Mendoza (RS) def. Haywood McKoy, 6-4, 6-3; Harley Potter (EC) def. J. Villalva, 6-1, 6-1; J. Alejandro (RS) def. Devan Young, 8-6, 10-6, 8-6.  
**Doubles:** D. Palacios-Borja (EC) def. Padron-Capote, 8-6; Lopez-Mendoza (RS) def. H. Palacios-McKoy, 8-6; Terry Brown, Rashod Tucker (EC) def. Villalva-Alejandro, 8-3.

## Lady Rams run past Wake Tech

The Southeastern Community College Lady Ram softball team swept a doubleheader from visiting Wake Tech Wednesday at the SCC field.

SCC won the first game 11-1. Taylor Baysden was the winning pitcher as the game was halted in the fifth inning by the 10-run rule.

Bristin Locklear and Brynn Hinson each had three hits while Amanda Ludlum drove in three runs with two hits. Jordan Smith and Rachelle Byes also had two hits each.

The Lady Rams won the second game 10-3 with Dalys Rhyne going the full seven innings to pick up the pitching victory.

Locklear had two hits, including a home run, while Bobbie McDaniel and Makinley Horne had three hits apiece. Smith added a pair of hits as SCC improved its season record to 8-15.



Staff photo by Dan Biser

**Whiteville sprinter Cynquasha Best (center) takes the baton from teammate Shaniquah Parker while challenging a St. Pauls runner (at left) for the lead on the anchor leg of the 4x100 relay in Thursday's Three Rivers Conference track and field meet at St. Pauls. St. Pauls nipped the Lady Wolfpack at the finish line to win the event.**

## Morningstar establishes school record in TRC track meet at St. Pauls

**ST. PAULS** - Senior Grace Morningstar set a school record in the 3200-meter run and senior Ivey Long grabbed first places in the 1600 and 800-meter runs Thursday to pace Whiteville High School performances in a Three Rivers Conference track and field meet at the St. Pauls High School track.

Also competing in the meet were South Columbus, Red Springs and host St. Pauls

The Whiteville boys team got first places from Zack Moore in the 1600 meters and Zach Hatch in the 3200 meters.

Morningstar ran to a winning time of 12 minutes, 48 seconds in the 3200-meter run.

Along with her two individual first places, Long anchored

the winning 4x800 relay team, which also included Lilly Inman, Dasia Holland and Ellen McLam.

Mikayla Killens added a first-place finish in the 100-meter high hurdles for the Lady Wolfpack squad.

Killens teamed with Natasha King, Shaniquah Parker and Cynquasha Best to finish second in the 4x100-meter relay.

The Whiteville boys team also got a pair of second-place finishes by Jared Small in the 110 and 300-meter hurdling events.

Andrew Powell paced the Wolfpack boys in the field events with third-place finishes in both the shot put and discus.

## Lady Gators grab 5-3 TRC win over SCHS

**VINEGAR HILL** - Kaley Paul pitched a four-hitter while striking out nine batters and Olivia Kissam slammed a pair of doubles Friday as East Columbus defeated host South Columbus 5-3 in Three Rivers 1A-2A Conference softball action.

Kelsey Carroll also had two hits, including a double for the Lady Gators, who now stand at 5-3 in the Three Rivers Conference and 9-4 overall.

South Columbus, which suffered its second straight conference loss after six straight

wins, got all three of its runs on a bases-loaded double by Lindsey Jones.

Hailey Sarvis had the other three hits for South Columbus.

South Columbus now stands at 6-2 in the conference and 10-5 for the season.

East Columbus will play host to Heide Trask today in a 4:30 p.m., game.

**Correction:** South Columbus player Lindsey Jones was misidentified in last Thursday's game report of the SCHS game with Whiteville.

## Gators shock Trask 16-2

**ROCKY POINT** - The East Columbus Gators took a break from its Three Rivers Conference baseball schedule Thursday to take on the host Trask Titans.

The result was a 16-2 ECHS victory that was closed out in the fifth inning by the 10-run rule.

"It was a night that everything just seemed to fall our way," ECHS head coach Brad Smith said after the Gator team won for only the third time in 15 games this season. "It was a good all-around effort from everybody."

## Fairmont netters edge WHS

**FAIRMONT** - The Whiteville High boys tennis team came away with two singles matches and two doubles matches, but still fell short Thursday as they were edged by Fairmont in a Three Rivers Conference clash.

Shane Nair and Antoine

Travin Squires helped lead the way on the mound and at the plate for the Gators. He allowed only one Titan hit and struck out nine batters. Trask scored both its runs in the fourth inning after the Gators had built an 11-0 lead. ECHS tallied five more runs in the top of the fifth inning.

