

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

The News Reporter

Thursday, January 7, 2016



Volume 125, Number 55
Whiteville, North Carolina

75 Cents

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• Veterans Park groundbreaking is Jan. 14.

DIDYOB?

Did you observe ...

Grace Palmer celebrating her 90th birthday with her family at Joes BBQ? She was also honored by her church Sunday. ...

County Deaths

- Whiteville
Valerie Jean George
James Alfred Blackwell
- Tabor City
Ruther Smith Livingston
Dewey Lee Hilbourn
Gregory Steven Sarvis
- Chadbourn
David Cody Worley
Cerro Gordo
Simp Franklin Coleman
- Bolton
Eric Devone Bowen

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Local. News. Now.



Railroad purchase was 2015's top story

Columbus County yielded a variety of news in 2015. The Year in Review, along with photographs, is included in today's C-Section.

News staff voted on the top stories of 2015 with R.J. Corman Railroad Group's August acquisition of the assets of the defunct Carolina Southern Railroad the top local news story of 2015.

1. Carolina Southern Railroad
Carolina Southern Railroad (CSR) had been idle due to infrastructure problems since August 2011. Columbus County and the South Carolina counties of Marion and Horry were without freight rail service. Several businesses in the three counties were negatively impacted, and Georgia-Pacific, which shut down operations years ago, permanently closed its facility between Whiteville and Chadbourn.

Rep. Ken Waddell, D-Columbus, then mayor of Chadbourn, and Columbus County Economic Development Director Gary Lanier convened a meeting at the Chadbourn Town Hall in 2012 to explore ways to restore rail service to the area. An Interstate Railroad Committee (IRC) of North and South Carolina was formed.

The IRC began a series of meetings in Loris, S.C. which stretched over a three-year period.

At the first session they named Tabor City attorney Dennis Worley and Myrtle Beach businessman Doug Wendel as committee co-chairs. Worley and Wendel did most of the behind-the-scenes work that resulted in the August announcement that a deal had been reached.

Others were involved. Representatives of town and county governments and rail customers in the three counties sat on the committee. Railroad expert Dr. Henry Lowenstein of Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C. provided technical assistance. Fair Bluff native Sen. Bill Rabon, R-Brunswick, secured state funding for an appraisal of CSR's assets. North Myrtle Beach, S.C. attorney Kenneth Moss provided legal services without charge.

Locals actively involved in the com-



R.J. Corman engines will soon be seen in the county.

mittee's work included county commissioner Giles "Buddy" Byrd, county manager Bill Clark, county attorney Mike Stephens, county economic de-

veloper Lanier, two Chadbourn mayors, the late Fax Rector and Donald Ray Bass, Fair Bluff mayors Randy Britt and then Billy Hammond, Tabor City promotions director Dianne N. Ward and Lex Johnson of Tabor City's Atlantic Corporation, a major rail customer.

2015's Top Stories

1. R.J. Corman buys railroad
2. Old Dock School suffers fire
3. Courthouse annex has issues
4. Museum reopens with new purpose
5. Rains cause flooding
6. DNA frees Sledge
7. \$1.6 million for schools, college
8. Elections take a spin
9. Lottery funding is mixed bag
10. Go Tell draws thousands

Worley, Wendel and others ultimately hammered out a handwritten agreement with CSR owner Ken Pippin for Pippin to sell the railroad to the committee for \$13.9 million. Local governments kicked in economic development incentives, including

\$1.8 million each from Columbus and Horry Counties. The committee assigned its interest in the agreement to R.J. Corman (RJC).

However, Pippin challenged the validity of the agreement. He said later that he didn't have the authorization of his board of directors to sign the agreement. Sources said that when Pippin learned that RJC - known in the rail industry as being financially strong - was the other party, he demanded \$18 million for the railroad.

RJC sued in federal court and a mediator named by the court subsequently ruled in favor of the IRC, saying that the original agreement Pippin had signed was legally binding.

R.J. Corman originally expected to resume rail service here by the first of the year. However, flooding in the Conway area caused damages that delayed their efforts to renovate and restore the railroad infrastructure. Company officials now expect rail service to resume here in March.

Corman vehicles and crews have been at work throughout the three-county region for months to bring the 90-mile rail line up to standards. In addition to the \$13.9 million it paid for the railroad, RJC is investing several million additional dollars in infrastructure improvements to get the rail line up and running. The group also signed a 95 percent interest in the Vineland Station Depot in Whiteville

over to the committee that that operates it and worked to have it restored years ago.

Restoration of rail service is expected to have major positive economic impact in the county. RJC vice president Bill Henderson has been a frequent presence here, meeting with customers to determine how the company can best meet their needs. Corman also has a strong economic development division, and the company has put local economic developers in contact with an unnamed company that is interested in obtaining and restoring to use the idled former Georgia-Pacific plant here. Negotiations continue on that project.

Buoyed by their success, at times against long odds, the IRC decided after meeting their goal of restoring rail service, not to disband but instead to continue to exist as a multi-county, two-state economic development group.

2. Old Dock school fire

Old Dock Elementary School caught fire in the early morning hours of Jan. 7. The blaze raced through the structure and gutted the auditorium, three classrooms, library, principal's offices and the school's major computer lab.

The fire, fed by dried, 80-year-old heart pine and tons of roof tar, gutted the main building of the school but none of the 267 students nor teachers were at the school, and there were no injuries.

Old Dock volunteer fire fighters first arrived at 6:40 a.m. following the 6:28 a.m. report from a motorist and friend of an Old Dock cafeteria worker who alerted 9-1-1 operators that "fire was through the roof."

Chief Edwin Ezzell immediately called for mutual aid. Water tankers and trucks from across the county responded, along with Whiteville Fire Department's ladder truck. Equipment from every fire department in Columbus County except Fair Bluff was sent, plus some units from nearby Brunswick County. A Bladenboro ladder truck moved to Whiteville.

One firefighter among the dozens from across the county who brought

See Review, page 5-A



An artist's rendering of Legion Stadium field house to be built.

City school board selects firm for Legion Stadium fieldhouse

By SHALON SMITH
Contributing Writer

The Whiteville City school board selected Trigon of Whiteville to build the new fieldhouse at Legion Stadium in a special called meeting Monday.

Trigon was the lowest of three bidders at \$630,000.

Board member Greg Merritt voiced concerns about potential change orders that may result in higher overall costs.

"This project is a straight-forward project and it is just not needed to have a bunch of change orders and added costs to this bid," he said.

Rob Armstrong, project engineer with Summit Design Group, said he recommends change order deduc-

tions from the existing contract.

"I really don't see the opportunity to keep adding to the project unless there is something that the board wants to add - something like chair rails, for instance - or something that was never specified," he said.

Armstrong doesn't expect the costs of those types of additions to be more than 3 to 5 percent of the project cost, or between \$18,900 and \$31,500.

On a complex project, he recommends a ten percent contingency for cost additions and change orders, Armstrong said.

With a project like the field house, he likes to keep costs within a 5 percent contingency.

"Even with the plumbing and

mechanical in the building, there's not a lot of finishes you could switch around at this point," Armstrong said.

At a November meeting, he presented detailed plans for the proposed 5,400 square foot building that includes locker rooms, offices, a training room, and laundry room.

"The major components of this building project are the hot water heaters, HVAC, and sitework," Armstrong said.

Merritt said the biggest problem with the existing fieldhouse locker room has been humidity that created moisture and mold issues.

"We beefed up the air conditioning and dehumidifiers in this (new) building. It's one of the few things

See Legion, page 6-A

Bear hunting, trespassing dominate WRC hearing

By JEFFERSON WEAVER
Staff Writer

Local bear hunters carried their plea to state officials Tuesday, promising cooperation in studies if the season would be extended.

Problems with trespassing hunters and discussions about the short bear season in Columbus, Brunswick and Robeson counties dominated Tuesday's Wildlife Resources Commission public hearings in Dublin.

The three counties have the shortest season in the state, and hunters say the timing of the season - early to late December - puts bear hunters at odds with holidays, deer hunters and weather.

"Just add a few days," said Scott Rabon, an avid bear hunter and the spokesman for several Columbus and Brunswick county hunting groups. "Give us a chance. Give us some help."

Bear populations have exploded across North Carolina, with harvest reports by hunters and complaints of human interaction increasing every year.

The state began a landmark bear management cooperative study two years ago, working with hunters to gather data on harvested bears.

That study is ongoing, along with annual hibernation counts in the western part of the state.

At the same time, bear harvests in Columbus, Brunswick and Robeson have remained far below the average for coastal region counties.

During the 2014-15 season, Columbus hunt-

See WRC, page 6-A



High schools offering four Broadway hits for spring musical season

By FULLER ROYAL
Staff Writer

The spring high school musical season is months away, but already, the four high schools in Columbus County have begun auditions and pre-production on the shows.

East Columbus High School opens the season April

28 with "Monty Python's Spamalot."

Written by Python's Eric Idle, "Spamalot" is a musical comedy based on the 1975 film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."

It is a highly irreverent parody of the legend of King Arthur.

The title comes from a musical line in the film.

The original Broadway production was directed by Mike Nichols in 2005. It was nominated for 14 Tony Awards, and won three, including Best Musical.

It ran for more than 1,500 performances and was seen by more than two million people.

Whiteville High School performs the following weekend (May 6-8) with Walt Disney's "Mary Poppins."

"Mary Poppins" contains the songs from the original 1964 Disney Oscar winners Richard M. and Robert B. Sherman.

Six additional songs were written by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe.

Poppins author P.L. Travers would not allow the Sherman brothers to write the added songs.

The script is by Julian Fellowes.

Some portions of the Poppins books that had been omitted from the film have been added into the musical, including a walking statue and ladders rising to the stars.

The original West End production in London opened in December 2004. It received two Laurence Olivier Awards - Best Actress in a Musical and Best Theatre Choreography.

The Broadway production opened in November 2006. It received seven Tony Award nominations, including Best Musical. It won for Best Scenic Design.

On May 12-14, South Columbus High School presents Legally Blonde, the Musical.

The production is based on the popular 2001 Reese Witherspoon film with music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin and book by Heather Hach.

Legally Blonde premiered April 2007 on Broadway. It received seven Tony nominations and 10 Drama Desk nominations the West End production opened in January 2010 at the Savoy Theatre in London. There, it was nominated for five Laurence Olivier Awards and

won three, including the Best New Musical award.

West Columbus High School wraps up the season May 20-21 with "Annie."

"Annie" is the Broadway musical based upon the popular Harold Gray comic strip Little Orphan Annie, with music by Charles Strouse,

lyrics by Martin Charnin, and the book by Thomas Meehan.

The original Broadway production opened in 1977, ran for nearly six years and won the Tony Award for Best Musical. The musical's songs "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard Knock Life" are among its most popular musical numbers.

Relay for Life meetings

Now that the holidays are over, the Relay for Life Super Heroes...Fighting for a Cure, are working to make the 2016 Relay for Life event the best ever.

Five committee meetings and team captain meetings are planned prior to Relay's April 11 Bank Night.

Relay committee meetings will be held Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and team captain meetings will be held at 6 p.m. at Southeastern Community College upstairs in Building A on the following dates: Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Feb. 22, March 7 and March 21.

The Relay for Life of Columbus County event will be held April 15 at Southeastern Community from 10 a.m. until midnight.

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Megan Bailey awarded Dr. Walters Scholarship at SCC

Megan Bailey is the first recipient of a scholarship honoring a longtime local doctor.

Columbus County lost a major influence on medicine in Columbus County last year when longtime surgeon H.G. Walters died on Oct. 24.

Walters, 93, was well known for caring for the residents of Columbus County and beyond.

Walters' son, Dr. Ron Walters, carries on the tradition of skilled medical care in his practice, Walters Surgical Associates in Whiteville.

Fourteen years ago, the H.G. Walters Medical Scholarship was initiated at Southeastern Community College with a \$4,000 gift in honor of Walters by Southeastern Diagnostics doctors John Hodgson and David Martin.

Hodgson is a long time SCC Foundation board member and supporter. Martin is an alumnus of SCC and a strong supporter as well.

The desire of both doctors was to see the scholarship grow to an endowed status.

Additional contributions designated for the scholarship fund from the Walters, their family and their friends allowed the scholarship to reach endowed status in 2014. The first award was made in this past fall to Bailey.

With a 4.0 GPA, Bailey was accepted into the associate degree nursing program at SCC.

Her goal is to graduate from SCC as a registered nurse and to continue her education by earning a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

"I'm determined to become a nurse so that I may be a servant to those in need. As a non-traditional student, I have had obstacles that have presented themselves that I have overcome," Bailey said. "I am so honored to be the first recipient of this scholarship awarded in Dr. Walters' name."

"I regret that I did not have the opportunity to meet him prior to his death; however, as a nursing student I am currently involved in clinical rotations at Columbus Regional and have had the opportunity to meet his son, Dr. Ron Walters."

"He is very supportive of



Megan Bailey

the nursing program at SCC. I have expressed to him my appreciation for this scholarship.

"I hope he is assured that I was the right choice for his dad's scholarship. I intend to make everyone who contributed to this scholarship proud of me."

Bailey, a 2005 graduate of West Bladen High School, is married to Stephen Bailey. She is the daughter of Donald and Phyllis Powers of Bladenboro.

After graduating from UNC Pembroke with a degree in science and a concentration in biology and environmental science, Bailey decided to return to SCC to pursue a degree in nursing.

"Generous donors to the SCC Foundation have ensured many named schol-

arships for our students," said executive dean of institutional advancement Sue Hawks.

"This educational facility allows Columbus County to educate our citizens, and the SCC Foundation assures funding for students who lack the means to reach their educational goals."

"Approximately 60 percent of the registered nurses and licensed practical nurses working in Columbus County were trained through SCC's nursing program."

"Medical professionals in the county realize how important this statistic is and many support the SCC Foundation. Thank you, donors."

Contributions in memory of Dr. H.G. Walters are still being received to continue to build the Walters Medical Scholarship, per the family's request.

Gifts to the SCC Foundation may be mailed to P.O. Box 151, Whiteville, N.C. 28472, contributed on-line at www.sccnc.edu or by MasterCard and Visa at 642-7141,

New scholarship named for Tom Stanley at SCC

Remembering family and friends by establishing donor-based scholarships through the Southeastern Community College Foundation is an amazing way to pay tribute to those we admire and love.

This was the sentiment of the Steve Smith family when they contributed seed money to the Tom Stanley Broadcasting and Production Technology Scholarship at SCC.

The scholarship was announced by Steve Smith, fund drive chairman, at the recent SCC Foundation Fund Drive Kickoff in October. Contributions earmarked for the scholarship have been received since that event.

"Tom Stanley owned and operated WTXY for 20 years. He was a famed radio personality. He was director of the Whiteville Downtown Development Commission at the time of his death. Tom was a mentor to many, including my son Justin," Smith said. "Through this scholarship, Tom's legacy will live on and the mentoring will continue. I encourage others to contribute to this fund in Tom's memory."

The scholarship is in its infancy at this point, but with gifts from family and friends the scholarship is expected to grow to endowed status.

Mary Alice Stanley, Tom's widow who recently donated Tom's broadcasting equipment to the broadcasting and production technology program, was honored by the announcement. "It's very humbling to me that so many loved and appreciated Tom. It's hard to realize that Tom touched so many," she said. "I never thought that there would be such an outpouring of love and admiration for him. I am excited that the Smith family and others have chosen a scholarship at SCC as a vehicle to carry on Tom's name."

Contributions to the Tom Stanley Broadcasting and Production Technology Scholarship may be made by con-



Tom Stanley at his control console.

tacting Sue Hawks, executive dean of institutional advancement at 642-7141, ext. 320, sue.hawks@sccnc.edu or by mail

to SCC Foundation, P.O. Box 151, Whiteville, N.C. 28472. Donations by MasterCard and Visa are also accepted.

Make a Difference



Columbus County Department of Social Services

40 Govt. Complex Rd. Whiteville, NC
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If you are interested in becoming a Foster Parent, Columbus County DSS will be holding an informational "Meet and Greet" on January 12th, 2016 at 6:00.

Please come with a valid driver's license, birth certificates, Social Security number, and proof of employment/income.

If you should have any questions please contact, Ginger Bass (1-910-641-3201) or Patches McQueen (1-910-641-3236)

Chadbourn meeting cancelled after death of councilman's son

By ALLEN TURNER
Staff Writer

Tuesday's meeting of the Chadbourn town council was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum after the death earlier in the day of a son of a Chadbourn councilman.

Town Clerk Patricia Garrell notified members of the news media at 5:40 p.m. Tuesday that the 7 p.m. meeting had been cancelled but said she could not go into the reasons for the cancellation.

A few minutes later, Town Manager Bob Jones confirmed that the meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

The cancellation came after the death of 22-year-old Cody Worley, son of Chadbourn Councilman David Worley.

The cancelled town council meeting has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m.

Funeral services for David Cody Worley are scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday at Worthington Funeral Home with burial in Chadbourn Memorial Cemetery.

Steel Magnolias auditions Jan. 8

Auditions for the Carolina Civic Center Historic Theater's production of "Steel Magnolias" will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, at the Carolina Civic Center, 315 N. Elm Street in downtown Lumberton.

The show has six female roles to fill.

Those who audition will be asked to perform cold readings from the script in a southern accent.

The director requests that all who audition know which role they are interested in and be familiar enough with the character to engage in a conversation, as if you were actually that character.

Rehearsals are tentatively slated to begin in February and will run three days a week from 6 to 10 p.m. Performance dates are May 15, 16 and 17.

For more information visit carolinaciviccenter.com.

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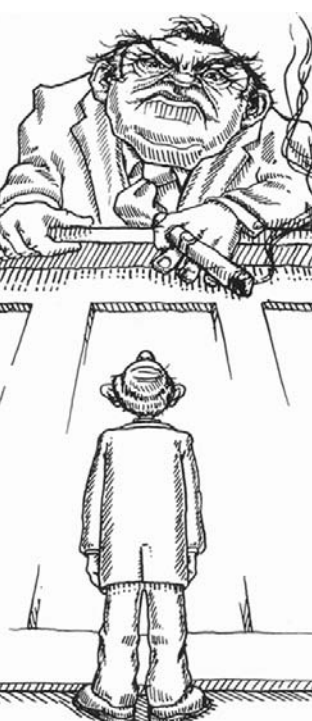
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The Affordable Care Act is here and may or may not have tax implications for you as a taxpayer. We have all the answers to your ACA questions and will help in it's tax implication that could effect your tax return.

Opening Day for Electronic Filing is January 19, 2016

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If you have all your income forms (W2, 1099, etc.) and all your deductions you can come in to pre-process your information and have your return ready to e-file on opening day.

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Crime briefs

Fled

Daniel Olem/Oleam Lee McKenzie, 26, of Brad Street, Chadbourn, was arrested on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, on a felony charge of fleeing to elude arrest, based on a warrant obtained by Chadbourn Police Officer J.L. Rawls.

McKenzie drove away from Rawls after the policeman tried to get the defendant to stop on East Holland Street. McKenzie fled on North and South Wilson Street, plus both directions on Princess Street, according to the warrant.

McKenzie's prior record shows a conviction in 2013 for DWI.

Shots

Shots from an unknown weapon fired by an unknown person damaged Brookberry Apartment locations in Whiteville of Patricia Ann Dawson and Claris Nobles shortly after 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 3, according to local police.

Another

Gerald William Lacy III, 35, of Whiteville, has been arrested on an additional charge involving his status as a registered sex offender, according to a new warrant obtained by Sheriff's Deputy Sgt. Dawn Battle.

Lacy, arrested last week on charges of failing to provide authorities with an updated address and living within 300 feet of a school, is now charged with using a social website while being a sex offender.

Battle's warrant shows Lacy, convicted in 2014 of sexual battery, used Facebook during the two-week period of Nov. 14-27, 2015. Facebook permits minor children to create and/or maintain personal web pages.

Another larceny case for Dixon

William Jerome Dixon, 32, of the 900 block of Miller Road, Tabor City, has been arrested on a charge of felony larceny on a warrant obtained by Columbus County Sheriff's Detective Ken Elliott.

Dixon is charged with stealing a John Deere tractor, valued at \$15,000, on Dec. 22, 2015. The tractor was owned by Ward Stocks, according to the warrant.

Dixon has a long history of convictions for breaking and entering, and larceny, according to the state's prison records. He was released from prison on Sept. 14, 2015 after serving nearly three years for breaking and entering, larceny and resisting arrest in Brunswick County in October 2012, plus time for similar Columbus County crimes for which he had been put on probation.



William Jerome Dixon

Other information shows Dixon served prison time in 2011-12 after a conviction for theft of firearms, plus he was convicted of breaking and entering and larceny in 2008, 2007, 2005 and 2000.

clothing, Nike Air Max shoes.

- Jan. 4 - Melissa McColum, West Columbus Street, Whiteville - break-in, theft of Microsoft Xbox unit, 10 Xbox games, 32-inch Emerson TV, 20 DVDs.

Neto's Sausage recalls meat and poultry produced without inspection

Neto's Sausage Co., Inc, a Santa Clara, Calif., establishment, is recalling approximately 7,687 pounds of beef, pork, and chicken products that were produced and labeled with the federal mark of inspection without the benefit of FSIS inspection, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Wednesday, Jan. 6.

The sausage items were produced on Dec. 28, 2014 to Dec. 28, 2015. The following products are subject to recall:

- Approximately 1-lb. packages containing pieces of "Neto's Sausage Hot Italian Sausage"
- Approximately 1-lb. packages containing pieces of "Neto's Sausage Herb-N-Cheese Coil"
- Approximately 1-lb. packages containing pieces of "Neto's Sausage Linguica Coil"
- Approximately 1-lb. packages containing pieces of "Neto's Sausage Smoked Bratwurst"
- Approximately 1-lb. packages containing pieces of "Neto's Sausage Bratwurst with Cheddar and Jalapeno"
- Approximately 1-lb. packages containing pieces of "Neto's Sausage Pork Links"
- Approximately 1-lb. packages containing pieces of "Neto's Sausage Pork Links with Apples and Cinnamon"
- Approximately 10 oz. packages containing pieces of vacuum packed "Neto's Sausage Brazilian Smoked Calabreza"
- Approximately 10 oz. packages containing pieces of vacuum packed "Neto's Sausage Italian Sausage with Herbs"
- Approximately 10 oz. packages containing pieces of vacuum packed "Neto's Sausage Italian Linguica"
- Approximately 1-lb. packages containing pieces of "Neto's Sausage Linguica Hot"

Ten absconders sought in county

Columbus County probation and parole officers and other law enforcement officials are seeking many males and females for fleeing from supervision while on probation or parole in various felony and misdemeanor convictions.

Ten of the absconders are listed in the first group to be published in several months. The 10 include:

- Christopher Ellis, 25, who was convicted in April 2015 of misdemeanor counts of obtaining property by false pretenses (fraud), and larceny. Both cases were from August 2014, records show.
- Jessica Janice Caulder, 32, who formerly lived in the Brunswick and Whiteville communities. She was put on probation for child abuse in a 2009 case, and she absconded in September 2013, according to probation records.
- Shawn Michael Keyser, 34, convicted of DWI and is shown as absconding almost six years ago on Jan.



Ellis



Caulder



Keyser



McCumbee



Patrick



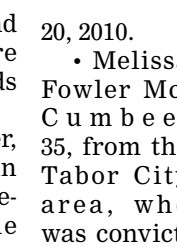
Soles



C. Ward



J. Ward



Wilson



Moore

20, 2010.

- Melissa Fowler McCumbee, 35, from the Tabor City area, who was convicted of misdemeanor assault with a deadly weapon, and misdemeanor possession of stolen goods in 2014 cases. Her abscond date is April 20, 2015.
- Curtis Lynn Patrick, 41, who has DWI convictions in

Columbus and Brunswick counties in 2014, 2011, 2010, and 2005. He hasn't reported to probation since April

7, 2010.

- Robert Graham Soles, 52, of the Whiteville area. He has an abscond date of Dec. 16, 2013, after convictions for fraud, passing forged documents, felony breaking and

entering, larceny after a break-in and felony larceny.

- Charlie Lee Ward, 24, wanted for absconding on Feb. 23, 2015 after convictions of felony breaking and entering, and larceny after a break-in.

- Jeremy Devon Ward, 26, who was convicted of communicating threats on June 13, 2014, and absconded three days later.

- Christopher Leon Wilson, also known as "Little Chris" Wilson, 34, who was paroled from prison on Dec. 1, 2014 after serving 18 days on a conviction of possession of medication with intent to sell. He was sent to prison for eight to 19 months in the drug case and for speeding to elude arrest.

- Kevin Cavall/Lavall Moore, 43, convicted of DWI in this county in 2012, and of wanton injury to personal property in Bladen County in May 2015. His abscond date is Oct. 4, 2012. He's wanted for failing to appear in court for a violation of his probation.

Anyone with any information should call 640-3082 or 911.

Two men arrested on child sex charges

Two local men have been arrested on sex charges in unrelated crimes.

Warrants show James

Brandon Godwin, 32, was arrested Dec. 30 on four counts of indecent liberties with a child and two of sexual offense with a child. Godwin's address was listed as Old Stake Road, Clarendon.

The warrants charge that Godwin forced a four year old child to perform oral sex on him on at least two occasions between June 1, 2014

and Feb. 1, 2015.

In the second case, Riley Hayes Ransom, 19, was charged with two counts of indecent liberties and two of first degree sex offense with a child. In that case, the warrants show that Ransom forcibly sodomized a female child between the ages of 6 and 10 years old on two occasions. The crimes occurred between July 6 and Oct. 23, 2015, according to the warrants.

His address was listed as Mount Olive Road, Bladenboro.



Godwin



Ransom

Former deputy pleads in pornography case

United States Attorney Thomas G. Walker announced that in federal court, Jon James Thomas, 45, pled guilty this week in federal court before Senior United States District Judge James C. Fox to receipt of child pornography.

On Oct. 15, 2015, a federal grand jury returned a criminal indictment charging Thomas, who at the time, was a patrol deputy with the Onslow County Sheriff's Department.

According to the investiga-

tion, law enforcement identified an IP address downloading and sharing child pornography via the peer-to-peer network, Shareaza.

As the investigation progressed, the address and user were identified as Thomas. Thomas was interviewed and admitted over the past two years to downloading visual depictions of minor children engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Sentencing is pending.

Corrosive liquid in face

Tommy Wayne Williams, 51, an inmate at the Columbus Correctional prison at Brunswick, has been arrested on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injuries after an incident reported Oct. 29, 2015, in the prison.



Williams

Williams is charged with assaulting a fellow inmate, Vernon Allen Lucas, 37, by pouring oven cleaner mixed

with water onto Lucas' face while the victim was asleep. The warrant was obtained by Sheriff's Deputy Christi Caraballo.

Williams is serving a term to 58 to 82 months after a conviction in Durham County in February 2015 of being a habitual felon. Lucas was serving a term after being convicted in Cumberland County of being a habitual felon.

Man's fake distress calls prompt prison and fine

Charles Robert Dowd, 27, of Beaufort, N.C. was sentenced Wednesday to 41 months of imprisonment and three years supervised release and was ordered to pay \$18,994 in restitution. On Sept. 16, 2015 Dowd entered a guilty plea to making false distress calls to the U.S. Coast Guard.

"The Coast Guard has a long and proud history of search and rescue, often at great personal risk to those who chose to devote their life to the service of others. False distress calls incur significant cost to the public by obligating search resources and vast amounts of taxpayer dollars. More importantly, they risk the very lives of responders for cases where no actual distress exists. Additionally, these false distress calls take search and rescue resources away from those who may be in real distress," said Coast Guard Captain Sean Murtagh.

According to information in the public record, on Oct. 20, 2013, the United States Coast Guard received a "MayDay" call in which the caller claimed a vessel with five adults and two children was taking on

water and sinking near the Core Creek Bridge in Beaufort.

The calls indicated that one child was stuck on the vessel and could not be seen. Upon receipt of the distress call, small boats from Coast Guard Station Fort Macon, a helicopter from the Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point, a towboat from a local salvage company, and emergency responders from the sheriff's office and two fire departments were deployed to assist in the search and rescue of the vessel.

