

EVERY SQUARE MILE OF COLUMBUS COUNTY

954 MAG

Fall & Winter 2021

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Yamming
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Facing Flames





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Dr. Eric Breitbart, a sports medicine physician, sees a wide range of patients who are current or former athletes, ranging from youth sports players to weekend warriors. He completed a sports medicine fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. His fellowship also included training in pediatric sports medicine through the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. He has trained in the operative treatment of musculoskeletal problems such as acute and overuse injuries. Dr. Breitbart oversees the athletic training partnership with the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Dr. Jordan Glaser is an orthopedic spine surgeon, certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS). He completed a fellowship in spine surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in Manhattan, New York. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), a member of the North American Spine Society (NASS), and the Society for Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery (SMISS). He has authored multiple

textbook chapters on spine surgery and has contributed to published spine surgical research during his career.

Dr. Michael Maggitti is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon who specializes in hip and knee replacement surgery, as well as arthroscopy of the knee and shoulder. He is a Fellow of both the American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons and the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons. The ability to improve the quality of life for his patients compelled him to pursue a career in the innovative field of joint replacement surgery. His passion to find solutions to challenging surgeries led him to publish a chapter on robotic knee surgery in a textbook.

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Dr. Eric Breitbart



Dr. Jordan Glaser



Dr. Michael Maggitti



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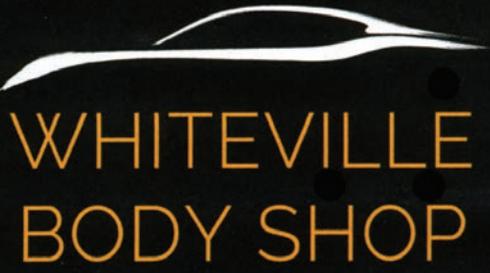
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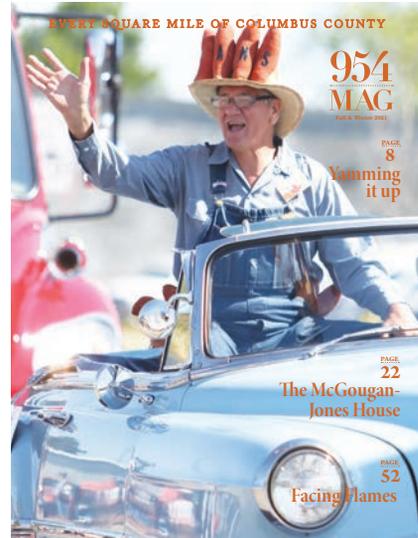
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Tiger Tater has fans of all ages.

YAMMING IT UP

Tiger Tater reflects on nearly two decades as N.C. Yam Festival Mascot

STORY THOMAS SHERRILL

PHOTOS GRANT MERRITT

As the North Carolina Yam Festival returned to mostly in-person activities this year in Tabor City, longtime festival attendees were on the lookout for one person more than most.

This man, often seen in overalls, was wearing a brimmed hat with four yams attached to the front, each with a letter on it, spelling out YAMS.

For Green Sea's Curtis "Tiger Tater" Lovette, that outfit isn't just something to wear walking down the streets. It's an identity.

"I am Tabor City when I'm in that uniform," the 61-year-old Lovette said in September, just after the 2021 Yam Festival was confirmed to be happening.

"Whether it was Yam Festival, the [Tabor City] Chamber of Commerce or on behalf of merchants, I am Tabor City, I am Tiger Tater, to everyone within 30 minutes [of Tabor City]."

"Tiger Tater" has been the mascot of the Yam Festival since 2004 after a suggestion by one of the festival's queens.

Ever since then, he travels around to spread the word far and



Tabor City chamber president Marylou Molina presents 2021 Volunteer of the Year award to Curtis "Tiger" Lovette.

Photo by Deuce Niven, Tabor-Loris Tribune

young and old.

"The time the kids see me, they come running and grab my leg," Lovette said.

wide of the festival.

"I go to at least 18 different festivals throughout the year to promote ours," Lovette said. "I go see all the vendors, get more vendors to come to our festival, talk to people in passing, giving them a card."

Even when Lovette isn't in his Tiger Tater uniform, he still gets recognized outside of the region. "I've been in Cherokee and people recognize me," Lovette said.

The week of the festival this year, which was Oct. 18–23, Tiger Tater had a full slate of events to support.

Duties include being a judge for outside business and residential decorations, photos with the Yam Festival queens and their mommas, attending the Taste of Tabor fundraiser and more.

"I'm just the life of the party the whole week," Lovette said.

Tiger Tater is a magnet of attention for those



Tiger Tater is a pro at taking selfies with his fans, and he attends over 18 festivals a year to promote the Yam Festival.

In his 18 years as Tiger Tater, there have been a number of memorable moments, but one in particular stands out to him.

“It was about 10 years in. I was going along and talking to the people during the parade. As I went by the visitors’ center, a lady blew the horn and pointed to a car with an older lady with her feet out,” Tiger explained. “She put her hands on my face

and said, “Tiger, I’m going to tell you something. I had cataracts and couldn’t see your face for years.” Lovette explained that the woman had recently undergone corrective surgery and could now see clearly. And she could finally see Tiger Tater’s face.

“This lady wanted to see me. That stuck with me so much,” Lovette said.



Tiger Tater and Mayor Royce Harper with the 2021 Yam Festival Queen’s court.

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When not being Tiger Tater, Lovette enjoys hunting, fishing and working on his farm, plus has a 10th grandchild on the way.

Despite being disabled from working full time due to an accident that required a spinal implant, Lovette answers the call when there's a need for volunteers.

"Whether it's painting or putting up shelves or putting up wreaths, I reckon I'm just a helpful feller," Lovette said, saying that during the annual Thanksgiving turkey shoot, he passes out turkeys to the elderly in the neighborhood.

Lovette served from 1980-1999 in the U.S. Marine Corps until he was medically discharged.

"I don't like to say I'm a retired Marine," Lovette said.

Lovette's work has been noticed and honored. In August, the Tabor City Chamber of Commerce honored Lovette as its volunteer of the year.

"I would like to thank the town of Tabor City and Columbus County for allowing me to do this for so many years," Lovette said of his time as Tiger Tater.

Another honor came the week of the 2021 N.C. Yam Festival, as he was named the first winner of the Juanita Cook "Miss Puddin' 'N Pie" Spirit Award.

While mum on his plans for the future, Lovette's joy for the Yam Festival remains as strong as ever.

"Everybody's so excited, all the stores, the merchants are so excited, the mayor told me we're so excited," Tater said in September after the 2021 edition of the festival got the green light. "It'll be a blessing to see everybody. I usually go on the Friday before the Saturday (events) and give out stuff at the school. I'll see them Saturday, they'll be hollering and waving."



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Donna Spivey stands prepared to join other performers at the regular Saturday night jam sessions held at the music store in Chadbourn.

DONNA SPIVEY

In the middle of it all

STORY BILL THOMPSON

PHOTOS GRANT MERRITT

When you walk into Donna's Fine Instruments Plus in Chadbourn, you are immediately surrounded by electric and acoustic guitars, banjos, violins, mandolins, and accordions. There are records, too. You remember — those circular vinyl discs that we used to play on “record players?” There are amplifying instruments and amplified instruments together with acoustical instruments of all kinds.

And two rooms full of photographs, some signed by music legends like Bill Monroe and Ralph Stanley, along with a plethora of photos of musicians a little less well known. And in the middle of it all is Donna Spivey.

Some bluegrass music fans know Spivey as “The Hickory Hill Songbird” for her many years singing with her band, Hickory Hill Bluegrass. She is still singing just like she did when she had the band and just like she did when she was 7 years old singing with her father's gospel group on WTAB in Tabor City, singing because she loves it. And she's good at it. Like every professional, she gets better the more she plays, and, in her case, that's often.

Music has always been a part of Spivey's life, but it wasn't until 2009 that she got into the sale of musical instruments. For nearly 60 years, Mr. A.R. Carter had operated a music store in Chadbourn. He died in 2005, and four years later Spivey made an offer to buy the business from his wife, Mrs. Sarah Carter. Her response to Spivey's offer was, “He would want you to have it.” In just four months the purchase was completed, the store was paid for and Spivey had taken another step into the music business.

Going into the retail business didn't take Spivey out of performing.



(Above) Mandolins await purchase at the Chadbourn store. (Right) One of many guitars in stock at Donna's Fine Instruments Plus.





Some of the many cd's that Donna has recorded and made available.

She continues to play at music festivals and conventions and a wide variety of venues around the country. But her favorite performances might be right there in the store in Chadbourne. In addition to the regular Friday night "open mic" sessions in the store, she noted that, "Sometimes people will be driving through Chadbourne on the way to the beach and see the store and stop in just to see what and who we are. I always greet my customers, and in the course of conversation, I usually ask them if they play an instrument, and if they do, I ask if they would like to play one of my instruments. We have a lot of spontaneous jam sessions right here in the store. And those folks come back again and again. I have made a lot of friends from those jam sessions with folks just passing through."

If you ask Spivey what she enjoys most about playing music, particularly bluegrass, she'll tell you, "It just gets my blood to flowing. It's a feeling that I can't explain. I'm sure other people have similar feelings about music, but everybody is different and every experience I have playing with other people adds to my enjoyment. I love everybody and particularly people who share my passion for music."

Like so many country/bluegrass performers, Spivey has spent time in Nashville. She has played in a wide variety of venues in the Capital of Country Music and all around the country: small cafes, large auditoriums, and a lot of recording studios. Many of the hours in the studio were spent recording songs she wrote. She has published over 14 songs that she wrote for other performers. "I write the music and somebody else writes the lyrics," she said. The result is always the classic sound of acoustic instruments that echo the tradition of country and bluegrass. "There is a nostalgia to my music that takes people back to a sound and time that they remember as being good," she explained.

Some music critics have noted a decline in the popularity of bluegrass music over the years, but many of today's commentators see a resurgence of the



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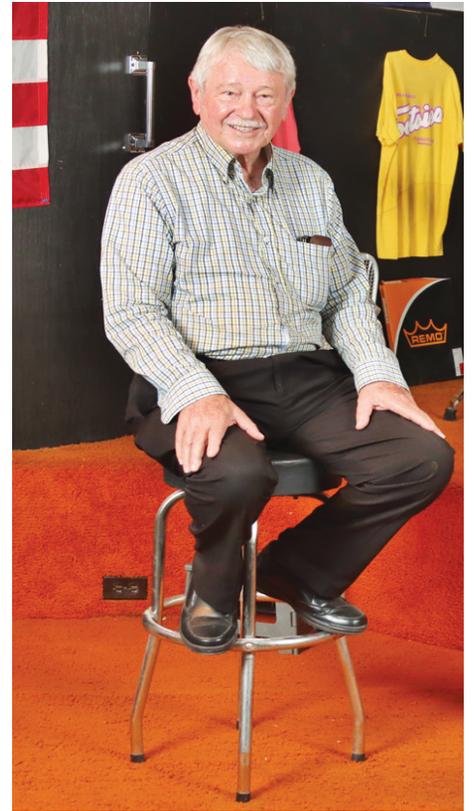
DONNA SPIVEY



A bass awaiting a musician to bring it to life

old genre as sales of the music have been increasing recently. Spivey thinks, "People want a break from the bad news and all the negative stuff around us. Bluegrass lifts us up." Part of the reason may be that folks like her friend Kim White up in Marion, Virginia, have brought bluegrass to the public notice with television programs like "Song of the Mountains" on public television every Saturday night. "The more people hear it, the more people like it," Spivey explained.

Her favorite events to play are the many music festivals held around the country. "That's where I meet a lot of people who share a love for my kind of music," she said. The informal sessions with fellow musicians occur backstage or even in the shade of the trees surrounding the stage at the festivals. "It's fun, always has been, always will be," she explained with a laugh. "There's a fraternity of musicians that appreciates and perpetuates bluegrass. We've got the famous like Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs, along with the more recent stars like Doyle Lawson and Rhonda Vincent. But some of the most important players in my life have been not so famous but just as good or better at playing. My great-granddaddy, Devon Ludlum, down at Old Dock was one of my early inspirations, and my daddy, J.C. Lewis, and Slim Mims and so many others from right around here have taught me a lot over the years."



Samuel Hughes helps Spivey manage the music jam sessions and concessions.

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Although Spivey doesn't have a band right now, she still performs all over the country. As she was being interviewed for this story she was preparing to go to Carthage, N.C., to perform. "Musicians are always looking for a place to play. Even if I don't have my own band, I just make a few phone calls and we can put a band together."

The world is full of music; it's the universal

language. Wherever bluegrass is being played, Donna Spivey will be the interpreter right there in the middle of it all.

For more information about musical instruments, instrument repair work, guitar lessons and jam sessions at Donna's Fine Instruments Plus, give Spivey a call at 910-840-2122.



Donna Spivey stands outside her store in Chadbourn, where she not only demonstrates her instruments but invites visitors to join her.

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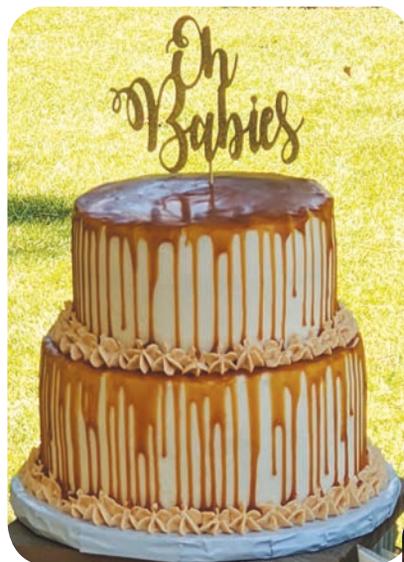
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Chef Sarah Gore's favorite recipes are influenced by Southern and Low-country cooking. She is available to cater corporate parties and weddings, and her favorite events are family affairs in her customers' homes. Fruit pies, key lime cheesecake and honey and vanilla panna cotta with mixed berry coulis are just a few sweet treats on her dessert menu. Give Chef Gore a call to plan your next special occasion.