Squires also had three hits, including a key double, and drove in two runs. Jamieon Brown also had three hits with a double and 3 RBIs.

The loss dropped Trask's season record to 4-5

## Lady Pack softball team records 15th win

Laura Thompson and Eden Brown each had three hits Friday in the Whiteville Lady Wolfpack's 15-0 Three Rivers Conference softball victory over visiting West Columbus.

The game was halted in the

fourth inning by the 10-run rule. Santana Best was the winning pitcher, allowing four WCHS hits.

Whiteville now has an 8-0 record in the Three Rivers Conference and a 15-1 season mark.

# Three Rivers Conference baseball, softball standings

BASEBALL			SOFTBALL		
	Conf. W-L	Overall W-L		Conf. W-L	Overall W-L
Whiteville	8-0	11-3	Whiteville	8-0	15-1
Fairmont	7-1	15-2	South Columbus	6-2	10-5
South Columbus	4-3	11-5	South Robeson	5-3	7-4
Red Springs	4-3	9-5	East Columbus	5-3	9-4
West Columbus	3-5	10-7	Red Springs	4-4	9-4
St. Pauls	3-5	8-8	Fairmont	3-6	5-8
East Columbus	1-7	3-13	St. Pauls	1-7	3-11
South Robeson	1-7	2-12	West Columbus	0-8	0-8

### Thursday's result

East Columbus 16, Trask 2 (5 innings)

### Friday's results

Whiteville 2, West Columbus 1  
 South Columbus 12, East Columbus 2 (6 innings)  
 Fairmont 7, South Robeson 0  
 Red Springs 5, St. Pauls 4

### Saturday's results

Fairmont 8, Lumberton 5  
 South Columbus 16, Loris 10  
 St. Pauls 26, West Bladen 10

### Tuesday's games

Whiteville at Fairmont, 7  
 South Columbus at West Columbus, 7  
 Red Springs at East Columbus, 7  
 St. Pauls at South Robeson, 7

### Friday's results

Whiteville 15, West Columbus 0 (4 innings)  
 East Columbus 5, South Columbus 3  
 Fairmont 4, South Robeson 2  
 Red Springs 17, St. Pauls 7

### Today's games

Trask at East Columbus (DH), 4:30

### Tuesday's games

Whiteville at Fairmont, 7  
 South Columbus at West Columbus, 7  
 Red Springs at East Columbus, 7  
 St. Pauls at South Robeson, 7



Photo by Grant Merritt

**West Columbus High School's Hunter Norris (9) beats out an infield hit while Whiteville first baseman Connor Grainger stretches to grab the throw in Friday night's Three Rivers Conference baseball game at Legion Stadium. Whiteville remained unbeaten in TRC play by rallying for two runs in the bottom of the seventh to pull out a 2-1 win.**



Photo by Grant Merritt

**The Whiteville Optimist Dixie Youth Baseball League celebrated the opening of its 47th season Saturday with an elaborate opening ceremony event that included the individual introduction of players and coaches of all teams. A full slate of games in all three league age divisions was also played on Saturday.**

## Whiteville Optimist DY League opens 47th season

**APRIL 9 MAJORS (ages 11-12) Columbus Regional 12 News Reporter 2**

Columbus Regional, which struck for seven runs in the first inning, was led by Bud Baldwin's two hits and Nick Horne's double. Ty Lawson, Ty Little, Miles Pollard, Nick Horne and Grant Greene had one hit each, Pitchers Guiliano and Ty Lawson combined to strike out 13 batters.

John Lawson Cook, Cole Hilbourn and Weston Hatcher had hits for News Reporter.

**Car City 9 BB&T 3**

In a game that featured three home runs, Car City broke away from a 6-6 tie with three runs in the fifth inning.

Car City's Ishmael Jones hit a two-run homer while E.J. McLeod and Tyler Hammond each had a double and a single. Ethan Mercer also doubled. Also getting Car City hits were John Carter

Strickland, Franco Creazzola and Andrew Cahn.

BB&T's Jacob Jones knocked a three-run homer and Brandon Tyson added a two-run blast. Grayson Bell, Lendon Pham and Ethan Cox also had hits.

**AAA (ages 9-10) Quality Ford 11 Southeast Primary Care 3**

Brooks Frazier had two hits and Devin Faulk connected for a triple to help pace the Quality Ford win. Preston McKinley, Cody Etheridge and Will Sibbett also had Quality Ford hits.

For Southeast Primary Care, Lim Pham blasted a triple, and Cameron Singletary added a single.