However, response crews found no vessel or persons in distress. Ultimately, the Coast Guard determined that the call was a hoax, but not until after \$18,994 worth of resources were expended.

Break-ins, thefts

The following were victims of a break-in and/or theft reported on date shown:

- Jan. 5 - Shannon Inman, Whiteville - theft of wallet and checkbook from Wendy's restaurant here.
- Jan. 5 - Brandon Cornelius Bowen, Brown Town Avenue, Riegelwood - theft of Glock 9mm pistol.
- Jan. 5 - Sherika Lachelle Oxendine, Elizabeth Street, Whiteville - break-in, theft of or damage to three TVs, Microsoft Xbox, computer tablet, Nintendo PlayStation 3.
- Jan. 5 - Lisa Jones Price, 7300 block of N.C. 242, Evergreen - break-in, theft of 40-inch Sharp TV, four-piece JVC sound system.
- Jan. 5 - Linwood Moore, Snap's Lane, Clarkton - break-in, theft of or damage to 55-inch Samsung TV, Winchester .22 rifle, \$600 worth of assorted

HOPD joy night

The House of Prayer and Deliverance will hold its joy night service Friday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be Evangelist Janice Chambers of True Vine Holiness Church of Clarkton.

HOPD is located at 1113 S. Madison Street.

Barbara Powell is the pastor.

10th annual Gang Conference

The 10th annual Eastern N.C. Gang Conference (Bridging the divide between communities, law enforcement and gangs) will be held Thursday, Jan. 7 at the University of Mt. Olive from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The speaker will be Harold Medlock, chief of Fayetteville Police Department.

There will be workshops on human trafficking, successful programming, gangs update, cyber bullying, sovereign citizen, substance abuse, police and community engagement: trust building is a two-way street and boys and trafficking.

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Jobless must contact five employers a week

By RAY WYCHE
Staff Writer

Unemployed workers in North Carolina who are drawing unemployment insurance benefits must contact five potential job sources each week instead of two possible work positions as has been the Employment Security Commission's (ESC) rules.

The change in the number of inquiries for work applies to applicants for benefits who filed for the unemployment payments after Jan. 3 of this year.

Those jobless workers who filed for the unemployment benefits prior to Jan. 3 must continue to contact two possible employers about a job.

The change in the number of contacts for work each week is the result of a North Carolina Senate bill passed in September 2015.

A record of contacts and the results of these contacts must be retained by the applicants.

More details about this change in applying for unemployment benefits may be obtained at www.ncesc.com.

The General Assembly that made this change in the

state law has been criticized by several sources for other actions pertaining to people who are out of work.

These changes include reducing the time an unemployed person can receive benefits and the amount of the benefit checks.

Experts say the number of workers in the state looking for jobs exceeds the number of jobs available, leading to a higher unemployment rate, even though the ESC reports of unemployment figures show a jobless rate of slightly over 5 percent.

ESC's calculations consider only those out-of-work employees who are presently on ESC's rolls, not those who have exhausted their jobless benefits.

GOP women meet Jan. 12

The Columbus County Republican Women's Club meets Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 6:30 p.m., at the new Columbus County Courthouse in Whiteville.

Brenden Jones, GOP candidate for N.C. House District 46, will speak. The public is welcome.

Columbus Regional Healthcare System received a \$150,000 grant from The Cannon Foundation, Inc which will be used to support the relocation of the Donayre Cancer Care Center to the main hospital campus. More specifically it will be used to assist with the HVAC system in the newly renovated area for the cancer center.

The new location of the Donayre Cancer Care Center will be in an area of the hospital that was constructed in 1996 and an area that has not ever housed clinical space. "When developing plans for the space to be renovated, it was determined the HVAC system was at the end of life" says Carla Hollis, CEO of Columbus Regional Healthcare System. "In order to provide the highest quality of care for the oncology patients, the temperature of the environment needs to be consistent as the patient population tends to be more sensitive to temperature changes. This grant will be helpful with the cost of HVAC system. We are

Sponsored content

Columbus Regional Receives \$150,000 Cannon Foundation Grant



Carla Hollis, Columbus Regional CEO and Lisa Thomas, Director of the Donayre Cancer Care Center check on the progress of the project.

most appreciative to The Cannon Foundation for approving our grant request," says Hollis.

Construction on the new location for the Donayre Cancer Care Center began in mid December and will be completed this summer.

The Cannon Foundation is an independent foundation established in 1943 by Charles A Cannon, President and Chairman of Cannon Mills Company. Focused predominantly in North Carolina, with an emphasis on rural areas, this endowed Foundation primarily funds capital projects and equipment needs.

2015

Continued from page 1-A

nearly two dozen water and pumper trucks to the scene, was treated for smoke inhalation and another sustained a broken foot.

Amazingly, the school's students didn't miss one day of classes. About 12 hours after the fire began to ravage the aging school, partitions were in place in the gym for three classrooms with temporary desks furnished from the county schools' maintenance facilities.

Principal Ronna Gore said the loss of the school's library was huge.

Donations poured in from Old Dock alumni and donors from across the country. Lisa Metts, a former student at Old Dock Elementary School, and her husband Kevin drove 12 hours from their home in Clermont, Fla. with a U-Haul trailer filled with books to donate to Old Dock School.

A \$50,000 Dollar General Grant was awarded to the school to help build back the school's library of books and technology.

Szostak Design, a Chapel-Hill based architectural firm, was tapped to design the new building, and Bordeaux Construction was the low bidder on the project.

The Columbus County School Board approved a \$4 million project that replaces roughly 19,000 square feet the school lost in a fire. It is slated for completion in March. Imperfect soils and rainy weather are to blame for construction delays on the project.

The Old Dock School building plan calls for six new classrooms to be connected to the existing pod of classrooms not lost in the fire.

"It will be nice," Gore said. "It will look like one unit."

A new media center and administrative offices will connect the two pods and a more than \$300,000 change order for the gym adds a stage.

"The thing that is going to slow us up is the weather," said Alan Faulk, superintendent for Columbus County Schools, in October.

"We want it to come up fast but I do appreciate that we have folks there that are making sure it's on a good foundation," Faulk said. "It drains well and properly and you can really see it."

3. Courthouse opens but with problems

In April new Clerk of Court Jess Hill, who took office in December, and his staff of 19 were busy preparing to move thousands of files and much more paperwork from the present courthouse to the new one.

The historic Columbus County Courthouse closed on June 22, paving the way for extensive renovations to

the facility, as officials prepared to move into the new courthouse, which opened on June 29.

A lengthy two-part story on the new Columbus County Courthouse addressed several glaring problems, from small courtrooms to heat and air conditioning, excessive moisture and leaks to lack of adequate covering at the entrance to shield people from inclement weather. County commissioners, judicial officials, the architect, county manager and others were not saying much "on the record" except that they "weren't aware" of some glaring problems reported by *The News Reporter*.

All three courtrooms are small, and projected seating to handle up to almost 200 in the largest of the three is based on each person seated within the space of 18 inches. The other two courtrooms' seating capacity is also calculated on the same "code" formula.

Seating is going to be a problem in all three courtrooms, and there isn't one big enough to hold a District Court traffic court crowd, or to comfortably handle a Superior Court case management session, officials said.

"We've built another building, and we're not closing anything we've got. Now, we're more spread out than before. I threw up my hands when it was decided to put the annex in the narrow space they selected," Superior Court Judge Douglas Sasser said.

Sasser said county workers would sometimes go to his office and show him changes in blueprints, but the visits weren't for "official" approval.

"I made some suggestions from time to time, but it appears they didn't pay any attention to many of them. I'm worried about the size of the new courtrooms, particularly the capability to adequately accommodate the public and defendants with cases on the court calendar," the judge continued.

Architect Paul Bonsall defended his firm's design. He said, "Capacity in the courtrooms is based on a seating code used in such designs. We did a lot of different studies, and through discussions with the district attorney, judges and county commissioners we came up with the present plans.

"I understand there will be a large number of people on traffic-court days, but that's usually just one or two days a month. They could schedule them to come at different times of the day to reduce the crowding," Bonsall added.

Changes in security procedure began with women's handbags banned from the

courthouse and cell phones not allowed. Local real estate broker Jackie Ray posted signs across the from of her business noting her office would not hold cell phones for those headed to court. She said loitering had increased with the opening of the new courthouse and was frustrated over parking issues.

Humidity problems persisted and mold had been found in the new building. Portable dehumidifiers were in use constantly. After negotiations the engineering firm that designed the system agreed to foot the bill to have a dehumidifying system installed.

4. N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences

The N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville made its debut with a reception attended by 180 supporters and continued with a grand opening celebration with 500 outside and 1,100 within the newly remodeled building. Dr. Emlyn Koster, director of the N.C. Museum of Science in Raleigh and other department directors were here for both events, in spite of having no power at their homes in Raleigh and other travel challenges.

A \$100,000 local financial commitment needed to show the state legislature the county's commitment to the viability and sustainability of the science museum's southeastern satellite in Whiteville was met with the help of a \$40,000 gift from the Duke Energy foundation.

5. Flooding

A tropical rain system brought from 16 to 20 inches of rain to the county in a few days in October. The "persistent plume of tropical moisture" settled in from Oct. 2-4, bringing historic flooding to the area. Emergency officials in Crusoe and Nakina worked with the sheriff's office and other agencies to evacuate residents from some homes. In at least one case, the occupant of one flooded home chose to stay put - but asked officials for parts to repair his boat motor.

Hurricane Joaquin sat off the coast. The storm reached Category III strength at one point. It never made landfall but caused moisture. Two to 10 inches of rain fell during each of the 24-hour periods of the storm.

Crop damage was reported across the region with many farmers unable to harvest crops from wet fields.

6. Sledge case

Joseph Sledge Jr., a 70-year-old from Georgia, was declared innocent in January 2015 here of murdering two Bladen County women in 1976, and released after spending more than 37 years in

prison.

The discovery in August 2012 by former clerk of court Sheila Pridgen of an envelope containing hair found on one of the murder victims led to DNA testing that excluded Sledge from possible suspects in the brutal Bladen killings, a case where pre-trial publicity forced the trial to be moved to Whiteville in 1978.

The hair evidence had been missing for several years and believed lost from the trial's collection of evidence. The envelope was on a shelf near the ceiling in the clerk's evidence vault, and not easily visible. The short-in-stature Pridgen was standing on a ladder when she felt the paper that had apparently fallen from a box containing trial evidence.

DNA testing wasn't available in 1978, and the nine hairs examined in 2012 showed Sledge could not be linked to the case by any of the hair.

Sledge had maintained his innocence from the beginning, and a three-judge panel concurred with findings by the N.C. Innocence Inquiry Commission that Sledge was wrongfully convicted.

It was noted during the hearing here that three major factors led to Sledge's conviction:

- Sledge escaped from the minimum-security prison at White Lake near the home of the murder victims, and his escape was on the night the women were stabbed to death.

- Two former men, jailed with Sledge before the 1978 trial, lied when they told the jury Sledge talked about the murders while in jail with them. The two men, one now deceased, split a \$5,000 reward furnished by the SBI.

- Nine hairs found on the torso of Aileen Davis, who had been raped, were examined by the FBI. Two of the hairs were declared before the trial to be from a "black man."

7. \$1.6 million for schools

Budgets were an ongoing topic throughout the month of June for county and town officials.

In a surprise move, county commissioners decided to give an additional \$1.6 million to Columbus County schools, Whiteville City Schools and Southeastern Community College for infrastructure repairs. The motion to give the county schools \$1 million and the city schools and SCC \$333,333 each passed unanimously.

"I'm asking this board to allocate enough dollars to make a difference in how our schools and college can do some much needed repairs," Commissioner Charles McDowell said. "Every school has major needs, the college,

too. I'm asking this board to invest in our children."

Commissioner Ricky Bullard immediately seconded the motion, and none of the other five board members spoke against the move.

"This isn't for ball fields and fencing," McDowell pointed out. "They must tell us how they have spent the money."

"We've got classrooms in the county system leaking while they're being used, and we had children in Tabor City last winter having to use a bathroom that was so cold the water pipes were frozen," Commissioner James Prevatte said.

"This one million isn't much for our county system with 18 schools, but it's certainly better than our regular capital outlay funding," Bullard said.

8. Municipal elections decided with one vote

Several municipal races were decided by slim margins. A power outage and absentee ballots that arrived late but were postmarked on time changed the outcome of one race.

The outcome of Chadbourn's Nov. 3 town council race changed after a recount was held at the Columbus County Board of Elections in Whiteville.

James Green now had a one-vote win over challenger Jay Suggs Jr.

Following the official canvass, Suggs had a 202-197 lead over Green. The new vote count gave Green a 197-196 lead over Suggs.

Green requested the recount because the canvass tally showed Suggs receiving 15 absentee votes but only 10 absentee ballots actually were cast.

Elections director Carla Strickland said the recount would have been conducted even if Green had not requested it. A temporary power outage at the board of elections during the canvass caused a malfunction and faulty results were reported, she said.

Strickland was not present during the canvass because of health issues involving a member of her family. "Upon my return," she told about 20 people gathered for the recount, "we found something that was not correct in the absentees, so we would have done this recount, regardless."

"The county maintenance department came over and started playing with (circuit) breakers in our building, causing the power to go out momentarily, and it did affect the absentees in Chadbourn, so we will be doing all votes cast - election day, absentee, provisional and one stop - for both Chadbourn and Brunswick this morning," Strick-

land said.

In Brunswick, commission candidate Nancy H. Hill came up one vote short (as did Queen Hawkins) of winning one of two seats up for election on the board. Hill and Hawkins received 59 votes. Jackie William-Rowland and Everlene Davis got 60 and 62 votes, respectively. Brunswick's totals after the recount did not change what was reported on canvass day.

The vote count in the Chadbourn mayor's race changed Saturday but not the outcome of the election. Phillip C. Britt ran unopposed. He had 267 votes following last week's canvass. That total included 15 absentee tallies but only 10 absentee ballots were cast in Chadbourn. Britt received 261 votes at the conclusion of the Saturday recount. There were 22 write-ins.

Chadbourn's current mayor, Donald Ray Bass, who ran for a council seat instead of the mayor's seat, led the ticket in Saturday's recount for three available council seats with 207. Newcomer Colene Kelly had 203 votes and Green had 197.

The recount did not change the outcome for incumbent councilmen Brian Edwards and Edwin Roberts. Edwards with 173 votes and Roberts with 121 votes failed in their re-election bids.

Four absentee votes for Edwards were counted at the canvass but his final vote total dropped by two as a result of the recount.

Emory Worley lost his bid for the Whiteville Council District One seat by just one vote. Incumbent councilwoman Sara Thompson won with a 156-155 lead over Worley.

Worley opted not to ask for a recount. He said the results in the Chadbourn recount did not change his position.

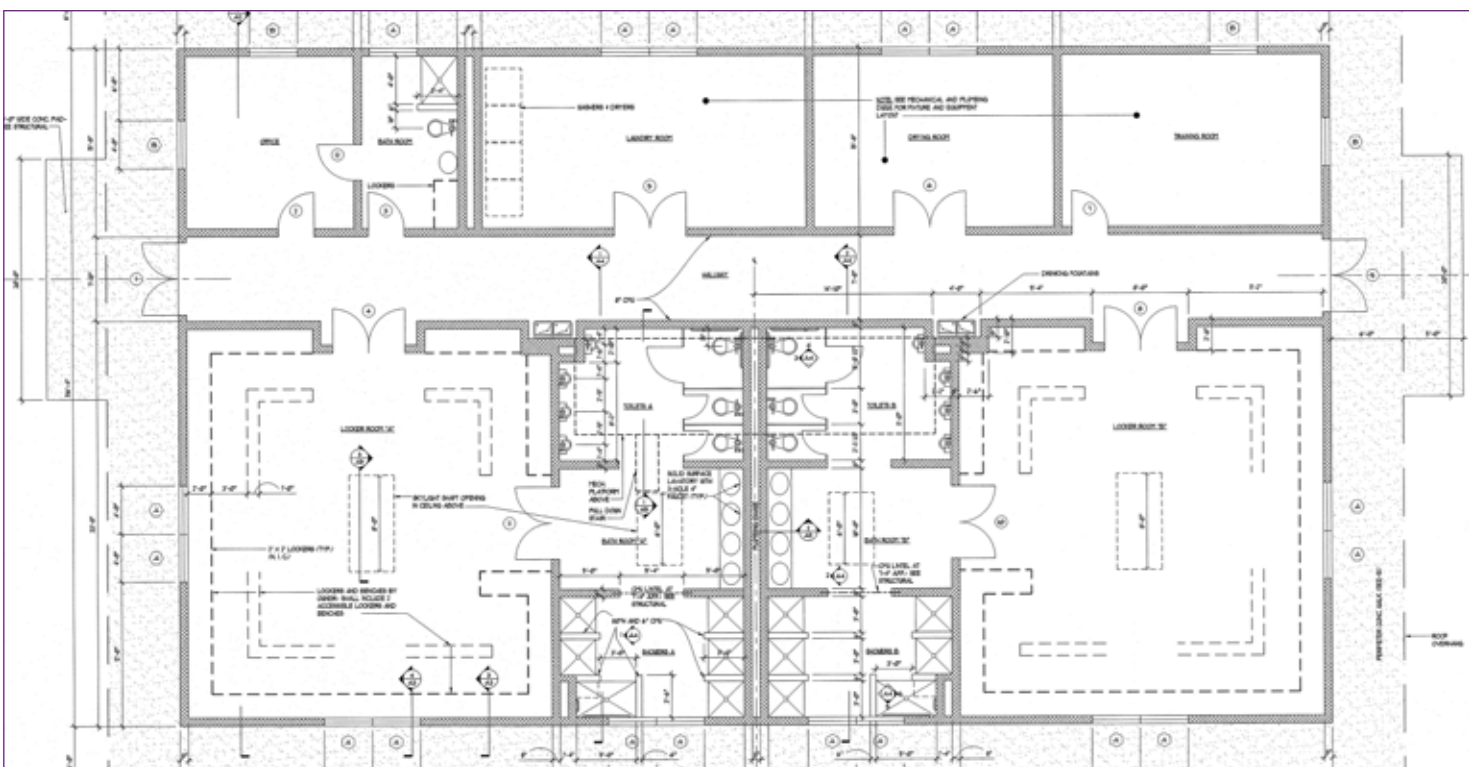
"It's all over with. I've made a decision and I am going to stick with it," Worley said.

9. Lottery ticket sales exceed \$13 million

A *News Reporter* inquiry into the number of lottery tickets being sold in Columbus County showed that the amount of money being spent on lottery tickets had steadily increased since the lottery began in 2006 and reached an all-time high in the prior year. Nearly \$13.5 million in state lottery tickets were sold in Columbus County in 2014. That same year less than \$590,000 was returned to the county for school construction, and in all, \$2.9 million was attributed to teacher salaries, pre-K funds, scholarships and digital learning that benefited Columbus County residents.

In 2006, about \$4.4 million

See 2015, page 12-A



The floor plan of the new field house.

Legion

Continued from page 1-A

we went above basic with – so we could keep the temperature and humidity under control,” he said.

There will be two five-ton units for each of the locker room bathroom areas linked to a humidistat that will be able to ramp

up the condenser and pull the air out of the space at a rate that will dehumidify, officials said.

The fieldhouse will also feature tankless water heaters to provide hot water to the showers, washing machines and therapy tub.

There will not be much architectural feature to the exterior of the block building and the interior will have basic features and function, officials said.

“If you look at the entire building, it’s not a fancy building but those mechanical com-

ponents are really the major features of the building,” Armstrong said.

Rejected bids for construction of the facility included a \$765,780 bid from Graka Builders and a \$688,729 bid from Bill Worley & Sons.

WRC

Continued from page 1-A

ers took 14 bears, according to WRC numbers. Neighboring Bladen, on the other hand, recorded 103 kills.

Brunswick saw 46, while Robeson reported none for its first season. Cumberland County had 25, and New Hanover five. Pender hunters reported 56.

A total of 1,867 were taken in the entire coastal region, with an additional 2,083 in the piedmont and mountains.

WRC biologists say the statewide harvest could be increased by 1,500 bears annually with no negative impact on populations.

Rabon said local hunters are standing by to help, if the state will loosen seasons here.

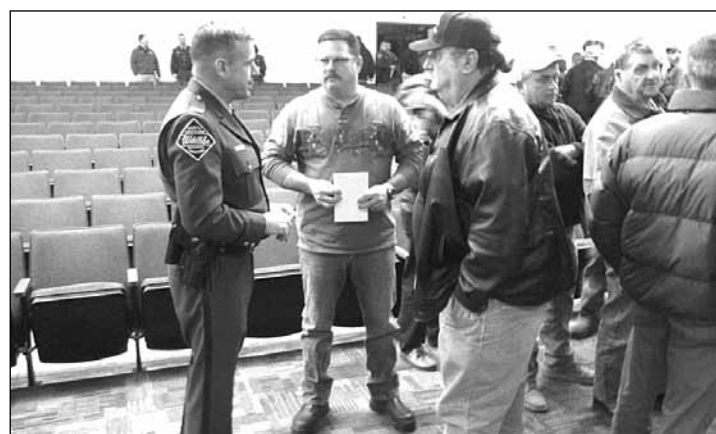
“The bear sanctuaries (in Green Swamp and elsewhere) have done their job,” he said. “There are a lot of bears out there, where there didn’t used to be.

“You say you need hard and fast data – we will be happy to use our equipment to drag roads so you can count tracks, use our GPS to show where they were found, and devote our time and money to help provide the data you need. But we need to be able to have some more days to hunt.

“If you want to increase the harvest by 18 to 22 percent, like you say,” Rabon said, “we need an earlier season.”

Rabon suggested a split season, with several additional days in November to coincide with surrounding counties, followed by a week to 10 day break, and the remainder of December.

“If you don’t want to open the entire season like it is in neighboring counties, try splitting it up,” he said. “Just



Wildlife Col. Jon Evans talks with two members of the audience after Tuesday’s hearing. Both of the men are avid outdoorsmen, but attended the meeting with concerns over the growing problem of hunters trespassing or hunting from the roadside during deer season.

be fair and consistent.”

Rabon pointed out that the economic impact of bear hunting is growing, as more people turn to the sport.

“Bear hunting can make a difference in local spending,” he said.

“Hunters buy food, dog food, guns, licenses, gas – when we can’t hunt in our own counties, we go elsewhere and spend that money.”

Commissioners promised to review the suggestion for possible consideration during the 2017 bear season. Rabon emphasized the offer to help gather data.

“There’s no scientific data in your studies to show why this is not a good thing,” he said. “We’re willing to use our time and money to help prove that. Just give us a chance.”

Commissioners also heard comments from a number of rural residents, most of whom were from Bladen County, asking for additional restrictions on roadside hunting, and more help for Wildlife Enforcement of-

ficers.

Harold Davis, who lives “in the middle of Bladen Lakes State Park,” said he continues to have problems with hunters who trespass onto his property from the Bladen Lakes Game Lands. He noted that since the area around an elementary school has been made a permit-only hunt zone, “problems have dropped 90 percent there.

“I’d like to see the permit process elsewhere,” he said.

Davis received support from the 150 people in attendance when he challenged the commission to make more officers available.

“Those guys are out there working alone,” he said. “I don’t blame them when they can’t get to my property in time. You need more officers, and they need to be paid better.”

Several other speakers included a cattle farmer in the area. He urged the WRC to “do something” about hunters who park on the state right of way.

“How can they block my driveway when they say

they’re waiting for their dogs?” one man asked. “Everyone knows they’re really hunting. But how can they block me going into my own property?”

Col. Jon Evans, commander of the Enforcement Division for the state, said right of way hunting is a “complicated issue.

“We can’t prohibit someone from parking on the public right of way,” he said. “Blocking your driveway – that’s a matter for the Highway Patrol or local law enforcement. If someone’s parked half on your property and half on the right of way, that’s an issue.

“We’re specifically prohibited in most cases from enforcing traffic laws with the Wildlife Commission. Hunting on the right of way is a different story. It’s something we get a lot of complaints about.

John Cain said he hopes the state will ban right of way hunting entirely.

“I’ve had people shooting across my front yard when they were hunting on the roadside,” he said. “That’s going to get someone killed.”

Tuesday’s hearing was the first of a series held across the state to give the public opportunities to comment on proposed changes to hunting, fishing, trapping, non-game and Game Lands rules for the 2016-17 season. Hearings will be held in each district through Jan. 21.

Speakers do not have to be licensed hunters or fishermen, or residents of the district where the hearing is held.

Online comments are also welcome though February. Go to www.ncwildlife.org for an online comment sheet or more information.

Chamber meeting, mini-expo Jan. 25

By JEFFERSON WEAVER
Staff Writer

The 79th annual Chamber of Commerce meeting and mini business expo is set for Jan. 25.

Jennifer Holcomb, executive director of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, said this year’s event is expected to be a big, busy affair.

“It’s our largest event,” she said, “and the mini-expo gives people a chance to showcase their business and network with other chamber members.”

The banquet and mini-expo will be held at Northwood Church on U.S. 701 North in Whiteville. Although the banquet and expo are open to the public, only chamber members may set up for the mini-expo.

“It’s another opportunity to show why our county is so unique,” Holcomb said.

A returning feature with this year’s event is the opportunity to decorate a table.

“We have some really creative people who showcase their businesses in unusual ways,” she said. “It’s an excellent way for chamber members to spread the word about their businesses.”

Holcomb pointed out that the tables give every business an audience in an outside-the-box way.

“Look at Whiteville Janitorial, for instance,” she said. “I knew very little about their business until they decorated a table at our banquet. Now I love going there – it’s much better than Walmart. They have a lot of things you might not even think about being available. I found out about them because of what I saw at their table during the banquet.”

The fee to decorate a table is \$100, which includes two reserved seats at the table. Banquet and meeting tickets are \$30 per person.

The deadline to reserve a seat or sponsor a table is Jan. 15, Holcomb said.

“We encourage people to reserve early on, since they will sell out,” Holcomb said.

The banquet and meeting will feature the annual Lifetime Chamber Member Award, as well as the Sol B. Mann Community Spirit Award. The Mann award is named for the downtown entrepreneur and community advocate and founding mem-

ber of the chamber.

Outgoing chamber president Jeff Hopkins of First Bank will be handing over the gavel to the new chamber leader, Terri Edmund of Joe’s Barbecue.

The table from Joe’s was one of the standouts last year, Holcomb said.

“Terri brings a new way of looking at things to the chamber,” Holcomb said. “We think she’s going to do an outstanding job.”

Since the chamber broadened its scope to place even more emphasis on the county than in years past, Holcomb said, “this isn’t just a Whiteville event.

“This is for everyone,” she said. “All our members, and all our businesses, are important to the chamber of commerce. This is a chance to meet some new people, learn about some other businesses, and build on the success we already have in our retail and business community.”

For more information, call the chamber at 642-3171.

“We really want people to reserve their seats early,” Holcomb said. “It’s entirely possible we could sell out. If you haven’t been, this is your chance to enjoy a great event, and meet your local chamber members.”

Compassionate Friends meeting planned Jan. 11

The Compassionate Friends Border Belt Chapter will meet in the fellowship hall of Grace Episcopal Church, 105 S. Madison St. in Whiteville on Monday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. The focus will be on keeping a healthy attitude for 2016. Any parent who has experienced the death of a child is invited.

The group will share stories, experiences and precious memories.

The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a loved one.

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Deaths

The News Reporter, Thursday, January 7, 2016 -- 7A

DEATH NOTICE



HESTER EDWARDS NICHOLSON
CARVERS CREEK -- Hester Edwards Nicholson, 98, died Monday, Jan. 4, 2016, at her residence. She was born in Wilmington, Sept. 6, 1917, to the late Daniel Edwards and Betty Hester Edwards. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, of 61 years, J.K. Nicholson Jr.; five brothers, Homer, Alden, Elmer, Deloimer and Greer Edwards; and one sister, Mabel Taylor.