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The Creamery at Daddy Joe's is open this winter on Saturdays and Sundays with longer hours the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Check Instagram & Facebook for up-to-date business hours. Customer favorites include The Tackle Box with six scoops of ice cream and all the fixings and frappes made with homemade ice cream and locally roasted coffee. Gift items include hats, stickers, T-shirts, ice cream pies and ice cream packed to go.



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THREE LAWMAKERS HAVE LIVED IN TABOR CITY HOME

STORY DIANA MATTHEWS

PHOTOS GRANT MERRITT, DIANA MATTHEWS,
RICHARD WRIGHT, LINDA BELTZ & JONES FAMILY

When Angela and Brenden Jones moved into their house at 607 Hickman Rd. in Tabor City in 2001, they took ownership of more than just the home's approximately 3,900 square feet of wood, plaster and brick. They accepted responsibility for a local landmark.

"Everybody says it's the oldest house in town," Angela Jones said. People still know it as the McGougan home after the family who built it and lived in it for almost a century.

She and her husband have cultivated relationships with McGougan descendants, who have passed along family stories along with many pieces of memorabilia. Thinking of the births, deaths, weddings and funerals that have happened in the home makes Angela Jones "very cautious" about making any changes to the house, she said. "I'm very particular about not changing the structure."

Duncan Frank McGougan Sr. and Dula Allsbrook McGougan brought up 10 children in the house. The family has included prominent achievers in banking, education and architecture, said Richard Wright, local attorney and historian.

Along the way, both D.F. McGougan Sr. and D.F. McGougan Jr. served in North Carolina's General Assembly. That means Brenden Jones is the third state legislator to live in the house.

A family's heritage

The McGougan house still has five of its seven original fireplaces. It has twin parlors across the downstairs hallway from each other. "The one we use as a den has a different style of wood in the floor," Brenden Jones said. About 18 years ago a member of the McGougan family explained to Jones that the current den had once been the formal parlor, which was the reason for the different wood and a different style of fireplace.

The last member of the original family to live in the house was Anne Brooks McGougan, who was a teacher and principal for 47 years.

"She was Brenden's second-grade teacher," Angela Jones said.

Anne Brooks McGougan was also active in her church, the chamber of commerce, the Columbus County Arts Council, and organizations supporting mental health and public libraries.

One of the late teacher's sisters, Lula McGougan Mallard, was still living next door when the Joneses moved in, and Angela Jones said that "Ms. Lula" became "like another grandmother" to the young family until she died in 2011 at the age of 102.

"I got really close to Ms. Lula," Jones said. "When our girls were little, she'd tell us stories of everything that took place in each room of the house, stories of when she was a little girl." One of those stories was of a fire that started in the attic. "Ms. Lula remembered her daddy pouring water down the chimney to put it out," Jones said. "You can still see the charred wood."



(Left to right) Angela, Ella, Savannah-Grace and Brenden Jones



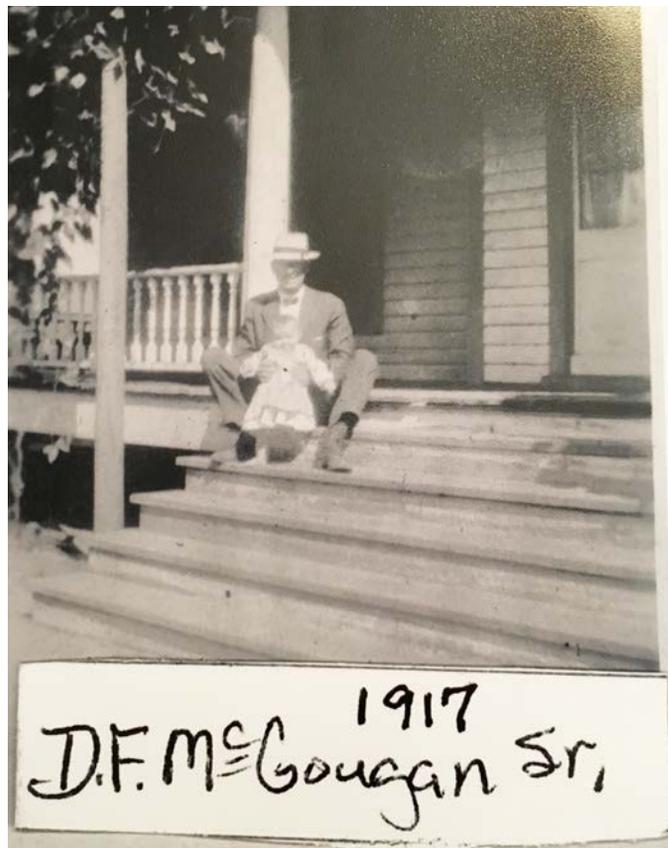
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D. F. McGougan Sr. holding his daughter Anne Brooks McGougan on the front porch of the family home.

Linda Loudon Beltz is a granddaughter of D.F. and Dula McGougan. Her mother was Mary Louise McGougan Loudon, who was born in 1919 and died in 2005.

Beltz called her grandparents' house "a marvelous home" and said, "I wish the walls could talk." When Beltz was young, there would be 20–22 grandchildren and great-grandchildren at family Thanksgiving or Christmas gatherings. "I treasure the home," she said. "It was built with hard work and love."

A tie to the past

Brenden Jones is in his third term in the N.C. House, where he serves as deputy majority leader. He represents District 46, which includes portions of Columbus and Robeson counties.

His predecessor in both the Hickman Road house and in the N.C. House, Douglas Frank McGougan Sr., was born near Cerro Gordo in 1875 and worked in Green Sea, S.C., before moving back to Columbus County. He was in the grocery business and served several terms as a county commissioner before being elected to the N.C. House in 1931. He became Tabor City's postmaster in 1935.

The McGougans farmed tobacco and grew enough corn for their own livestock, Richard Wright said, on land that is now residential property. Wright remembers the family's traditional Southern farmhouse being a gathering place for local social events during the 1960s when he began his law career.

"I've been in [the McGougan house] many, many times," Wright said. "It's a most handsome house."

The Joneses have continued the tradition of welcoming the community to the house, hosting the Yam Festival's Taste of Tabor event twice since moving in.



(Left) Mary Louise McGougan at age 19 (daughter of D.F. and Dula McGougan) with her dog in the McGougan yard in 1938. (Right) Anne Brooks McGougan at age 27 in 1944. She was the daughter of D.F. and Dula McGougan and was the last McGougan to live in the home. She was a teacher and principal in Tabor City and taught Brenden Jones in second grade.



Three generations of McGougans featured in the Tabor City - Loris Tribune in 2002 with new homeowners Brenden and Angela Jones on the front porch of the McGougan home. Left to right, Brenden and Angela Jones, Lula McGougan Mallard, Mary Louise Louden, Anne Mallard Sanders, Linda Beltz, George Louden, Don Hanes. (Back row) Scott Beltz, Marie Hanes, Leah Beltz and a family friend. (Right) Joseph Ross McGougan, Anne Brooks McGougan and Edgar Lee McGougan stand on the front walk leading to the McGougan front porch. In the cart are Mary Louise McGougan (left) and Duncan Frank McGougan Jr. (Circa 1922)



Brenden Jones enters his second term in the House as deputy majority leader in January 2019.



D.F. McGougan Sr. in the yard of the McGougan-Jones home. He was the original owner of the home and was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1931.



After being appointed in 1963 to fill the unexpired N.C. Senate term of Carl Meares, D.F. McGougan Jr. took his oath in the upstairs judges' chambers of the Columbus County Courthouse. His brother-in-law and former law partner, Judge Raymond Mallard, administered the oath.



Richard Wright, law partner to Raymond Mallard and D.F. McGougan Jr., served seven consecutive two-year terms in the N.C. House from 1974–1988. Above, he describes his collection of North Carolina and Tabor City historical materials.

Maintaining a landmark is a big responsibility, they say. Just repainting the exterior “took 121 gallons of paint and primer and 25 cases of caulking,” Brenden Jones said. “The old wood soaked [the paint] up. We bought three Sherwin-Williams stores completely out of white,” Jones said. “And we bought every brush and roller W.F. Thompson had in stock for weeks.”

In the process of repairs to the foyer, they found “amazing things” in the wall spaces, including small medicine bottles from Harrelson Pharmacy that appeared to date to the 1920s, they said.

Brenden Jones described finding quarter-inch-thick splints of wood used for smearing plaster. “You could see the horsehair in the plaster,” he said. The wood splints had been shipped in by railroad and had “D.F. McGougan, Mount Tabor, N.C.” stamped on them, Jones said.

Angela Jones treasures the photos, written material and memories of an earlier day. That’s why, although the house’s bathrooms and closets are far from modern, she said, “I want to keep the integrity of the history of it. Someday I’d like to get it on the [National Register of Historic Places.]”

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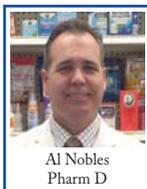
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This photo was taken in the McGougan-Jones home in 1988. (Left to right) Esther McGougan Hughes, Martha McGougan Nesmith, Lula McGougan Mallard, Mary Louise McGougan Louden and Anne Brooks McGougan.

Photo courtesy of Linda Beltz, daughter of Mary Louise McGougan Louden.

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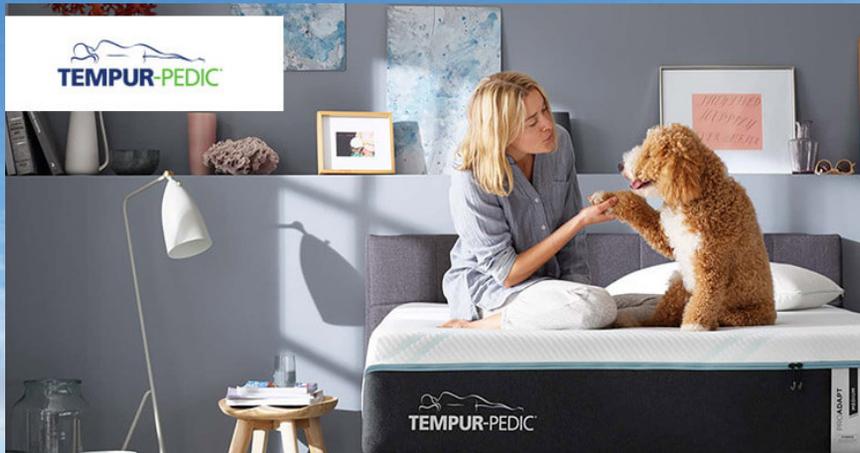
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A history of public service

Duncan Frank and Dula McGougan began building their house in 1912 and moved into it June 12, 1913, according to “Lest We Forget,” the family history written by daughters Lula McGougan Mallard and Anne Brooks McGougan. Today the address is 607 Hickman Rd., but there was no road in front of the house 108 years ago. According to the family account, “In October 1932, there was not a single hard surface road out of Tabor in any direction. The road to Whiteville was the first one paved, and it was not paved until 1933.”

Businessman D.F. McGougan, a native of the Cerro Gordo area, was among the founders and first officers of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Tabor before it became part of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company in the 1930s.

Both McGougans taught Sunday school and held other volunteer positions at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church. D.F. McGougan was also a Mason and a member of Tabor Lodge #563. He was a member of the Tabor School Board from 1914–1927.

McGougan also won election to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners for the first time in 1914; he was chair of the board for at least four of the terms he served. In 1931 he was elected to the N.C. House of Representatives from Columbus County. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him postmaster at Tabor City, and he held the position until he retired in 1947. He died Oct. 15, 1949.

The May 4, 1950, issue of the Tabor City Tribune recognized Dula McGougan as “Woman of the week,” calling her “a faithful, conscientious Christian mother that has always put first things first, rearing a lovely family of ten children who are now influential citizens of our community. She has always sacrificed for the betterment of humanity, lending a helping hand to any move that would make our town a better place to live in.” She died Dec. 11, 1970.

D.F. McGougan Jr. was born Sept. 28, 1921, and was the second state legislator to live in the house at 607 Hickman Rd. He graduated from Tabor City High School and attended Wake Forest College, leaving to serve as a pilot in the U.S. Navy from 1943–1947. Upon his discharge as a lieutenant junior grade, he completed his bachelor’s degree and then law school.

McGougan Jr. joined the law firm Raymond B. Mallard had founded in 1932 in Tabor City. Their practice became the predecessor of both today’s McGougan Law Firm and Wright, Worley, Pope, Ekster and Moss.

Besides being law partners, McGougan Jr. and Mallard were next-door neighbors and brothers-in-law as Mallard had married Lula McGougan. Mallard also won a seat in the General Assembly in 1939. After serving in the infantry during the second world war, he

returned to his practice and eventually to a distinguished career as a judge, local historian Richard Wright said, advancing from Superior Court judge to Chief Judge of the N.C. Court of Appeals. Wright said Mallard was known for his courtroom strictness and fairness.

McGougan Jr. was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Carl Meares in the N.C. Senate in 1963.

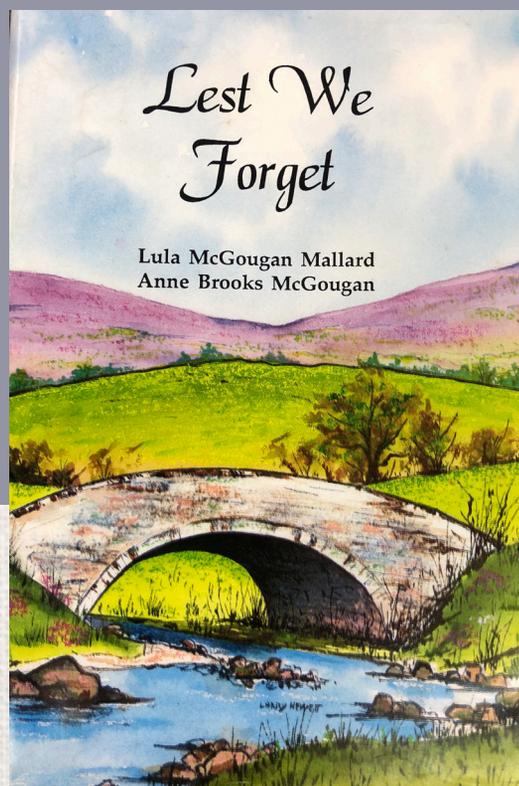
McGougan Jr. invited Wright to join the firm on a part-time basis in 1967 before beginning law school at Wake Forest. Wright said that in those days Tabor City was still “booming” as it had done since the 1930s. It was a magnet for commerce for surrounding counties; he recalled that the town had five car dealerships when he began to practice.