**Southern Tire & Muffler 8 First Bank 4**

Hunter Hagood had two hits and Kolbe Little hit a double for Southern Tire & Muffler, which also got hits from Roshid Jones, Will Fisher and Jaya Smith,

Getting hits for First Bank were Josh Harrison, Parker Bass,

Walker Sullivan and Axiom McGlockton.

**AA (ages 7-8) J Ray Realty 6 Civitans 4**

J Ray's Trenton Bostic and Civitans' Collin Hooks and Kendall McAllister each had three hits.

Getting two hits were Civitans' Cameron McKvian and Jack Holcomb, and J Ray's Tre'ton Hardy and Tucker Herring.

J Ray's Landon Clifton, Grayson Canady, Westyn Hill, Gabriel Priest, Will Erwin and Rudy Jernigan, and Civitans' Jaysten Hunt, Noah McNair and Jacob Kioseff had one hit apiece.

**BB&T Phone 24 14 Quality Cleaners 0**

BB&T got three hits each by Brycen Edwards and Logan Little, two hits by Cody Rice, Jayce Hatcher, Clayton Lowery and Eli Hill. Matthew Hannah and Riles Richardson each had one hit.

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Gabbi Hayes is safe at the plate.

## Rivals meet in junior varsity softball match

South Columbus JV softball team remained undefeated with a come-from-behind, 7-3 win over East Columbus. The Stallions trailed 3-1 entering the bottom of the sixth, but scored six runs to take the victory.

Morgan Nye had three hits, including a double to lead South. Vanessa Faulk had two hits and Caila Turbeville contributed an RBI double. Libby Blosser was the winning pitcher. She allowed five hits

and struck out six.

Whiteville remained one game back of the Stallions with an 11-1 win over West Columbus. Kiara Wilson, Carrie Ann Wilkins and Emaje Jones each collected two hits for Whiteville. Avionna Powell, Nsaia Rogers, Haley Cartrette and Jordan Thompson each had one hit. Carly Fulkerson was the winning pitcher, striking out seven and allowing just one hit. The West Columbus hit was by I'maiya Ward.

## Pacers win softball opener

Cierra Owens belted three hits and scored three runs in Columbus Christian Academy's 7-6 season-opening softball win over Antioch Christian. It took eight innings to decide the final outcome. Owens scored the winning run on Hannah Watts' hit in the bottom of the eighth. Isabella Hopkins scored earlier in the frame to tie the score at

six apiece. The Pacers scored twice in the seventh to force extra innings.

Watts was the winning pitcher, blasted a solo home run and scored twice for CCA. Abigail Bullock, Sidera Blackwell and Hopkins had hits for the Pacers in addition to Owens' three hits. Bullock reached base twice with walks.

## Middle school baseball and softball

The Central Hornets baseball team defeated the Hallsboro Tigers 10-0 on Tuesday. The game was halted in the bottom of the sixth inning after a run-scoring single by Jacob Allgood. The Hornets got another outstanding pitching performance from Jake Harwood. Harwood pitched six innings, yielded two hits, no walks, and struck out 13. Leading hitters for the Hornets were Allgood and Logan Hooks with two hits. Hooks' hits included a double. Other Hornets with hits were Harwood, Lincoln Ransom, John Cook, Zach Hunt, Jake Inman, Andrew Lewis, and Colton Williams. Jay'Quan Levine and Luke Watts had hits for Hallsboro.

Nakina swept a doubleheader from Tabor City, 14-4 and 11-2. In game one, Aveon Bellamy homered for the Mustangs. Chase Marlowe was the

winning pitcher. Juan Frink had two hits. Miller Gore, Trey Gore and Jackson McPherson also had hits for Nakina. Garnering hits for Tabor City were Rajon Graham, Colton Nealey, Gabe Johnson and Brandon Cox. Bellamy had three hits for Nakina in game two. Trey Gore, Tyler Long and Frink each contributed a hit. Graham, Austin Mayo and Calep Jenrette had hits for the Eagles.

Cerro Gordo swept a twin bill from Acme-Delco by scores of 7-0 and 6-4. Williams defeated Chadbourne 14-4.

Central improved its record to 6-0 Wednesday with a 15-5 victory over Nakina. The Hornets got a solid four and two-thirds innings on the mound from Zach Hunt with relief coming from Jake Inman. Hunt allowed three earned runs, nine hits and struck out four. Kevin Ezzell

and Logan Hooks led Central's offense with two hits and three runs batted in. Hooks' single in the sixth ended the contest. Lincoln Ransom contributed a two-run double. Giuliano Maggioli added a two-run single. Other Hornets with hits were Harwood, Inman, Williams and Lewis.

Williams defeated Evergreen 13-3 on Wednesday.

Thursday saw Hallsboro shut out Williams 9-0 behind the pitching of Jerome Beck. Luke Watts and Fisher Reaves had hits for Hallsboro. Cerro Gordo shut out Evergreen 16-0.