Hester was a secretary at Block's Shirt Factory and later was an administrative assistant at Federal Paper Board Co. She taught Sunday school at Carver's Creek United Methodist Church. Hester was an avid bridge player. She loved the beach, shopping and enjoyed traveling with her friends. She was very kind and giving and was always helping others. In 1944, she married J.K. Nicholson Jr., who was an Army officer in World War II.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 at Carvers Creek United Methodist Church. The family will receive visitors one hour prior beginning at 6 p.m. Burial will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 at Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington. Andrews Mortuary of Wilmington is handling the arrangements.

Pallbearers and honorary pallbearers will be, Jack Skipper, Curtis Coleman, David Settlemyer, Billy Settlemyer, Jack West, Danny McDuffie, Tim Stevens and Kenny Soles.

Survivors include her niece, Doris Cavanaugh; nephew, Edwin Taylor; and special caretakers, Agusta Burnett and Mary Jane Graham.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Samaritan's Purse.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.andrewsmortuary.com.

DEWEY LEE HILBOURN

TABOR CITY -- Dewey Lee Hilbourn, 92, died Tuesday, Jan. 5 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice and LifeCare Center in Whiteville. Born Feb. 5, 1923 in Horry County, he was the son of the late Barcie Lee Hilbourn and Blanche Fowler Hilbourn. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Velma Estelle Fowler Hilbourn; two brothers, Horace Hilburn and Roy Hilburne; two sisters, Ovella Evans and Louise Hilburne; one grandson; and one great-grandchild.

Visitation will be held from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 at Inman Ward Funeral Home. Final rites will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 in the funeral home chapel. Burial will be in the Fowler Hilbourn Cemetery.

He is survived by one son, John Hilbourn of Nakina; one daughter, Evelyn Lucille H. Dameron of Tabor City; one brother, Carlyle Hilburn of Littleton, Colo.; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

DEATH NOTICE



SIMP FRANKLIN COLEMAN
CERRO GORDO -- Mr. Simp Franklin Coleman, 76, died Monday, Jan. 4, 2016 at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton. Born May 20, 1939 in Columbus County, he was the son of the late Simp Thomas Coleman and Madgie Edwards Coleman.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Hubert Coleman; and four sisters, Ada Floyd, Kathleen Wilson, Rowena Watts and Mary Estleen.

Mr. Coleman was a Veteran of the United States Army and a Mason of Tabor Lodge #563. He retired from the Department of Corrections after 34 years of service.

Visitation was held Wednesday, Jan. 6 at Inman Ward Funeral Home in Tabor City. Final rites will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 at Cherry Grove Baptist Church. Burial will be in the Cherry Grove Baptist Church Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Fowler Coleman; one son, Gentry Mark Coleman and wife, Martha; one granddaughter, Kacie Elizabeth Coleman; and one grandson, Zac Lovette.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Cherry Grove Baptist Church Bus Fund, 9833 Swamp Fox Hwy. W., Cerro Gordo, N.C. 28430.

A guest register is available at inmanfuneralhome.com.

LUVINIA 'LUKIE' COLEMAN DENT

BLADENBORO -- Luvinia "Lukie" Coleman Dent, 83, died Monday, Jan. 4, 2016. She was preceded in death by her parents, Kelly and Martha Coleman; her husband, Buddy Dent; two brothers, Lambert and Sambo Coleman; and one sister, Esther Guyton.

The family received friends Wednesday, Jan. 6 at Bladen-Gaskins Funeral Home in Elizabethtown. A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 at Lewis Cemetery in Bladenboro with Rev. Anthony Hardin officiating.

She is survived by one son, Billy of Bladenboro; one daughter, Gail Dent Hester of Bladenboro; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

VALERIE JEAN GEORGE

WHITEVILLE -- Valerie Jean George, 60, died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 at her residence.

Final rites will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 5548 Silver Spoon Road, Whiteville. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Viewing will be held from noon-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 at Peoples Funeral Home and Saturday, Jan. 9 following the service at the church.

Surviving are two daughters, Octavia George of Hope Mills and Kehaulani George of the home; and one sister, Sandra Powell of Fayetteville.

DEATH NOTICE

ELIZABETH 'LIB' BOSTIC ROBBINS

ELIZABETH TOWN -- Elizabeth "Lib" Bostic Robbins, 99, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Arthur A. Robbins Jr.; two sisters; two brothers; and a grandson, Ted Dowless.

The family will receive friends from 12:30-1:45 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 in the Elizabethtown Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Final rites will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 at the church with Dr. David Elks officiating. Burial will be in Old Trinity Cemetery in Elizabethtown. Bladen-Gaskins Funeral Home in Elizabethtown is handling the arrangements.

She is survived by one son, Arthur "Chicky" Robbins III and wife, Janice, of Elizabethtown; one daughter, Libby Dowless and husband, Layton, of Whiteville; five grandchildren, Tim Dowless and wife, Edna, Robin Herring, Todd Dowless and wife, Heather, Elizabeth Robbins Eubanks and husband, Austin, and Ivey Robbins; and eight great-grandchildren, Alex Herring, Arron Herring, Lindsey Dowless, Lauren Dowless, Kyler Dowless, Camryn Eubanks, Trace Eubanks and McRay Eubanks.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Elizabethtown Baptist Church "Rebuild the Vision Fund," 1800 West Broad Street, Elizabethtown, N.C. 28337.

RALPH HERRING SR.

HOLDEN BEACH -- Ralph Herring Sr., 98, formerly of Chadbourn, died Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Ruth Herring; his father and mother; Carden and Grace Lovette Herring; one son, Ralph Herring Jr.; two brothers, J.C. and Howard Herring; and two sisters, Grace Herring Clark and Mae Herring Gray.

He was a lifetime member of Porter Swamp Baptist Church where he taught Sunday school.

Visitation was held Tuesday, Dec. 15 at Meares Funeral Home in Fair Bluff. Final rites were held Wednesday, Dec. 16 at Porter Swamp Baptist Church with Revs. Anthony Clemons and Tim Moore officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

He is survived by two daughters, Edith Herring Britt of Holden Beach and Margaret Herring Parritt of Nichols, S.C.; one brother, Gary Herring of Elizabethtown; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

ALTON GERALD THURMAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Alton Gerald Thurman, 70, formerly of Hallsboro, died Friday, Jan. 1, 2016.

Final rites will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11 at Mt. Hebron AME Zion Church with Pastors Alonza Bragg and Kelvin Thurman officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery in Hallsboro. Visitation will be held Monday, Jan. 11 one hour prior to the service and following the service at the church. Union Funeral Home of Whiteville is handling the arrangements.

He is survived by one son, Kelvin Thurman; one daughter, Kelle Bondman; two sisters, Gretchen Thurman Parker and Delossie Hair; and one brother, Gene Thurman.

DEATH NOTICE



FRANCES DAVIS SMITH SOUTHPORT -- Frances Davis Smith, 90, formerly of Lake Waccamaw, died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016. She was the daughter of the late Oliver Bradford Davis Sr. and Carzetta Williamson Davis. Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by her husband, Johnnie Smith; three sisters, Marie Jones, Louise Hilburn and Ann Corder; and one brother, Oliver Bradford Davis Jr.

She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church. Final rites will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 in the chapel of McKenzie Mortuary with Rev. Stephen Bailey officiating. Burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery, Lake Waccamaw. Visitation will be held from 12:30-1:45 p.m. prior to the service Saturday, Jan. 9 at the mortuary.

Survivors include one son, Robert (Bobby) Bradford Hill Sr. (Karen) of Eastover; one sister, Janice Nartker of Las Vegas, Nev.; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

GREGORY STEPHEN 'STEVE' SARVIS

TABOR CITY -- Gregory Stephen "Steve" Sarvis, 56, died Monday, Jan. 4, 2016 at McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, S.C. Born Dec. 12, 1959 in Horry County, he was the son of Lila Soles Sarvis and the late Joseph H. Sarvis. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Elbert and Hazel Soles; and his paternal grandparents, Ossie and Elma Sarvis.

Visitation was held Wednesday, Jan. 6 at Inman Ward Funeral Home in Tabor City. Final rites will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 in the funeral home chapel. Burial will be in Myrtle Green Cemetery.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by two daughters, Leslie Sarvis of Tabor City and Marie Martin of Aynor, S.C.; four sisters, Teresa Watts and Josette Harrelson, both of Tabor City, Sherri Wilson of Loris, S.C. and Tracy Laffidy of Hartsville, S.C.; and four grandchildren.

RUTHER SMITH LIVINGSTON

TABOR CITY -- Ruther Smith Livingston, 82, died Monday, Jan. 4, 2016 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice and LifeCare Center in Whiteville.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 at Little Iron Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 24320 Peacock Road, Tabor City. Burial will be in the Smith Family Cemetery. Viewing will be held from noon-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6 at Peoples Funeral Home of Whiteville and Thursday, Jan. 7 one hour prior to and following the service at the church. There will be a wake from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6 in the funeral home chapel.

Surviving are her daughter, Joyce Williams of Tabor City; and son, Billy Livingston of Tabor City.

ERIC DEVONE BOWEN BOLTON -- Eric Devone Bowen, 43, died Sunday, Jan. 3, 2016 at Columbus Regional Healthcare in Whiteville.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8 at Free-will Holiness Church, 3258 Pocosin Road, Lake Waccamaw. Burial will be in the Smith Family Cemetery. Viewing will be held Friday, Jan. 8 one hour prior to and following the service at the church. The family will receive friends from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 at Peoples Funeral Home in Whiteville. There will be no viewing on Thursday.

Surviving are his wife, Portia G. Bowen; one daughter, Mary Bowen of the home; four sons, Eric D. Bowen Jr., Kyle Bowen and Tyler Bowen, all of the home and Antwain Bowen of Wilmington; his mother, Kathia Bowen of Lake Waccamaw; three sisters, Devoria Anders of Lake Waccamaw, Pamela Evans of Clinton and Brenda Bowen of Council; one brother, Desmond Bowen of Lake Waccamaw; one granddaughter; his maternal step grandmother, Bernice Smith of Lake Waccamaw; and paternal step grandmother, Elouise Bowen of Bolton.

Friends may visit the family at 553 Pocosin Road, Lake Waccamaw.

CARMEN QUEENIE JACOBS

CLARKTON -- Carmen Queenie Jacobs, 52, died Sunday, Jan. 3, 2016 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice and LifeCare Center in Whiteville. She was a home healthcare worker.

Final rites will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 at Pierce Chapel AME Zion Church with Rev. Joanus Freeman officiating. Burial will be in Mitchellfield Cemetery. Union Funeral Home in Whiteville is handling the arrangements. Viewing will be held from 1-6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 in the funeral home chapel and Saturday, Jan. 9 one hour prior to and following the service at the church.

She is survived by two sons, Cedric Jacobs and Anthony Jemel Jacobs; two brothers, Julius Vonzel Jacobs and John Carter; her father, James Ervin Campbell; and three sisters, Kimberly Campbell, Stacey Stallings and Angela Addison.

Friends and family will be received at the home of Shirley Jacobs in Clarkton.

JAMES ALFRED BLACKWELL

WHITEVILLE -- James Alfred Blackwell, 50, died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington.

Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Worthington Funeral Home in Chadbourn.

He is survived by two sons, James Anthony Blackwell of Whiteville and Brooks Alford Blackwell of Lake Waccamaw; father and stepmother, George and Delores Blackwell of Vass; mother, Doris Cain Callihan of Bladenboro; siblings, George "J.R." Blackwell Jr. of Vass, Joanne B. Guyton of Nakina, Sandra B. Jones of Fayetteville and Beverly Blackwell of Bladenboro; and two grandchildren.



DAVID CODY WORLEY

CHADBOURN -- David Cody Worley, 22, died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 at his residence. He was a graduate of Southeastern Community College and was employed by Worley's Auto and Tire in Chadbourn. He was also a member of the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 at Worthington Funeral Home in Chadbourn. Final rites will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 at the funeral home with Dr. Danny Russell and Rev. Tim Moore officiating. Interment will be in Chadbourn Memorial Cemetery with the Evergreen Fire Department providing honors.

He is survived by his mother, Debra Faith King Worley of Tabor City; his father, David Pearson Worley of the home; one sister, Karen Eason Ellis of Whiteville; two brothers, Andrew Pearson Worley of Chadbourn and Terry Wayne Eason of Southport; his grandmother, Amanda Worley of Lake Waccamaw.

Memorials may be made to Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department, 7606 Old 74 Hwy., Evergreen, N.C. 28438.

CAREY WAYNE ROGERS

LUMBERTON -- Carey Wayne Rogers, 46, died Sunday, Jan. 3, 2016. He was preceded in death by his mother, Diane Bailey Rogers; and an infant daughter, Carey Dawn Rogers.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, Jan. 6 at the Willoughby Family Cemetery, Evergreen with Rev. Russell Kinlaw officiating. Worthington Funeral Home in Chadbourn handled the arrangements.

He is survived by three sons, Chase Willoughby, Jeremy Rogers and Andrew Rogers, all of Evergreen; his father, Roy Rogers of Nichols, S.C.; one sister, Lynn Rogers of Fairmont; his grandfather, Elvin J. Bailey of Fairmont; and one grandson.

In Loving Memory
Ronald Junior Norris
 8-12-52 ~ 1-9-15



We love and miss you,
Your Family #6036

Card of Thanks

The family of the late Maxie Yates Robinson wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all our relatives and friends. Thank you for every act of kindness that was shown.

The Robinson Family #6039

Happy Birthday In Heaven Evangelist Doris Jackson

The world is not the same without your big beautiful smile and caring spirit. You fought a good fight, you kept the faith, you finished the course. "Well done God's good and faithful servant!"

We love you and miss you much, Heather, Frank, Corry, Miesha and your husband, Bishop J.C. Jackson #6041



Card of Thanks

The family of Johnny O'Neal Sellers would like to thank each one for the many acts of kindness expressed to us during our loss. Your thoughts, prayers, visits, phone calls, food and flowers were appreciated more than you will ever know.

Thanks to Pastor Ken Baker for the beautiful service and my church family at Union Valley for the wonderful meal provided to us. Please keep us in your prayers and God Bless each one.

Carolyn Sellers and Family #6037



Columbus County hen lays lucky eggs

By NICOLE CARTRETTE
News Editor

Martin Benton and Bertie Lanehart have shared a lot in their lifetimes.

The farmhouse the siblings grew up in, along Peacock Road in the Western Prong community, is all that separates their homes.

It was only natural for Lanehart to also share a flock of chickens with her big brother. Benton, in turn, added to the flock with a purchase from Chadbourn Feed and Grain.

They take turns collecting the eggs and turning the chickens out to explore hundreds of acres on the family farm.

Lanehart is retired from Edgewood Elementary School where she still works part time and volunteers.

Edgewood science teacher Katherine Hyatt leads her students in a lesson about the life cycle of a chicken each year, complete with chicks fresh from a local farm store.

Last year Hyatt was trying to figure out what to do with the six chicks. Lanehart adopted the unknown breed of birds, which included five roosters and a hen.

By the spring of last year, Lanehart's and Benton's chicken coop that belonged to their mother Madge had new life. Benton's son-in-law, Chris Smith, refurbished it.

Plenty of eggs were available to share with family and friends but the one Edgewood Elementary hen (the largest of them all) began laying very interesting eggs.

At more than three inches long, the jumbo eggs are too big to fit in an egg carton and 90 percent of them have double yolks.

"They are three and a quarter inches long," Benton said. "We're just amazed and want to find out what breed of chicken it is."

Benton said free range chickens produce eggs that are far more nutrient-rich than those produced commercially.

The Edgewood Elementary roosters grew to be huge.

"I called them pterodactyl roosters," Lanehart said.

She enjoys the backyard



A large hen on the Benton and Lanehart Farm in the Western Prong community lays jumbo eggs with double yolks.



Bertie Lanehart holds a large egg, and her brother Martin Benton, holds a jumbo egg from a hen at the family farm in the Western Prong community. Nine out of 10 eggs that one hen lays have double yolks.

chickens.

"It's just a nice hobby to have," she said. The chickens help with insects and ants,

although she finds herself having to rake pine straw in her flowerbeds more often.

It's nostalgic for the siblings, too.

"My mother could wring a chicken's neck and have it in a frying pan in less than 30 minutes," Lanehart recalled.

Saturday, Lanehart and Benton stood under an old pecan tree that shades the chicken coop in the same place their mother had one 40 years before as they chatted about chickens and growing up farm children.

'Hired Hands' at Emporium

"Hired Hands" will perform at The Emporium Friday, Jan. 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. Band members are Bob Stanley, Terry Todd, Jerry Henry, David Long and Norma Jean Scism. They play a variety of 50s and 60s country music.

Admission is \$5, which includes light refreshments.

Their backyard chicken endeavor, like the family farming venture, had its share of blessings and good luck.

The Lanehart and Benton families together farmed more than 600 acres of land at one time from Clarkton to Evergreen.

Their parents had not been so fortunate when first trying to start a family.

Their mother, Madge, lost three baby boys before Benton was born in 1935 weighing less than 3 pounds.

Though Lanehart was the youngest child, she insists "I was the baby but he was really the baby" in their mother's eyes.

That's not to say the little



Siblings Bertie Lanehart and Martin Benton release their backyard chickens to roam the family farm in the Western Prong Community.



Martin Benton of the Western Prong community holds a large egg beside a jumbo egg laid by one of his sister's hens Jan. 1, 2016.

boy did not get into his share of trouble.

A few fingers on his left hand hit the hot hearth of the fireplace when he was very

young. They are shortened as a result.

Lanehart and Benton tell the story a little differently.

Benton begins with "I fell in a fire" while Lanehart says "Well, not exactly, you were tied in a rocker and climbed out ..."

They chat about it much like they chat nonchalantly about how, when the chickens roam, some don't come back and fall prey to fox, bear or coyotes in the woods.

Benton suggests he maybe shut them up too early one night before all the chickens had made it back to the coop.

"It's alright," Lanehart said.

It's apparent that for Lanehart and Benton, two yolks are better than one.

The science behind the egg with a double yolk

A hen's reproductive system includes an ovary and oviducts.

In young hens or pullets, cycles may be inconsistent but heredity causes some hens or breeds to produce double yolks.

The eggs are safe to eat but are less common because commercial operations separate out the double yolk eggs.

They are typically found in backyard chicken or farm raised eggs. About one in every 1,000 eggs produced has a double yolk.

In 2003, Dr. Richard E. Austic, a professor of animal nutrition at Cornell

University, told the *New York Times*, that the double-yolk egg represents a production error on the avian assembly line.

"Occasionally," he said, "two yolks are released at the same time and picked up at the same time and go through the same process together, and you get an egg with two yolks."

He said there is typically not enough space for the two embryos to develop all the way to hatching.

In rare cases, both chicks can hatch, sometimes with human help. Even more rarely, triple-yolk eggs occur, he said.

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Bolton Sen Ctr	1/12-5/11	T WTh	6:30-8:30pm 5-8:30pm	GMathis
CCCA-Fair Bluff	1/12-5/10	TTh	6-9pm	LGibbs
Chadbourn Elem	1/11-5/11	MW	5-8pm	MMcCollum
Chadbourn Library	1/13-5/11	WThF	1-4pm	TWilliams
DREAM Ctr	1/11-5/11	M-Th	9am-1:30pm	FBoone
Evergreen Elem	1/12-5/10	TTh	6-9pm	SWilliamson
Guideway Elem	1/11-5/10	MT	6:30-9:30pm	DFowler
Hallsboro Middle	1/11-5/09	MTh	6-9pm	MMobley
Mt. Olive Headstart	1/11-5/11	MW	8am-12n	MDixon
Mt. Tabor Baptist Ch	1/11-5/09	MTh	6-9pm	FBoone
Nakina Middle	1/12-5/10	TTh	6-9pm	AStacy
Tabor City Elem	1/12-5/10	TTh	6-9pm	WSuggs
Tri-Cty, Delco	1/12-5/10	TTh	6-9pm	EKeaton

Sixteen- and 17-year-olds may enroll with special permission. For information, contact Denise Young at (910) 642-7141, ext. 432.

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Great outcomes!

Dr. Pridgen is compiling a history of patients who have had great medical outcomes after being treated at Whiteville Urgent Care in Whiteville, NC.

If you or your loved one have had great medical outcomes or experiences after being seen by Dr. Pridgen, please write a summary of two pages or less about your experience. Please include your name, if desired or your initials if you wish to remain anonymous.

Please also include a statement authorizing us to use your letter in any public or private manner that we wish. Also, if you were seen in our free clinic in the past please give a statement telling us how this was a help to you.

Please email to drjpridgen@gmail.com, or fax it to 910-640-3036 or drop it by the office across from KFC in Whiteville at your earliest convenience.

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Short Term Training for a Long Term Career

Spring 2016 Workforce Continuing Education Schedule



Need Financial Assistance with Training Costs?

Columbus County NCWorks Career Center has a variety of programs that may assist with training expenses for eligible students. Contact the NCWorks Career Center immediately at (910) 642-7141, ext. 261 or visit the Center at SCC, A-Building to begin the eligibility process.

Discover On-the-Job Training (OJT)



This course explores the OJT program while enhancing the soft skills that employers require. In addition, participants will create a professional resume,

conduct labor market research, and complete a career interest inventory.

This course is **fee waived** to unemployed, under employed and dislocated workers.

1/11-1/13	M-W	9am-1pm	SCC, T-124
1/25-1/27	M-W	6-10pm	SCC, T-126
2/01-2/03	M-W	9am-1pm	SCC, T-124
2/08-2/10	M-W	6-10pm	SCC, T-120
2/15-2/17	M-W	9am-1pm	SCC, T-124
2/22-2/24	M-W	6-10pm	SCC, T-120
2/29-3/02	M-W	9am-1pm	SCC, T-124
3/07-3/09	M-W	6-10pm	SCC, T-120
3/14-3/16	M-W	9am-1pm	SCC, T-124
3/21-3/23	M-W	6-10pm	SCC, T-120
4/04-4/06	M-W	9am-1pm	SCC, T-124
4/11-4/13	M-W	6-10pm	SCC, T-120
4/18-4/20	M-W	9am-1pm	SCC, T-124
4/25-4/27	M-W	6-10pm	SCC, T-120
5/02-5/04	M-W	9am-1pm	SCC, T-124
5/09-5/11	M-W	6-10pm	SCC, T-124

For class schedule or more information contact, Columbus County NCWorks Career Center at (910) 642-7141, ext. 261 or visit our office located in A-building at SCC.

Computer Skills

Advanced Digital Photography \$70	1/11-3/07	M	6-9pm	SCC, CART-164
Basic Digital Photography \$70	2/11-3/31	Th	6-9pm	SCC, CART-148
Digital Photography - Events & Weddings \$70	2/02-3/22	T	6-9pm	SCC, CART-154
Intermediate Digital Photography \$70	3/14-5/09	M	6-9pm	SCC, T-164
Becoming Computer Savvy \$70	3/21-5/09	M	6-9pm	SCC, T-126
NEW Computer Essentials: Home and Work \$70	2/02-3/22	T	5:30-8:30pm	SCC, T-124
Excel 2013 for the Workplace \$70	2/11-3/31	Th	5:30-8:30pm	SCC, T-124
Google Apps \$70	2/29-4/25	M	6-9pm	SCC, CART-110
Learn to Use Your iPad/iPhone \$70	2/02-3/22	T	5:30-8:30pm	SCC, T-111
Quickbooks Pro \$70 <i>(Financial assistance may be available through NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission)</i>	2/02-3/22	T	6-9pm	SCC, T-126
Weebly Website Design for Small Business Owners \$70 <i>(Financial assistance may be available through NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission)</i>	1/25-3/07	M	6-9pm	SCC, T-124
Word 2013 for the Workplace \$70	1/25-3/14	M	6-9pm	SCC, T-126

Dialysis Technician Training

Coming March 2016
For more information contact:
Rita Capps
RN, Director/Instructor Healthcare Training
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e-mail rita.capps@sccnc.edu

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2/22-2/26	M-F	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122
3/07-3/11	M-F	6-10pm	SCC, T-122
4/04-4/08	M-F	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122
4/18-4/22	M-F	6-10pm	SCC, T-122
5/02-5/06	M-F	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122
Smithfield Pre-Employment Skills			
1/11-1/15	M-F	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122
1/25-1/29	M-F	6-10pm	SCC, T-122
2/08-2/12	M-F	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122
2/22-2/26	M-F	6-10pm	SCC, T-122
3/07-3/11	M-F	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122
4/04-4/08	M-F	6-10pm	SCC, T-122
4/18-4/22	M-F	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122
5/02-5/06	M-F	6-10pm	SCC, T-122
W.E. Bailey/Honeycutt Produce Pre-Employment Skills			
1/11-1/15	M-F	6-10pm	SCC, T-120
2/15-2/19	M-F	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122
3/14-3/18	M-F	6-10pm	SCC, T-122
4/11-4/15	M-F	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122
5/09-5/13	M-F	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122

To pre-register or for more information, contact the Columbus County NCWorks Career Center at (910) 642-7141, ext. 261 or visit the Center in A Building.