In 1970, Wright went to the McGougan house to pay his respects when his partner’s mother, Dula McGougan, died. Friends and neighbors brought “banana pudding and fried chicken,” signed the register and gave their condolences to Frank McGougan Jr. and his siblings, Wright said.

Wright described the McGougan family on that occasion as “gracious,” just as he said they always had been when hosting church and civic events, holiday gatherings or “massive” Sunday afternoon dinners of 40 or more extended family members.

The home was the site of many a family wedding, with the bride and groom saying their vows on the porch and the guests watching from the yard between the house and Hickman Road, followed by refreshments indoors, Wright said.

The large McGougan family was “always gracious and friendly,” Wright said, and “loved to have company.” He said they had “no pretensions and no airs,” and told stories well.



The McGougan family history is recorded in the book “Lest We Forget” written by sisters Lula McGougan Mallard and Anne Brooks McGougan.

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WHEN THE SPIRIT MOVED THEM

STORY BILL THOMPSON
PHOTOS GRANT MERRITT & NR ARCHIVE

There is a silence that has settled over and around the old St. James A.M.E. Church on W. Walter Street in Whiteville. Even the noise of the traffic passing over nearby US 701 Bypass (JK Powell Boulevard) seems muted. Maybe it's because W. Walter Street turns into a walkway tunnel that goes under the highway, cutting out any through traffic. Or maybe the weeds that have grown high in the former parking lot muffle the sound. On a hot early fall day, even the crickets aren't stirring.

But there is still a feeling of connection here, a spirit still lingering after the human element has left. It's only an ephemeral spirit; it won't be here much longer. Soon, even the vestiges of the former place of worship will be torn down and paved over as the broad highway is further widened to accommodate increasing traffic.

But some things you can't tear down and haul away. There are memories here, not just recollections of past events, but

memories that formed so much of the lives of the people who worshiped here. For many, this was a place of solace, a place to come to get away from the trials and hardships of life, a respite from the challenges that faced a people used to challenges, used to working hard for very little, for standing up when it was easier to fall. But most importantly, it was a place where they could rise up again, face another challenge, because their faith was bigger than their circumstances, a faith that brought them unity when the world around them was coming apart. They, the people of St. James A.M.E. Church, were united, one congregation facing it all together with God leading the way. Oh, yeah. It is more than a building.

The predecessor of the current building was just a few yards south, closer to the swamp. It was on land purchased in 1907. The first building, "the Little Tabernacle," was built in 1915 and served as the center of worship until the pres-

ent building was completed in 1944. Regular maintenance kept the building in good shape despite storms and the other ravages of time, and other buildings were added, including a parsonage.

It is the practice of the district conference to change pastors periodically. Over the last century, there have been several pastors to serve the congregation as the membership increased to a high in the 1950s of over 275. In that time the windows of the building became a distinctive feature. Sunshine pouring through the stained-glass windows lights up the walls. The windows are more than decorative; they are memorials to families that have made up the congregation, believers who made up the church. After all, a building is not the church; those who come and worship together make up the church.

Ella Scarborough is one of those people. She has been an integral part of the church, serving as church secretary since she was just 19 years old. She has chronicled the comings and goings of pastors, kept records of meetings and served as the unofficial



(Top & Bottom) St. James A.M.E. Church stood on this site on Walter Street for nearly a century and provided a place for worship for hundreds over the years.

historian. “The church was a big part of many lives,” she said. “We met every Sunday morning and every Sunday night and again on Wednesday nights. We had Bible school in the summer, and the place was filled with children. Some of those children are now elders and deacons.”

St. James A.M.E. Church pastor Rev. Dr. Duana Bertram has only been at the church three years but she has a great appreciation for the history of the congregation and great hope for the future. She said, “When I came, we were at The Dream Center, and were concerned about where we were going. But, although they were displaced, they still loved the Lord and he showed us a way. They persevered in their faith as if nothing had happened and God answered their prayers. God has been good to them, and He will prevail.”

The church is a living thing. In this building people have gotten married, baptized their children and held their funerals. The first child to be baptized in the St. James Church was Edward “Willie” Teachey, now one of the old-



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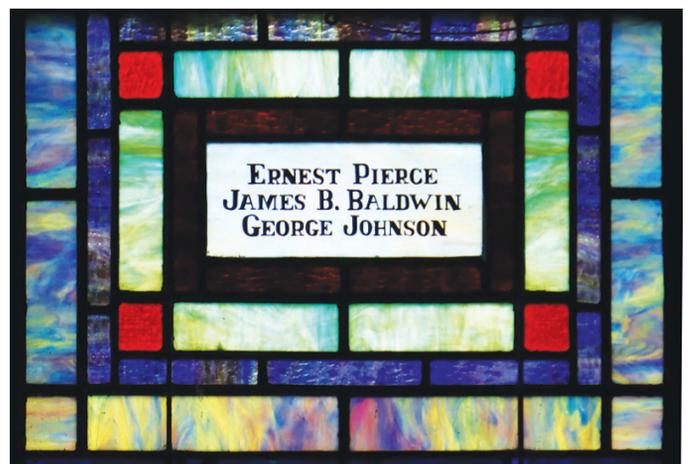
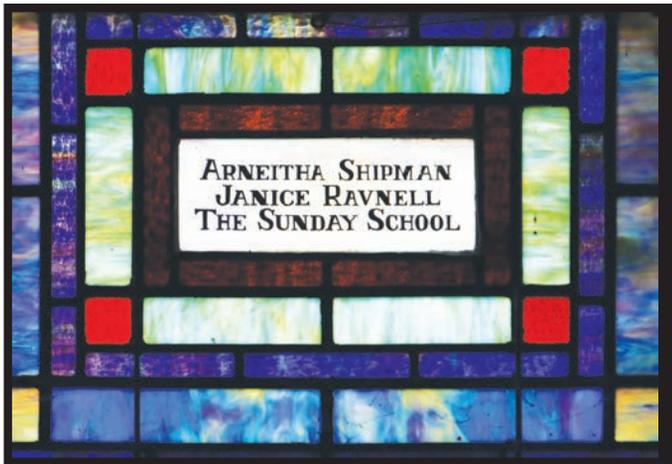
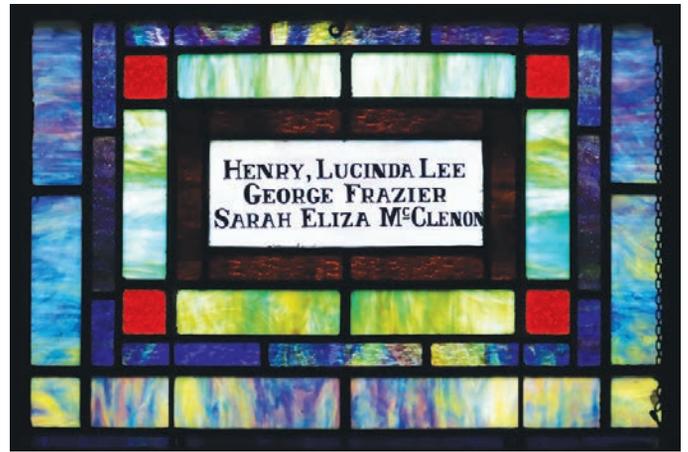
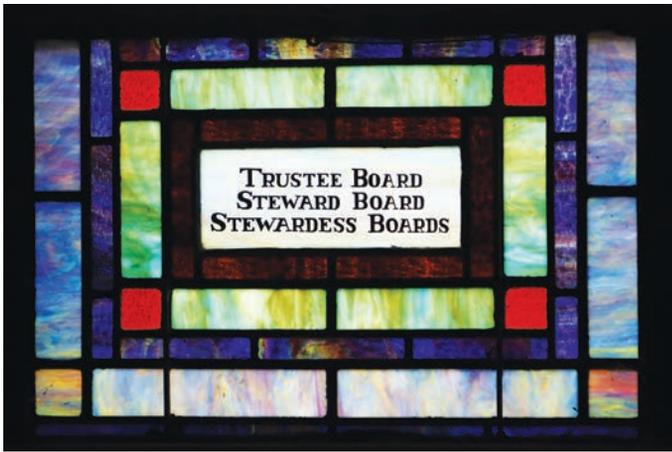


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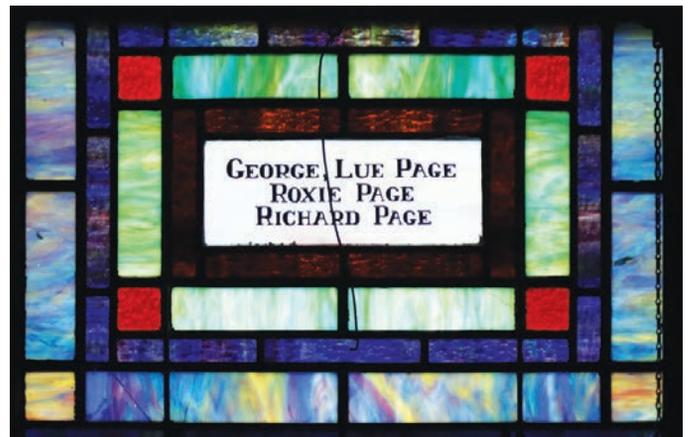
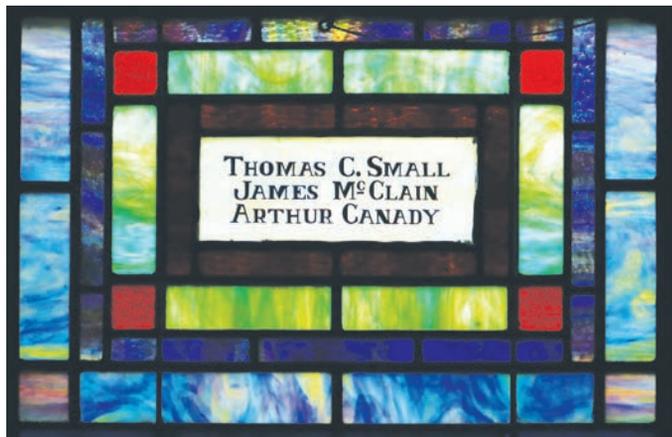
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est members and a trustee for many years. When asked what was his fondest memory of his time at the church, he said, “Ms. Janie McLean. She was the one I really looked up to when I was growing up here. She was my anchor. She always had a kind word. In many ways, she was my protector, the one I could always depend on when I was in trouble. Miss Janie was a dominant figure and extremely independent. We had two amen corners, one for men and one for women. Miss Janie chose to sit with the men. She didn’t take a back seat to anybody.”

Teachey and the other trustees did most of the maintenance work, including cleaning up and rebuilding after storms. When Hurricane Matthew, then Hurricane Florence, flooded the building, church

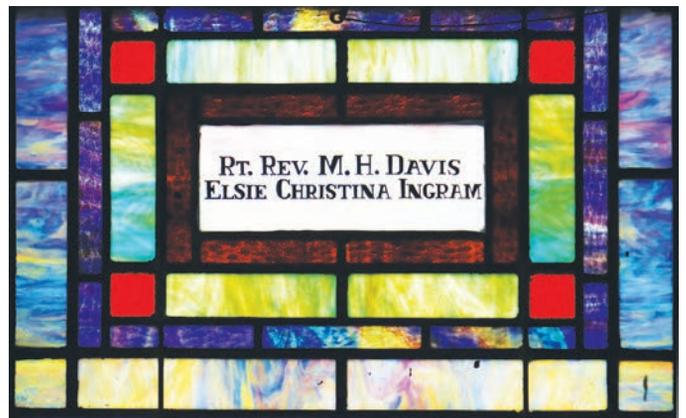
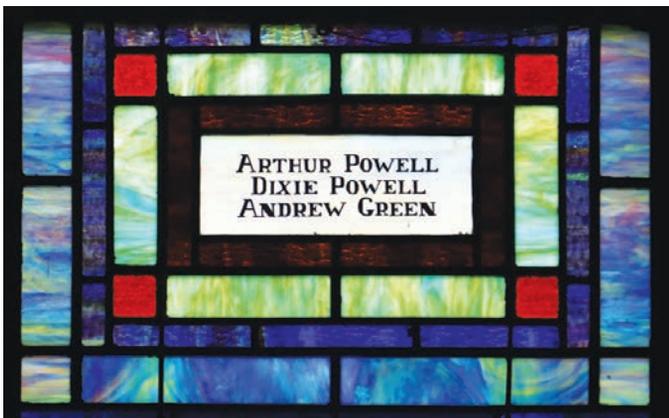
members pulled up wet carpet and cleaned moldy walls and did everything they could to “keep the doors open,” Teachey said. But when the North Carolina Department of Transportation saw the need to widen the bypass, that meant the old church would have to go. The solid concrete and block building couldn’t be moved, so the DOT purchased the building but allowed the congregation to remove whatever they could from the structure. Before they could move everything to the new church on Williamson Street, vandals stole the huge cross, the symbol of the Christian faith, from its place at the front of the sanctuary. They also stole the communion table. But they couldn’t steal the spirit. That spirit moved with the congregation; that spirit that had stood them in good stead for over a century can’t be



The church chose to honor the families who had played a major role in the church by placing their names in the stained glass windows of the sanctuary.



(Left to right) Joseph Gaskins, Ella Scarborough and Willie Teachey gather at the old church on W. Walter Street for photos for this story even as renovations begin at the new church on Williamson Street.