Central remained undefeated, downing Hallsboro 11-1 in Tuesday softball action. Alexis Jacobs and Hannah Andrews each had two hits for Hallsboro. Alanna Deal and Rani Patrick each had one hit.

Alexis Todd threw a no-hitter for Nakina in their 11-0, game-one win over Tabor

City. Farrah Hammond tripled and singled for the Mustangs. Katelyn Canady also had two hits. Nakina won game two 6-4. Todd was the winning pitcher. Kiara Muse and Carrie Hawley had hits for Nakina.

Acme-Delco swept a doubleheader from Cerro Gordo. Williams topped Chadbourne 21-2.

Wednesday, Central defeated Nakina 9-0 while Williams toppled Evergreen 15-0.

Cerro Gordo picked up a 14-13 win over Evergreen Thursday. Lyric Sammiel's walk-off single plated the winning run in the bottom of the seventh. Williams defeated Hallsboro 15-4.

Schools provide scores and individual statistics. The News Reporter attempts to use all information that is provided. Occasionally space limitations prevent us from doing so.



Elijah Bunting fires a pitch for Hallsboro.



John Cook lays down a bunt for Central against Hallsboro.



Jake Inman takes a big cut for Central.

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

**Notice**

The Columbus County Board of Equalization and Review will meet the dates and hours indicated below: Monday, April 15, 2016 Time: 9:30 am-12:00 Noon The meeting will be held in the Columbus County Administrative Bldg. 111 Washington St., Whiteville, NC for the purpose of equalizing the valuation of all property in the County of Columbus, to the end that such property shall be listed on the tax records at the valuation required by law.

Anyone requesting the appearance before the Board of Equalization and Review may obtain request forms from the Columbus County Tax Office, 125A Washington St., Whiteville, NC or by calling 910-640-6635. The Board of Equalization and Review will adjourn on April 15, 2016 and in the event of earlier or later adjournment, notice to that effect will be published in this newspapers. Needom G. Hughes, IV Tax Administrator Date: April 1, 2016 April 11, 14, 2016

**Notice of Foreclosure Sale**

15 SP 199 NORTH CAROLINA, COLUMBUS COUNTY

Under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed by Mickey Ann S. Smith to G. Barnes, Trustee(s), which was dated November 8, 2007 and recorded on November 15, 2007 in Book RB 912 at Page 458, Columbus County Registry, North Carolina. Default having been made of the note thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC, having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust, and the holder of the note evidencing said default having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door of the county courthouse where the property is located, or the usual and customary location at the county courthouse for conducting the sale on April 27, 2016 at 11:30AM, and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described property situated in Columbus County, North Carolina, to wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land in South Whiteville Township, Columbus County, State of North Carolina, adjoining the lands of and others, and bounded and described as follows, viz: BEGINNING at an old iron shaft in the center of an old cart road the

**LEGAL NOTICES**

beginning corner of the original tract of which this is a part, also a corner of lands of Merland Williamson, Wilton Thompson and Garland Walker; and running thence from said point of beginning with the first line of the original tract, also a line of Garland Walker South 01 degrees 26 minutes East 299.06 feet to a new iron spike set in the center line of paved S. R. No. 1429; thence new lines with the center line of said S. R. No. 1429 the following courses and distances: South 81 degrees 01 minutes West 89.30 feet to a nail, South 76 degrees 57 minutes West 150 feet to a nail, and South 74 degrees 43 minutes West 150.0 feet to a new iron spike in the center of S. R. No. 1429 where said centerline is intersected by the last line of the original tract; thence with the last line of the original tract, also a line of Mrs. Bertha Thompson and Merland Williamson North 43 degrees 53 minutes East 536.0 feet to the beginning, containing 1.02 acres, excluding Highway right of way. Subject to easements, restrictions, and covenants of record, if any. Save and except any releases, deeds of release or prior conveyances of record. Said property is commonly known as 646 Slippery Log Road, Whiteville, NC 28472.

A cash deposit (no personal checks) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale. Following the expiration of the statutory upset bid period, all the remaining amounts are immediately due and owing. THIRD PARTY PURCHASERS MUST PAY THE EXCISE TAX AND THE RECORDING COSTS FOR THEIR DEED.

Said property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS WHERE IS." There are no representations of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale. This sale is made subject to all prior liens, unpaid taxes, any unpaid land transfer taxes, special assessments, easements, rights of way, deeds of release, and any other encumbrances or exceptions of record. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the current owner(s) of the property is/are All Lawful Heirs of Mickey Ann S. Smith.