Certified Production Technician Pathway

Certified Production Technician \$180 + \$.55 ins	2/15-4/21	M-F	8:30am-12:30pm	SCC, T-101A
Related Fee Waived Classes				
HRD Exploring CPT Career Pathways	1/25-2/12	M-F	8:30am-12:30pm	SCC, T-101A
Preparing for the Job Search	4/25-4/28	M-F	8:30am-12:30pm	SCC, T-101A

Industrial/Skilled Trades Training

Basic Electrical Wiring \$180 + \$.55 ins	3/01-4/21	TWTh	6-10pm	SCC, B-106
NEW Electrical Wiring on the Farm \$70 + \$.55 ins	1/25-2/22	M	6-10pm	SCC, M-131B
HVAC: Heating & Air Conditioning \$180 + \$.55 ins	1/19-5/05	TTh	6-10pm	SCC, M-131A
NEW Virtual Welding \$70 + \$.55 ins	2/26-4/22	F	5-8pm	SCC, T-101B
Welding \$180 + \$.55 ins	1/11-5/10	MT	6-9:30pm	SCC, M-134
Welding/Pipefitting \$180 + \$.55 ins	1/13-5/11	WTh	6-9:30pm	SCC, M-134
	1/16-5/07	Sa	8am-3pm	SCC, M-134
Welding Skills for the Farm \$70 + \$.55 ins	1/15-2/19	F	5:30-8:30pm	SCC, M-134
CNC Operator \$180 + \$.55 ins	1/19-4/07	Th	5:30-9:30pm	SCC, T-101D
CPR/First Aid/AED in the Workplace \$70 + \$.55 ins + \$.50 cert card	4/19-4/21	TTh	5-9pm	SCC, HHS-141
General Industry Forklift Cert \$70 + \$.55 ins + \$4.50 book/card	2/20	Sa	8am-5pm	SCC, T-101A
	3/18	F	8am-5pm	SCC, T-122
	4/11 & 4/13	MW	5-9pm	SCC, T-101A
NEW Instrumentation and Controls \$125 + \$.55 ins	4/12-5/12	TTh	5:30-9:30pm	SCC, T-101C
OSHA 10 Hour for General Industry \$70 + \$5 cert card	3/11 & 3/18	F	8:30am-1:30pm	SCC, T-120
NEW NFPA 70E Arch Flash \$70	4/09	Sa	8:30am-1:30pm	SCC, T-101A
Programmable Logic Controllers \$70 + \$.55 ins	2/24-4/06	MW	5:30-9:30pm	SCC, T-101C

Licensure & Certification

Changes to the 2014 NEC Pt I \$70 + \$10 materials & lunch	3/19	Sa	8am-4:30pm	SCC, T-122
DMV Dealer License Renewal \$70 + \$10 materials & lunch	1/28	Th	9am-3:30pm	SCC, T-120
	3/17	Th	9am-3:30pm	SCC, T-122
	5/12	Th	9am-3:30pm	SCC, T-120
DMV Dealer Pre-License Prep \$70 + \$5 materials	2/09 & 2/11	TTh	9am-4pm	SCC, T-120
NC EPA Certification \$70 + \$5 materials	3/21-3/24	MTTh	5:30-9:30pm	SCC, M-131A
NC Escort Vehicle Operator Certification \$70	2/13	Sa	8am-5pm	SCC, T-122
	4/09	Sa	8am-5pm	SCC, T-122
NC Escort Vehicle Operator Re-Certification \$70	3/12	Sa	8am-12n	SCC, T-122
	4/30	Sa	8am-12n	SCC, T-122
NC Vehicle Safety Inspection \$70 + \$5 materials	2/23 & 2/25	TTh	6-10pm	SCC, T-120
	4/19 & 4/21	TTh	6-10pm	SCC, T-120
Notary Public \$70	2/16 & 2/18	TTh	5:30-9:30pm	SCC, T-122
	4/12 & 4/14	TTh	5:30-9:30pm	SCC, T-122
Serv Safe \$70	2/22-3/01	MT	5:30-9:30pm	SCC, C-101
	5/02 & 5/03	MT	8am-5pm	SCC, T-111
Work Zone Flagger \$70 + \$5 book	3/05	Sa	9am-1pm	SCC, T-122

For more information about our instructor-facilitated ed2go classes, contact **Brenda Orders** at (910) 642-7141, ext. 317 or e-mail brenda.orders@sccnc.edu

www.ed2go.com/sccnc

HRD Job Readiness Skills



Career Ready 101 Online	1/05-5/13	(enroll anytime) Online	SCC, Moodle
CRC/Key Train Online	1/12-5/10	T 5-7pm	SCC, A-201
	1/13-5/11	W 1-3pm	SCC, T-124
Healthcare Academy	1/19-2/02	M-Th 12-3pm	SCC, mobile 9-1
HRD Exploring Certified Production Technician (CPT) Career Pathway	1/25-2/12	M-F 8:30am-12:30pm	SCC, T-101
HRD Exploring Culinary Arts Career Pathways	2/08-3/03	M-Th 9am-12n	SCC, T-111
Keys 2 Job Success Lab	1/05-5/13	MWTh 8am-5pm	SCC, A-221
		T 8am-8pm	
		F 8am-3pm	
Computer Skills for Job Success	1/11-2/29	MW 9am-1pm	DREAM Ctr
	1/11-5/09	M 9am-12n	Whiteville Sen Ctr
	1/12-2/25	TTh 8:30-11:30am	DREAM Ctr
	1/19-5/03	T 9am-12n	Bolton Sen Ctr
	1/20-5/04	W 9am-12n	EColumbus Sen Ctr
Computer-Use Skills: Keyboarding	3/02-5/11	W 2-4pm	Chadbourne Sen Ctr
	3/14-4/25	M 6-9pm	SCC, T-124
Microsoft Digital Literacy Certification for the Workplace	1/19-4/21	TTh 10am-12n	Fair Bluff Sen Ctr
	1/19-4/21	TTh 2-4pm	Tabor City Sen Ctr

NEW Classes

Establishing Beneficial Insect Habitat \$70 <i>Financial assistance may be available through NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission)</i>	3/01	T	6-9pm	SCC, T-120
Integrating Cover Crops into your Rotation \$70 <i>Financial assistance may be available through NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission)</i>	2/23	T	6-9pm	SCC, T-120
Using Market Data to Develop a Crop Plan \$70 <i>Financial assistance may be available through NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission)</i>	2/16	T	6-9pm	SCC, T-120

Pre-registration is encouraged.
Call (910) 642-7141, ext. 296, 397 or 425.

Healthcare Pathways

Healthcare Billing & Coding Specialist CPT \$180	1/11-5/11	Online	SCC, Moodle	
Healthcare Billing & Coding Specialist - ICD-10 \$180	1/12-5/10	TTh	6-9pm	SCC, A-230
Medication Aide Exam Prep (Adult Care Homes) \$70 + \$.55 ins	2/22-3/03	M-Th	8-11am	SCC, HHS-123
Medication Aide Exam Prep (Skilled Nursing) \$70 + \$.55 ins	4/11-5/04	MW	6-9pm	SCC, HHS-115
Medical Terminology \$125	1/11-5/09	M	6-9pm	SCC, A-230
	1/11-5/11	Online		SCC, Moodle
Ophthalmic Assistant \$180	1/11-5/04	MW	6:15-9:15pm	SCC, T-111
Nurse Aide I \$180 + \$107.80 (malpractice/student ins, drug screening & student ID)	1/11-3/04	M-Th	8am-1pm	SCC, HHS-123
	(classroom)			
	2/24-3/03	M-Th	7:30am-3:30pm	Off Campus
	(clinical)			
	1/11-3/09	M-Th	5-10pm	SCC, HHS-123
	(classroom)			
	2/24-3/08	M-Th	4-10pm	Off Campus
	(clinical)			
	1/11-4/13	Online/Hybrid	Required on-campus attendance 1/11	
	1/11-3/07	MW	8am-12n	SCC, HHS-123
	(On Campus Skills Lab)			
	3/09-4/11	MW	7:30am-12:30pm	Off Campus
	(clinical)			
	3/07-5/07	M-Th	8am-12:30pm	SCC, HHS-123
	(classroom)			
	4/27-5/05	M-Th	7:30am-3:30pm	Off Campus
	(clinical)			
	3/07-5/06	M-Th	5-10pm	SCC, HHS-123
	(classroom)			
	4/21-5/04	M-Th	5-10pm	Off Campus
	(clinical)			
Nurse Aide I Refresher \$125 + \$.55 ins	2/22-3/03	M-Th	5-9pm	SCC, HHS-123
Nurse Aide II Competency Eval (Refresher) \$70 + \$.55 ins	4/25-4/28	M-Th	5-9pm	SCC, HHS-123



Career Pathways

Banking Career Pathways \$180	3/01-4/26	M-Th	6-9pm	SCC, mobile 9-1
Beekeeping \$70 + \$.55 ins <i>(Financial assistance may be available through NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission)</i>	2/02-3/22	T	5:30-8:30pm	SCC, CART-148
Basic Bookkeeping I \$70 <i>(Financial assistance may be available through NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission)</i>	1/25-3/14	M	6-9pm	SCC, T-120
Basic Bookkeeping II \$70 <i>(Financial assistance may be available through NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission)</i>	3/21-5/09	M	6-9pm	SCC, T-120
Effective Teacher Training \$70	2/08-2/23	MTTh	6-9pm	SCC, CART-165
Intro to Broadcasting \$70	3/05-4/30	Sa	9am-12n	SCC, CART-165
Intro to Culinary Arts: Quality Food Services \$180 + \$.55 ins + \$5.50 CPR card	3/07-4/11	M-F	9am-12n	SCC, T-118
Sign Language \$70	2/11-3/31	Th	6-9pm	SCC, A-212
Spanish in the Workplace \$70	3/22-5/10	T	6-9pm	SCC, A-212

For additional course offerings, to pre-register or for textbook information, call (910) 642-7141, ext. 296, 397 or 425.

Editorials

The News Reporter, Thursday, January 7, 2016

State should accept help from hunters

The black bear was once so numerous in Columbus that it was considered a nuisance.

As was often the case in the pre-management days of wildlife in our state, bears were nearly wiped out. Intensive management has allowed the population to rebound, bringing this valuable and fascinating big game species back in large numbers.

Bears can be big business—while they don't approach deer hunters in terms of overall economic impact, bear hunters do tend to spend more per capita than those who pursue whitetails. While some of the tactics and tools are the same, there are quite a few "bear-specific" factors in the sport that set it apart from other big game hunters.

It is strange that, in light of documented growing populations of bears, Columbus, Brunswick and Robeson counties are still the stepchildren of bear hunting in the coastal region for the Wildlife Resources Commission. The season here is the shortest in the state, and harvests reflect that. Yet bear-auto collisions, bear-human-interactions, and the perennial complaints of bears raiding gardens and corn piles meant for other game continue to increase.

With more bears being seen, and in some cases studied, local hunters deserve the same chance that those in other neighboring counties enjoy. Scott Rabon, speaking for a number of area bear hunters, made that point Tuesday at a Wildlife Resources Commission public hearing.

Politics played a larger role than biology when the parameters of many of our current wildlife laws were first established; the commission has done an excellent job through the years whittling away at most of these sacred cows, using the specialists paid for by hunters and fishermen to prove the basis for changes in everything from bird hunting seasons to the upcoming alligator season. Science should trump politics here as well, considering how few people even recall the original reasons behind the odd season in our area.

Other hunting organizations can take a page from Rabon and his compatriots. They have offered their own specialized assistance in the woods – including material, manpower and motor vehicles – to help the state gain more data about bears. Many of them have volunteered to participate in the bear study, which is paid for by a \$10 e-stamp purchased by every bear hunter.

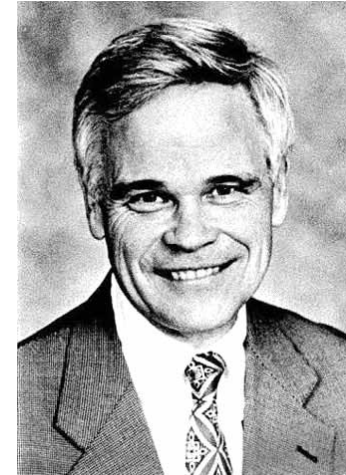
Some officials have claimed the season hasn't been expanded here due to a lack of data; Rabon and other hunters are offering to help provide that data, and not just in the form of teeth and DNA samples. They are willing to do their share, much the same way that organizations of deer, turkey and duck hunters, as well as trappers and fishermen, have stepped up to the plate to provide what budgets and time constraints often prohibit even the hardest working biologists from acquiring hard information on game animals.

North Carolina has a rich outdoors heritage, and traditionally, hunters and fishermen have led the way when it comes to conservation. The ongoing deer, bear, otter, and bobcat studies are all supplied with samples via the outdoorsmen and – women who pursue such species.

Ethical outdoorsmen have always been the staunchest conservationists. What they usually lack is the scientific background and capabilities to correlate large amounts of data and get a big picture that stretches beyond their own woods and fields. That's where the state comes in, coordinating and compiling the data willingly provided – at little or no cost to the general taxpayer – which is used to manage wildlife which are technically owned by every North Carolinian.

We hope to see the state rethink the short bear season in our county. The population can support it, the economy can use it, and the data provided by hunters, even those who don't harvest a bear, helps paint a more accurate picture of the natural health of our state.

Hunters are willing to step up and help, as they have been for years. It's now a question of what the state will do with that help.



One on One with D.G. Martin

European history lessons for North Carolina folks

What does a new 800-page history of 20th Century Europe have to do with North Carolina politics of the 21st Century?

First, a few words about the book itself, "Out of Ashes: A New History of Europe in the Twentieth Century," by UNC-Chapel Hill Professor Konrad Jarausch. The book describes what happened in Europe during the 100 years beginning in 1900, when France and England controlled much of the non-European world, and the empires of Germany, Russia, and Austria-Hungary ruled much of the European continent. It then takes its readers through two brutal and disastrous world wars. What followed was a contest between two dramatically different views of how a modern European society should be ordered.

Summarizing such a sweeping story in a short column is an imposing task. But that task is not nearly so challenging as the one Jarausch takes in attempting to capture in a single book 100 years in the life of a continent torn apart by war, national rivalries, and incompatible ideological, political, and economic systems.

Jarausch's theme for this century of history is the variety of pathways to modernization that the Europeans embraced. The century began with hopefulness in great potential progress due to the industrial revolution.

"The First World War showed that this same potential for progress also created the means for what Jarausch calls "unparalleled destructive force."

After the destruction and disruption of that war, three alternate ideologies for modernism competed for dominance: the Bolshevik-Soviet version of Marxism, the racial and nationalistic fascism of Germany and Italy, and what Jarausch calls "Wilsonian capitalist democracy."

One of the strongest features of "Out of Ashes" is Jarausch's balanced description of the attractiveness of each of these models.

He explains how the economic and political disorder of the early 1930s in Germany provided an opening for the promise of order in the form of the Nazi brand of modernity. He describes how "The stunning success of Stalinist modernization in the Soviet Union attracted many intellectuals from the West who praised the Soviet model of radical egalitarianism as a path to the future."

Continued on next page

Write to us

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

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

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

Poll: people less trusting

A recent High Point University Poll compared responses between North Carolinians in 2015 and a fall 1999 Carolina Poll fielded with some of the same questions.

Respondents in 2015 seem less optimistic about the future, more protective of their rights and somewhat less trusting of other people and government.

They are much more likely to have access to the Internet, but are just as likely to refer to themselves as "Southerners" as 16 years ago.

In some ways, the politics of 1999 were very similar to those today. In 1999, there was a Democratic president in the White House finishing up an eventful – sometimes controversial – second term in office.

The likely Democratic nominee for president was closely associated with the president's administration and the Republican primary field was relatively large.

In the fall of 1999, however, Gov. George W. Bush was a clear frontrunner even though he later experienced a challenge

from then Sen. John McCain.

The HPU Poll did, however, find some possible differences in how North Carolinians today feel about themselves, their futures and their government compared to 16 years ago.

In 1999, 56 percent told the Carolina Poll that life a year later would be better, compared to 42 percent of HPU Poll respondents who said the same thing in 2015. Almost two-thirds (64 percent) of HPU Poll respondents said they trust government officials once in a while or never, compared to 46 percent who gave those responses in 1999.

Twenty-nine percent of respondents said they could trust other people once in a while or never compared to 21 percent of fall 1999 Carolina Poll respondents.

When asked which is more important, rights or responsibilities as a citizen, 35 percent of fall 2015 respondents chose rights compared to 21 percent in 1999.

Sixteen years ago, almost three-quarters of respondents believed that they don't have

much to say about what the government does compared to 56 percent of people who said that in response to the HPU Poll in fall 2015.

Some of the most significant changes the HPU Poll examined were the extent to which North Carolinians access the Internet and how they use it.

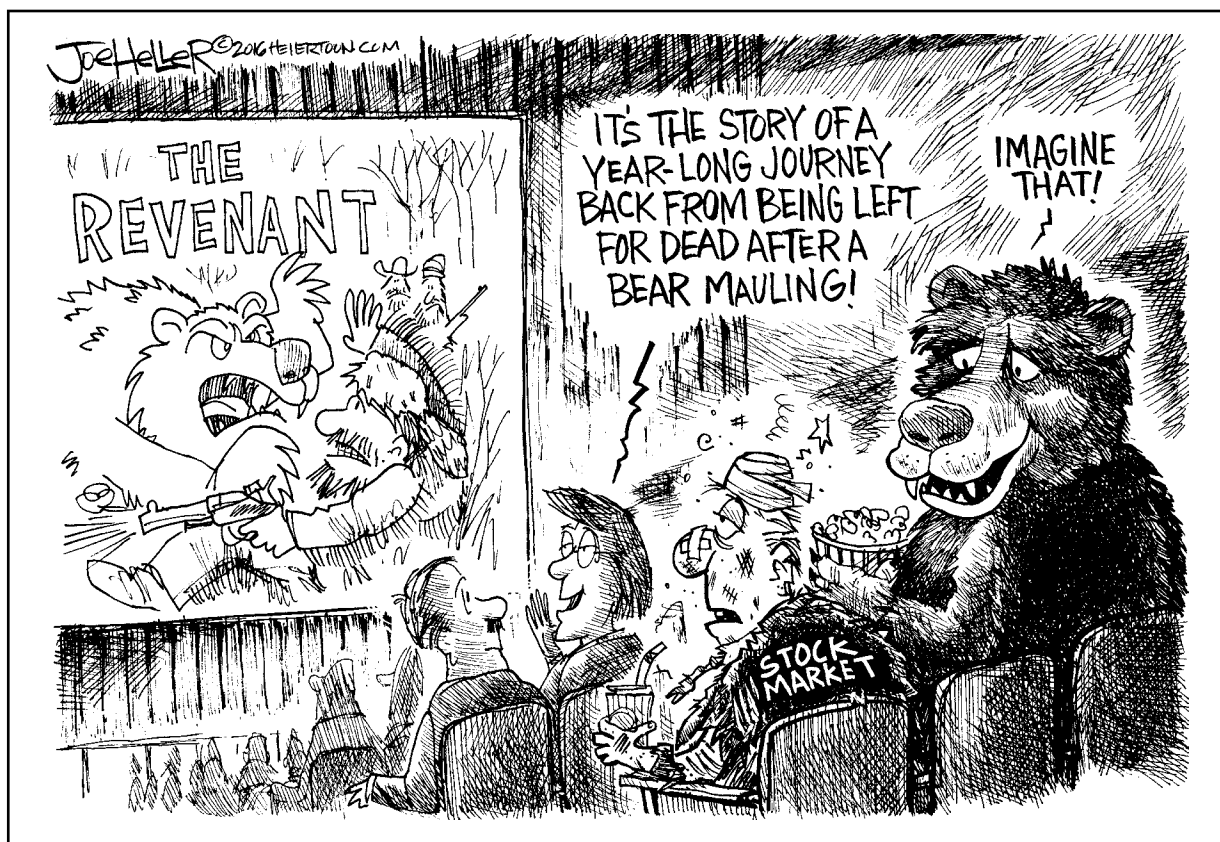
In fall 1999, 54 percent said they used the Internet at home or at work compared to the overwhelming majority (93 percent) of HPU Poll respondents who said they use the Internet today.

Of those people who do use the Internet, they are much more likely to use it to express their own opinions or find out what other people think today than they were 16 years ago.

About a quarter (24 percent) of current HPU Poll respondents with online access said they used the Internet to express their own opinions almost always or a lot of the time compared to only 8 percent of Internet users who said so in 1999.

Thirty-eight percent of In-

Continued on next page



Volunteer Viewpoint: Uselessness

By MELODY PREVATTE
SCC Volunteer Services Director

Dr. W. M. Bortz, a well-known longevity and robust aging expert, has been quoted as saying, "If you become useless, you will soon die." That is a rather ominous statement, but I think I have witnessed this happening. I have seen individuals retire, go home, and never leave the house again. It was like nothing existed after employment for those folks. What a terrible waste of talent. Our retired and semi-retired citizens have a tremendous amount of knowledge and talent to pass on to folks. Life experiences, tricks of the trade, and the collective wisdom passed down through families are invaluable.

Compare your experiences to our youngsters today. I grew up running along a mountainside. I learned the differences in poisonous and safe plants. I learned how

to identify indigenous trees by their leaves. I learned not to pick up a wild critter on the walking path. These experiences kept my mind and body strong. Some of our young people today are not running through the woods or fields. Children are confining themselves with computers and television. They are missing out on nature and the wildlife surrounding us. What of these things can you share with a young person?

Volunteers are needed to listen to children practice their reading. Imagine the world you could open up to a child with an age-appropriate book depicting the age of your youth. Many of our children cannot imagine life without a computer or cell phone. You could open that world up to them. You could help a child realize their potential by showing them, through reading, how their dreams can become reality. How their hopes can lead to a better life for those

around them. As a volunteer, you have that influence.

Did you know that listening to a child practice reading just one hour a week has a significant impact on the academic success of that child? This practice helps in language acquisition and comprehension. Just one hour a week ... and you could greatly increase the likelihood of a child's academic success. That is the power of volunteerism.

Would you like to help a child increase their chances of academic success? Opportunities are available across the county in-school and in after-school programs. We need your time and talents in this important and life-changing initiative. To learn more about volunteering opportunities and how to get involved in your community or school, contact the RSVP Office by calling 910-642-7141, extension 294, or via email at Melody.Prevatte@scnc.edu.

People, Places and Things

Property for sale – correction – for free

BY SHALON SMITH
Contributing Writer

A few months ago on Facebook, I shared an op-ed article from a UNC-Chapel Hill professor and the vice president of the Sustainable Communities Institute that declared, “NC must win the war for talent” to be economically competitive. More than half of the state’s counties are losing population and the concept of offering incentives to North Carolinians in other states to return home was suggested.

This sparked a conversation with my thirty-something, rural-North Carolina-born, and college-educated friends now living out-of-state.

The typical belief is that the younger folks would move back to our rural hometowns “if there were jobs there” but many of my friends disagree with that notion.

My friends don’t simply want jobs in our hometowns – they want to create them.

Many would move back home if there were incentives to build homes and start small businesses here.

Many rural counties and towns in America have become places where the 70 year olds are left to drive around the 90 year olds. In a book *Hollowing Out the Middle*, the phenomenon of the exodus of young, rural folks in America to urban areas is explored.

Authors described it in a way a geographer would describe a depleting energy source. The “downward spiral” caused by young folks leaving is unstoppable and leaves behind declining school enrollments, rises in the median age, rising levels of poverty, and increases in social isolation. Without an influx of a younger population, community institutions and infrastructure will no longer be sustainable.

One friend who participated in that chat “Come back to CoCo” (what we call Columbus County) owns a highly-successful business in Texas. She is interested in expanding her business to Chadbourn along with hiring hometown employees. Another, who holds a Ph.D. and lives in Washington, D.C., said if she could get a break on land to build a home, she’d return and work in higher education.

I see no problem in giving – yes, giving – office space to train and employ folks locally and land as an incentive to build a home.

The revenue the town and county would collect from folks being employed and the new homeowner paying for services and property taxes far outweigh the assumed loss of revenue from leasing a vacant downtown building or selling that forgotten, behind-on-taxes

residential lot.

Some states are already doing it.

Nebraska developed the Home Town Competitiveness program in 2002 as a “come back/give back approach to rural

communities.” The program focused on four pillars of development: leadership, youth, entrepreneurship, and charitable assets. Their goal was to increase the capacity of Nebraska residents in order to improve and sustain their own communities. Basically, work with what you have in order to get what you want. Towns in Iowa, Minnesota, Wyoming and North Dakota have their own versions of this program, too.

There are two things needed to make young, college-educated talent return to their rural roots in Columbus County.

First, local officials need to support the interests of returning entrepreneurs – don’t make folks wait for jobs “The Man” may never bring.

Second, local officials need to establish and push property tax policies that give Columbus County natives free land, commercial space or homes. It wouldn’t hurt. The population is decreasing and fewer and fewer people are taking over deceased relatives’ homes (and tax payments).

The idea that all rural communities are able to lure medium-sized companies with incentives, tax breaks, and the promise of an enthusiastic workforce may be fruitless. The concept of “economic gardening” for rural America – where multiple seeds are planted for the local growth in the hopes some will bear fruit – may best fit communities like Columbus County.

Economic gardening in Columbus County would support giving land to college-educated or business-owning members of the community in exchange for returning or never leaving.

This has been done with Kansas’ Free Land program where the caveat is the “returner” or “stayer” must break ground on their home within a certain time-frame, live there for a set period of time, and enroll their children in the public schools (not charter) with a committal to keep them there.

In Iowa, Governor Vilsack started an aggressive “Come Back to Iowa, Please” campaign that mailed out letters to out-of-state alumni asking

them to return to build their lives and careers. The Iowa legislature even created the Generation Iowa Commission – staffed by 18 to 35 year olds – to survey 18 to 35 year olds for ideas on how to keep them in the state.

Columbus County commissioners, in partnership with town councils, chambers of commerce and school officials, could select a delegation of alumni in a targeted young age group to develop and administer surveys of their peers living out of the county to gain insight of what the barriers to returning or staying actually are – straight from the horse’s mouth – rather than assume what they are for the younger generations.

The information collected from those surveys can be used to develop locally-specific initiatives and incentives to bring back our young adults and young families. The cliché Bull Durham “if you build it, they will come” approach is not the answer for the problems we have in keeping young folks in this county – Starbucks and Chick Fil-A are not the answer.

We can’t sit idly by and let the metro areas of Charlotte, Raleigh, or Charleston continue to poach our best and brightest graduates. These areas are doing to their rural counties what Wall Street is doing to technical industries.

A 2011 study suggested financial instruments used on Wall Street have become so complex and with ties to profits in so many other industries, the finance industry now recruits masters and doctorate STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) graduates to run algorithms to predict profit margins and pays them up to five times what they would likely earn in their own fields.

In a nutshell, big finance companies are throwing money at the technical folks who would have been the ones to start their own businesses, i.e., hire others. Most people don’t seek to go out on their own and, “building things is very, very hard” as the author of *Smart People Should Build Things* wrote.

But what about the folks that do want to go out on their own? There are smart people who were born and raised in this county who have the capacity to build things, hire folks, and support other folks that have built things, too.

We, in Columbus County, have unique opportunities to support those who truly want to build something. Let’s build something – together – so it doesn’t need to be quite as hard for them. This type of three or four jobs at a time thinking will get us tasting the local fruits of economic gardening a lot faster than the traditional economic development mindset of Columbus County waiting for another Georgia Pacific to hire 500 people.

Continuing in the spirit of economic gardening, if rural-grown talent that is building or already has built something elsewhere desires to uproot and plant themselves at home – let them. Not only should the rural community let them in, they should actively recruit and support them in the same ways (incentives, tax breaks, etc.) that they would “The Man.”

A lot of entrepreneurs are hindered (or quit) because of a lack of capital. Creative funding in the way of rent-free office or shop space, apprenticeship programs with local schools, and “man trading” – as my husband calls it – of services until the money starts flowing that are possible in rural towns but not elsewhere may be the catalyst for adding another business to the local chamber of commerce. Incentives such as free land, work spaces, and tax breaks are small efforts in the way of local policy that have a big influence in the decisions of talented, rural-born young adults.

Town and county leaders assume experienced, college-educated folks want to live in a city are mistaken because preferences change with age. My friends and I are over 30 and some of us have small children who we’d rather raise with the ability to play with sticks outside, unsupervised, or safely riding their bikes down the road to their cousin’s house. We know how we all grew up and are disappointed in knowing our kids are confined to playing in cul-de-sacs or in fenced-in playgrounds that are the equivalent to a dog park. We see what has happened and what is continuing to happen to our rural hometowns and again we are disappointed.

Yes, those hometowns nurtured us; however, the same method of nurturing youth by preparing them to leave and to migrate away has turned on our rural hometowns. Now, decades later, there must be action to entice us to return so we can raise and nurture our children in ways that make it okay to stay and ways that bring pride, not resistance, to the thought of coming home.

D.G. Martin

Continued from previous page

In the Second World War, Jarusch explains, “The conflicts between these programs enhanced the malignant sides of the process, causing untold new forms of suffering in the war of annihilation and Holocaust.”

In the end, the World War II alliance between Soviet Marxism and capitalist democracy won over fascism, leaving the winners to compete in a Cold War that divided the shattered continent into competing eastern and western regions.

The subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union, as Jarusch explains, left “only democratic modernization as a model for the transformation of Eastern Europe. But new global challenges of economic competitiveness, ‘poverty migration,’ and international terrorism quickly ended the feeling of triumphalism.

Around 2000 Europe faced the task of defending its own version of welfare capitalism against the hegemony of the American model and the rising Asian competitors.”

There was, of course, no single European model of welfare capitalism.

For instance, in post World War II Britain, the Labor and Conservative parties battled over the degree to which the government would control the economy, provide social protection to the populace, and actively enhance opportunity for the advancement of all classes.

That sort of debate continues in Europe and in North Carolina, where there is a widely shared commitment to democratic capitalism. It is the details that divide us: medicaid expansion; unemployment compensation; public programs to fight poverty; jobs training and retraining; strengthening public schools, community colleges, and universities; subsidizing research and development of modern technologies; and expanding government support for public health, culture, and parks, for example.

Those details will be issues in the upcoming political campaigns in which we can celebrate our own model for debating and determining our future within a democratic model.

Less trusting

Continued from previous page

Internet users responding to the HPU Poll said they use the Internet to find out what other people think almost always or a lot of the time, compared to 12 percent of Internet users who said so in 1999.

The respondents for the polls gave very similar answers for a series of questions about where they lived when they were younger and whether they considered themselves “Southerners.”

Sixty-nine percent said they were Southerners, and in 1999, 71 percent said the same thing.

When asked what state they lived in when they were 16, about two-thirds (63 percent) said North Carolina while 64 percent said the same thing in 1999.

North Carolinians appear less likely to support laws restricting the sale of handguns, but may be a bit more supportive of the state lottery.