This structure on Williamson Street waits for the remodeling process to continue the ministry of the St. James AME Church.

stolen. It is an essential part of St. James A.M.E. Church, a spirit that has brought them through the trials and tribulations of life, a spirit far greater than any storm or building demolition.

It is still God's church, still a strong people who see the light even in the darkest places. Both Ella Scarborough and Willie Teachey believe the decision to expand the highway was a blessing in disguise. The

cost of returning the building to its former glory was more than the small congregation could afford. The purchase by the state gave them the funds to relocate on Williamson Street.

Some folks say they can almost hear the voices of the old members like Ms. Janie McLean as they look down on the move saying, "The Lord will provide." And so He will.

SAVE THE WINDOWS PROJECT

The St. James A.M.E. Church congregation would like to remove and reuse as many sections of the stained glass windows as possible. They have established a committee to steer the project, led by longtime member Ella Scarborough.

NCDOT has given the congregation permission for "retrieving, documenting and archiving any item of historical or functional significance" before the structure is torn down.

According to consultant Michael Strickland of Stained Glass Associates of Knightdale, N.C., the 10 memorial "vents" that honor members and church groups are framed and can each be removed in one piece and moved to the new sanctuary. The 10 larger decorative sections and 14 upper stained glass transoms were installed directly into the window openings and will be difficult to remove and re-locate. If all windows can be saved, the estimated total project cost will be \$8,000.

If you would like to make a contribution to help fund the removal and use of the windows at the new sanctuary, write a check to St. James AME Church with subject line "Stained Glass Window Removal Project," and mail to St. James A.M.E. Church, P.O. Box 663, Whiteville, N.C. 28472.

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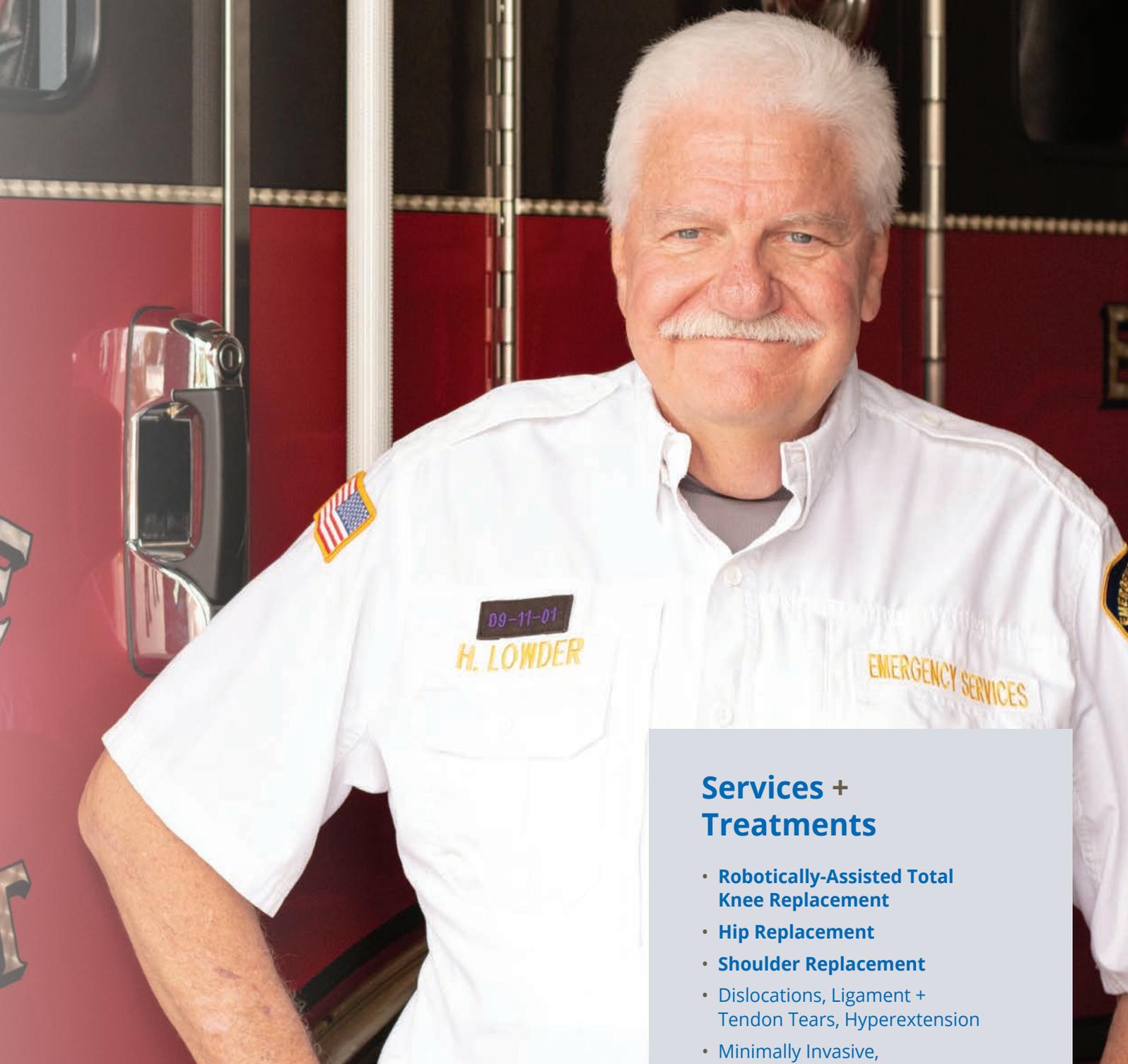
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PHOTOS GRANT MERRITT & CYNTHIA HANSEN

Delighting and sparking the curiosity of young visitors is Cynthia Hansen's inspiration for the unique backyard and children's play area she has created at her home in the Sutton Place neighborhood of Lake Wacamaw.

Her landscape design has evolved over the past 15 years since she and her husband, Joe Hansen, built and moved into their home. Hansen is always experimenting with new ideas, elements and materials.

The loss of a large pecan tree after years of hurricane damage turned into an opportunity to create the centerpiece of her garden. With the help of her friend and neighbor Anthony Martin, Hansen designed a whimsical "troll house" built into the pecan tree stump complete with a cedar shingle roof and English cottage-style windows and doors. At night colorful lights set on a timer shimmer through the arched windows. If you look closely, you might see a mischievous and magical troll grinning down from the attic window. The troll house has become a favorite spot for annual family photos with the grandchildren.

Hansen's backyard is filled with thoughtfully installed landscape and hardscape components that on a whole create endless opportunities for neighborhood children and the Hansens' four grandchildren to play and explore. A mix of solar and regular landscape lighting adds a whole new

dimension to the garden at night.

To maximize the home's outdoor living space, Hansen designed a large deck on several levels creating space for a sitting area with a gas fireplace along with a grilling area adjacent to a dining area. A trellis on the deck holds two children's swings. When children come to visit, Hansen says, "They usually head outdoors to swing, then explore and look for new things in the garden." The deck with lots of comfortable seating serves as a home base for guests young and old to explore the backyard wonderland.

Entertaining comes easily to Hansen. She is the daughter of the late Columbus County farmer and Ford tractor dealer Bobby Sessions and the late Hattie Merle Sessions. Her parents were active in church, educational and veteran affairs and hosted many events to support their community interests.

Each Thanksgiving the Sessions home on Red Hill Road served as the family meeting place to celebrate the holiday. Now Hansen continues the tradition at her home, and she has incorporated many of the same elements she remembers from her childhood home into her own deck and landscape design.

Hansen says, "When I was younger my mother used artificial flowers,



Jovie and Ian Martin play on the swings Hansen installed on the trellis located on her deck.



These cute figures "live" in Hansen's repurposed pecan tree stump Troll House.



Hansen's grandchildren, Hackney Attmore, Owen Brickhouse, Hattie Attmore and Austin Brickhouse, pose for their annual family photo.

just a few, in the summertime in the yard, and I started doing the same by filling areas in the greenery in my yard that I felt like needed dimension.” Hansen also brings memories of her mother into her garden by tucking several blue and white vases from her mother’s collection between low shrubs and flowering annuals. Hansen’s number one rule is to break the rules of traditional gardening to create a space that captures children’s imagination and encourages play.

Pretend animals of all kinds can be found tucked high and low for discovery. There are ceramic birds of every size and color, a family of rabbits, turtles, ducks, frogs, owls, butterflies, and more. Hansen says the first animal in her collection was a large concrete alligator that serves as a fun spot for kids to plop down for a rest, to study a butterfly floating through the garden, or to watch hummingbirds flicker by on the way to their bright red feeders.

Other design elements include the liberal use of river rock pebbles for paths and borders. Hansen says, “This past spring I purchased river pebbles, a total of eighty 30 pound bags, that I used to fill in the beds instead of pine straw. The grandchildren enjoy walking on the path stones I installed, and I think they look nice.” A bubbling birdbath with



Hansen and Martin discover treasures hidden in the bubbling birdbath.



Creating engaging activities and encouraging outdoor play comes naturally to Hansen, who is a retired school teacher and a certified personal trainer.



Like her mother, Hansen adds artificial elements to her garden to create dimension and spark imagination.

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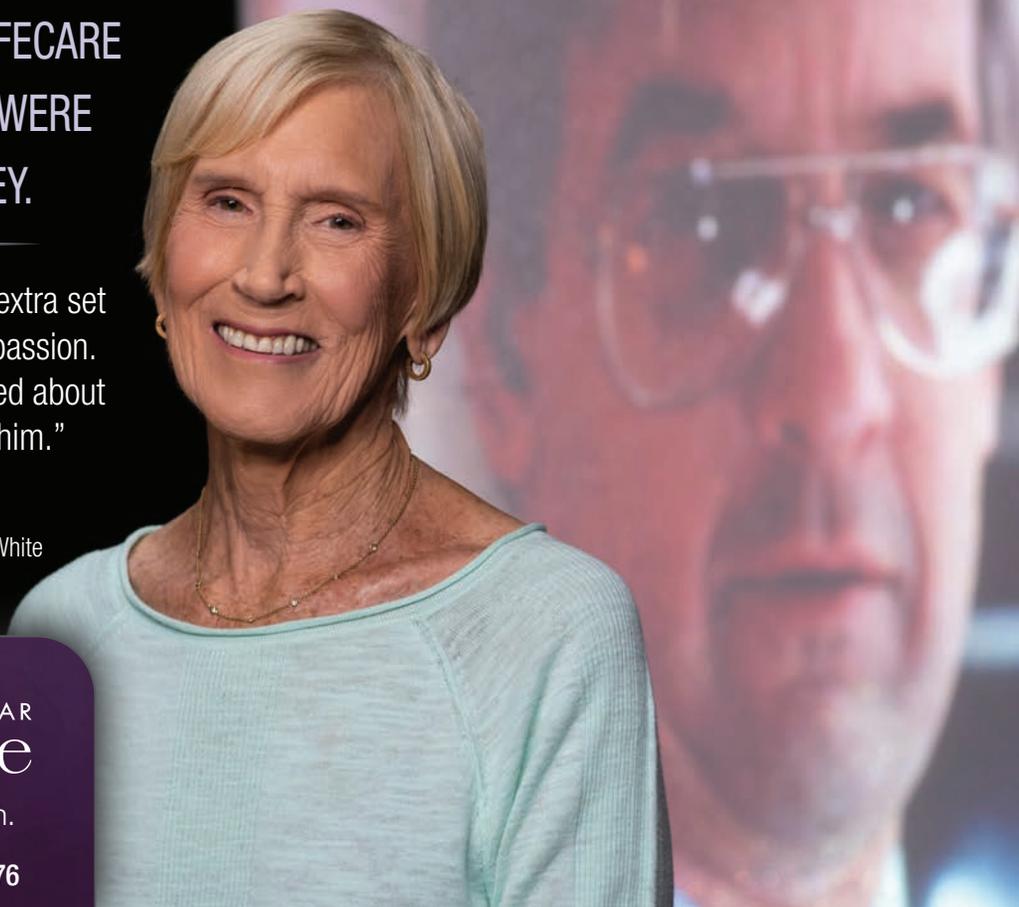
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PLAY AND IMAGINATION

a solar powered water pump is a focal point that Hansen says she added to attract birds to the garden.

Juniper and yew are Hansen's favorite border plants, and she planted Asparagus Fern and Boston fern and Elephant Ears (*Colocasia*) in the beds since they come back each spring. Most of the plants she has incorporated in her plan are easy keepers. She added a decorative iron fence to a border of Confederate jasmine to create a U-shaped sitting area with a small fire pit. The jasmine requires a good bit of cutting back, but its sweet fragrance and delicate white flowers make it worth the extra effort. It has taken her several years to get rid of invasive ivy, and she does not recommend using it since it takes a lot of maintenance to keep it under control.

Creating engaging activities and encouraging outdoor play come naturally to Hansen, who is a retired school teacher and certified personal trainer. In Whiteville, she taught first grade, and Hansen says, "Since I was certified in AIG (Academically or Intellectually Gifted), they asked me to create an AIG Prep Class curriculum for K-4th graders and teach it." Children who complete



Lights set on a timer give the Troll House a colorful evening glow.

the Prep Class program then move into AIG classes. Hansen continued, "I went from one nurturing position in teaching into another where I help people with personal training, and I love both of them." Since 2003 Hansen has offered personal training services through her business, Stronger Body Fitness. Her studio is located on North Thompson Street in Whiteville near Walters Surgical Associates.

With Thanksgiving coming up, Hansen is working on several new ideas to delight her family as they explore the garden during their holiday visit. She plans to add bright artificial sunflowers to planters for color, smooth out the rock paths, and take down the hummingbird feeders for the season. After the Thanksgiving visit ends and she puts her garden to rest for the winter, Hansen's personal training business will kick into high gear with clients looking to balance work and New Year's health and fitness goals.

Come spring, Hansen's labor of love will blossom into her own special gift of play and adventure for all who visit her whimsical garden.