An Order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of ter-

**LEGAL NOTICES**

mination [NCGS § 45-21.16A(b)(2)]. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC Substitute Trustee Brock & Scott, PLLC Attorneys for Trustee Services of Carolina, LLC 5431 Oleander Drive Suite 200 Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (910) 392-4988 FAX: (910) 392-8587 File No.: 15-22351-FC01 April 11, 18, 2016

**Notice of Special Called Workshop of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners**

Notice is hereby given of a Special Called Workshop of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, called by the Chairman, for Monday, April 18, 2016, at 5:00 P.M., in the Commissioners' Chambers, Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina. The purpose of this Special Called Workshop is to discuss Columbus County Home Health Agency.

This meeting is being called pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 153A-40 as a Special Called Workshop.

This Notice shall be forwarded to all news media who has requested Notice pursuant to the General Statutes.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

ATTESTED BY: June Hall, Clerk to Board

April 11, 2016

**Notice of Public Hearing**

The public will take notice of a hearing to be conducted by the Brunswick Town Council on April 18, 2016, at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall. The purpose of the hearing shall be to consider a Conditional Use Permit request by Cypress Creek Renewables for a solar farm type facility proposed to be located at 224 NC Highway 130. The public is invited to attend this hearing and to provide comment. Nancy Hill, Mayor Cheryl Clewis, Town Clerk April 7, 11, 2016



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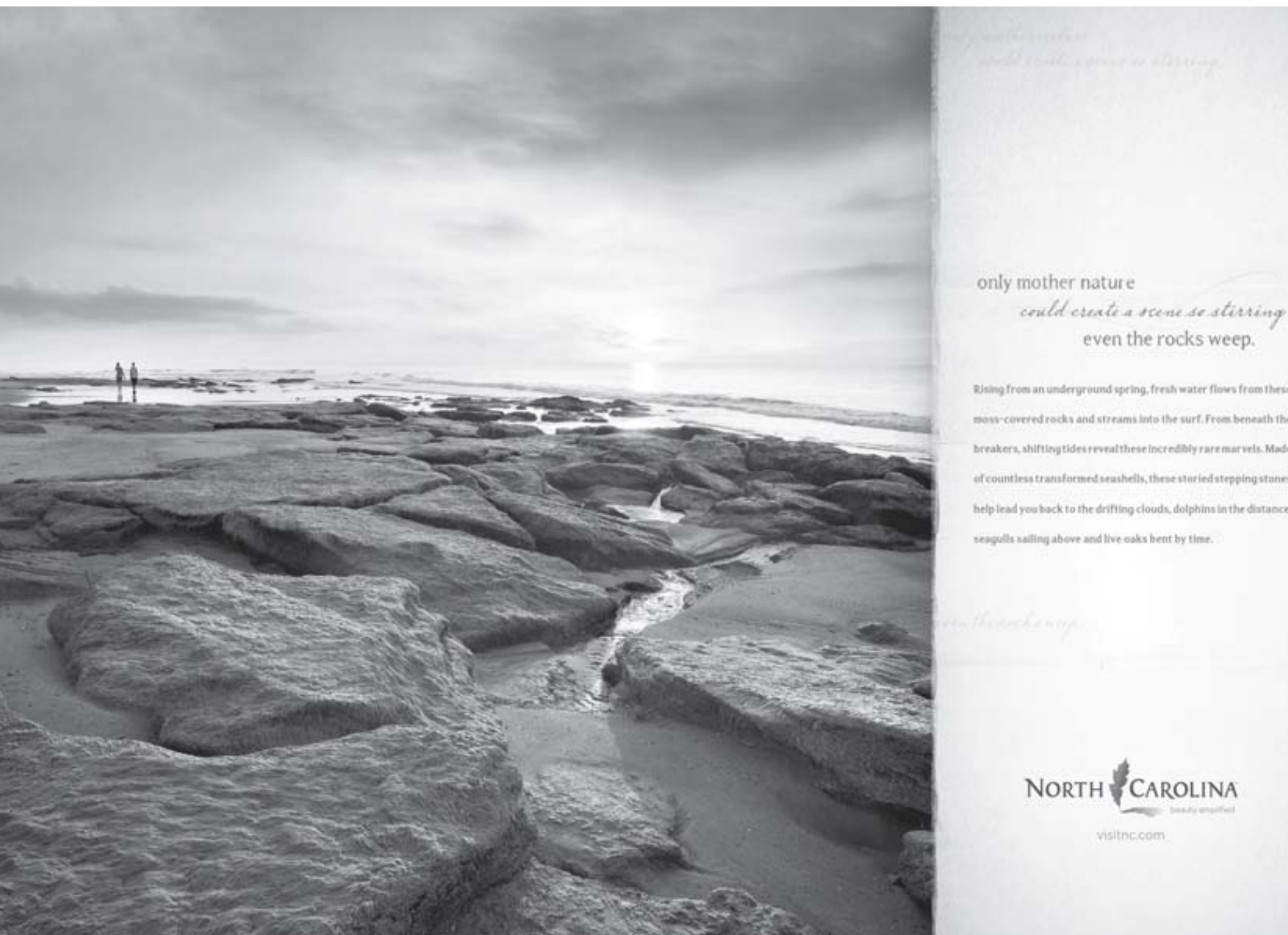
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**LEGAL NOTICES****Notice of Foreclosure Sale**