Forty-five percent of North Carolinians today say they would support stricter

laws covering the sale of handguns, compared to the 64 percent who said so in response to the same question in 1999. Before there was a state lottery, 62 percent of people interviewed for the Carolina Poll said they supported it.

Today, 71 percent of North Carolinians are in favor, according to the HPU Poll.

“Taken as a whole, I would say that these comparisons give some important clues that North Carolina’s citizens may be in a different mood today than they were 16 years ago,” says Dr. Martin Kifer, director of the HPU Poll and assistant professor of political science.

“The differences between poll respondents in 1999 and 2015 suggest they are less trusting of government and less optimistic about the future.

“How that ultimately affects today’s complicated politics at the national and state levels is not at all clear right now.”

Requests for help outnumber gifts

By RAY WYCHE
Staff Writer

The Department of Aging’s volunteer heating help fund, as usual, is turning down applicants. The reason for saying no to people over 60 years of age and without sufficient financial resources to purchase heating fuel for their homes is lack of money.

Director Amanda Harrelson of the Department of Aging said that contributions to the fund fall far short of the agency’s being able to help all the elderly who need money for heating fuel and who apply for aid.

The heating fund is strictly voluntary. No funds from any agency of any governmental entity — county, state or federal — are used. The heating fund depends entirely on contributions.

“We have to turn them

down,” Harrelson said of the eligible applicants who need heating fuel in cold weather such as that that came to Columbus County the first of this week.

Harrelson added that gifts to the fund are about the same as in past years but are not enough to take care of this year’s needs.

Those administering the fund thoroughly investigate each applicant to ensure that the need is genuine. If an able-bodied person lives in the house, or if money is obtainable from other family members, help may not be forthcoming.

Each applicant’s financial situation is verified with the county’s Social Services Agency.

“We work together,” Harrelson said.

The heating fund does not give money directly to the

applicant; rather, the heating fuel dealer is contacted and told to deliver a certain amount of heating fuel to the applicant’s home and to bill the Department of Aging.

All contributions are tax

deductible. Checks should be made payable to the Department of Aging and mailed to the department at Post Office Box 1327, Whiteville, N.C. 28472. Checks should be marked, “Heating Fund.”

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Columbus County Parks & Rec board to meet

Columbus County Parks and Recreation will hold its quarterly recreation advisory board meeting Monday, Jan. 11 at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Columbus County Parks and Recreation office located at 606 N. Thompson Street behind the Health Department.

2015

Continued from page 5-A

in tickets and in 2007, about \$5.6 million in sales were reported in Columbus County.

By 2012, the sales were close to \$10 million and by 2013 sales exceeded \$12 million.

While sales continued to increase, local officials said the lottery funding returned to the county's two school systems, Columbus County and Whiteville City, had declined.

"It has decreased since it started," said Alan Faulk, superintendent for Columbus County Schools.

About \$1.2 million in lottery funds accounted for 21 teacher positions, \$586,606 went to school construction, \$889,062 provided 184 Pre-K slots, \$176,230 supported 155 college scholarships, \$59,049 provided need based aid to 328 UNC awards and \$32,545 was earmarked for digital learning.

Faulk said the teaching positions that the state is using lottery funds to support were once funded separate from lottery money.

"On the state level it has been used to supplant funding. That is what they are doing," Faulk said.

He called the money spent on lottery tickets in the county "unreal."

The funds do not come close to covering a major building project and end up being used to "patch up" aging buildings, he said.

"The majority of our buildings are more than 50 years old," Faulk said.

"The amount we receive is very minimum at best," said Kenny Garland, superintendent for Whiteville City Schools. "We can do some repair work but it's not enough to entertain the thought of bigger projects."

Garland said the perception is that the schools are receiving lots of lottery dollars that can be spent however they see fit and that he is often questioned about it.

"The lottery is a form of revenue we get but it is not a

significant form of revenue," Garland said. "I think there is a perception out there that we are bringing in more than we are getting."

In 2014, profits from ticket sales statewide exceeded half a billion dollars, according to the 2015 annual report of the lottery commission.

The sales generated \$129 million in retail commissions, making the lottery a major player in the retail sector of the state's economy, according to a state report.

"Prize money paid out to lottery winners, the biggest expense of the lottery, goes right back into the state's economy as winners buy new houses or cars, take vacations, set up retirement or college funds, and support their own good causes," the report read. "Winners pay income taxes on their prize money, with the lottery collecting \$8.7 million in withholdings, and they pay from their winnings any debts owed to state or local governments, \$1.3 million in the fiscal year 2014."

10. Go Tell Crusade

The Go Tell Columbus Christian Crusade prepared to open its five-day run at South Columbus High School on Saturday, Oct. 3. The crusade, supported by churches all over the county, would open with a message from Steve Payson of the Go Tell Ministry staff of Georgia.

It was a huge undertaking for organizers and volunteers from churches across the county.

"This is a huge undertaking, but very doable. When it's all said and done, we expect more than 1,000 volunteers from all across this and other counties to be serving on a single committee or multiple committees," said Crusade Co-Chairperson Brenda Jolly. She worked with other volunteers to bring the Rick Gage ministry to the county through various fundraisers and meetings.

"The crusade is an opportunity for people of all denominations, economic status and ethnicity to unite in a common goal of spreading God's word to thousands of people. It's something we know can be done. All we need are commitments from Christians by volunteering," said fellow Co-Chair Andy Anderson.

The crusade was threatened by Tropical Storm Joaquin, which was forecast to dump drenching rain over the county during the first weekend in October.

The tropical rain system brought from 16 to 20 inches of rain to the county – most of it in southern county areas – and flooding threatened some communities.

The Go Tell Crusade opened in the South Columbus High School gym, shrugging off the damp weather.

The attendance surprised Go Tell officials and Rick Gage's ministry group. Despite the weather, Columbus County responded.

The duo of Aubrey and Holley, sisters from Porter Swamp Baptist Church, opened for NewSong by presenting two numbers. They sang "Set Me on Fire," one of Aubrey's songs.

Hundreds of children were sprinkled all over the gym. They led the adults into a standing ovation for the sisters.

NewSong hit the stage amid clapping and the slapping of hands on thighs by many onlookers.

Gage appeared at the end of NewSong's show, and pointed out there were 35 million teenagers in America, and 28 million had no relationship with Christ. He then explained the Go Tell Ministry's summer camp for teenagers, and appealed for funds to send youngsters to the Georgia location.

Officials said 854 people committed to Christ during the Go Tell Crusade's five-day run.

Veterans Park groundbreaking Jan. 14

By JEFFERSON WEAVER
Staff Writer

Veterans Memorial park organizers are looking for a big turnout at the groundbreaking for the facility Jan. 14.

"We are inviting everyone to come out and help us celebrate," said Angela Norris.

The Columbus County Veterans Memorial Park will eventually have memorials to all branches of service as well as every American conflict. Static displays, walking trails and other features are also

planned. The park and future Hall of Honor will be home to a photo of every county veteran.


A display of some of the photos has been making its way to festivals, events and the county fair since the photo project began last year.

"Our goal is to have a picture of every service member, male or female, war time or peace," Norris said. The groundbreaking will be held in the New Hope community, on the site of the future park at 6354 James B. White Hwy. South. The group began buying the property last

year using donations from the Columbus \$5 Challenge and other fundraisers.


After the 11 a.m. groundbreaking, Norris said, volunteers will be right back at the familiar task of dishing out chicken bog plates for the next fundraiser. The location for the lunch plate sale was moved to the National Guard Armory on the Chadbourn Highway in Whiteville.

"We hope we're going to run out of seats," she said. For more information, call 840-3848.



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Tiger lineman Former Gator prepping for Clemson's shot at NCAA football crown

By DAN BISER
Sports Editor

As an offensive lineman, Joe Gore has rarely had his name called out by public address announcers over the course of a football game.

Rarely are his name or his statistics mentioned in TV and radio descriptions as well as on the pages of newspapers, magazines and game programs.

That, however, has little effect on Lake Waccamaw native Joe Gore, who wears No. 73 and plays right tackle on the offensive line of the lone undefeated major college in the country - the Tigers of Clemson.

In fact, the former all-around athlete at East Columbus High School just shrugs it off.

"That's the way it is for a lineman," said Gore by phone from Clemson on Tuesday. "You look at it from the standpoint of team pride."

This coming Monday night at Glendale, Ariz., Gore and the rest of the Clemson University team will take the field against the Alabama Crimson Tide in the CFP championship game set for University of Phoenix Stadium.

The game will be broadcast by ESPN, beginning at 8:30 p.m. (EST).

Gore will be the first Columbus County native to play in a major college national-football championship game.

Coach Dabo Swinney's Clemson team has fashioned a 14-0 record, including the Atlantic Coast Conference championship and a 37-17 win



Joe Gore

over Oklahoma in the Capital One Orange Bowl at Miami Gardens, Fla. to gain its berth in the championship game.

In the meantime, Coach Nick Saban's Alabama team is taking a 13-1 record to Arizona following its 38-0 shellacking of Michigan State in the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic at Arlington, Texas.

"It's a huge match-up, and hopefully it will turn into a big night for our football team," Gore said. "We know what we're up against, but we feel our chances are just as good as theirs."

The Clemson squad will fly to Arizona on Friday and begin making final preparations for the game.

The 23-year-old Gore said that winning the Orange Bowl, in which they completely dominated a tremendous Oklahoma team the entire second half "was a great experience."

Although Clemson had the

unbeaten record and the top seed among the four vying for the title, Oklahoma still went into the game as a favorite.

"Oklahoma had such a strong history and tradition in the Orange Bowl and they were an outstanding team," Gore said. "We knew we had to play well, and by the time second half rolled around, we really brought it all together."

As a fifth-year senior, Gore has started every game at right tackle this season. His best outing of the year was against N.C. State at Raleigh when he was voted ACC Lineman of the Week. Another big honor came his way when he was announced as a Third Team selection on the 2015 All-ACC squad at the close of regular season.

Friday's game will feature two of college's top three players of the season in Alabama's Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry and quarterback Dashaun Watson (a Heisman finalist and only a sophomore.)

Gore feels that the 20-year-old Watson could become one of the best all-around quarterbacks in NCAA history.

"He's somebody people are going to be hearing about for a long time. He is that good ... he has the ability and the maturity of a true winner."

Gore had a standout high school career at East Columbus where he played under head coaches Travis Conner and Toby Kasell. He earned 1A All-State honors and was recruited as a defensive lineman. He switched to the offensive side of the ball after being red-shirted as a freshman.



Photo by Grant Merritt

Three Rivers hoop action

West Columbus High's Raeana Goodman (10) goes up for a shot while being defended by Red Springs player Taylor Jones in Tuesday night's Three Rivers Conference girls basketball action at the West Columbus gym. See story on 2B.

McKeever TD reception highlights State effort in Belk Bowl loss

By DAN BISER
Sports Editor

How many Division I college football players have touched the ball only twice in two seasons and have converted both those touches into 82-yard scoring plays?

That is certainly one recognition that Tabor City native and former South Columbus High School athletic great Pharoah McKeever can boast following last week's Belk Bowl encounter at Charlotte.

McKeever, a red-shirt sophomore on the North Carolina State University football squad, lined up at the tight end position for the first time during the 2015 season and latched onto a pass from Wolfpack quarterback Jacoby Brissett for 82 yards and the first NCSU touchdown.

The score came early in the second quarter after the Mississippi State Bulldogs had taken a 21-0 lead en route to a 51-28 victory in the game played at Bank of America Stadium.

"Jaylen Samuels had scored on the same play in our game with Clemson this year," said McKeever by phone from Raleigh on Monday. "I cut underneath the coverage and was left wide open. I was able to run it to the end zone.



Pharoah McKeever

The play originated at the N.C. State 18-yard line with McKeever making the catch between the 30 and 35. Three Mississippi State defenders gave chase but were unable to catch the Wolfpack's newest tight end.

"It was a big play ... mainly because we really needed to score," McKeever said. "It turned out just like it was designed."

However, McKeever's long TD reception was one of the few bright spots for the Wolfpack as it suffered its third loss in its last four outings and closed out the 2015 season with a 7-6 record.

Mississippi State led 31-14 at halftime and N.C. State could

get not closer than 10 points in the second half. The 6-foot-7, 265-pound McKeever, who was a record-setting quarterback and free safety at South Columbus, had until the Belk Bowl played a defensive end position for Coach Dave Doeren's Wolfpack.

During the 2014 season, McKeever made a huge defensive play in a road win over Syracuse when he intercepted an Orangeman pass and returned it - you guessed it - 82 yards for a touchdown.

McKeever was groomed as a receiver while getting red-shirted in his first year at N.C. State. He was moved to the defensive side of football for the next two seasons, playing mainly at a back-up role. He also endured a knee injury that kept him out of action in several early season games. McKeever said that he had asked Coach Doeren about the possible move to tight end during the regular-season schedule, and the move was made during bowl preparations. Along with moving to the offensive side of the ball he had to switch his jersey number from 87 to 88 since players are not wear duplicate numbers on the same side of the line of scrimmage.

See McKeever on 2B

High school basketball Lady Gators grab lead in TRC standings

LAKE WACCAMAW - The East Columbus Lady Gators battled back from a nine-point halftime deficit Tuesday night in claiming a 45-37 win over visiting South Robeson in a key Three Rivers Conference girls basketball game.

The Lady Gators improved their conference record to 4-0 while handing South Robeson its first conference loss. Coach Candra Powell's Lady Gators, paced by the play of juniors Charity Powell and Marlena McClure, now have a 9-2 season record.

South Robeson, paced by the play of standout guard A'tierra Quick post player Nytia Lewis held East Columbus to five points in the second quarter for a 24-15 halftime lead.

But East Columbus bounced back with a 17-point effort in the third quarter for a 32-22 advantage. Powell scored 14 points and McClure added 11. Mia Campbell and Tia Campbell each had seven points for the Lady

Gators.

Quick scored a game-high 15 points for South Robeson before leaving the game with just over a minute remaining after sustaining an injury.

South Robeson dominated the boys game 59-40 after jumping to a 25-15 halftime lead and then out-scoring the Gators 23-2 in the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, East Columbus guard Kushod Tucker scored all of his team high 14 points in a 23-point run. Jared Demery scored eight for the Gators.

D. Banks led South Robeson with 17 points as the Mustangs improved their conference record to 2-2.

Coach Maercus Skipper's ECHS boys squad saw its record slip to 1-3 in conference and 2-11 overall.

Wolfpack teams sweep wins over St. Pauls

ST. PAULS - Tyrell Kirk's 23 points were a big factor for the Whiteville Wolfpack Tuesday night in a 60-57 Three Rivers Conference boys basketball win over host St. Pauls.

Coach Jerry Singletary's Wolfpack improved its conference record to 3-1 while handing St. Pauls its first conference loss. D.J. Edwards joined Kirk in double figures with 11 points while Lamar Green tallied nine.. The Wolfpack's season record stands at 5-2.

Deonte Bridges led St Pauls scorers with 14 points. Whiteville and St. Pauls are tied for second place in the TRC race, trailing Fairmont, which remains unbeaten with a 9-0 record, including a 4-0 conference record.

In the girls game, Whiteville came away with a 49-39 win over the Lady Bulldogs. Ericka Vereen came across with a strong double-double effort with 11 points and 13 rebounds. Dallesia Freeman followed with nine points.

Coach Serena Smith's Lady Wolfpack led all the way, jumping to a 15-6 first quarter lead and a 21-15 halftime advantage. The Lady Wolfpack now stands at 3-1 in conference play and 4-4 overall.

The loss dropped the St. Pauls girls record to 0-4 in conference and 1-11 for the season.

Whiteville will play host to East Columbus on Friday.

Hallsboro Middle School basketball tournament set to open on Monday

The 24th annual Hallsboro Middle School Basketball Tournament will run from Jan., 11 through Jan. 15 at Baldwin-Sessions Gymnasium on the HMS campus.

Boys and girls from all nine middle schools in Columbus County will compete in the weeklong event (see brackets in Sports of All Sports, Page 3B).

Daily admission will be \$4.

The host Hallsboro boys and girls teams are defending champions of their respective brackets.

The tournament has become one of Southeastern North Carolina's most elaborate middle-school athletic showcases.

Tournament play will open on Monday, Jan. 11, with a 4 p.m. girls game between Evergreen and Nakina, followed at 5:15 by a boys clash between Hallsboro and Cerro Gordo.

Tuesday's action will feature girls games between Chadbourn and Cerro Gordo at 4 p.m., and Hallsboro and Williams Township at 5:15. Tuesday's boys games will have Chadbourn and Acme-Delco squaring off at 6:30, followed by Williams Township and the winner of Monday's Hallsboro-Cerro Gordo game.

Wednesday's girls games will have Whiteville Central taking

the court against Acme-Delco at 4 p.m., followed a match-up between Tabor City and Monday's Evergreen-Nakina winner at 5:15.

Wednesday boys games have Nakina taking the floor against Evergreen at 6:30 and Central squaring off with Tabor City at 7:45

Girls semi-final games are scheduled for Thursday at 4 and 5:15. Boys semi-final contests are set to follow at 6:30 and 7:45.

On Friday, the girls championship game will unfold at 5 p.m., followed by the boys championship game at 6:30.

See list of past HMS Tournament champions on 2B



Photo by Grant Merritt

E.J. Miller (21) of West Columbus gets off a short jumper against Red Springs' Tavion Atkinson in Tuesday's Three Rivers Conference basketball game at West Columbus. Also pictured is West Columbus guard Jacob Baldwin (12). Red Springs won the game 81-66.

Vikings hoopsters bow to Red Springs

By FRANKLIN DAVIS
Sports Writer

Pressure defense and superior height spurred the Red Springs Red Devils to an 81-66 win over West Columbus in boys basketball Tuesday evening in Cerro Gordo.

The Red Devils full-court press and inside presence resulted in a 24-9 lead after the first quarter. Substituting five fresh players every four minutes, Red Springs increased the lead to 45-24 at halftime.

Give Coach Michael Powell and his players credit. Coach Powell remained calm and his team continued to battle.

The Vikings outscored the Red Devils 42-36 in the second half. West Columbus closed to within 12, 72-60, at the 3:17 mark in the final period, but the hole dug earlier was too deep to complete the climb back. Red Springs won despite making one less free throw (11 to 12) and two less three-point

field goals (2 to 4).

Eric Graham led Red Springs with 22 points. 6-foot-6 forward Tavion Atkinson contributed 16 points, 12 rebounds, two dunks and several altered or blocked shots. Fred Evans led the Vikings with 20 points. Johnny McFadden added 14 and Jacob Baldwin 12.

Red Springs is now 7-6 overall and 2-2 in TRC play. The Vikings drop to 2-7 overall and 0-4 in conference action.

In the girls contest, Red Springs ran out to a 19-0 lead in the first 4:43 of the contest. Viking turnovers resulted in layups and the Lady Devils connected on three of their eight three-pointers in the first quarter. They continued to stretch the advantage, scoring in double figures every period and holding the Lady Vikings to single digits in every quarter.

Taya Jones led Red Springs with 25 points. Raeana Goodman and Annela Tiffany

each had eight points for West Columbus.

Red Springs is now 7-6 overall and 2-2 in TRC play. The Vikings fall to 2-7 overall and 0-4 in Three Rivers action.

The junior varsity contests were a bright spot for the Vikings. The JV Girls remained undefeated with a 22-16 win. Coach Shakeya McClintock's squad, now 6-0, held Red Springs scoreless in the third period. Tiyana Braddy had nine points to lead West Columbus. An 18-8 third quarter advantage gave Coach W. T. Edwards' JV Boys just enough cushion to withstand a Red Springs fourth quarter comeback and take a 39-36 win. Garrell Evans had 10 points for the Vikings. Zack McPherson scored seven points, all in the third period.

West Columbus travels to South Robeson Friday while Red Springs hosts Fairmont. Fairmont's undefeated boys are outscoring TRC opponents by 40 points per game.

Lady Stallions grab victory in overtime

FAIRMONT - Lindsey Lewis scored 13 points and Hailey Sarvis tallied 12 Tuesday as the South Columbus Lady Stallion basketball team recovered from a slow start to pull out a 37-36 overtime victory over Three Rivers Conference rival Fairmont.

Fairmont held an 11-0 lead after one quarter, but South Columbus battled its way back into the game in the second quarter to trail 16-11 at the half.

The score was tied at 31 at the end of

regulation.

Lewis scored the game-winning basket for South Columbus in the overtime period as the Lady Stallions evened their conference record at 2-2.

The undefeated Fairmont boys team trounced SCHS 70-17 after holding a 39-7 halftime lead. The loss dropped the SCHS record to 1-4 in conference and 2-7 overall.

interested in submitting an application, contact Julie M. Strickland at 910-640-6624 or access an electronic application

at columbusco.org (recreation department link). Applications are due no later than 5 p.m. Feb. 12.

County Parks and Rec accepting grant applications

The Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department is accepting applications for the equipment mini-grant.

The grants will be awarded based on participation volume and need component.

The intent of this funding source is to help Columbus County's organized youth franchised leagues satisfy equipment needs and help offset league expenditures.

Grants are for athletic equipment only and will not exceed \$1,000. If a league is

Three Rivers Conference basketball standings

BOYS			GIRLS		
	Conf.	Overall		Conf.	Overall
Fairmont	4-0	9-0	East Columbus	4-0	9-2
St. Pauls	3-1	11-2	South Robeson	3-1	9-4
Whiteville	3-1	5-2	Red Springs	3-1	7-6
Red Springs	2-2	7-6	Whiteville	3-1	4-4
South Robeson	2-2	3-8	South Columbus	2-2	2-7
East Columbus	1-3	2-11	Fairmont	1-3	2-5
South Columbus	1-3	2-7	West Columbus	0-4	2-7
West Columbus	0-4	2-7	St. Pauls	0-4	1-11

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

South Robeson 59, East Columbus 40
Fairmont 70, South Columbus 17
Red Springs 81, West Columbus 66
Whiteville 60, St. Pauls 57

WEDNESDAY'S GAME

East Columbus at South Brunswick

FRIDAY'S GAMES

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

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

East Columbus 45, South Robeson 37
South Columbus 37, Fairmont 36 (ot)
Red Springs 64, West Columbus 21
Whiteville 49, St. Pauls 39

WEDNESDAY'S GAME

East Columbus at South Brunswick

FRIDAY'S GAME

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

McKever

Continued from 1B

McKever said that he hopes to remain at the tight end position for his two remaining seasons at N.C. State, "but I'll play wherever the coaches want me, to play."

At South Columbus, McKever paced the Stallions to three straight Waccamaw Conference championships under Coach Jake Fonvielle. In both 2011 and 2012, SCHS advanced to the Eastern N.C. 2A finals where they fell to eventual state champion Tarboro both times.

During his senior year at South Columbus, McKever was named the 2012 Columbus County Football Player of the Year, the 2013 Columbus County Basketball Player of the Year.

He was also named the 2013 recipient of the Jiggs Powers Memorial Award as Columbus County's Most Outstanding Athlete.

County Parks & Rec youth basketball registrations set

The Columbus County Parks and Recreation will have registration for youth basketball from 10:00 a.m. until noon on Saturday, January 9, and January 16, 2016. Boys and girls, 6-15 years old, are encouraged to participate in the six-week basketball fundamentals program.

Registration for the basketball program will be held in the gym at the following schools: Acme Delco Middle School, Chadbourn Elementary School, Hallsboro Middle School, Nakina Middle School, Tabor City Middle School, and Williams Township School.

For more information, contact the Columbus County Parks and Recreation Department at 640-6624.

Children, ages 6-15, are eligible to play when a parent/guardian completes a release form and pays a \$10 registration fee.

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Hutchison hired by Whiteville City Schools

By FRANKLIN DAVIS
Sports Writer

Former South Columbus head football coach Kyle Hutchison was hired by the Whiteville City Schools Board of Education in an interim position Monday evening.

Hutchison, certified in social studies, is expected to begin teaching history at Whiteville High School when the second semester begins on Jan. 21.

Hutchison was reassigned from South Columbus to Nakina Middle School in early December. Hutchison was 12-13 in two years as the Stallion head coach.

His 2015 team finished 7-6 after losing their first four games and shared the Three Rivers Conference crown with Fairmont and Whiteville. South Columbus advanced to the second round of the playoffs where they lost to TRC foe Fairmont.

Hutchison came to South Columbus in 2014 from Richmond County where he served as an assistant. He was 1-1 against Whiteville, the school he now joins.

Whiteville High athletic director David Smith said, "Mr. Hutchison will be an asset to Whiteville High as an educator and in any coaching responsibilities he may fill." Coach Luke Little added, "Anytime you can hire someone with Coach Hutchison's expertise and knowledge you are lucky."

Mr. Hutchison said, "I'm excited about the opportunity to further my career in education and coaching by working at Whiteville High. I had several different career opportunities at this time, but Whiteville seems to be the best fit for my family and me.

"The people we have met and been around have treated us like family and definitely made us feel welcome. I will miss the great staff at Nakina Middle School. It has been an incredible place to work these last few weeks. Columbus County Schools has been a great place for me. I will miss the players and coaches and wish them all the best."