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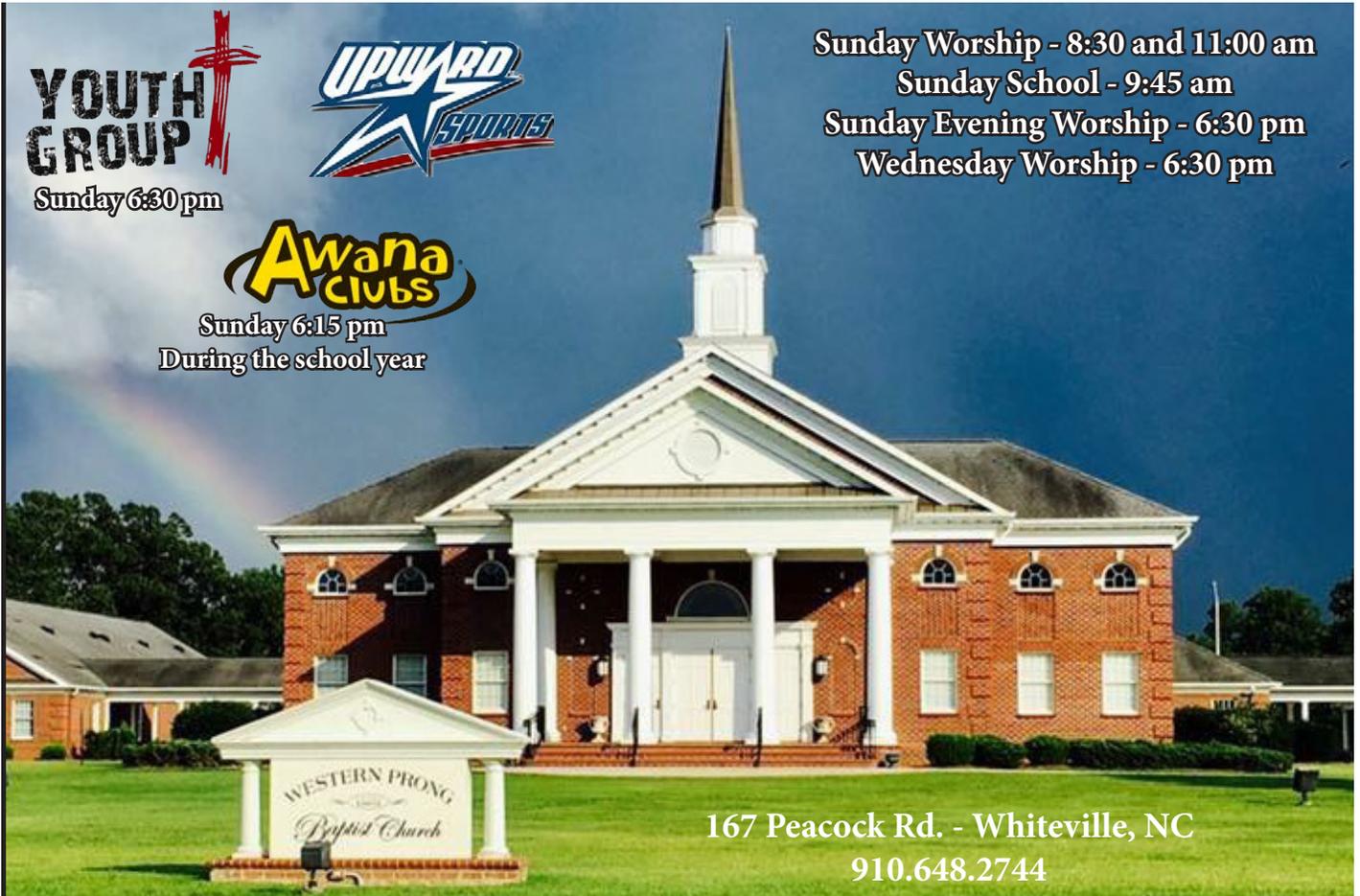
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Dan Smith was awarded a commemorative ax by the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) as a “thank you” for his leadership and dedication to national firefighting efforts from 2007 to 2021.

AFTER DECADES OF FACING FLAMES, NATIONAL FIRE DIRECTOR RETIRES TO COLUMBUS COUNTY

STORY IVEY SCHOFIELD

PHOTOS GRANT MERRITT & DAN SMITH

For decades, Dan Smith would frequently pack a bag, leave his wife Mazie Smith and son Hunter at home, and travel across the country to fight devastating fires. But this summer, he decided to hang up his helmet — for the most part — and settle full-time in Lake Waccamaw. “It was just good to come back home,” he said. “It’s a great area to live.”

While Smith did not grow up in Lake Waccamaw, he was raised in Columbus County on a farm just north of Bolton. He and his six siblings enjoyed fishing and swimming in Lake Waccamaw. They also helped cultivate tobacco, corn and soybeans until his teenage years. At

that point, his father, who held a local leadership role within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, decided to rent the farm to other farmers.

As a result, Smith spent his childhood immersed in nature and discovered his love of the outdoors. After graduating from Acme Delco High School, he enrolled at North Carolina State University and earned a degree in forestry. He thought he would work for a company that managed forests. Instead, Smith got a job with the North Carolina Forest Service near New Bern. “It just kind of stuck,” he said.

The North Carolina Forest Service is one of the leading state for-



Across the country, today's fires last 78 days longer than they did in the 1970s. "You can't deny that it's tied to climate change," Smith said.



The photos above were taken in 2002 during the Mule Fire in Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming. The N.C. Incident Management Team firefighters fought the fire, and Smith served as Incident Commander.

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Smith with son Hunter (left) and family friend (right) enjoy time together fishing. (Right) Smith, an N.C. State graduate, with his wife Mazie.

estry agencies in the country, according to Smith. It manages and protects 18 million acres of forest land across the state through reforestation services, forest fire prevention and suppression, and insect and disease control.

Smith became involved in fighting wildland fire, which is an uncontrolled fire in nature. He started to rise through the ranks within the district and ultimately the state, ascending to the highest unappointed position in the North Carolina Forest Service's wildland fire department. He received in 2007 the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, which is the highest honor from the North Carolina governor for people who have made significant contributions to their communities. He also became a Type I incident commander. All the while, he encouraged others, including women and racial minorities, to enter wildland fire work, too. "I gave them some opportunities and broke through some barriers," he said.

In 2007, Smith retired from the state agency, but didn't retire completely. Instead, he became the fire director of the National Association of State Foresters, a nonprofit that manages and protects state and private forests across the United States. He spent at least 100 days a year in Idaho managing the national



Smith served as N.C. Incident Management Team Commander in 1992 in Miami after Hurricane Andrew hit the Florida coast.

wildfire response, setting priorities for resource allocation and ensuring the national infrastructure was in place for national mobilizations in support of wildland fires.

After 14 years, Smith retired once again and moved to Lake Waccamaw, but he still hasn't put his passion for fire safety to bed.

Fire safety tips

Across the country, today's fires last 78 days longer than they did in the 1970s, according to the National Association of State Foresters. Smith blames these progressively worse fires on one phenomenon. "You can't deny that it's tied to climate change," he said.

Fire seasons are generally in the spring and fall, but in North Carolina they're all the time. "If you go a couple of weeks without rain, you can have fires year round," Smith said. In fact, Columbus County has a higher fire occurrence per land mass than counties in the western United States, according to Shane Hardee, N.C. Forest Service district forester of southeastern North Carolina.

The fires here, however, don't last as long and don't get as big as the ones in the West because local wildland firefighters like Hardee can access the fires more easily. "Here in Columbus County, you can access pretty much everywhere by road. Out there, you can be 14 miles from the nearest state road," Hardee said.

Not all fires are bad, and in fact sometimes Hardee promotes them. For example, prescribed burning reduces fuel loading, enhances wildlife and prevents wildfires. "The ecosystem here is largely fire dependent," he said. "It's going to burn at some point."

Some days, however, are better than others for prescribed burning. "Picking good times to burn is a big issue here in Columbus County," Hardee said. He encourages cloudier, damper days, instead of hot ones in the spring.

Hardee also advises protective measures at home to prevent drastic damage. These include putting fire-resistant mulch around the residence and having good screens on gable vents. Other preventive actions include putting away brush, not piling wood under decks, having a metal roof and not putting a gas tank next to the house. "Homeowners can help themselves," Smith said.

Even with these precautions, fires can still happen. If a fire starts,



(Top) A single engine tanker drops fire retardant fighting a fire in Texas.
(Bottom) The National Interagency Fire Center is located in Boise, Idaho.

Smith recommends "Ready. Set. Go." The first step is for homeowners to know that there is fire potential, the second step is to have their valuables ready for evacuation, and the third step is to evacuate as soon as possible, if necessary. "A lot of fatalities in fires are caused when people are evacuating late," he said.

Supporting firefighters

Fighting fires is especially devastating when there are fatalities. Smith remembers one fire in 2016 in Tennessee when 13 people who tried to stay in their homes ended up dying.

Being a wildland firefighter requires working long hours every day of the year, including holidays and weekends. "It is so demanding," Hardee said.

As a result, many fire agencies across the country don't have enough workers to mobilize in emergencies. "We've had a challenge in recruitment and retention of employees," Hardee said. "A lot of that has to do with pay." Some wildland firefighters pick up part-time work like landscaping and farming that allows for more flexibility, but it doesn't always work.

For those who do make wildland firefighting work, they're mobilized more often now for longer periods of time. "Our crews are just worn out," Smith told *The Forestry*

Source magazine in 2020. "A lot of these folks have full-time jobs and, when they mobilize to help out on the national response, that puts a real strain on their regular work and also on the personal side."

Fortunately, Smith had a supportive wife, Mazie Smith, whose steadfast presence "has been important, especially with me being away from home so much," he told *954 Magazine*. However, "There's more work we need to be doing to support our wildland firefighters," he said. "These are tough years that we're going through. People are working hard."

Even though it's tough work, Smith still encourages others to become wildland firefighters. "There are good opportunities in forestry," he said. Looking back, he's proud of his career. Now, Smith is happy to enjoy his time with his wife of almost 40 years at the lake, right next to the state park. But it's not out of the question that he'll answer the call to go back to Idaho to feel the heat of the fire once again — even if just for a few days.



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‘MATCHMAKER’ IDENTIFIED FAMILIES OF KOREAN WAR CASUALTIES

STORY DIANA MATTHEWS & HAROLD DAVIS
PHOTOS SUBMITTED



PVT Calvin Clinton Bennett



PFC Howard Glenn Norris



PFC Herbert Leroy Smith

When the United States withdrew from Korea in 1953 after three years of undeclared war, the fates of 8,000 U.S. troops remained unaccounted for. Some were among the 36,914 Americans killed, but their remains were not recovered; others were missing in action. A few of those men came from Columbus County.

Wilmington resident and Korean War veteran Harold Davis spent more than two decades researching the servicemen of his generation who never returned. Between 1998 and 2020, his work across the U.S. helped locate close to 2,000 families of American soldiers labeled MIA or KIA.

Relatives he identified have had the opportunity to provide and bank DNA samples for comparison with soldiers' remains already recovered, or yet to be recovered.

Davis reflects that he himself could easily have been killed in action or, worse, captured by the enemy. American prisoners of war who somehow survived the ordeal told of death marches and mass machine-gun shootings, or of being packed into train cars without food or water, where men died of starvation and thirst with no place to fall down.

Davis wants subsequent generations to remember the soldiers America lost. "Those kids, some of them had never dated a girl," Davis said in October. "Here I am with grandchildren."

Years of research

At the end of the war, the U.S. didn't insist on an accounting of missing soldiers from North Korea and China, Davis said, and he suspected that some of the unaccounted-for soldiers were still alive as prisoners. "We turned our backs and left them," he said.

It was years before the U.S. was able to return and begin searching for remains. "We know there were many left in major battles," Davis said. "Also there were many buried at POW camps."

DNA mapping eventually provided a high-tech option for matching recovered remains to living relatives. However, before the government set up its office to trace missing personnel in 1976, a July 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis destroyed millions of military personnel files, making the task of identifying relatives much harder.

So, in 1998, when Davis took up the challenge of locating relatives of five men from New Hanover County, he depended on old-fashioned word of mouth methods — combing phone books, attending reunions, and following the grapevine.

Davis' success in his county led to finding about 100 families in North Carolina; for years the National Casualty Office depended on him as their go-to volunteer researcher for the entire U.S. About 2015 the Casualty Office began to employ professional genealogists and ceased working with volunteers, Davis said. That ended his official involvement. However, "I continued to get results from queries I had on the web," he said. "I matched families until 2020."

Davis said he wasn't around to see what happened when a family finally received long-awaited remains of an uncle or grandfather killed in Korea. His job was complete once he got the family talking with the Casualty Office. "I considered myself a matchmaker," he said.

Almost all the KIA and MIA Davis researched were in the Army. He said that's because, although the Navy played a big part in shutting down North

Korea's supply routes and Air Force bombing "completely destroyed" North Korean cities, it was Army troops on the ground who died or went missing.

Local casualties

Davis supplied *The News Reporter* with some of his hard-won research this year. He said he wanted people today to remember the sacrifices of 70 years ago. Small town newspapers have been one of his best channels for finding connections, he said.

The News Reporter published excerpts July 7 from Davis' research on about a dozen men who gave Columbus County as their home of record when enlisting. Since then Davis has provided more information about Korean War casualties connected in other ways to Columbus County. Readers have also shared information with the newspaper since the article ran.

The News Reporter appreciates the submitted content but cannot claim that the following is a complete or accurate collection of the county's service members lost in the Korean War. Levels of available detail on the men vary widely.

The memorial monument outside the historic courthouse lists three men not included in the July list: Ossie Gunter, Herbert Smith and Ernest Rackley.

Sgt. Ossie Maeo Gunter

This Korean War soldier was not from Columbus County, but he was married to Ruby Mae Gore Gunter of Whiteville when he was killed. He is buried in Whiteville Memorial Cemetery.