NORTH CAROLINA  
COLUMBUS COUNTY  
Special Proceedings No. 15 SP 160  
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass  
Date of Sale: April 13, 2016  
Time of Sale: 11:00 a.m.  
Place of Sale: Columbus County Courthouse

Description of Property: Lying and being in Chadbourr Township, Columbus County, North Carolina and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron stake, said stake being located in Southwestern corner of the lands hereinafter described and said beginning stake being located North 89 degrees 00 minutes East 200.27 feet from an iron stake located in the Eastern margin of SR 1436 which iron stake is located North 89 degrees 00 minutes 30.04 feet from an iron stake located in center of SR 1436 which stake is located South 02 degrees 00 minutes West 509.48 feet from a nail located in the center of the intersection of SR 1436 and NC Highway 130 (Old US Highway 74-76) and runs thence from the beginning point North 02 degrees 00 minutes East 212.80 feet to an iron stake and runs thence North 85 degrees 50 minutes East 102.45 feet to an iron stake; and runs thence South 02 degrees 00 minutes West 218.46 feet to an iron stake; and runs thence South 89 degrees 00 minutes West 102.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 0.50 acres more or less.

Being the same property as conveyed to grantor from Furnie Glenn Nobles and wife Mary Alice Nobles, husband and wife, by deed dated January 16, 1989, and recorded in Deed Book 399, page 132, Columbus County Registry.

Record Owners: Heirs of Hazel Lee Foster  
Address of Property: 93 Maple Lane Chadbourr, NC 28431  
Deed of Trust:

Book : 594 Page: 400  
Dated: 1999  
Grantors: Hazel Lee Foster, unmarried  
Original Beneficiary: The Money Centre, Inc.  
CONDITIONS OF SALE: Should the property be purchased by a third party, that person must pay the tax of Forty-five Cents (45c) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a)(1).

This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax.

A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law. Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.  
Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee  
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.  
5540 Centerview Drive Suite 416  
Raleigh, NC 27606  
April 4, 11, 2016

**Notice of Public Hearing  
Whiteville City Council**

The Whiteville City Council will hold a public hearing as follows:  
Date: April 26, 2016  
Time: 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the agenda will allow  
Meeting Location: Whiteville City Hall, 24 Hill Plaza  
Zoning Text Amendment: Regarding amending and adopting Wireless Telecommunication regulations. (Amendment will involve multiple sections of the City Land Use Ordinances.)

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Citizens interested in the proposal are invited to attend and participate in the public hearing. Changes may be made in the above proposal as a result of debate, objection, or discussion.

Hiram J. Marziano, II  
City of Whiteville  
Planning Director  
910-640-1380  
April 11, 18, 2016

**Notice of Public Hearing  
Whiteville Board of Adjustment**

The Whiteville Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing as follows:  
Date: April 28, 2016

Time: 11:30 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the agenda will allow  
Meeting Location: Whiteville City Hall, 24 Hill Plaza  
Administrative Appeal: B&M Properties of the Carolinas, LLC has requested an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision to deny their request for installation of a new Wireless Telecommunication tower to be located at 38 White Crossing Plaza.  
Citizens interested in the proposal are invited to attend and participate in the public hearing. Changes may be made in the above proposal as a result of debate, objection, or discussion.

Hiram J. Marziano, II  
City of Whiteville  
Planning Director  
910-640-1380  
April 11, 18, 2016

**Notice of Substitute Trustee's Sale of Real Property**

017598-00057/FNMA  
15-SP-105

UNDER AND BY VIRTUE of the power and authority contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed and delivered by Diana F. Nobles and Edward M. Docalavich, dated June 30, 2005 and recorded on July 1, 2005 in Book No. 820 at Page 271 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Columbus County, North Carolina; and because of default in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby and failure to carry out and perform the stipulations and agreements contained therein and, pursuant to demand of the holder of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will place for sale, at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash at the usual place of sale at Columbus County Courthouse, Whiteville, North Carolina on April 21, 2016 at 2:00 PM that parcel of land, including improvements thereon, situated, lying and being in the City of Tabor City, County of Columbus, State of North Carolina, and being more particularly described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. Address of property: 109 US Highway 701 South, Tabor City, NC 28463-9840

Tax Parcel ID: 11044 and 11042 and 11045 and 77771  
Present Record Owners: The Heirs of Diana Nobles a/k/a Diana Docalavich  
The terms of the sale are that the real property hereinbefore described will be sold for cash to the highest bidder. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. The successful bidder shall be required to pay revenue stamps on the Trustee's Deed, any Land Transfer Tax and costs of recording the Trustee's Deed.