Past HMS Tournament champions

See story on 1B

BOYS	GIRLS
1993 - Chadbourn	1993 - Central
1994 - Hallsboro	1994 - Cerro Gordo
1995 - Williams	1995 - Hallsboro
1996 - Chadbourn	1996 - Hallsboro
1997 - Williams	1997 - Central
1998 - Central	1998 - Tabor City
1999 - Tabor City	1999 - Chadbourn
2000 - Hallsboro	2000 - Central
2001 - Hallsboro	2001 - Williams
2002 - Hallsboro	2002 - Central
2003 - Leland	2003 - Central
2004 - Central	2004 - Central
2005 - Central	2005 - Hallsboro
2006 - Central	2006 - Central
2007 - Central	2007 - Hallsboro
2008 - Central	2008 - Chadbourn
2009 - Central	2009 - Chadbourn
2010 - Acme-Delco	2010 - Hallsboro
2011 - Carver (Laurel Hill)	2011 - Hallsboro
2012 - Cerro Gordo	2012 - Hallsboro
2013 - Central	2013 - Tabor City
2014 - Central	2014 - Central
2015 - Hallsboro	2015 - Hallsboro

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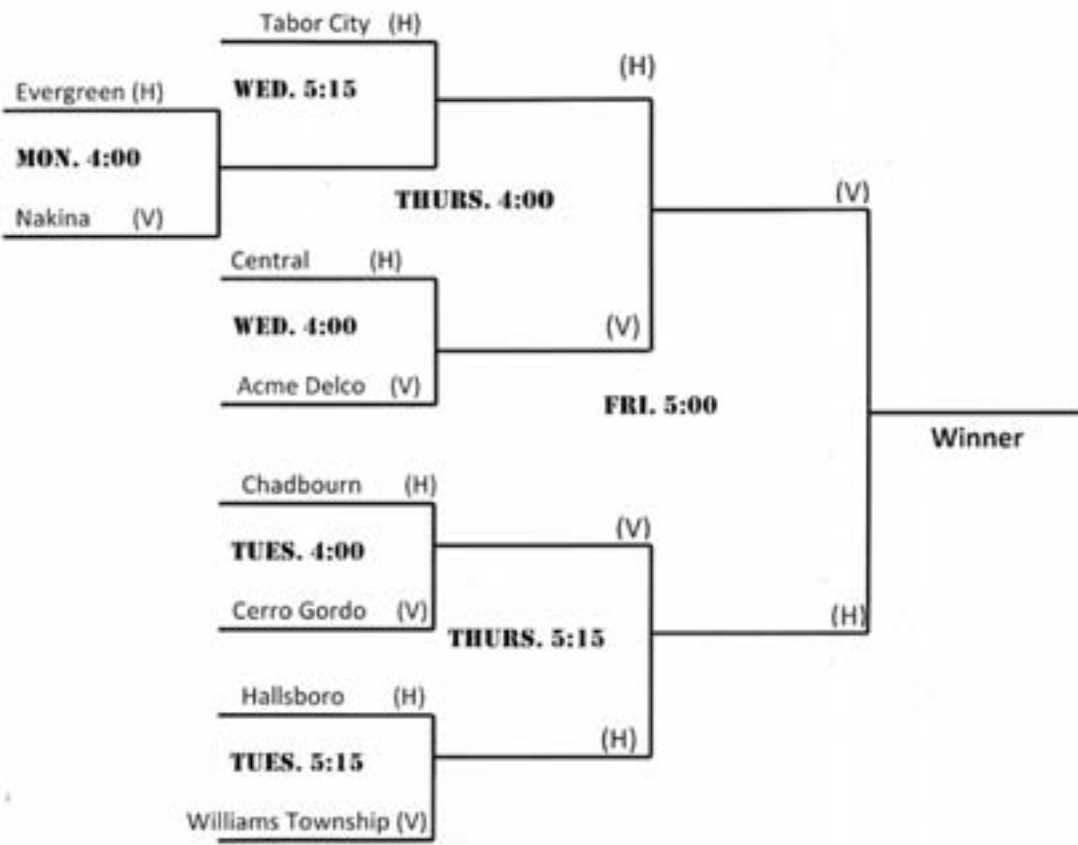
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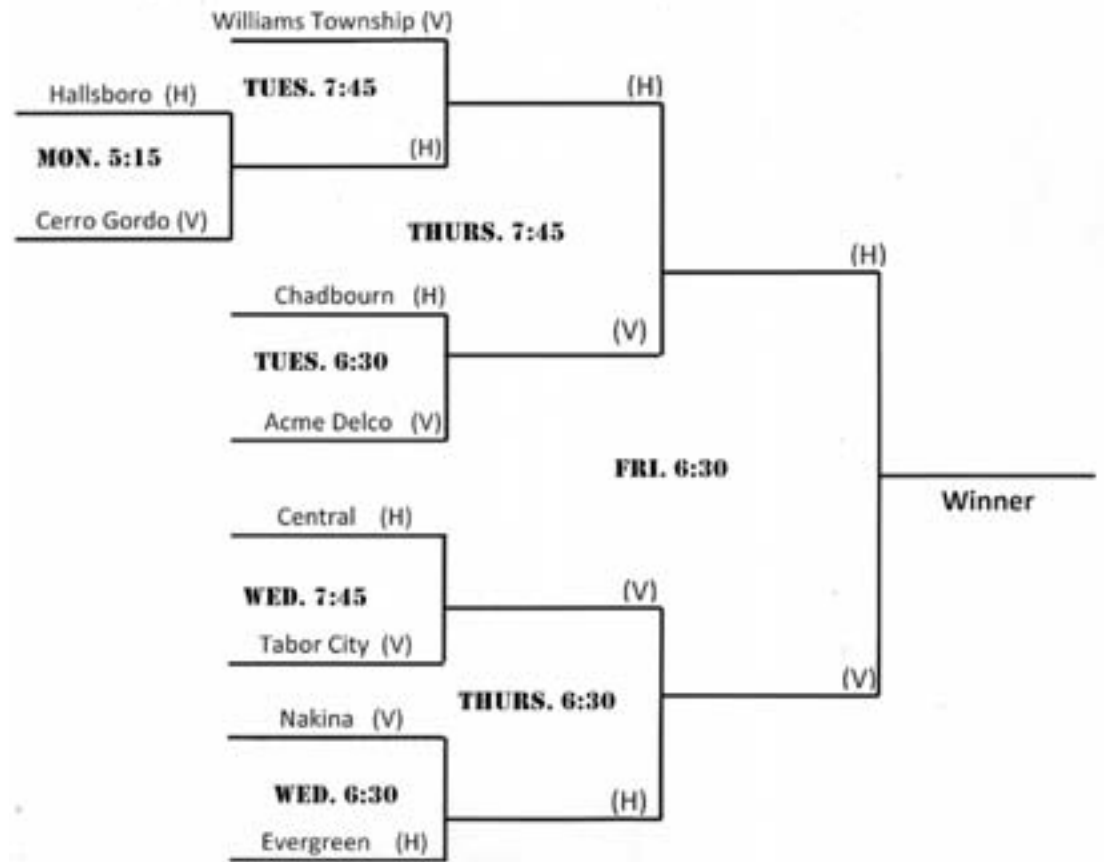
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Brackets for the Hallsboro Invitational Tournament on Jan. 11-15

Hallsboro Invitational Tournament 2016 (Girls) Jan. 11-15



Hallsboro Invitational Tournament 2016 (Boys) Jan. 11-15



Hallsboro Middle School will host middle school teams from Evergreen Elementary, Nakina Middle, Chadbourn Middle, Cerro Gordo Elementary, Acme-Delco Middle Tabor City Middle, Williams Township and Central Middle.



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MCDONALD'S PRESENTS

Whiteville High School



Germaine McNeil
Basketball

The 6-foot-1 senior has stepped into the starting line-up this season as Coach Jerry Singletary's Wolfpack is in a rebuilding stage following the graduation of four starters from last year's 19-7 WHS squad. "We're a young team this year, but I feel like we are making some progress at getting established as a unit," McNeil said. "There are some strong teams in our conference, but I feel like we can do a good job." Whiteville, which recently won two of three games in the Woodmen Life Holiday Tournament at the West Bladen High School gym, has a strong tradition and following in basketball and that comes from hard work and dedication each day, according to McNeil. "We try to get better each game and each practice," he said. The son of Darnell and Fale McNeil plans to attend N.C. A&T University next year. He would like to major in sports medicine. He is active in the WHS JROTC program. He said his favorite NBA player is Klay Thompson of the Golden State Warriors.

East Columbus High School



Charity Powell
Basketball

The Lady Gator junior scored 27 points in the a 59-50 victory over South Robeson for the ECHS Holiday Tournament championship and followed that Tuesday night with a 14-point, 16-rebound performance in a key 45-37 Three Rivers Conference win over the same South Robeson squad. Powell, younger sister of ECHS head girls basketball coach Candra Powell, has been an inside player for the Lady Gators since her freshman year. "We feel like we can win the conference championship again this year if we continue to keep working as a team," she said. "Some of our games have been better than others, but we are doing pretty well so far." The daughter of Pamela and Tyrone Powell hopes for the chance to play college basketball. N.C. State and Wake Forest are among the list of colleges she would like to attend. English is her favorite class at ECHS. The Lady Gators are in quest of their fifth straight Three Rivers Conference championship.

West Columbus High School



Tiyana Braddy
Basketball

Braddy is the daughter of Tawana Willis. The Viking freshman is a major reason Coach Shakeya McClintock's JV team is undefeated. Braddy enjoys the competition and especially enjoys winning. Her biggest basketball thrill is the current winning streak the Viking team is enjoying. Her biggest basketball influence is her grandfather, Chavis McMillan. "He is the reason I started playing basketball." Coach McClintock says, "Tiyana is a dynamic, all-around player, a strong rebounder and a joy to coach." She could not choose between chicken and pizza as her favorite food. Math is favorite subject area and Stephen Curry is Braddy's favorite pro athlete. She describes herself as, "initially quiet, but fun to be around when you get to know me."

South Columbus High School



Lindsey Lewis
Basketball

The Stallion senior is the daughter of Mark Lewis and Joy Fowler. Lewis has double-figure point totals in the last two Stallion contests. Her 13 points against Fairmont included the basket that put South ahead to stay in their overtime win. She enjoys just being with her teammates and the feeling you get when making a shot. Her parents have been her biggest influence because "they have always been supportive and provided opportunities for me to succeed in basketball." Lewis's best basketball moment was moving up to the varsity as a freshman and scoring her first basket. She hopes to have a career in a medical field. Lewis has three boxer bulldogs, Marley, Duke and Bean. She describes herself as "friendly, outgoing, a team player and someone that is determined to meet the goals I set for myself."



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120 Antiques	280 Child Care	400 Accessories	570 Commercial
130 Yard & Garage Sales	290 Business Opportunities	REAL ESTATE	580 Land
140 Clothing	295 Schools/Institutions	SALES	590 Equipment
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MULTIFAMILY YARD SALE. In neighborhood across from hospital. 400 E Oliver St. Baby items, children's clothing, household items. Saturday. January 9, 7 am.

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- Knowledge of WIOA Youth Program preferred.
- Knowledge of NCWorks Integrated Service Delivery model preferred.
- Knowledge of Workforce Investment Act guidelines and services preferred.

A full position description and required application for this position can be found on the SCC website at www.sccnc.edu or call 910-642-7141, ext. 310. SCC application, resume, letter of interest addressing the minimum qualifications listed on the official position announcement and educational transcripts must be submitted in order to be considered for this position. Deadline for applications is 5:00 pm on 2/5/2016.

Applicants should send all documents and inquiries to the Human Resources Office, Southeastern Community College, P.O. Box 151, Whiteville, NC 28472.

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Part Time Security Guard

Minimum Requirements:

- High School Diploma or equivalent
- 18 years of age or older
- Five years of verifiable employment history, security experience preferred
- Must provide a copy of local background check

For a Southeastern Community College application and full description of this position, visit www.sccnc.edu or call (910) 642-7141, ext. 310.

A completed Southeastern Community College application, resume and letter of interest must be submitted to the college Human Resources Office in order for applicants to be considered for this position. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

Applicants should send all documents and inquiries to the Human Resources Office, Southeastern Community College, P.O. Box 151, Whiteville, NC 28472.

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SCIENCE TEACHER AT FLEMINGTON ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina is accepting applications for the position of a **SCIENCE TEACHER AT FLEMINGTON ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

NC teaching certificate is required for the position. BS/BA from an accredited four year college/university. All inquires only should be directed to Tom Simmons, Director, Flemington Academy at 910-646-2237. You can apply online at www.boysandgirls-homes.org or by email at tesa.bush@bghnc.org. or by fax to 910-646-3609 and/or mail applications to Boys & Girls Homes of NC, Inc - P. O. Box 127, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450 - Attn: Tesa Bush, Human Resources Manager

Exempt, salary, professional full time position with benefits. EOE

Southeastern Community College is seeking qualified individuals for the following position:

Library Technical Assistant

Minimum Requirements:

- An associate's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- One or more years of experience in a library setting or equivalent experience.
- Experience working with the Library of Congress Classification System
- Significant database experience
- Computer experience with Microsoft Office Suite applications
- Ability to train and catalog library materials using the CCLINC cataloging SIRSI module software and attach items to the most appropriate items already in the CCLINC system

For a Southeastern Community College application and full description of this position, visit www.sccnc.edu or call (910) 642-7141, ext. 310.

A completed Southeastern Community College application, resume, letter of interest addressing the position requirements and educational transcripts must be submitted to the college Human Resources Office in order for applicants to be considered for this position. Deadline for applications will be Friday, January 23, 2015.

Applicants should send all documents and inquiries to the Human Resources Office, Southeastern Community College, P.O. Box 151, Whiteville, NC 28472.

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Southeastern Community College is seeking qualified individuals for the following position:

Computer Information Systems Instructor

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or a related Information Technology field from a regionally accredited institution.
- Significant course work in the areas of computer science, computer information, computer networks, computer engineering, and management information systems.
- Ability to provide effective instruction to students in information systems, computer science, computer networking and web technologies courses.
- A minimum of two years industry experience in computer network operations, programming, computer hardware, and operating systems.

For a Southeastern Community College application and full description of this position, visit www.sccnc.edu or call (910) 642-7141, ext. 310.

A completed Southeastern Community College application, resume, letter of interest addressing the position requirements and educational transcripts must be submitted to the college Human Resources Office in order for applicants to be considered for this position. Deadline for receipt of applications is 5:00 pm on Friday, January 8, 2016.

Applicants should send all documents and inquiries to the Human Resources Office, Southeastern Community College, P.O. Box 151, Whiteville, NC 28472

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FOSTER CARE CONSULTANT/ RECRUITER-TRAINER

Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc is accepting **applications** for the position of Foster Care Recruitment Coordinator for our Lake Waccamaw office in Columbus County. You will be working several counties including New Hanover. This position requires a BSW. Must be certified to teach MAPP. Experience working with DSS. Three (3) years experience working with emotionally and behaviorally disturbed youths and their families. Experience in working with foster parents. Must be able to demonstrate all the technical and program skills required of a foster parent. Advanced technical writing skills, treatment planning and behavior analysis skills required. Will be teaching MAPP-GPS throughout the year. Extended work hours are necessary on occasion. Must provide 24 hours accessibility, including weekends and holidays during assigned times (pager provided). On-call responsibilities may include being on-call to assigned foster parents, other program consultants and/or colleagues during their time off. Exempt salaried position. We offer an excellent benefit package. EOE

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IMMEDIATE OPENING for a Licensed Property and Casualty Representative. If interested please call 910-642-4158 ask for manager or mail resume to PO Box 1010, Whiteville, NC 28472 or come by the office @ 312 Columbus Corners, Whiteville, NC 28472 to scheduled an interview

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2014 FORD FOCUS SE, 4 dr, SYNC, reverse sensors, alloy wheels, 26k. \$13,900. Fair Bluff Ford. 910-649-7531

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335 SUVs/Vans

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2013 FORD ECONOLINE 350 Super Duty XLT, 15 passenger, loaded, keyless, 38k. \$23,800. Fair Bluff Ford. 910-649-7531

2014 FORD EDGE LIMITED, 3.5L V6 auto, SYNC, leather, 31k, \$27,900. Fair Bluff Ford 649-7531

2014 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM, SYNC, sunroof, MyFord Touch, 24k, \$23,900. Fair Bluff Ford 649-7531

REAL ESTATE

****Publisher's Notice****
Equal Housing Opportunity
All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, North Carolina and Columbus Fair Housing Law which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-765-9372.

REAL ESTATE

420 Mfg. Housing

2016 SINGLEWIDE. Wind Zone II. Starting at \$29,000. Call Oakwood Homes. 910-654-4128

1976 CONNOR MOBILE home for sale. \$3,500. Call 910-499-6086, inquire @ 601 Research Drive, Whiteville. Ask for Mary George. Must be moved by the end of January.

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REAL ESTATE

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RENTALS

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, North Carolina and Columbus Fair Housing Law which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-765-9372.

1 ACRE LARGE 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Garage/workshop. Near Whiteville. No pets. 910-640-3896.

2 BEDROOM, 1 bath house for rent, Whiteville. Deposit \$350; rent \$550. References required. No pets. Call 642-2717.

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REAL ESTATE

2 BR, 2 BATH Wooded Acres, Lake Waccamaw area. References required. No pets. 910-640-9435 or 642-5801.

212 W. 3RD AVE-Chadbourn; 2bd. 1ba.; W/D hookup, back yard, lawn care incl; \$650/mo. \$650 security deposit; first month's rent free for qualifying applicant, apply @ car-tretproperties.managebuilding.com; contact: 252-756-2920

3 BR, 2 bath house, carport, \$650 month. Security deposit required. Call 910-368-6652.

659 Cedar Branch Rd, Chadbourn 3BR. 2ba. bonus room; W/D hook-up, private, security system, large yard; water & lawn care incl; \$850mo. \$850 deposit; first month's rent free for qualifying applicant, apply @ car-tretproperties.managebuilding.com; office contact: 252-756-2920

HOUSE FOR RENT. 2 BR, 2 bath Firetower Rd., Lake Waccamaw. \$700 rent plus deposit. No pets, no smoking. Call 910-840-3820.

520 Apartments

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT \$350. No pets. First & last month deposit. Call 642-0404.

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2 BEDROOM APARTMENT. No pets. Please call J.L. Powell & Co., Inc. Call 642-4049.

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REAL ESTATE

APARTMENT AND HOUSE FOR RENT. Call 910-234-1929 or 910-770-5521.

530 Mfg. Housing

2 BEDROOM MOBILE HOME FOR RENT, 5 MILES EAST OF WHITEVILLE. Call 642-7844.

2 BEDROOM MOBILE HOME furnished for rent in the Chadbourn area. Call 654-4130.

2 BEDROOM MOBILE HOME, East-over Park. Call J.L. Powell & Co Inc. 642-4049.

A HOME FOR RENT IN NAKINA. Very clean. Private lot. No pets. References required. Call 910-642-6506 or leave message.

550 Rooms

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570 Commercial

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Tax Foreclosure Sale

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF COLUMBUS IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 15 CV 608 COUNTY OF COLUMBUS, Plaintiff vs MARK LOVETT; DEBBIE H. LOVETT; STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, Department of Revenue, Judgmentholder (Lienholder), Defendants
NOTICE is hereby given that the COUNTY OF COLUMBUS as a body politic incorporate of the State of North Carolina, is exercising its power and authority to assess, levy and collect taxes against real and personal property located within

LEGAL NOTICES

its boundaries in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina and the Default Judgment and order of Sale entered on the 19th day of November, 2015 and is foreclosing on the following land of MARK LOVETT and DEBBIE H. LOVETT in order to satisfy the property assessed but unpaid taxes upon certain lands. Pursuant to the Judgment entered on the 19th day of November, 2015, William E. Wood has been appointed Commissioner with the authority to sell the following land at the Courthouse Door, Columbus County Courthouse in the City of Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock noon on the 14th day of January, 2016 and will sell to the highest bidder for cash all interest in the following described real estate:
TRACT 1:

All that certain tract of land, containing 114.39 acres, more or less, known as the Norman Lovett Place in Cerro Gordo Township, Columbus County, North Carolina, about 5 miles Northwest from the Town of Tabor City, bounded, now or formerly, on the North by lands of Leatie Lovett and Highway 904; on the East by lands of Rex Lovett; on the South by lands of Beamon Buffkin and Norman Lovett, and on the West by lands of Mrs. L.C. Buffkin; said tract of land being particularly shown and delineated on a plat prepared by Robert D. Inman, Surveyor, dated December 11, 1963, which plat is duly recorded in Plat 8, Page 54, Columbus County Registry, and incorporated herein reference.

LESS AND EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:
1. That 42 acre tract conveyed by Norman Lovett and wife, Ella G. Lovett, to Mark Canady Lovett, by Deed dated March 1, 1983, recorded in Book 346, Page 890, Columbus County Registry. Also being the same property described in Deed dated April 11, 1970, from Norman Lovett and wife, Bernice C. Lovett, to Mark Canady Lovett, recorded in Deed Book 259, Page 253, Columbus County Registry.
2. That 4.58 acre property conveyed by Pat Lovett, Executor of the Estate of Norman Lovett, et al., to Lovett Brothers Partners, by Deed dated June 4, 2007, recorded in Book 904, Page 784, Columbus County Registry.
3. That 2.09 acre tract as conveyed by Norman Lovett and wife, Bernice

LEGAL NOTICES

Lovett, to Thomas V. Nolan, Sr. and wife, Ann H. Nolan, by Deed dated September 1, 1976, recorded in Book 294, Page 470, Columbus County Registry.
4. That 1.57 acre tract as conveyed by Norman Lovett and wife, Ella D. Lovette, to Olin Buffkin and wife, Beth Ann Buffkin, by Deed dated December 30, 1983, recorded in Book 353, Page 778, Columbus County Registry.
This being the same property conveyed to Mark Lovett under Item Seven of the Last Will and Testament of Norman Lovett as the same is located in file number 01-E-128 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court for Columbus County, North Carolina.
See also Easement in Book 516, Page 378, Columbus County Registry.

TRACT 2:
All that tract of land lying in Cerro Gordo Township, Columbus County, North Carolina, containing 14.89 acres, more or less, as shown on a map prepared by Billy M. Duncan, Registered Land Surveyor, (N.C. Certification L-1353), dated January 21, 1976, and being entitled Plat for Norman Lovett and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:
BEGINNING at an old concrete monument, said beginning point being located South 65 degrees 10 minutes 30 seconds East 1,021.50 feet from a nail and cap located at the intersection of N.C. Hwy 904 and State Road 1366; further South 11 degrees 20 minutes 30 seconds West 902.71 feet to an iron pipe in a road leading to L.C. Buffkin's residence, further South 84 degrees 17 minutes East 317.71 feet to the point and place of beginning; thence from said beginning point South 11 degrees 32 minutes East 441.90 feet along a Ditch to another point in said ditch; thence along said ditch South 53 degrees 39 minutes West 1,126.80 feet to another point located in a canal; thence North 12 degrees 53 minutes West 833.70 feet to an iron pipe located in said canal; thence South 82 degrees 19 minutes 30 seconds East 331.84 feet to an iron pipe located in a ditch; thence North 10 degrees 18 minutes East 284.68 feet to a point located in a ditch; thence South 79 degrees 26 minutes East 493.65 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 4 degrees 1 minute West 158.42 feet to an iron axle; thence South 84 degrees 17 minutes East 151.91 feet to the point and place of beginning.

Also, this property is being sold free and clear of all taxes, special assessments, prior liens or encumbrances of record against said property except as may have priority under Federal or State Law, if any.
A cash deposit of 20% of the purchase price, or \$750 whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale with the balance remaining due to be paid in full by cash or certified funds at the Office of the Commissioner within three (3) days after the entry of the Judgment of Confirmation by the Clerk of Court. Hearing before the Honorable Amy W. Nance, Assistant Clerk of Superior Court for Columbus County, North Carolina was held in connection with this foreclosure on 19th day of November, 2015 at which time Clerk Amy Nance authorized this foreclosure sale as required by statute.
This the 21st day of December, 2015.
WILLIAM E WOOD
COMMISSIONER
100 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
WHITEVILLE, NC 28472
TELEPHONE: (910)-642-3965
STATE BAR NO.: 5901
Dec. 31, 2015, Jan. 7, 2016

LEGAL NOTICES

Buffkin residence and N.C. Hwy 904; thence in a Southerly direction along the Billy King property line 902.71 feet to an old iron; thence further in a Southerly direction 150 feet along the Eastern edge of the now existing road leading through the L.C. Buffkin property to another point; thence in a Westerly direction 15 feet to another point in the Western edge of said road leading to the L.C. Buffkin property; thence in a Northerly direction 150 feet more or less to a point along the Western edge of the road leading to the L.C. Buffkin residence; thence North 11 degrees East 902.71 feet along the Western edge of the road leading to the L.C. Buffkin residence to a point located at the intersection of N.C. Hwy 904 and the private road leading to the L.C. Buffkin residence; thence in an Easterly direction along the Southern edge of N.C. Hwy 904 15 feet more or less to the point and place of beginning.

The above description is intended to set forth the boundary lines of the existing roadway leading to the L.C. Buffkin residence and beyond to the property being purchased by the Grantee.

Being the same property as conveyed by Walker L.C. Buffkin and wife, Myrtrice Buffkin, to Norman Lovett and wife, Bernice Buffkin, by Deed dated September 16, 1976, recorded in Book 294, Page 683, Columbus County Registry.
This being the same property conveyed to Mark Lovett under Item Seven of the Last Will and Testament of Norman Lovett as the same is located in file number 01-E-128 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court for Columbus County, North Carolina.

The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance: "AS IS, WHERE IS". Neither the Commissioner nor the County of Columbus, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representatives of either the Commissioner or the County of Columbus make any representation of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed.

Also, this property is being sold free and clear of all taxes, special assessments, prior liens or encumbrances of record against said property except as may have priority under Federal or State Law, if any.
A cash deposit of 20% of the purchase price, or \$750 whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale with the balance remaining due to be paid in full by cash or certified funds at the Office of the Commissioner within three (3) days after the entry of the Judgment of Confirmation by the Clerk of Court. Hearing before the Honorable Amy W. Nance, Assistant Clerk of Superior Court for Columbus County, North Carolina was held in connection with this foreclosure on 19th day of November, 2015 at which time Clerk Amy Nance authorized this foreclosure sale as required by statute.
This the 21st day of December, 2015.
WILLIAM E WOOD
COMMISSIONER
100 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
WHITEVILLE, NC 28472
TELEPHONE: (910)-642-3965
STATE BAR NO.: 5901
Dec. 31, 2015, Jan. 7, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Sherry Ann Cook, deceased, late of Columbus County, the undersigned hereby notifies all persons having claims against the estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned within three (3) months from the date of the first publication, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 7th day of January, 2016.
Jonathan Brett Dorsch,
Administrator of the estate of Sherry Ann Cook
251 Nucket Lane
Whiteville, NC 28472
January 7, 14, 21, 28, 2016

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Sale Price \$31,900

08 Chevy Tahoe
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Sale Price \$19,985

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10 Cadillac SRX AWD
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Hampton Scott Pierce, deceased, of Columbus County, State of North Carolina, the undersigned does pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 28A-14-1 hereby notify all persons, firms, associations or corporations having claims against the estate of the said decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of March, 2016, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, associations or corporations indebted to the said estate will please make payment immediately. This the 18th day of December, 2015. Sally Elizabeth Galloway Fowler Executrix of the Estate of Hampton Scott Pierce JOHN ALAN HIGH, PLLC Attorney at Law 102 Courthouse Square Whiteville NC 28472 Telephone: 910-640-2111 Facsimile: 910-212-7333 Dec. 31, 2015, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF COLUMBUS The undersigned, JONATHAN H. WILLIAMSON, has qualified as Executor of the Estate of GARLAND E. WILLIAMSON, late of Columbus County, and this is to notify all persons having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before March 31, 2016, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 28A-14-1, or this notice shall be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the following address: This the 31st day of December, 2015. JONATHAN H. WILLIAMSON, EXECUTOR 128 Plantation Road Clayton, NC 27520 Williamson, Walton & Scott, L.L.P. Attorneys at Law P. O. Box 1467 Whiteville, NC 28472 Dec. 31, 2015, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 2016

Notice of Tax Foreclosure Sale
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF COLUMBUS IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 15 CV 841 COUNTY OF COLUMBUS, Plaintiff vs ALPHONSO WEEKS; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JOHN GEORGE, SYLVES-

TER GEORGE, M.C. GEORGE, HATTIE ALFORD, SYLVESTER ALFORD, NEAL RAYMOND ALFORD and/or JAMES NEAL ALFORD, Defendants NOTICE is hereby given that the COUNTY OF COLUMBUS as a body politic incorporate of the State of North Carolina, is exercising its power and authority to assess, levy and collect taxes against real and personal property located within its boundaries in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina and the Default Judgment and order of Sale entered on the 19th day of November, 2015 and is foreclosing on the following land of ALPHONSO WEEKS and UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JOHN GEORGE, SYLVESTER GEORGE, M.C. GEORGE, HATTIE ALFORD, SYLVESTER ALFORD, NEAL RAYMOND ALFORD and/or JAMES NEAL ALFORD in order to satisfy the properly assessed but unpaid taxes upon certain lands. Pursuant to the Judgment entered on the 19th day of November, 2015, William E. Wood has been appointed Commissioner with the authority to sell the following land at the Courthouse Door, Columbus County Courthouse in the City of Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina at 12:15 o'clock p.m. on the 14th day of January, 2016 and will sell to the highest bidder for cash all interest in the following described real estate:
Lying and being in Whiteville Township, Columbus County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:
TRACT ONE: BEGINNING at the 4th corner of share #3 and runs with said line of same course reversed South 2 degrees West 16.20 chains to the 3rd corner of same, thence South 88 degrees East 5.90 chains to a stake and pointers, thence North 88 degrees West 5.90 chains to the beginning, containing 9 4/5 acres. This being the same tract of land allotted to N.M. George in the division of the David George Estate as recorded in Book G-2, Page 96 records of the Register of Deeds Office of Columbus County. See Lot No. 4 in Book G-2, Page 399, Columbus County Registry.
This being the same property conveyed by Julian D. Lewis, Commissioner, to Neal Alford and wife, Hattie Alford, by Deed dated June 17, 1929, recorded in Book 137, Page 6, Columbus County Registry.
TRACT TWO: BEGINNING at the 4th corner of No. 1 and runs with the 3rd line of same, thence North 2 degrees East 16.20 chains to a stake and

pointers, an old line, thence North 88 degrees West 5.90 chains to the beginning containing 9 4/5 acres. Being Lot No. 2 in the division of the Estate of Daniel George deceased among their heirs at law. See Book G-2, Page 399, Columbus County Registry
Being the same property conveyed by E.C. George and wife, Lydia George, to Neil Alford and wife, Hattie Alford, by Deed dated April 30, 1919, recorded in Book 101, Page 380, Columbus County Registry.
TRACT THREE: Beginning at 4th corner of share No. 2 and runs with 3rd line of same course reversed South 2 degrees West 16.20 chains to 3rd corner of same, thence South 88 degrees East 5.90 chains to stake and pointers, thence North 2 degrees East 16.20 chains to stake and pointers, thence North 88 degrees West 5.90 chains to beginning, containing 9 4/5 acres. Said property was the same as allotted to John (George), M. C. (George), S. G. (George), Lula George and Hattie Alford in severality, by Report of Commissioners and Decree Confirming Report of Commissioners as registered February 13, 1912, in Book G-2, Page 396-400, Columbus County Registry. See Deed from Lula Moore and husband, Alfred Moore, to Hattie Alford, by Deed dated September 21, 1918, recorded in Book 101, Page 365, Columbus County Registry. See also Deed in favor of Hattie Alford recorded in Book 101, Page 367, and Deed in favor of Neil Alford and wife, Hattie Alford, recorded in Book 101, Page 366, Columbus County Registry.
Neal Alford (also referred to above as "Neil" Alford) died August 29, 1946, in Columbus County, North Carolina, per his death certificate.
The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance: "AS IS, WHERE IS". Neither the Commissioner nor the County of Columbus, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representatives of either the Commissioner or the County of Columbus make any representation of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed.
Also, this property is being sold free and clear of all taxes, special assessments, prior liens or encumbrances of record against said property

except as may have priority under Federal or State Law, if any.
A cash deposit of 20% of the purchase price, or \$750 whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale with the balance remaining due to be paid in full by cash or certified funds at the Office of the Commissioner within three (3) days after the entry of the Judgment of Confirmation by the Clerk of Court. Hearing before the Honorable Amy W. Nance, Assistant Clerk of Superior Court for Columbus County, North Carolina was held in connection with this foreclosure on 19th day of November, 2015 at which time Clerk Amy Nance authorized this foreclosure sale as required by statute. This the 21st day of December, 2015. WILLIAM E WOOD COMMISSIONER 100 COURTHOUSE SQUARE WHITEVILLE, NC 28472 TELEPHONE: (910)-642-3965 STATE BAR NO.: 5901 Dec. 31, 2015, Jan. 7, 2016