Georgetown, S.C., was both his home of record and home of enlistment.

Davis found military and Social Security records showing that Gunter was born Nov. 18, 1926, which would have made him only 14 when he first joined the Navy on Oct. 22, 1941. Further research showed that Gunter's draft registration gave a birthdate of Sept. 7, 1924.

The application for his military headstone had the birthdate Nov. 18, 1926, marked through and replaced with Sept. 7, 1924. Gunter's newspaper obituary said he had been born "about 1926."

Davis concluded that Gunter joined at an early age and gave a different birthday. He was discharged from the Navy in 1945. He joined the U.S.



A memorial to Columbus County Korean War and Vietnam casualties is located at the historical courthouse.



Crew of an M-24 tank along the Naktong River front, August 1950, during the Korean War. Photo by goodfreephotos.com

Air Force Oct. 24, 1945.

Gunter remained in the Air Force until he was killed in a vehicle accident Jan. 27, 1951, near Taegu, South Korea.

He was married to Ruby Mae Gore Gunter. At the time of his death, she was living at 106 S. Thompson Street, Whiteville.

Davis surmised that Gunter never lived in Whiteville because he was in service continually from 1941 until his death. His wife buried him in Whiteville Memorial Cemetery.

PFC Herbert Leroy Smith

Herbert Leroy Smith was born April 25, 1931, in the Lake Waccamaw area. He was the first child of Samuel Edward Smith and Sue Rebecca Nelson. Herbert enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 16. He enlisted at Maxton.

Smith was a member of the 7th Marine Regiment, D Company, second Battalion. His regiment was reactivated Aug. 17, 1950. The 7th Regiment landed at Incheon, South Korea, on Sept. 21, 1950. The regiment took part in the recapture of the South Korean capital of Seoul. It was during this engagement that PFC Herbert Leroy Smith was killed in action Sept. 29, 1950. He had been on Korean soil only eight days.

His remains were returned, and he was laid to rest in the Lake Waccamaw Hillcrest Cemetery.

SGT Earnest Erman Rackley

Davis explained that this soldier's birth certificate shows his name spelled "Earnest." The 1930 Census shows "Ernest." He spelled his name "Ernest" when he registered for the draft. The Army's casualty list and a memorial in Hawaii show "Earnest." The memorial in Whiteville shows "Ernest."

E(a)rnest Rackley was the son of Charles G. and Lottie Faulk Rackley, born Aug. 28, 1928, in Nakina. Charles Rackley was killed in an accident three months before E(a)rnest was born. E(a)rnest lost his mother when he was 3 years old and was raised by his grandmother, Dorcas Faulk, in Bug Hill.

Rackley left Bug Hill and joined the U.S. Army. After basic training and a brief visit home, he was assigned to the 2nd Division, 9th Infantry Regiment, G Company. He joined the 2nd Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. On July 9, 1950, the division



U.S. Marines move out over rugged mountain terrain during the Korean War. Photo by goodfreephotos.com

was alerted to prepare for overseas shipment. By Aug. 20, 1950, the entire 2nd Division had landed at Pusan, South Korea, including the 9th Infantry Regiment and Rackley.

At that time General Walker and his 8th Army were desperately fighting to hold onto the Pusan perimeter. The 2nd Division was immediately given a 60-kilometer section on the Naktong River to defend. There was heavy resistance at first, but the North Koreans soon retreated due to the MacArthur amphibious landing at Incheon on Sept. 15, 1950.

For the next two months the 2nd Division would be conducting mopping-up operations in the rear and security missions in South Korea. The Chinese entered the war in November, and the 2nd Division was ordered north to the Chongchon River, where the division went on line. The Chinese would assault the 2nd Division with overwhelming forces. It was during this battle that the entire 2nd Division was almost destroyed. On Nov. 30, 1950, there were 794 casualties, including SGT Ernest Erman Rackley, who was missing in action. He was never accounted for, and his remains have not been recovered. The family has provided the DNA required to identify his remains if and when they are recovered.

More connections

The Columbus County Veterans Service Office listed Charles Pittman Jr. among those killed in action. Davis discovered that Pittman was born Feb. 14, 1926, in Monroe, which he gave as his home of record. However, when he was 4 years old, he was living in Tatum Township in Columbus County. At 18 he was living in Boardman. He was killed Sept. 1, 1950, and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Chadbourn.

PFC Howard Glenn Norris was the first child born in the family of Emery J. and Monnie Norris. He was born March 27, 1932, in Williams

Township. He attended Camden High School in Camden, S.C. He played football and was very active in many clubs and was vice president of his senior class. He graduated in 1947.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army Aug. 16, 1949. He gave his home of record as Leland. We find his mother living in Leland in 1951. After basic training he was assigned to the 5th Regimental Combat Team (5th RCT) Company A, which was stationed in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The 5th RCT was deployed to Korea on July 25, 1950, and assigned to the 25th Infantry Division. A month later they were reassigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, and during September 1950 the 5th RCT would be reassigned to the 24th Infantry Division. The 5th RCT's first engagement with the North Korean Army was on the Pusan perimeter. PFC Howard Glenn Norris would be seriously wounded Feb. 3, 1951, while engaging the Chinese near Sangtapson, South Korea. He died from those wounds the next day, Feb. 4, 1951. He is buried in the Clarendon Cemetery near Tabor City.

Thoughts from a son who never met his father

Salahudin Majeed, formerly Alexander Daniel Bellamy, is the son of one of the men covered in the July article, Robert Leroy Powell. Majeed commented to *The News Reporter* that Davis' list showed Powell's mother's name as Nehemiah Powell, but in fact, Nehemiah Powell was Robert Leroy Powell's father. Powell's stepmother was Mamie Powell.

Majeed added to his father's story, saying that Powell was a sharecropper in Hallsboro and was "very friendly, a leader among his peers," according to what surviving family members said. Powell "wanted to go into the Army and serve his country, then come back home to settle down to family life."

When Powell left for Korea, he and his fiancée, Aneda Bellamy, were expecting a child. He already had two children with another woman. Majeed said that his parents "planned to marry when he came back." However, Powell died in battle Feb. 20, 1951. Majeed was born five months later.

Majeed's grandfather held Powell up as a role model for his children, telling them that Powell had been "a very, very articulate young man who aspired to higher heights" and who would want his children to achieve a good education. Majeed's stepfather was Thomas Richards.

Majeed followed somewhat in his father's path by spending 13 years in the Army as a commissioned officer, with time at West Point; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Korea and Germany.

Reader Virgil Nichols called *The News Reporter* to say that his uncle had died in Korea March 31, 1953. It was not clear where the uncle had lived or enlisted, or what his name was, so Davis was not able to research him. Calls to Nichols during preparation of this article were not returned before presstime.

After years of diligent matchmaking, all of Columbus County's missing soldiers from the Korean War have been successfully traced to relatives, Davis said.

"All of the families of POW/MIA's from Columbus County have submitted DNA that is in a bank in Hawaii," he said. "The DNA will be matched when remains are recovered. At the present time no Columbus County DNA has been matched with remains. Once the DNA is matched the remains will be returned to the proper family."

Davis said that families wanting information on POW/MIAs should get in touch with the Army Casualty Assistance Center (CAC) at Fort Knox, Kentucky at 502-624-6051 or the Marine Casualty Office at 703-432-9568.

Note: Davis located the photos of the soldiers at the beginning of this story. Calvin Bennett's biography was in the July 7 article without a photo. The News Reporter could not find photos of all men featured.

MAKING OF A MATCHMAKER

Harold Davis came home changed by his 11 months of front-line combat with the 40th Infantry Division, 224th Infantry Regiment's heavy mortar company in Korea. "I went into the Army a boy," he said. "I came back a man."

As a soldier, "You lose all your rights," Davis said. "You learn to do as you're told." The Army takes a teenager, breaks him down and builds him back up ready to take orders without question, he said.

After that formative experience, Davis returned to his family's farm in Person County ready to shape his own future. In high school, he played baseball and never studied, he said. Now he took college courses while working full-time for Western Electric in Burlington, later Bell Labs, and he advanced from a drafter to an engineer designing missile guidance systems. He didn't think about the war.

But after a few years, he said, he began to wonder where the places he'd fought, known to him by names like "the Sandbag" or "the Punchbowl," really were on the map. He began reading every book



Sgt. Harold Davis US Army served in the heavy mortar company in the 224th Regiment of the 40th Division. He arrived in Korea in June of 1952. Davis stands in front of his house in the Monkey Junction area of Wilmington. Bluebird nesting boxes, which he builds and sells, are on the porch.

Photo by Diana Matthews

he could find on the war and joined the American Legion, where he became commander in his second year.

After moving to Wilmington during his last years with Bell, Davis led a fundraiser to erect a monument to local service members killed in the two world wars, the Korean conflict and Vietnam. Public response made him realize that people no longer knew who the men on the monument were.

Davis decided, "They will know them." Davis wrote a synopsis of the service record of each of the men listed on the monument and gave the documents to the New Hanover County Library. He commissioned an artist to paint portraits of New Hanover County's Medal of Honor recipients. He was a leading force in establishing a Veterans Service Office in his county.

In 2015 Davis received the Americanism Award from the American Legion's 40&8 Society for his work. He and his wife, Alida Davis, have been married 65 years.

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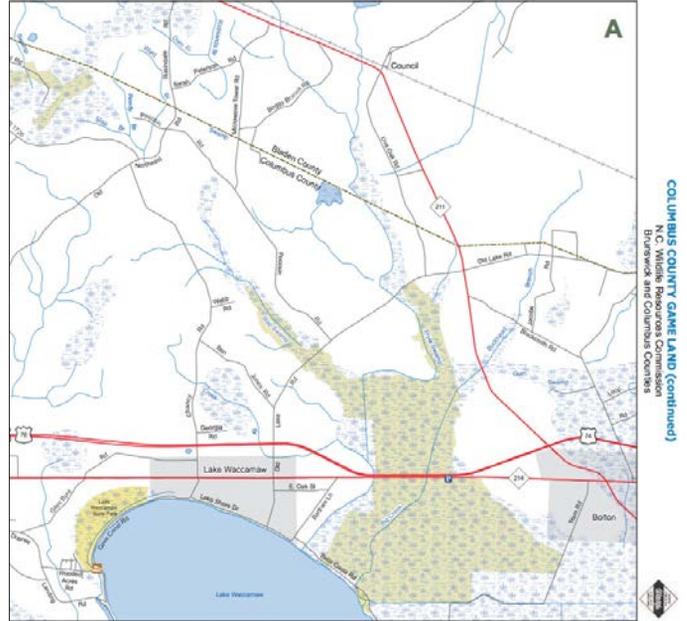
STORY BILL THOMPSON

PHOTOS STUART ROGERS

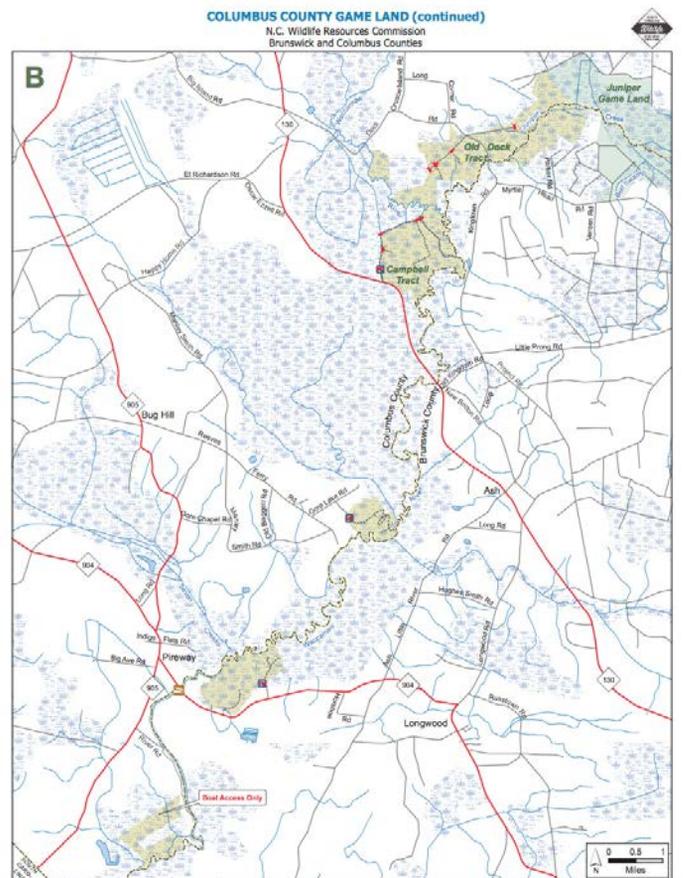
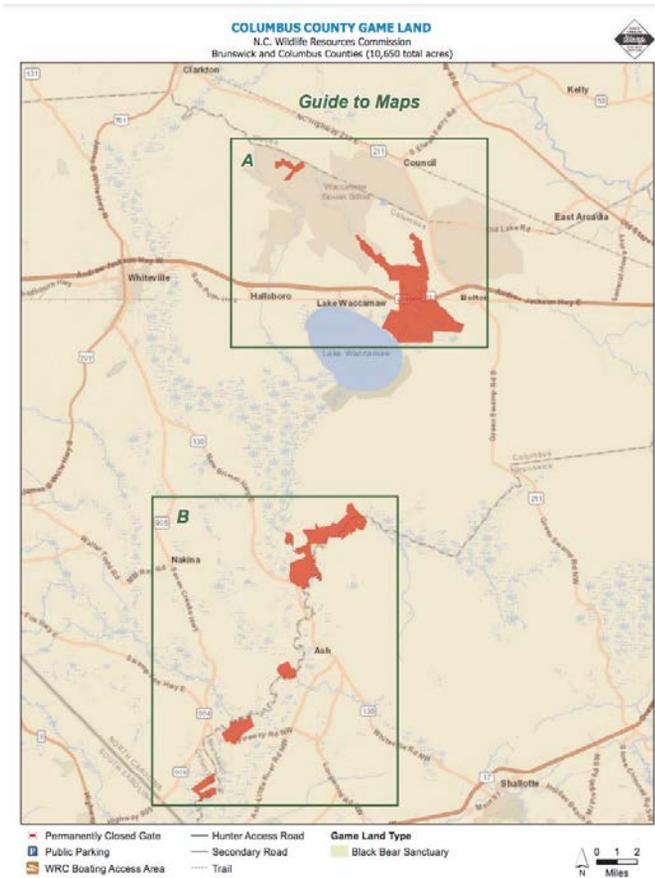
Americans have a great history of sharing the land. At the same time, the acquisition of property and the control of that property are a major element in the use of the land. According to the legal definition, “Public land is any land owned by the government and refers to public domain of unappropriated (no private title) land not subject to sale or disposal or designation under general laws and not reserved for any government or public purpose.”