The real property hereinabove described is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be sold subject to all superior liens, unpaid taxes, and special assessments. Other conditions will be announced at the sale. The sale will be held open for ten (10) days for upset bids as by law required.

If for any reason the Trustee is unable to convey title to this property or the sale is set aside, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Furthermore, if the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the Trustee, in its sole discretion, if it believes the challenge to have merit, may declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. In either event the purchaser will have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney or the Trustee.

Additional Notice Where the Real Property is Residential With Less Than 15 Rental Units:  
An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in

**LEGAL NOTICES**

possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold.

Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.  
Rogers Townsend & Thomas, PC  
Substitute Trustee  
2550 West Tyvola Road, Suite 520  
Charlotte, NC 28217  
(704)442-9500  
April 11, 18, 2016

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Luetta P. Lennon, deceased, late of Columbus County, the undersigned hereby notifies all persons having claims against the estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned within three (3) months from the date of the first publication, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.  
This the 21st day of March, 2016.

Albert Singletary,  
Executor of the estate of  
Luetta P. Lennon,  
20356 NC Hwy 410  
Bladenboro, NC 28320  
March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2016

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Having qualified as Executor of the estate of William M. Brown, deceased, late of Columbus County, the undersigned hereby notifies all persons having claims against the estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned within three (3) months from the date of the first publication, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.  
This the 28th day of March, 2016.

Aaron Stacy Turner,  
Executor of the estate of  
William M. Brown,  
801 Bertonley Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28211  
March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2016

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

The undersigned, RODNEY HAL SINGLETARY AND LINDA LOUISE WEEKS, have qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of EVELYN M. SINGLETARY, late of Columbus County, and this is to notify all persons having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before June 28, 2016, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 28A-14-1, or this notice shall be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the following address:  
This the 28th day of March, 2016.

RODNEY HAL SINGLETARY,  
CO-EXECUTOR  
47 Pages Lane  
Thomasville, GA 31792  
LINDA LOUISE WEEKS,  
CO-EXECUTRIX  
20 Park Place, Apt. 1  
Lenox, GA 31637  
LISA P. GREENE  
RESIDENT PROCESS AGENT  
P. O. Box 1467  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
Williamson, Walton & Scott, L.L.P.  
Attorneys at Law  
P. O. Box 1467  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2016

**Public Notice  
Sale of County Property**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

The Columbus County Board of Commissioners, at its meeting on April 4, 2016, authorized the sale of certain County owned real property by the Unset Bid Process.

An offer of \$1,500.00 has been submitted for the purchase of certain property owned by the County of Columbus, more particularly described as follows:  
That certain lot or parcel of land situated in the Chadbourr Township, Columbus County, State of North Carolina and more particularly described as follows:

Lying and being in Chadbourr Township and being bounded now or formerly on the North and West by other lands held by UCB as Trustee for the Mary B. Burney Trust on the East by S.R. 1580 and on the South by a 60 foot wide street and being more particularly described as follows:  
Beginning at an iron stake, said stake being located in the Southeastern corner of the lands hereinafter described and said stake being located in the Western margin of S.R. 1580 and in Northern margin of the 60 foot wide street, said beginning stake being located North 30 degrees 29 minutes West 70.75 feet from an old iron stake located in the Southern margin of the 60 foot wide street, which iron stake is located in the Northern line of those properties conveyed to Arthur J. McAllister, which is recorded in Deed Book 363, page 125, Columbus County Registry; and runs thence from the beginning stake and with the Northern margin of the 60 foot wide street, North 88 degrees 29 minutes West 260.71 feet to an iron stake; and runs thence North 09 degrees 30 minutes West 160.80 feet to an iron stake; and runs thence South 88 degrees 29 minutes East 291.25 feet to an iron stake located in the Western margin in the right-of-way of S.R. 1580 South 01 degrees 27 minutes West 157.84 feet to an iron stake, the point beginning and containing 1.00 acres, more or less.