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(SD & HD), HBO On Demand, Cinemax (SD & HD), Cinemax West (SD & HD), MoreMAX (SD & HD), MoreMAX West, ActionMAX (SD & HD), ActionMAX West, ThrillerMAX (SD & HD), ThrillerMAX West, OuterMAX (SD & HD), MaxLatino (SD & HD), 5StarMAX (SD & HD), MovieMAX (SD & HD), Cinemax On Demand, TV One (SD & HD), NHL Network (SD & HD), ReelzChannel (SD & HD), ShopHQ/EVINE Live (SD & HD), POP/TVGN (SD & HD), Music Choice On Demand and Music Choice (channels 1900-1950). In addition, from time to time we make certain changes in the ser-

vices that we offer in order to better serve our customers. The following changes are planned:
H2 Network may be replaced by Vice Channel on or around February 29, 2016.
The new services listed below cannot be accessed on CableCARD-equipped Unidirectional Digital Cable Products purchased at retail without additional, two-way capable equipment: None at the time.
For more information about your local channel line-up, visit www.twc.com/programmingnotices.
January 7, 2016

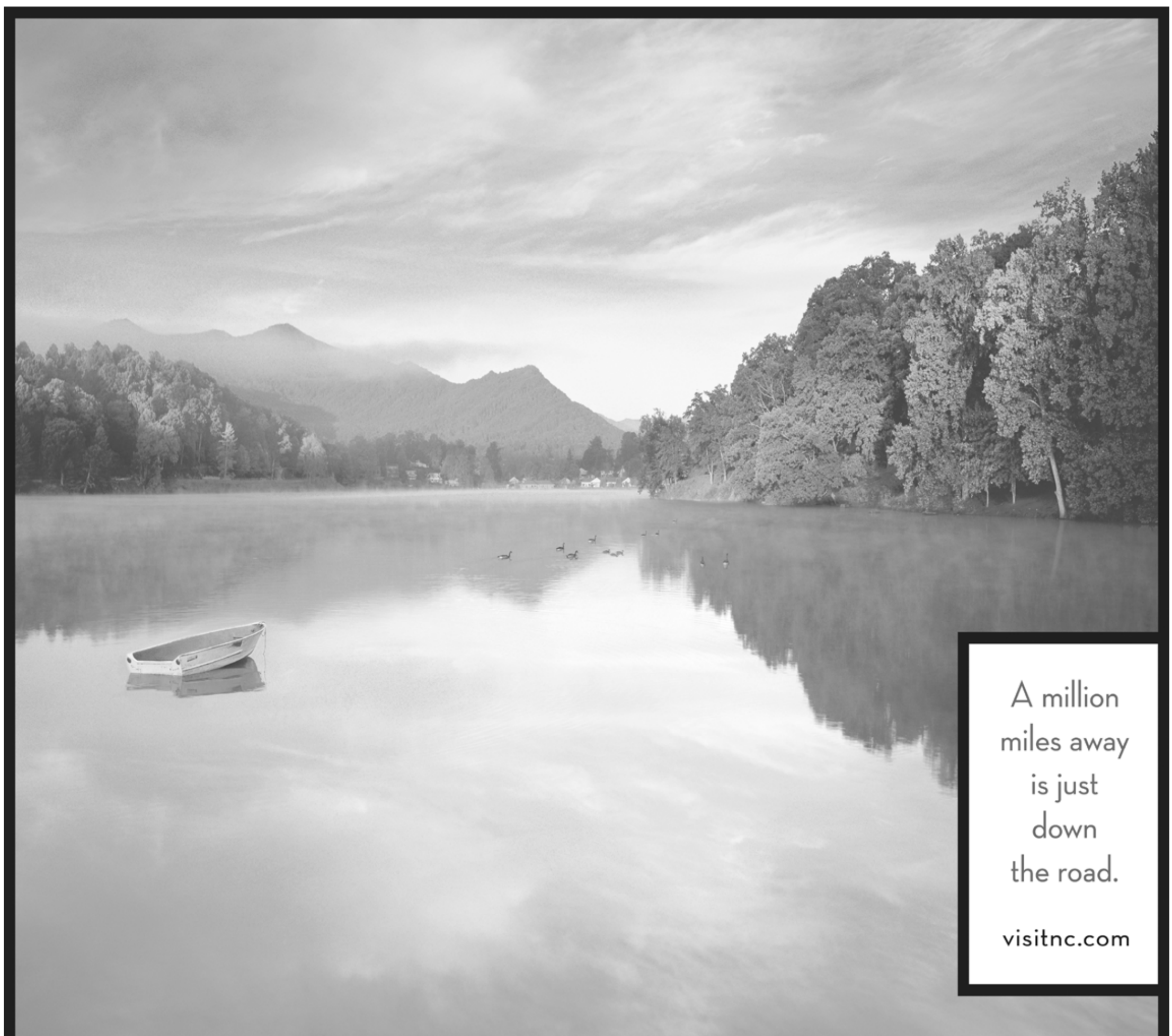
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COLUMBUS COUNTY

2015

The Year in Review

January

Old Dock Elementary School caught fire in the early morning hours of Jan. 7. The accidental blaze destroyed much of the facility, and donations poured in from Old Dock alumni and donors from across the country.

Columbus County Animal Control Supervisor Rossie Hayes was attacked and seriously injured by a dog while investigating a case. Hayes' extended recovery from injuries was a factor in his decision later to retire in September.

Bolton residents along Spearman Road refused to allow sewer system contractors to enter their property. Workers eventually had to have a police escort. The residents have protested their annexation as unfair and illegal.

An arsonist struck again in uptown Whiteville, leading to a privately funded \$10,000 reward for the firebug.

Carla Hollis was chosen as chief executive officer for the Columbus Regional Healthcare System.

Jasper Floyd IV was released from the Columbus County Jail due to an error in the clerk of court's office. Several charges against Floyd were dismissed as part of a plea deal, but the paperwork indicated all charges were dropped. Floyd was returned to custody the next day.

The BB&T Bank on South Madison Street in Whiteville was robbed, and two employees assaulted. No arrests were made.

Chadbourn Mayor Fax Rector died.

Joseph Sledge, tried and convicted in Columbus County for two murders in Bladen County, was released from his life sentence after a judge determined evidence that could have exonerated Sledge had been withheld. He spent more than 20 years in prison. DNA from evidence found at the scene – which was misplaced in the courthouse here – proved Sledge was not the killer.

February

Cheryl Hill, 54, became the county's first traffic fatality. A few days later, 30-day-old infant Noah Nealey died.

Buckhead residents began a push (that was later successful) to have the speed limit lowered along Old Lake Road in the community.

No Columbus County schools scored above average on state-mandated tests.

Owners of the Carolina Southern Railroad were accused of foot-dragging in the pending sale of the rail line.

On Feb. 12, the Town of Lake Waccamaw's fire department and the volunteer Lake Waccamaw Fire and Rescue began a civil trial to determine who owned property bought in part with funds raised by the auxiliary. The groups reached a settlement after a few days, with the bulk of the material and vehicles going back to the town.

Ed Gillim bid farewell to the Town of Bolton, where he had served as police chief for three years. The town ran out of grant funding to operate the police department and could not locate needed funds to keep it functioning.

Tabor City Middle School custodian Derrek Hemmingway was arrested on four charges of statutory rape involving children at the school where he worked.

Meteorologists, school leaders and government officials warily eyed a series of storms that brought frigid weather and some ice and snow to the area. The storm was nothing compared to the systems that caused power outages and dozens of traffic accidents during the same period the previous year.

March

Investigation continued on several arson cases in the



In early January, Whiteville firefighter Robert Simmons makes his way to each window of Old Dock Elementary School as flames erupt in a morning fire that reduced the main building to its brick walls.



In August, workers use a crane to move Columbus Regional Healthcare's new 11,000-pound MRI magnet from a flatbed to its new home in the hospital's imaging department. The MRI opened in September.



Whiteville Mayor Terry Mann presents the Sol B. Mann Community Spirit Award to John McNeill in January. The award, given annually by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, recognizes community members who "go beyond the call of duty to make this a better place to live."



Ella Brown, the choir leader from the visiting Mt. Zion AME Zion Church of Delway leads the choir and congregation in song during St. Mark AME Zion Church's sesquicentennial celebration in July.



Young Englishman Aaron Greenhow, passing through the county, pauses for a moment on his well-equipped bicycle. He covered 50-80 miles each day.



At the age of 74, Delton Johnson achieved his dream of earning his GED at Southeastern Community College during ceremonies in May.

northern part of Whiteville. It had been quiet for about nine weeks, but then a garage was destroyed by fire on North Franklin Street early one morning.

Marko Stasiv, a 27-year-old Ukrainian from Brooklyn, N.Y. was sentenced to 19 months for wire fraud.

The N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville made its debut with a reception attended by 180 supporters and continued with a grand opening celebration with 500 people outside and 1,100 within the newly remodeled building.

Dr. Emlyn Koster, director of the N.C. Museum of Science in Raleigh and other department directors were here for both events, in spite of having no power at their homes in Raleigh and other travel challenges.

The Reuben Brown House Preservation Society unveiled its first landmark plaque at the Reuben Brown House, initiating a program to distinguish historical homes and buildings in Columbus County.

Elder abuse was on the rise in the county and throughout the nation.

County commissioners approved \$189,662 to meet unanticipated expenses in the county's new, but problematic, \$1.3 million public safety radio system.

Whiteville approved a \$5,000 donation to the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville.

Robert Jones, a retired Marine gunnery sergeant was named Chadbourn's town manager.

Lisa Metts, a former student at Old Dock Elementary School, and her husband Kevin drove 12 hours from their home in Clermont, Fla. with a U-Haul trailer filled with books to donate to Old Dock School, which burned in early January. The fire destroyed the library and classrooms.

A Girl Scout troop was organized in Bolton after Annette Graham contacted the regional Girl Scout Council for direction and training.

Whiteville natives Bill and Jane Dorward Valentine of Marin County, Calif., made a second \$100,000 donation to Whiteville High School. They met on stage at the high school where both played third clarinet in the WHS band.

Kentucky-based R.J. Corman Railroad Group, filed suit in Horry County to force Carolina Southern Railroad to honor its agreement to sell the railroad. Corman had been in negotiation to purchase the railroad.

County commissioners deferred a request from county rescue squads' request for a one cent rescue tax increase. Commissioners asked for additional information before the board entered into the budgetary process.

In a 4-3 vote, county commissioners voted not to include restrooms at a fitness park being built with Community Development funds behind Whiteville Memorial Cemetery.

The Southeastern Community College Foundation selected Dick Crutchfield as honorary chairman of the 37th annual Foundation Dinner Theatre. He had served many years on the Foundation board and was the governor's appointee to the college's board of trustees, serving 16 years.

The Whiteville Rescue Unit, organized in 1965, was making plans to celebrate its golden anniversary.

The Reuben Brown House Preservation Society unveiled its second historical plaque at the 100-year-old courthouse.

Columbus County was declared the unhealthiest county in the state for the sixth straight year.

Mahaleyann Jones, Emilee Batten, Austin Nunez and John Morgan Lewis were winners of a talent show at South Columbus High School. Nunez and Lewis tied for first place, Batten was runner-up

See Review, page 4-C

Religion

The News Reporter, Thursday, January 7, 2016 -- 2C

SERVICES

Acme Presbyterian Church, Hwy. 87, Riegelwood, holds children's and adult Sunday School at 9 a.m. with nursery provided, and worship service at 10 a.m. with refreshments.

Celebrate Recovery meets at **Peace Baptist Church**, 653 Love Mill Rd., Whiteville, each Thursday from 6-9 p.m. For more information call 642-0251. Partial funding by Good Shepherd Ministries.

The DivorceCare recovery seminar and support group meets at **Peace Baptist Church**, 653 Love Mill Rd., Whiteville, each Thursday from 6-8:30 p.m. Childcare is provided through fifth grade. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include Facing My Anger, Facing My Loneliness, Depression, New Relationships, KidCare and Forgiveness. For more information call Peace Baptist Church at 640-2877. The pastor is Chip Hannah.

GriefShare seminar and support group meets at **Peace Baptist Church**, 653 Love Mill Rd., Whiteville, each Monday from 6-8:30 p.m. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. For more information call Peace Baptist Church, 642-0251, 640-7237 or 770-1271. Chip Hannah is the pastor.

Members of **The Lord's Chapel** are on a mission to provide items to the community, at a minimal fee, from their year 'round backyard sale. It is located at 2886 Hallsboro Road South, Hallsboro. The shop is open Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and closed on Wednesday. Items donated will be greatly appreciated. Proceeds go to The Lord's Chapel.

Good News Community Youth Outreach Ministry Inc., 1138 Giles Byrd Rd., Hallsboro has changed the date of their Informer Bible study from Thursdays at 7 p.m. to each Saturday at 3 p.m. to benefit seniors who may not be able to travel at night. For more information call 646-4898.

Honey Hill Missionary Baptist Church services. Sunday school is held at 10 a.m. and service begins at 11 a.m. Sunday night service is held at 6 p.m. and Wednesday service is at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 6140 Honey Hill Rd., Hallsboro. The new pastor is Troy Little.

Victory in Jesus Ministries of Whiteville will hold two morning worship services. The ser-

vice times are 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. each Sunday with Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. Believers night Bible study is held on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Voices of Victory services are aired weekly on WMIR 1200 AM in Myrtle Beach, S.C. on Fridays at 4 p.m. with streaming available via the internet. The ministry is located at 626 S. Madison Street. Tracey A. Troy is the pastor. For more information call 642-5416 or visit victoryinjesusministries.org

New Ebenezer Faith Ministries will hold its 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays - Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Morning worship is at 11:15 a.m. Incessory Prayer every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Bible study/youth night is held every Friday at 7 p.m. Every 2nd and 4th Friday is "Dine on us" from 6-9 p.m. (Feeding the community). The church is located at 1705 Southport-Supply Road, Bolivia. Bishop Ronnie McCray is the pastor.

Agape House of Worship will hold its Bible study every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday services at 11:30 a.m. Agape HOW is located at 199 Forest Drive, Whiteville. Bennie Benjamin is the pastor.

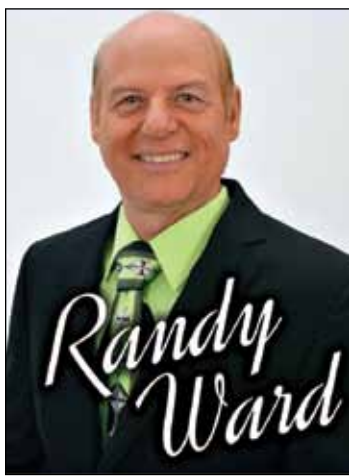
Fellowship Independent Baptist Church will hold its Bible study every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 3070 Hallsboro Road North. Elder Shawn Maynor is the pastor.

Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church will hold Sunday school every Sunday at 10 a.m. and worship service every 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11:15 a.m. and Midweek service every Wednesday at 7 p.m. The church is located at 14853 Sam Potts Hwy., Bolton. Rev. Timothy Ray Moss is the pastor.

Lynn Hill Baptist Church will hold a new Sunday school series on "The book of Revelation." Pastor Schalk is teaching a thought-provoking series of power-point messages on the book of Revelation. Sunday school begins at 10 a.m. and the main worship at 11 a.m. There is also an informative power-point series on Sundays at 6 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. The church is located at 620 Lynn Hill Road, near the intersection of Hwy. 74 and Union Valley Road. For more information or directions call 914-0002 or 642-5820.

The **Waccamaw Siouan Tribe** will hold its council meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Tribal Grounds on Old Lake Road, Bolton.

The **House of Prayer and Deliverance** will hold its worship service every Sunday morning with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11:15 a.m. Weekly services are held each



Nominated for song of the year, male vocalist of the year for 2013, LGMA award winner and October artist of the month Randy Ward will be in concert Sunday, Jan. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at Full Life Fellowship in Ash.

Wednesday at noon. Intercessory prayer and Bible study are on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. HOPD is located at 1113 S. Madison Street. Barbara P. Powell is the pastor.

First Missionary Baptist Church will hold Sunday worship services. There will be two services every first through fourth Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m. The fifth Sunday will be at 8:30 a.m. only. The church is located at 501 Martin Street in Elizabethtown. Cliff E. Freeman Jr. is the pastor.

New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church Sunday school is held each Sunday at 10 a.m. and morning worship service each second and fourth Sunday beginning at 11 a.m. A special prayer time is held each Wednesday at noon and Bible study is held each Wednesday evening beginning at 7 p.m. The church is located on Mill Pond Road in the Brunswick community. For more information call 445-1022. Rev. Anthony Rowell is the pastor.

Leamon Rogers Memorial Chapel on the Boys and Girls Home Campus at Lake Waccamaw is now holding a worship service every Sunday morning from 9-10 a.m. The service is open to the public. The weekly worship service will include a mixture of traditional and modern messages and music. For more information call Rev. Michael Jones at 646-3083.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Alcoholics Anonymous meets

at First Presbyterian Church, 511 N. Thompson St., Whiteville on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday nights at 8 p.m. A guest speaker will be at the meeting on the last Thursday of each month. The church is located on Thompson Street in Whiteville.

Narcotics Anonymous meets at Highest Praise Church, 109 N. Madison St., Whiteville on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m., at Mt. Pleasant AME Zion Church, 15956 Old Lake Road, Riegelwood on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Al-anon meets at **First Presbyterian Church**, 511 N. Thompson St., Whiteville on Mondays at 8 p.m.

Diabetes Support Group meets at Columbus Regional Healthcare, Education Center, Classroom 2 the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information call Shauna Nobles at 642-9458 or 641-8208.

Brain Injury Support Group meets at Columbus Regional Healthcare, Education Center, Room 1A the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information call Shauna Nobles or Sonja Green at 642-8011 ext. 9458.

Compassionate Friends Support Group (Grief group for parents who have lost children to death) meets at Grace Episcopal Church, 105 S. Madison St., Whiteville the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 647-8401.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #962 of Columbus County meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at 1028 S. Madison St., Whiteville.

The American Legion Post #233 meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at 313 Phillips St., Whiteville.

The American Legion Post #139 meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at 208 First Ave., Chadbourne.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8073 meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Vietnam Veterans building at 1028 S. Madison St., Whiteville.

Military Vet Riders Association meets on the last Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Vietnam Veterans building at 1028 S. Madison St., Whiteville.

Ladies Auxiliary #8073 meets on the second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Vietnam Veterans building at 1028 S. Madison St., Whiteville.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter #35 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at 1028 S. Madison St., Whiteville.

Family and Community Hope Resources Inc. would like per-

sons from 20-40 years of age to attend Community Development meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Columbus County Dream Center from 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information call Shelle Blanks at 910-207-8982 or Yolanda Davis at 704-780-8350.

A Community Garden is available at **Chadborn United Methodist Church**. Persons are invited to come and plant in the raised bed plots. For more information call 654-5250 or 654-4069 and leave message, name and number.

FUNDRAISERS

First Presbyterian Church women have cookbooks for sale for \$5 each. The cookbooks are available at the church located at 511 N. Thompson St., Whiteville. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-2:30 p.m.

Whiteville United Methodist Church women have prints of the church steeple, by the late Martha Burns, for sale \$40 each. The print size is 17 x 23. Call the church office Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. for purchase at 642-3376.

Union Chapel FWBC three-night service

The pastor's aide committee of Union Chapel Freewill Baptist Church will hold a three-night service Monday, Jan. 4-Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. nightly. The guest preacher will be Pastor Robert Williams.

The church is located on East Mill Street.

Elder Perry Shipman is the pastor.

Cherry Grove BC movie night

Cherry Grove Baptist Church will host a free movie event Saturday, Jan. 16 at 6 p.m. The movie War Room will be shown with free snacks provided. The movie is rated PG.

The event will be held in the Christian Fellowship Center.

The church is located on Swamp Fox Hwy. (904) between Tabor City and Fair Bluff.

For more information call the church office at 649-7307 or 649-7910, visit the church website at www.cherrygrovebaptist.org or e-mail any questions or comments to cherrygrovebaptist@hughes.net.

Praying for Revival

To every child of God consider this as your personal open invitation to attend a monthly prayer meeting to pray for revival in the local community.

This call goes beyond denomination, race and/or size of the building where you worship as a church family.

The location will change from month to month as other churches choose to host, but it will always occur on the First Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

The location for January's meeting will be Pierce Chapel AME Zion Church, 595 Portersville Road, Clarkton. The host Pastor is Johnas Freeman.

For more information call Franklin Spaulding at 641-2377.

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Weekly Scripture Reading

Romans	Romans	Romans	Isaiah	John	John	John
3:19-31	5:1-21	6:1-23	60:1-22	5:1-29	6:1-24	6:25-59

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Cherry Grove BC to host blood drive

Cherry Grove Baptist Church will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive this Friday, Jan. 8 between 2-6 p.m. in the Christian Fellowship Center.

For an appointment, contact Sefa Kienast, event organizer, at 843-489-1025. Walk-ins are welcome.

The church is located on Swamp Fox Hwy. (904) between Tabor City and Fair Bluff.

For more information call the church office at 649-7307 or **Men and Women UFYF sets gospel musical**

Men and Women United for Youth and Families will sponsor a gospel musical Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016 at 6 p.m. at New Miracle Church in the East Arcadia Community. There will be many local groups on program.

Proceeds go towards scholarships for 2016.

For more information contact Ricky Graham at 297-8178 or Randolph Keaton at 269-7888.

649-7910, visit the church website at www.cherrygrovebaptist.org or e-mail any questions or comments to cherrygrovebaptist@hughes.net.

Columbus Cancer Champions support group meets

Donayre Cancer Care Center of Columbus Regional Healthcare Columbus Cancer Champions support group will meet Wednesday, Jan. 13 from 9-10 a.m. in the CRHS administration conference room. The topic will be "Which vitamins and supplements are right for me?" presented by Amy Jenkins, Pharm D, RPH.

The topic set for Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 9-10 a.m. will be "Mindful meditation" presented by Carla Brown, MSP, CCC-SLP. It will be held in the CRHS administration conference room.

The programs are free. Columbus Regional Healthcare is located at 500 Jefferson Street.

Faith BC winter Bible study Jan. 20

Faith Baptist Church will hold its winter Bible study in the book of Galatians beginning Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. and each Wednesday night thereafter. The study will be led by Pastor Jason Kinlaw.

The church is located at 4262 Rough and Ready Road in Chadbourne.

For more information call Kinlaw at 499-1111.

North Whiteville VFD meeting

The North Whiteville Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual business meeting Monday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. at the fire station located at 747 Peacock Road.

St. James VFD annual election meeting

The annual election meeting of St. James Volunteer Fire Department will be held Saturday, Jan. 9 at 11 a.m. at 3245 Old Northeast Road in the St. James community.

Baldwin Branch MBC three-night revival

Baldwin Branch Missionary Baptist Church will hold a three-night revival Wednesday, Jan. 13-Friday, Jan. 15, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. nightly. The evangelist will be Bishop Alfred Williams of Bacon Chapel Holiness Church, 76 Lee Street, Johnston, S.C.

The church is located at 4047 N.C. 242 Hwy. South in Elizabethtown.

Rev. Dr. Louie Boykin is the pastor.

Tabor City Ministerial Association

The Tabor City Ministerial Association united together for the building up of the body of Christ will hold its meeting Thursday, Jan. 14.

All area ministers are invited to meet at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at St. Paul United Methodist Church.

For more information call Pastor Jerry Martin at 336-675-4752 or 910-653-3737.

Western Prong BC creation seminar

Western Prong Baptist Church will hold a creation seminar Sunday, Jan. 10. Sunday school will begin at 9:45 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. The speaker will be Steve Levinson. He is a graduate of Liberty University and has been pastor to adults and youth and worked with "at risk" youth in more than 60 schools in five different states.

He will also speak on fossils, Noah's ark and dinosaurs Sunday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. His fossil collection is used to illustrate the truth of a global flood.

The church is located at 167 Peacock Road, Whiteville.

Rev. Ronnie Wilson is the pastor.

White Marsh-Welches Creek VFD meeting

The White Marsh-Welches Creek Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual meeting and election of officers Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. at the fire department.

Hannah Lodge #204/Shining Star #381 celebration Jan. 18

Hannah Lodge #204 and Shining Star #381, both of Hallsboro will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Day Monday, Jan. 18 from 2-4 p.m. at the Hannah Lodge located at 101 Mill Quarter Road.

There will be food, praise dancers, gospel comedy and singing.

Roseland VFD annual business meeting

The annual business meeting of Roseland Volunteer Fire Department will be held Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. at the fire station.

Election of officers for the coming year will be held at this meeting.

American Legion Post fish fry Jan. 9

The American Legion Post #233 will hold its Veteran's membership/ladies auxiliary drive (Fish Fry) Saturday, Jan. 9 at noon.

The post is located at 313 Phillips Street.

CHURCH DIRECTORY *For Columbus County and Surrounding Areas*

How to Become a Part of Our Church Directory . . .

Our church directory features a weekly church profile, helpful information about area churches, a devotional thought and daily Bible readings.

If you would like your church included on this page, we invite you to call us today at 642-4104, ext. 237. For only \$21.50 per month (six month commitment), we'll include your church in this weekly directory, plus in our web

version. We'll include your church name, address, phone number, pastor's name, service times and web address. You'll also have an expanded church profile, including church photos, run in the directory sometime during the six month period. We encourage you to help make this directory complete by having your church information included.



Calvary Baptist Church

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910-642-6904

Rev. Kenneth Barnes, Pastor

The congregation and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church extend a personal invitation to come and worship with us. We are located at 5028 Pleasant Plains Church Rd., approximately one mile off Hwy. 701 on the left.

Opportunities for Worship are:

SUNDAYS

Prayer Room 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School..... 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service..... 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Youth in Action..... 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Prayer Meeting..... 7:00 p.m.
Brotherhood (1st Wednesday of month)..... 7:00 p.m.
WMU (1st Wednesday of month) 7:00 p.m.
GA's (1st & 3rd Sunday mornings)..... 11:00 a.m.
Youth in Action (Sunday nights) 6:00 p.m.