In the western part of the country, there is a custom of individuals leasing public land primarily for cattle grazing or other agricultural endeavors. But here in the East, not many folks know that there is land owned by the state and available to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking and other activities consistent with the type of land. Much of this land is designated as game lands.

Much of the public land was acquired early in the history of this country as a result of purchases, wars or treaties. The original use was to encourage growth. The most familiar of those efforts is The Homestead Act. But the game land portion of the effort is more recent.



COLUMBUS COUNTY GAME LAND (Continued)
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
Brunswick and Columbus Counties



Coastal Region Game Land maps shown above designate the public game land boundaries in Columbus and Brunswick counties. Maps and more information about NC Wildlife Resources Commission game land access, rules and regulations can be found online at ncwildlife.org.

In 1947, when the legislature established the Wildlife Resources Commission, that same bill essentially transferred land to the Wildlife Resources Commission where the purpose of those lands was “for protecting, propagating, and developing game, fur-bearing animals, game fish, inland fisheries, and all other wildlife resources.” In 1971, the Wildlife Resources Commission established the Game Land Program. The primary purpose “is the conservation of North Carolina wildlife species and provision of public hunting, trapping, fishing, and wildlife-associated recreational opportunities.” It was within these guidelines that the current boundaries of public game lands have been drawn.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable growth in the number of people who visit game lands solely to view the wildlife, particularly birds. Also, hikers have found that there is a wide selection of flora and fauna to be found on the lands. As a result, overall public use of those designated lands has increased.

Legislative action has created almost two million acres of game lands in the state. There are about 10,000 acres of public game lands located in this area. While their purpose is as stated in the legislation, those public lands, including the game lands, are a part of the water conservation effort as well. Much of this area is swampland and falls under the auspices of the state.

In the past, access to the areas was limited mostly by the nature of the land and legislation that limited traffic to walking only. As interest has escalated, some areas are now adapted for ATV and some equine access. Folks who are in-



Columbus County game land access with parking on Sam Potts Hwy. between Lake Waccamaw and Bolton.



Big Creek in Lake Waccamaw offers access by water into Columbus County Game Land. Juniper Creek Game Land has canoe access and parking on Dock Road near the Brunswick County line.

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terested in viewing or hunting on public lands should know that all rules and regulations regarding hunting and fishing apply. The best way to find out where the lands are is to contact the local Wildlife officer or visit ncwildlife.org.

Beyond the more practical concerns of hunters, fishermen, trappers, bird watchers and hikers is a more spiritual connection to the land, a bond that goes back to our ancestors. Some of today's users of public game lands—and private lands—are in search of wildlife but also in search of their own life.

(Left) Entrance to Columbus County Game Land at the Old Dock tract on Dock Road. (Right) Orange paint stripes on the pine tree mark the game land boundary.



Game land borders are posted with black and white boundary signs.



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COLUMBUS COUNTY GAME LAND ACCESS

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) has three game land regions: the Mountains, the Piedmont and the Coastal Region, which includes Columbus County.

Columbus County game land is maintained by the NCWRC and includes 8,408 acres of rural area. A good bit of the Columbus County game land follows along the Waccamaw River and shares its border with Brunswick County. According to the NCWRC website, “The Brunswick and Columbus County Game Land Complex consists of three separate game lands including Columbus County (8,408 acres), Green Swamp (2,048 acres) and Juniper Creek Game Land (18,507).”

Game lands are available to the public for hunting during open seasons and for other outdoor recreation such as birding and wildlife viewing, kayaking, canoeing and hiking. Camping is allowed only in specified areas.

A good starting point to learn about all the recreational opportunities and regulations in Columbus County and in North Carolina is on the NCWRC website at ncwildlife.org/Conserving/Programs/Game-Lands-Programs. You can find out more about particular areas of interest in the links found on this landing page.

Access to the game land in Columbus County is limited due to dense vegetation and water, and it’s best to call the NCWRC for recommendations for access by land and water at 919-707-0150 or email gamelands@ncwildlife.org. Staff is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to answer questions.

Each game land in North Carolina falls into one of five hunting categories. The Columbus County Game Land is designated a “four-days-a-week” hunting area, and the Juniper Creek Game Land, which is divided by the Columbus and Brunswick County line, is designated a “seven-days-a-week” hunting area. Hunting on the game land is only allowed during open seasons unless hunting is provided by permit. Note on NCWRC maps the areas designated as bear sanctuaries.

A special permit may be required to hunt some species on game land in Columbus County, and it is recommended to visit ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt for more information and to apply for special permits.

The game lands in Columbus County are dense with trees, other vegetation and low areas. It is easy to get disoriented, and visitors should take precautions for their safety such as taking along proper gear and maps and notifying someone of their location before heading out. You can download the N.C. Game Land data map provided by the NCWRC to track your location on Google Earth and GPS devices at ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Where-To-Hunt-Shoot/Public-Places.

One of the newest tracts of game land is 410 acres in the southern part of Columbus County along River Road and the Waccamaw River donated by The Nature Conservancy to the state of North Carolina for preservation. The tract is only accessible by boat, and North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping licenses and regulations apply. Camping is not permitted.

COLUMBUS COUNTY GAME LAND

The Columbus County Game Land is designated as a “four-days-a-week” hunting area. The NCWRC defines this designation as “game lands on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. These areas are closed to hunting on other days of the week unless specifically opened under the individual game lands listings.”

- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season in Columbus County: Open days during Oct. 16, 2021 – Jan. 1, 2022 (maximum season).
- Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract is by permit only. (Apply at ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt.)

JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND

BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES

- Juniper Creek Game Land is designated as a seven-days-a-week hunting area. Game can be taken Monday through Sunday during open seasons.
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.
- Bear hunting is prohibited on that portion designated as Bear Sanctuary, except by permit.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.



Zach West, who works in The Nature Conservancy’s Wilmington office, poses in some of the 410.05-acre tract along the Waccamaw River. The land, which is in the southern tip of Columbus County, was donated to the state and added to the Columbus County Game Lands. Contributed by Thomas Sherrill, NR staff writer.

Farewell Bill Woodsman

STORY ISABEL HUMPHREYS

DRAWINGS KATHRYN OGDEN HUMPHREYS

Now that I am physically at college after spending last year at home due to COVID-19, I think the most important thing to do for myself is finding time to do things I enjoy. However, when you're knee-deep in art assignments and dreading your next four-hour studio session, it's hard even to find a moment to do something that makes you happy. That was until maybe a month or so ago when I received a text from my brother (which is ironic considering he lives two doors down from me). It read "There are some guys playing bluegrass in Wolfpack Plaza!" Since I stepped foot on campus, I had been itching to play some good bluegrass music. It was the kind of music I grew up with, the kind of music that made me feel at home. After a rough start at N.C. State, which included a week in which I lost my wallet and my key card, I found it hard to refuse such a tempting offer.

Now every Tuesday I accompany my brother in the walk down to the plaza, where I sit on the benches and relish the twangy but welcoming sound of bluegrass while I wait my turn to sing. In the moments of sheer enjoyment that I marinate in before I'm called up, my mind often drifts to times with my granddaddy who recently passed, Dr. Billy Odgen.

My granddaddy loved bluegrass and all music in general. As my brother and I progressed in our musical careers over the past six years, my granddaddy was there to cheer us on every step of the way. Although Parkinson's disease had hindered his ability to pick, he still enjoyed listening to us with every ounce of his being. He would still let out that jolly sounding laugh every time we nailed an intense rhythmical song. Every time I play bluegrass in the plaza, I think how much Granddaddy would've loved to be out listening, but I guess in a way, I think he is.

Although to most 954 readers he was known as Bill Woodsman, strapping outdoorsman with a love for nature and tradition, to me he was just my granddaddy. A man whose return I would anticipate as a child when visiting him and my grandmother in the mountains. A man I would recognize through the kitchen door in the mountain house and run to greet with a big hug that would nearly leave me breathless. He was the man who was always first to pull out an instrument after Christmas dinner and pick out a nice tune that everyone could join in singing.

As a child I would sit in his lap as he told me fantastical sto-

ries of gnomes and goblins and trolls and monsters that lived in the drain pipes, leaving me absolutely terrified but nonetheless wildly entertained. I know many have wondered at his incredible intellect and exquisite, often philosophical, writings, but he was so much more than that.

It's more recently that I've been reminiscing about times with him. He was certainly a spontaneous man full of surprises. I was maybe 7 or 8 years old when I found myself in the backyard of my grandparents' mountain home outside of

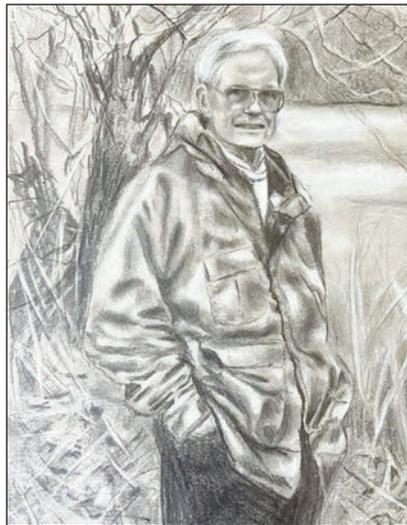
Asheville attempting to draw nature like my granddaddy was so good at doing. I loved that backyard; granddaddy had done his best to make it look like something out of a fairytale. There was a koi pond where he'd go to feed his fish early every morning and a stone wall where his chipmunk friend came out every morning to greet him and enjoy a breakfast treat.

It was in that beautiful world that I looked up one day and found myself surrounded by a swarm of ugly black creatures, a mob of maybe 100 crows menacingly staring at me. It was like a scene out of Hitchcock's "The Birds". They were watching me as they gorged on the birdseed Granddaddy had left for the songbirds.

Slowly I found my way to my feet and escaped the frightening scene. I yelled

to my grandfather, who was in the kitchen smoking a pipe and reading through some book he'd found in his workshop. "Granddaddy," I said, my short blonde hair still messy from that morning, and my feet bare beneath the hem of my silk nightgown. "There are a bunch of crows outside eating all the bird food!" I watched as the magnificent muscled man found his way to his feet, turning to face the windowed doors that opened up to the backyard. Taking him by the hand, I pointed in amazement.

"Jeff," he yelled to my uncle, "go grab a gun." My little mind could not comprehend what was to come next. Within a few minutes, our kitchen was filled with everyone who was visiting: my cousins, aunts and uncles, and my mother and brother. It was so exciting, so much energy in one room; all of us were amazed by the horrid sight that flooded the backyard, the looming black cloud that tore away from the whimsical color of the garden that my grandfather and I admired. He would make sure no crow would bother his songbird friends ever again.



May 29, 1940 - June 15, 2021

Pulling out one of the woven straw chairs from the table and grabbing the shotgun my uncle had retrieved from the gun closet upstairs, Granddaddy asked if we could open the large window doors in the kitchen. Doing as we were told, we then rushed back behind him. When I saw him load the gun, it was like something out of a hillbilly folktale, but, as I said, my granddaddy was spontaneous. "Y'all plug your ears," he said. My large eyes followed the direction the barrels of the gun were facing. We were huddled behind him waiting with wild anticipation. I covered my ears just before the shot.

*The kitchen filled with a slight scream of excitement when the bang went off. Outside a flutter of dark creatures flew into the sky, cawing like obnoxious clowns. The biggest crow, the one with the really ugly feathers and fat body sitting on the bird feeder, flapped his wings a bit before falling to the ground. "Did I hit it?" my granddaddy laughed, but he knew the answer to that question.

"I think ya did, Doc!" My uncle Jeff said with a big smile on his face. I watched with excitement as he went outside to retrieve the bird. Sure enough, my uncle lifted it above his head with what seemed to be a scruff of black feathers. He brought it inside to show the family and my grandfather the menace that would torment the garden no longer.

I rushed to see the downed creature. What amazed me is that, despite having killed the beast, my grandfather was always so gentle when it came to looking at death. He gingerly placed the dead bird in his lap and delicately spread its ebony wings and admired the slick feathers. It was almost like he was

giving a demonstration. He ran his rough, calloused fingers down its beak, gently turning its head and explaining its anatomy to all of us younglings. We couldn't care less about that though; just hearing our grandfather talk and show off a real bird to us was enough. Not to mention that, during the entire ordeal, a pipe had remained perched in his mouth. It truly was a magnificent sight and a moment I will forever cherish.

I have never been so proud to say that I was related to such an incredible man. The fondest memories of my childhood often feature him. My eyes fill with tears now as I envision that brilliant smile and booming laugh he had. I can see him strolling the great halls of the mountain house with his cane in hand, his white doctor's coat flowing like a wizard's cloak in all those stories he'd told me while I was sitting in his lap in his library. His white hair and large build came to greet me with arms open wide. The writings of Bill Woodsman may have come to an end, but the memory of my grandfather will live on forever. Farewell.

*Note: The crow was taken during N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) open Crow hunting season, which is traditionally during the summer months through the end of February. Dr. Ogden was a licensed hunter and the event took place in a rural setting within the legal limits set by NCWRC.