The above description was taken from a map made from an actual survey by Soles and Walker, R.L.S. which map is dated April 3, 1989 and is made for John David Mason and is hereby incorporated by reference for more particularity of description. And being that tract conveyed by deed recorded in Book 401, Page 974, Columbus County Registry.  
This property is located at 31 Lady Thompson Road, Chadbourr, NC. Persons wishing to upset the offer that has been received shall submit a sealed bid with their offer to the office of the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472 by 5:00 p.m., April 22, 2016. At that time the Clerk to the Board shall open the bids, if any, and the highest qualifying bid will become the new offer. If there is more than one bid in the highest amount, the first such bid received will become the new offer.

A qualifying higher bid is one that raises the existing offer by not less than ten percent (10%) of the first \$1,000.00 of that offer and five percent (5%) of the remainder of that offer.  
A qualifying higher bid must be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid; the deposit may be made in cash, cashier's check, or certified check. The County will return the deposit on any bid not accepted, and will return the deposit on an offer subject to upset if a qualifying higher bid is received. The County will return the deposit of the final high bidder at closing.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

The buyer must pay cash, certified check or cashier's check at closing. The Board of Commissioners must approve the final high offer before the sale is closed, which it will do within 30 days after the final upset bid period has passed. The County reserves the right to withdraw the property from sale at any time before the final high bid is accepted and the right to reject at any time all bids.

This the 11th day of April, 2016  
MICHAEL H. STEPHENS  
Columbus County Attorney  
111 Washington Street  
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472  
Telephone: (910) 642-5645  
April 11, 2016

**Advertisement for Sealed Bids  
Sale of Property  
424 North Brown Street  
Chadbourr, NC 28431**

TOWN OF CHADBOURN  
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
The Town Council of Chadbourr, NC has authorized the sale by sealed bid of the following parcel of real property:

424 North Brown Street  
Chadbourr, NC 28431  
TRACT ONE: Being all of Lot Number One (1) as set forth on a plat of survey for Lennon Oil Company dated August 6, 1980, prepared by Lloyd R. Walker, Registered Land Surveyor, which plat is recorded in Plat Book 29, Page 46, Columbus County Registry, and is hereby incorporated by reference for further particularity of description. See Deed recorded in Book 379, Page 804, Columbus County Registry.

Being the same property conveyed by John Frank Carter and wife, Betty S. Carter, to John M. Lennon, by Deed dated August 13, 1980, recorded in Book 325, Page 691, Columbus County Registry.

Also being the same property conveyed by John M. Lennon and wife, Judith S. Lennon, to Lennon Family Limited Partnership, by Deed dated July 22, 1998, recorded in Book 567, Page 877, Columbus County Registry. Together with an easement as described in Tract One in Book 567, Page 879, Columbus County Registry, and described in Book 325, Page 691, Columbus County Registry.

TRACT TWO: Being all of Lot Number Three (3) as set forth on a plat

of survey for Lennon Oil Company dated August 6, 1980, prepared by Lloyd R. Walker, Registered Land Surveyor, which plat is recorded in Plat Book 29, Page 46, Columbus County Registry, and is hereby incorporated by reference for further particularity of description. See Deed recorded in Book 379, Page 804, Columbus County Registry.

For chain of title, reference is made to "Tract Two" in that certain deed from John M. Lennon and wife; Judith S. Lennon, to Lennon Family Limited Partnership, dated July 22, 1998, recorded in Book 567, Page 877, Columbus County Registry, and also to Deed from Terry R. McCall and wife, Jody B. McCall, dated December 10, 2010, recorded in Book 999, Page 567, Columbus County Registry. The Town will accept sealed bids for the property until 5:00 PM, on the 9th day of June, 2016 at the office of the town attorney, Harold G. Pope, 706 N Madison Street. At 4:00 PM on the 10th day of June, 2016 all bids received shall be opened in public and the amount of each bid announced and recorded. The record of bids shall be reported to the council at their regular meeting on the 5th day of July, 2016.

The council will determine the highest responsible bidder for the property and will award the bid by its regular meeting on the 5th day of July, 2016. Bids will remain open and subject to acceptance until the council awards the bid.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bid deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid. A bid deposit may take the form of cash, a cashier's check, a certified check, or a surety bond. The deposit of the bidder to whom the award is made will be held until sale of the property is closed; if that bidder refuses at any time to close the sale, the deposit will be forfeited to the county. The deposits of other bidders will be returned at the time the Town Council awards the property to the highest responsible bidder.

In order for a bid to be considered, the bidder must be current on payment of all property taxes owed to the town. The town reserves the right to withdraw the property from sale at any time and the right to reject all bids. Inquires about the property and the sale may be made to Bob Jones, Town Manager at Chadbourr Town Hall, 602 N Brown Street, Chadbourr, NC 28431.

April 11, 18, 2016

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