"Bill Woodsman" was born in 1954 when eighth grader Billy Ogden created his nom de plume "Willie the Woodsman." He wrote weekly hunting articles for his all boys junior high school in Macon, Georgia. When Dr. Ogden entered college and medical school, "Willie" matured into "Bill" as he has continued to write about the sports of hunting and fishing.



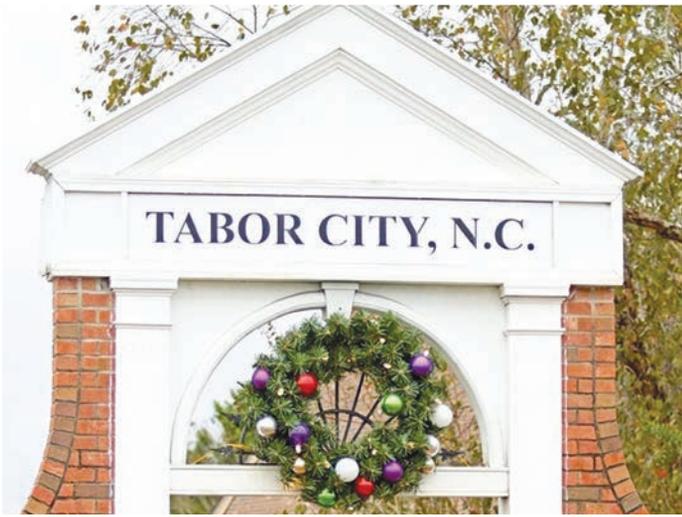
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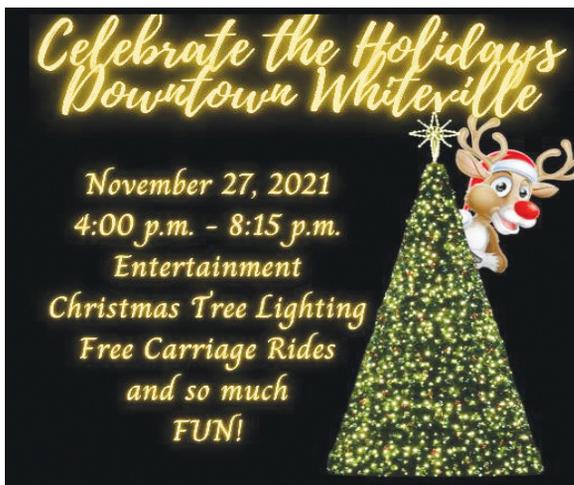
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954 Events



Tabor City Chamber of Commerce Holiday Events

Third Annual Tabor City Chamber of Commerce Trim a Tree Decorating Contest begins Monday, Nov. 22. Judging will take place Monday, Dec. 13. Celebrate Christmas on Main is at the Todd House Wedding and Event Center on Saturday, Dec. 11. Evening events tentatively include the Christmas on the Lake flotilla at Lake Tabor. Contact the Tabor City Chamber at 910-653-3149 for contest information.



Celebrate the Holidays Downtown Whiteville

Saturday, Nov. 27

Downtown Whiteville “lights up for the holidays” at Vineland Station from 4 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 27. Entertainment includes The Columbus Community Band, Edgewood Elementary School Choir, Waccamaw Siouan Tribal Dancers and Pamela Young-Jacobs. There will be a Christmas tree lighting, hot chocolate, free carriage rides and more. Visit Celebrate the Holidays Downtown Whiteville on Facebook for event updates.



“Christmas with the Embers”

Tuesday, Nov. 30

“Christmas with the Embers” featuring Craig Woolard will kick off SCC’s Richard F. Burkhardt Performing Arts series Tuesday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m. in the college auditorium. Tickets are available for purchase at scnc.edu/performing-arts or 910-788-6320. Proceeds from the event will benefit the SCC Foundation.



Through the Lights Christmas Parade

Thursday, Dec. 2

Through the Lights Christmas Parade in Tabor City is Thursday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. in downtown Tabor City. After the parade, there will be a tree lighting at 7 p.m. behind the town gate in the parking lot of the Tabor City Public Library. The parade and tree lighting are sponsored by the Tabor City Chamber of Commerce. Contact 910-653-3149 for more information.



Mistletoe Market

Friday, Dec. 3, and Sat., Dec. 4

Whiteville Junior Woman’s Club presents its Mistletoe Market fundraiser at Vineland Depot in Whiteville on Dec. 3 and 4. Vendors will have holiday gifts, art, jewelry, ornaments and more for sale. FreeFolk Photography is hosting mini photo sessions. Visit Whiteville Junior Woman’s Club Facebook page for more information.



Lake Waccamaw Tree Lighting & 30th Christmas Parade

Friday, Dec. 3, and Saturday, Dec. 4

The Lake Waccamaw Tree Lighting is Friday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. The Christmas Parade is Saturday, Dec. 4, at 10 a.m. Lineup is at 9 a.m. at Elizabeth Brinkley Park, and the parade route travels down Columbia Avenue to Lake Shore Drive and ends at the Christmas tree on Flemington Avenue.



Whiteville Christmas Parade

Sunday, Dec. 5

The Whiteville Christmas Parade sponsored by Peace Baptist Church is Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m. Line up is on Lee Street at 2 p.m. The parade route is from Lee Street to Madison Street and travels through downtown Whiteville. Deadline for parade entries is Tuesday, Nov. 30. For more information contact Peace Baptist Church at 910-642-0251 or email justme28472@yahoo.com



Fair Bluff Christmas Parade

Saturday, Dec. 11

The Fair Bluff Christmas Parade is Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m. Santa will be at the Fair Bluff Visitor Center, and Old Time Christmas will be celebrated at the Fair Bluff Depot Museum.



Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum Christmas Bake Sale and Raffle

Saturday, Dec. 18

The Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum annual Christmas Bake Sale and Raffle is Saturday, Dec. 18, at the museum from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum is preselling pecan, coconut and lemon pies along with pound cakes. There will be a raffle with great Christmas gift possibilities along with \$5 tickets to win an original painting, "Painted Bunting" by Susan MacIntosh. Call the depot at 910-646-1992 to place your bake sale order and follow Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum on Facebook to see all the raffle and bake sale items.



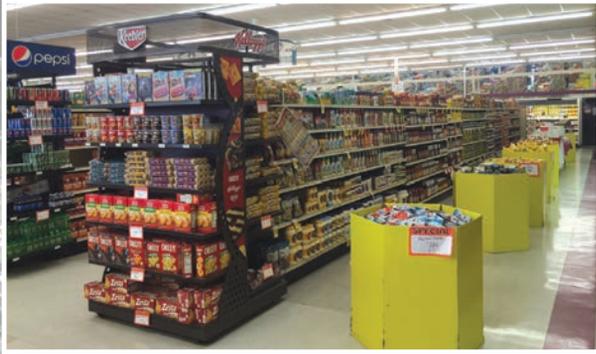
Southern Farm Days

Friday, March 18, through Sunday, March 20, 2022

Southern Farm Days annual festival is March 18 - 20, 2022 at the Boys & Girls Homes Black's Tire Exhibition Center at 8315 Sam Potts Hwy. in Lake Waccamaw. Admission is \$8. Children under 11 and active military are free.

Farm Days activities include displays of antique tractors, an antique swap meet, a homestead village, horse and mule farming demonstrations, vendors, music, entertainment, wagon rides, a wild west show and much more. Visit <https://www.southern-farmdays.com/> for more information and the complete schedule of events.

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CRUISE FOR A CAUSE

May 30

More than 70 golf carts paraded around Lake Waccamaw during Memorial Day weekend as part of the Cruise for a Cause Golf Cart Parade and Fundraiser. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser benefit the National Breast Cancer Foundation.



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Wine Down Christmas in July

July 16

Wine Down Christmas in July at Vineland Station raised money for new Christmas decorations in downtown Whiteville. Food and drinks were provided by Cape Fear Winery, Farmacy on Main, Sarah Gore Catering & Events, Penn's Grill and SweeDee-Pie Cheesecakes. Entertainment included Flood Water Connection and The Family Band.



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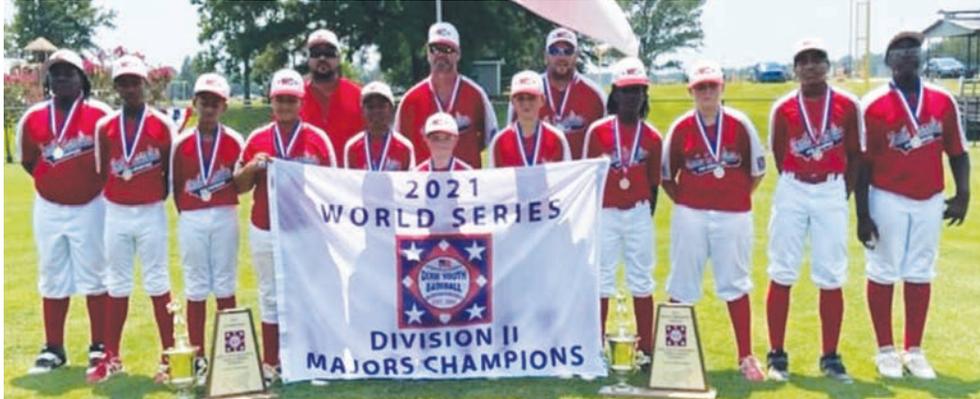


Photo by Heather Jacobs



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2. Trap thumb



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H.E.A.R.T.S Foundation School Supply Giveaway August 7

The H.E.A.R.T.S. Foundation gave away more than 500 backpacks filled with school supplies during its back-to-school drive-through event in Chadbourn on August 7. Local churches and government agencies donated school supplies. Hamburger and hotdog plates, sponsored by Food Lion, were given out along with the school supplies. Papa Johns provided food for the foundation staff working the event.



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August 10

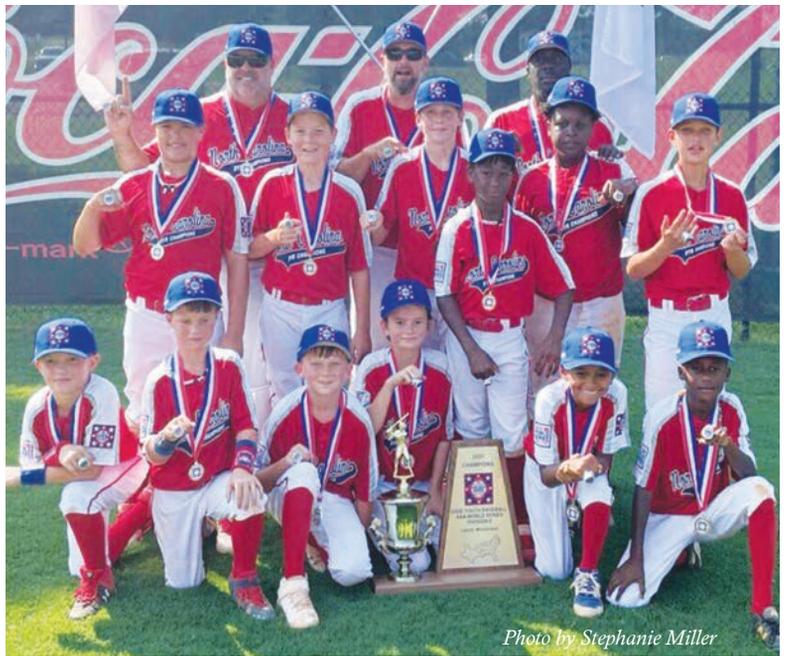


Photo by Stephanie Miller

SCC FAMILY FUN DAY

August 14

Columbus County basketball legend and former NBA star Chris Wilcox partnered with SCC to host a community Family Fun Day. Wilcox and his team of volunteers gave away 500 backpacks to K-12 students. Participants enjoyed food, games and time with Wilcox. Wilcox is the Chief Executive Officer of Helping Everyday Youth, a program that serves at-risk youth.



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BOYS & GIRLS HOMES RODEO

August 13, 14

The Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina and BTS Arena and Exhibition Center hosted a sold-out rodeo in August. Proceeds from the event benefit the children and families of Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina.



FIFTH ANNUAL N.C. HONEY FESTIVAL

September 11

The N.C. Honey Festival in downtown Whiteville celebrated the significance of bees in our environment with a pancake supper, the Carl Cutler Run, beekeeping demonstrations, food trucks and vendors. Local artist Bess Taylor presented a mural commissioned by the Columbus County Beekeepers Association.





He gets his music online.

His t-shirts at the mall.

And his drugs from his
parents' kitchen cabinet.

53% of people who abuse prescription drugs get them from family or friends.¹ Prevent children, friends and relatives from abusing medication by securing your meds in safe places they cannot access.

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NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities,
and Substance Abuse Services



Supported by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Opioid STRCures Grant#1HP97080237, and SP#-R3 Grant # 1U79SP022087.
1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2018). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

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2nd Tuesday of Every Month
at Columbus County Courthouse
from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

FOR INFORMATION CALL OR EMAIL TODAY

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** See store for more details and who qualifies.*

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Welcome Dr. Christian T. deBeck

Urologist at UNC Health Southeastern

Urologist Christian T. deBeck, MD, has joined Lumberton Urology Clinic and the medical staff of UNC Health Southeastern. He specializes in robotic, minimally-invasive and laser surgery, as well as the treatment of prostate cancer, kidney stones and kidney cancer.

Dr. deBeck completed his medical degree at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV, in 2000. He completed a research fellowship at Duke University in 2003 and completed a urology residency at Georgetown University in 2007. He is certified by the American Board of Urology and is credentialed on the da Vinci robotic surgery system.

Before joining UNC Health Southeastern, he practiced at Womack Army Medical Center in Ft. Bragg, NC.

Dr. deBeck is a native of Roanoke, Va., and currently resides in Fayetteville, although he plans to relocate to the Lumberton area in the near future.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. deBeck at **Lumberton Urology Clinic**, located at 815 Oakridge Boulevard, Lumberton, call **(910) 738-7166**.



Christian T. deBeck, MD

 **Lumberton Urology Clinic**
815 Oakridge Boulevard
Lumberton, NC



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