We have both a Youth Choir and Adult Choir
Nursery Provided

We also have Bible School and Special Programs throughout the year.

AFRICAN-METHODIST EPISCOPAL

Mount Horeb AME Church
187 Otis Donnell Nixon Rd., Evergreen Church Phone 654 1887
Rev. Sylvester Colvin • 910-371-0604
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sun Morning Worship 11:00 am
Wed. 6:30 pm

St. James AME Church
225 West Walter St., Whiteville Church Phone 642-8832
Rev. Dewey C. Farmer, Jr., Pastor
Sun Church School 9:45 am
Sun Morning Worship 11:00 am
Wed. 6:00 pm

AFRICAN-METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION

St. Mark AME Zion Church
114 W. Virgil St., Whiteville
Rev. Charlean Mapson, Pastor
Church Phone: 910-642-7327
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sun Morning Worship 11:00 am
5th Sunday Fellowship meal at noon
Bible Study/Prayer Service
Tuesday - Noon and 7:00 pm

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Abundant Life Assembly of God
5384 James B. White Hwy. S., Whiteville
Pastor Jerry J. Spivey • 910-642-5003
pastorspivey@embarqmail.com
Sunday 10:00 am, 10:45 am, 6:00 pm
Wednesday 7:30 pm

Whiteville Assembly of God
516 N. Madison St. (Former location of Missionary Alliance Church)
Pastor Randy Hunt 717-688-0501
Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:30 am
Wednesday, Family Night 7:00 pm

BAPTIST

Calvary Baptist Church
5028 Pleasant Plains Church Rd., Whiteville
Rev. Kenneth Barnes • 910-642-6904
Sunday 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Chadbourne Baptist Church
504 N. Howard St., Chadbourne 910-654-3992
Dr. Danny Russell, Pastor
cbcoff@embarqmail.com
www.chadbournebaptist.com
Sunday School 9:45 am, Worship 11:00 am
Adult Choir 5:00 pm,
Discipleship Training 6:00 pm
Wednesday: Children's Choir 6:00 pm
Prayer Meet/Child's Mission 6:30 pm

First Baptist Church
412 N. Madison St., Whiteville 910-642-2139
fbcoff@embarqmail.com
www.fbcwhiteville.com
Sunday 9:45 am, 11:00 am,
Wednesday 6:30 pm

First Baptist Church of Lake Waccamaw
300 E. Sam Potts Hwy., Lake Waccamaw 910-646-3727
Sunday 9:45 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm,
7:00 pm, Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm

Happy Home Baptist Church
2670 Happy Home Rd., Nakina
Richard Collins, Pastor • 910-642-7284
www.happyhomebaptistchurch.org
Sunday 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Lennon's Cross Roads Baptist Church
13804 Haynes Lennon Hwy., Evergreen
Dr. Fred Senter, Pastor • 910-642-4436
Sunday 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 2nd Sunday of each month 6:00 pm Special Fellowship Activity, Wednesday 7:00 pm

Macedonia Baptist Church
100 Macedonia Church Rd., Evergreen
Jimmy Caines, Pastor
Sunday 10:00 am, 11:00 am 2nd & 4th Sun, 6:00 pm every Sunday, Wednesday 7:30 pm

Nakina Baptist Church
7883 Seven Creeks Rd., Nakina
Rev. J. Darryll Hester • 910-499-1598
nakinabaptistchurch@centurylink.net
Sunday 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm

New Hope Baptist Church
252 Rough and Ready Rd., Whiteville
Dr. Darrin Moore, Pastor • 910-642-6345
www.nhbcwhiteville.com
Sunday 9:45 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Peace Baptist Church
653 Love Mill Rd., Whiteville
Pastor Chip Hannah • 910-642-0251
www.peacebc.org
Sunday 9:45 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm
Sunday 5:30-7:00 pm Awanas
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Piney Forest Baptist Church
4509 Andrew Jackson Hwy. SW, Chadbourne
Rev. Willard McPherson • 910-654-5284
Sunday 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church
3111 Walter Todd Rd., Clarendon
Rev. Wayne Faulk • 910-653-4421
Sunday Worship 10:30 am & 6:00pm
Sunday School 9:30am, Worship
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Trinity Baptist Church
201 S. Thompson St., Whiteville
Randy K. Speight, Senior Pastor
910-642-7764
tbc4me@embarqmail.com
www.trytbc.org
Sunday 9:45 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm
Wednesday 6:45 pm

Western Prong Baptist Church
167 Peacock Rd., Whiteville
Rev. Ronnie Wilson • 910-648-2744
westernprong.org
Sunday 8:30 am Worship, 9:45 am
Sunday School, 11:00 am Worship,
5:45 pm AWANA, 6:00 pm Youth Group,
6:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship
Wednesday 7:00 pm

White Marsh Baptist Church
341 White Hall Rd., Whiteville
Rev. Ray Yow • 910-770-5487
Sunday 9:45 am, 11:00 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Williamsons Crossroads Baptist Church
4071 Princess Ann Rd., Chadbourne
Interim Pastor Carroll Fonville 642-6459
Cell 840-5589 Diana Fonville 625-9889
Sunday 10:00 am, 11 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

CHURCH OF GOD

New Life Community Church
107 Maultsby St., Whiteville
Rev. DeWayne Dickerson
910-642-0130
newlifewhiteville@gmail.com
Sunday 9:30 am, 10:30 am
Thursday 7:00 pm
Friday Safe Harbor Youth Center
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Whiteville Church of God
506 N. Lee St., Whiteville
Pastor Chris Yarusinsky • 642-3395
whitevillecog@yahoo.com
Facebook: Whiteville Church of God
Sunday 10:00 am, 11:00 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Spanish service: Wednesday & Saturday 7:00

FREEWILL BAPTIST

Avants Chapel FWB Church
947 Cedar St., Cerro Gordo
Pastor Mack Watts • 843-756-0417
www.0417@scccoast.net
Sunday 9:45 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm
Wednesday 7:30 pm

Oak Grove FWB Church
Oak Grove Church Rd., Bladenboro
Rev. Henry Ward • 843-236-3564
Sunday School 10:00 am, Service 11:00 am
Sunday evening 6:30 pm
Wednesday 7:30 pm

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST

Lynn Hill Independent Baptist Church
620 Lynn Hill Rd., Whiteville
Pastor William A. Schalk • 910-914-0002
<http://pastorpreacher.com/lynnhillbc.html>
Sunday 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm

MISSIONARY BAPTIST

First Missionary Baptist Church
505 S. Wilkes St., Chadbourne
Reverend Virgil Hugh Reaves
910-654-3225
www.firstmbcchadbourne.org
Sunday 9:45 am, 11:00 am
Sunday 11:30 am 12:30 pm
Radio Station WVOE 1590 AM
Wednesday 12:00 pm Noon Day Prayer
Wednesday 6:30 pm Bible Study

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
5548 Silverspoon Rd., Whiteville
Pastor T.A. Lance • 910-648-2476
moderatorlance@aol.com
www.mombcwhitevillenc.com
Sunday 9:45 am, 10:50 am
1st & 3rd Sunday BTU at 4:00 pm
Wednesday 6:45 pm

Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church
824 Cherry Grove Rd., Cerro Gordo
Pastor Dr. Thomas Southerland
910-739-8458 Cell 910-774-6800
Sun School 10 am,
Service 11 am: 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sundays
Wed Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 7 pm

CATHOLIC

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
302 N. Lee St., Whiteville
Rev. Marco Antonio Gonzalez-Hernandez
fr.marco.gonzalez@raldios.org
www.bccratholics.org • 910-642-3895

Eucharist/Santa Misa
Sunday 9:00 am & 11:30 English Mass
Domingo 12:30 pm Spanish Mass
Martes (Tues.) Spanish 7 pm Misa de la tarde
Thursday (Jueves) English 6 pm English Mass
Holy Day of Obligation 7:30 pm Bilingual Mass

Tuesday/Martes 6-7 pm Confesiones
Thursday/Jueves 5-6 pm Confesiones

CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY

Missionary Alliance Church
623 Warrior Trail, Whiteville
Rev. Justin Dubose • 910-640-3223
www.missionaryalliance.com
Sunday 10:00 am, 11:00 am
Wednesday 6:30 pm

EPISCOPAL/LUTHERAN

Grace Episcopal Church & Christ the King Lutheran Church
105 S. Madison St., Whiteville 910-642-4784
gracechurchwhiteville@embarqmail.com
www.gracechrist.bizland.com
Sun Services 10:30 am
Wed 6:00 pm evening prayer, soup supper.

HOLINESS

Chadbourne Church of God of Prophecy
3618 Joe Brown Hwy. S., Chadbourne
Rev. John McPherson • 910-654-3968
Sunday 10 am, 11 am, 6:00 pm,
Wednesday 7:30 pm - Classes for all ages

METHODIST-UNITED

Chadbourne United Methodist Church
300 E. 2nd Ave., Chadbourne
Rev. Pat Inman • 910-443-9786
frctorjr@ec.rr.com
Sun 9:45 am, 11:00 am
Prayer Tuesday 10:00 am

Fair Bluff United Methodist

1030 Main St., Fair Bluff
Rev. Neill Smith • 910-649-7749
fairbluffumc@tds.net
Sunday 10:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday 7:00 pm Bible Study

Mishop Springs United Methodist

2756 Pine Log Rd., Whiteville
Pastor Sheena Cartrette • 910-640-2783
mishopspingsumc@gmail.com
mishopspingsumc.webs.com
Sunday 9:45 Sunday School, Worship 11:00 am
Wednesday 7:00 - Bible Study & Children/Youth

Whiteville United Methodist

902 Pinckney St., Whiteville
Rev. Paul Stallworth • 910-642-3376
wumc@whitevilleumc.org
www.whitevilleumc.org
Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service
Wednesday 6:30 pm

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Glory Tabernacle Church
4513 Pleasant Plains Church Rd, Whiteville
Pastor Clark Whittington
910-640-2991
www.gtconnect.org
Sunday 10:30 am and 6:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Living Word Church

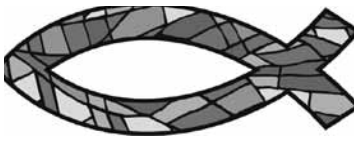
6374 Chadbourne Hwy., Chadbourne
Pastor Ron Fields • 910-654-4164
www.livingwordnc.com
Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Northwood Church

2672 James B. White Hwy. N., Whiteville
Pastor Russell Honeycutt
910-642-7654
Sunday 10:30 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible Study

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Chadbourne Pentecostal Holiness
518 N. Elm St., Chadbourne
Pastor Donald Conway • 910-654-4850
www.chadbourneph.org
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship 10:40 am, 6:00 pm
Teen Worship in Sanctuary 6:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm



If you would like your church included on this page for only \$21.50 per month, we invite you to call us today at 642-4104, ext. 237. (six month commitment)

Review

Continued from page 1-C

and Jones won the People's Choice Award.

Tours of Columbus County's historic courthouse were given to allow the public to learn the history of the 100-year-old building.

Laramye Beck was crowned Miss South Columbus High School. Holly Ward was first runner-up and Emily Dorsch was second runner-up.

April

County commissioners voted 4-3 to defeat a motion to put the name "Hallsboro" on the county-owned water tank at Hallsboro. The lettering had already been painted on, but contractors were soon painting over the newly painted letters. Public utilities director Danny Fowler said the county couldn't be held responsible for the "Hallsboro" lettering or the cost of painting over it because the county did not authorize it. No one could or would say who authorized the contractor to paint "Hallsboro" on the tank.

International Paper at Riegelwood announced it would devote \$135 million to upgrade to 100 percent product of fluff and softwood pulp production. The move would cost some jobs, but company officials hope to balance the losses through current vacancies rather than layoffs.

Shannon Blackman, a 20-year veteran in fire service to the county, was promoted to county fire marshal.

Dr. Don Peacock of Whiteville was awarded the status of associate professor in the Academy of Foot and Ankle Surgery.

The SEGS Academy in Riegelwood closed, leaving many unanswered financial questions. A school board member said finances were in order and the state's Department of Public Instruction was aware of the school's difficulties. The school's board, after changing its directors, decided to close the school rather than have the state revoke its charter.

A SEGS Academy board member told parents to leave the campus and told teachers, staff and parents if they talked to the media they could be sued. Parents also said they had been told if they spoke to the media, their children's school records would be withheld, resulting in the students losing credit for any time spent at SEGS Academy.

The Town of Chadburn okayed funding for a massive water and sewer package, two projects totaling \$4.185 million. It would be one of the largest underground projects the town has undertaken in years.

Residents and visitors were asked to keep vehicles off the shoulder of Canal Cove Road at Lake Waccamaw until a paving project was finished.

A lengthy two-part story on the new Columbus County Courthouse addressed several glaring problems, from small courtrooms to heat and air conditioning, excessive moisture and leaks to lack of adequate covering at the entrance to shield people from inclement weather.

Columbus Regional Healthcare and United Healthcare renewed their relationship and terms. Lack of an agreement would have meant patients would pay higher out-of-network rates.

The Whiteville High School Class of 1969 raised funds through a silent auction and raffle for a memorial scholarship to honor classmates who died in 2014.

Dancing with the Vineland Stars raised more than \$37,000, a \$7,000 increase over the previous year. Nikki Walker and Matt McLean were first place winners and Matt Wilson and Staci Ezzell won the "Cheerios Award for loudest fans."

Felix Smith Park was getting a "do-over," with numerous trees cut to create a safer environment for park users and let in more sunshine.

LaShoney Frink of Chadburn won the Columbus County Volunteerism Award at the annual Volunteer Columbus! program. Winning Governor's Awards for volunteer service were Rachel Smith, Quinton "Papa Q" Smith, Lake Waccamaw Food

Ministry, Hill's Food Store #3 and Shirley McCleney, who was summoned to Raleigh to receive the state's highest volunteer award, the Medallion Award, from Gov. Pat McCrory.

The debacle of the new courthouse was ongoing, with county commissioners asking that security cameras be put back into the plan. They had not been apprised of the cameras' removal.

Lynwood Norris, North Carolina's longest serving county commissioner, died at age 80. He had served eight four-year terms and declined to seek another term in 2012 due to health problems. Norris was chairman of the Cape Fear Council of Government for many years and was principally responsible for bringing the county water system to the River Road area along the Waccamaw River.

Whiteville Rotarians Jonathan Medford, Kevin Williamson and Butch Blanchard met the incoming president of Rotary International, K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran of Sri Lanka at a president-elect training seminar in Greensboro.

May

The 83rd annual N.C. Strawberry Festival Parade was dedicated to the memory of the late mayor of Chadburn, Fax Rector.

East Columbus High School teacher Latanya Patillo was named Teacher of the Year by the Columbus County Schools.

Columbus County commissioner Giles "Buddy" Byrd was found guilty by a jury in a South Carolina court and received a suspended sentence in relation to a harassment incident several years ago.

A charter bus carrying the Carolina Mudcats baseball team overturned on Clarendon-Chadburn Road. Seven of the 30-35 people on the bus were treated for non-life threatening injuries and released from Columbus Regional Healthcare.

Retired West Columbus High School teacher Shirley McCleney was recognized by Gov. Pat McCrory in Raleigh ceremonies for her volunteer work.

The Whiteville Rescue Unit celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Michael Jesse Williams, Kayla Leigh-Anne Turner and Nathan Elisha Tyler Jr. were charged in the death of Alicia Marie Deans of Leland, whose body had been found in late April in a burned car along John Coleman Road north of Tabor City. Robbery was thought to be the motive.

The Lake Waccamaw town board passed a new and stricter animal control ordinance.

The Bolton area was hit by a tornado resulting in a five-mile path of property destruction, but no loss of life or serious injury.

Longtime member David Lee McPherson resigned from the Columbus County Board of Elections after changing his voter registration from Democrat to unaffiliated.

Retired Columbus County educator Robert A. "Bob" Waddell Sr. was presented the Order of the Longleaf Pine by his cousin, Rep. Ken Waddell, a little more than a week before Bob's Waddell's death at the age of 81.

June

Budgets were an ongoing topic throughout the month for county and town officials.

In a surprise move, county commissioners decided to give an additional \$1.6 million to county and city schools and Southeastern Community College for infrastructure repairs. Commissioner Ricky Bullard's motion to give the county schools \$1 million and the city schools and SCC \$333,333 each passed unanimously. Commissioners also unanimously reaffirmed their position that the county's home healthcare agency would not be sold, despite the health department's desire to rid itself of the agency.

Commissioners declined a request from the county's rescue squads that the county rescue tax be increased from two to three cents per \$100 of property evaluation. The final



The American flag flies in December during dedication ceremonies in the courtyard at Vineland Station in memory of former Whiteville Downtown Development Director Tom Stanley who died in August. Several friends shared stories about Stanley's love for downtown Whiteville.



In July, R.J. Corman Railroad Group vice president of sales and marketing Bill Henderson, right, listens as Idaho Timber general manager Jim Bowen, left, discusses his company's logistical needs for railroad freight service. Columbus County economic development director, Gary Lanier, second from left, and Rick Edwards, chairman of the Columbus Jobs Foundation, second from right, look on. Henderson, Edwards and Lanier also visited the grain and oilseed division of Perdue Farms, Ply-Gem in Fair Bluff and Atlantic Packaging in Tabor City. Henderson was meeting with local potential rail freight customers to determine how their needs can be best filled when R.J. Corman begins running trains locally this year.



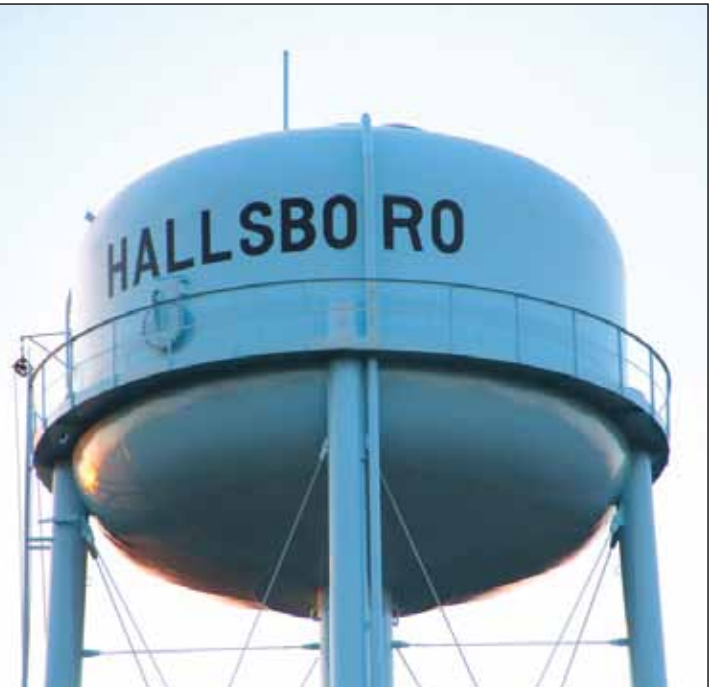
Ray Williamson, right, World War II veteran and former Whiteville police officer, talks with fellow WWII serviceman Ervin Stocks during November's Veterans Day salute by American Legion Post No. 137 here to the dwindling number of men and women who actively served during the 1941-45 war.



In February, SCC President Anthony Clarke talks with Community Forum participant Jai Robinson.



During a reception held in February, Columbus Regional Healthcare's new CEO, Carla Hollis, left, shares a laugh with hospital staffers Theron McKvian, director of materials management, Janet Royal, director of laboratory services, Jason Beck, director of ancillary services and Rachel Dunbar, executive assistant to the CEO.



In April, Water District IV's water tank with its short-lived "Hallsboro" designation.



In February, Butch Pope, Lucy Pope Byrd and her son Locke, take selfies in front of a prehistoric postosuchus skeleton. The three-generation family joined the "selfie" social media project at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in preparation for the museum's grand opening.

county budget included no tax increases, eliminated water district taxes, gave small raises to county employees, and included appropriations of \$5,000 each to depot museums in Chadburn, Lake Waccamaw, Tabor City and

Fair Bluff. Commissioners also appropriated \$10,000 each to the Friends of the N.C. Museum of Forestry and the Rope Rescue Team.

Fair Bluff budget officer Al Leonard presented commissioners with a proposed

annual budget, subsequently adopted without change, that contained neither a tax increase nor any increases in utility rates.

Lake Waccamaw adopted a

budget that held the tax rate at 20 cents per \$100 valuation. Whiteville City Manager Darren Currie presented his

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Review

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council with a proposed \$9.9 million budget that included no tax or utility fee increases and Chadbourn leaders reluctantly approved a \$1.3 million budget that also held the line on tax or utility fee increases.

The Town of Cerro Gordo adopted its first-ever budget exceeding \$100,000. Like counterparts in other county towns, the board did it without a tax increase. The tax rate remained at 20 cents per \$100 of property evaluation, a rate that had been in place since 1972 when the town charter was re-activated after a period of municipal inactivity.

Columbus Regional Healthcare CEO Carla Hollis briefed members of the Columbus County Committee of 100 on new aims and initiatives for the hospital, including a \$3 million replacement of the MRI unit, relocation of the cancer center and the establishment of an urgent care center.

Columbus County Economic Development Director Gary Lanier was elected chairman of the 12-county Southeastern Regional Economic Development Commission.

Jeffrey David Lowe, 37, of Robeson County was shot and killed just outside the Whiteville city limits as he attempted to repossess a pickup truck. William Roy Kohler Jr., 51, and his son, William Roy Kohler III, 18, were charged in the death.

Assistant District Attorney Ashley Gore announced she would run for the District Court judgeship being vacated by Jerry Jolly, who previously had announced he would retire and not seek re-election.

Columbus Regional Healthcare announced its new urgent care center would open in September.

A fundraising drive for the Veterans Memorial Park kicked off on the steps of the Columbus County Courthouse.

Chadbourn officials sought an apology after a 911 operator told a Florence, S.C. couple passing through town that "Nobody should ever go through Chadbourn, that the place was dangerous." The couple's vehicle was caught in crossfire from a shootout. They were not hurt and two men subsequently were arrested by Chadbourn police for shooting into a moving vehicle.

The 911 operator who made the remark subsequently was suspended without pay for three days in a disciplinary action arising out of the incident.

The historic Columbus County Courthouse closed on June 22, paving the way for extensive renovations to the facility, as officials prepared to move into the new courthouse, which opened on June 29.

County commissioners deferred a request from economic developer Gary Lanier that they provide \$60,000 for the purchase of the Brunswick Electric Membership Corp.'s business incubator building in the Tabor Industrial Park. Their decision not to take action arose out of concern that a legal entity to take ownership of the building would need to be formed.

A nearly six-foot tall emu continued to run loose in eastern Columbus County.

An agreement was reached for R.J. Corman Railroad Company to buy the assets of the defunct Carolina Southern Railroad, which had been idle since 2011.

Whiteville Police Chief Jeff Rosier was sworn in for a second time after completing basic law enforcement training in North Carolina. Although the former Baltimore County, Maryland officer had years of training and certifications, which included training other officers, his Maryland certification did not follow him to North Carolina and he had to complete BLET training here before he could officially take charge in Whiteville.

July

Preliminary events for the 30th annual N.C. Watermelon Festival were underway in

Fair Bluff.

Gov. Pat McCrory signed a bill into law July 8 making Sunday hunting legal in the state beginning Oct. 1. North Carolina had prohibited the taking of game on Sundays since the 1800s.

The filing period for municipal races was set to end July 17 with some races lacking entries.

Officials said that driver's education would be suspended in the coming school year at Whiteville High School because of state budget cuts.

The Whiteville City Schools Board of Education was set to vote on a proposal to build a new field house at Legion Stadium for an estimated cost of \$550,000. The new 5,000-square-foot facility was to include two locker rooms, a training room, a laundry room, an office and storage room.

Sean Watson of Columbus County claimed a \$227,196 jackpot in the Carolina Cash 5 drawing from July 2. Watson bought his entry into the drawing at a gas pump at the Middle River C Store on Old Ocean Highway in Brunswick County. After taxes were withheld, he received \$157,333. His win was the largest by lottery players using a new way in North Carolina to buy tickets at the gas pump. The odds of winning a Cash 5 jackpot are 1 in 575,757.

Jackie Ray, owner of J. Ray Realty, said loitering, littering and parking issues were on the rise with the opening of the new courthouse. She posted signs across the front of her business asking people not to sit in her windows or try to leave cell phones at her office.

County officials later told Ray there was nothing they could do.

Fair Bluff Police Chief Darrell Trivette, 45, was expected to become Chadbourn's chief of police on Tuesday, July 28. His last day as Fair Bluff's top cop was to be Monday, July 27.



In March, Wilton Lennon, ministry director, works in the dining area "office" of the recently opened New Foundations Rescue Mission.



In January, Clerk of Court Jess Hill and two assistant clerks, Susan Smith, left, and Tara Benton, search the vast collection of felony crime cases for a file housed in the clerk's criminal vault in the current courthouse. All these, plus thousands of civil files, were later moved to the new courthouse annex.

Tax collections were up in the Town of Bolton, and officials said the town was showing signs of getting back on the proper financial track. State auditors told the board in 2014 that the town was in serious financial danger, having run at a deficit for eight years.

City officials turned ceremonial shovels of dirt on a massive makeover of Nolan Park in Whiteville. The city took out a loan to foot half the \$1 million bill on the project after making cuts to the project.

St. Mark AME Zion church celebrated 150 years.

The Columbus County



Whiteville resident James Townsend flies the colors on his scooter in May in preparation for the Memorial Day weekend.



The warm glow of the audience's electric candles offered the perfect atmosphere for NewSongs's Christmas concert in December at Northwood Assembly.



Search and rescue boats from several departments began searching in early December for a Lumberton fisherman who drowned in Inman Lake north of Whiteville. The search included dive teams, a helicopter and cadaver dog.



In August, local pilot Andrew Register assisted in the search for two Florida teens missing in the Atlantic.

A total of 58 lives had been lost on Columbus County's rural roads in the past six years because of the lack of seatbelt use.

A retired magistrate would replace David L. McPherson in the Democratic seat on the Columbus County Board of Elections. Mack Ward, who served 16 years as a law enforcement officer and another 16 as a magistrate, was set to be sworn in with other board members at the Columbus County Board of Elections office in Whiteville.

Ward would join Republicans Harold Fipps and Jo Ann Garrell on the three-member

board. All three members of the county board of elections would be from Chadbourn (thought to be a first).

Sherry Prince was the new attorney for the town of Lake Waccamaw.

The board of trustees for the Boys and Girls Homes at Lake Waccamaw voted unanimously to name the road at the entrance of the farm and exhibition center "Bill Thompson Lane" in honor of the former president who spent 38 years with the organization.

Rick Edwards, chairman of the Columbus Jobs Foundation, discussed his behind-

the-scenes work with the group. The former Columbus County Committee of 100 has done more than change its name, Edwards said.

Work on the railroad had begun in Columbus and Horry counties, nearly two weeks ahead of the transfer of ownership of the long-idled Carolina Southern Railroad to the Kentucky-based R.J. Corman Railroad Group.

Gov. Pat McCrory vowed to veto a sales tax proposal that would change the state's sales tax formula and essentially funnel millions more to mostly rural counties. Sen. Harry Brown, a Jacksonville Republican, sponsored the bill that ended up part of the Senate's more than 500-page budget proposal.

After five years of declining student enrollment, Southeastern Community College saw increases in spring and summer enrollments. Officials were hopeful it was the beginning of an upward trend for the school.

Hydrilla concerns were easing at Lake Waccamaw. The 10-year control program could see one or two years shaved off, provided that education and enforcement efforts continued onshore.

Columbus Christian Academy had a new leader. Justin DuBose, pastor of Missionary Alliance Church in Whiteville, was settling in as principal for the K-12 school that the church founded in 1977. DuBose filled a role that church treasurer and elder Sam Hinson took on a temporary basis six years ago.

The North Carolina Supreme Court in a 4-3 decision ruled that it was constitutional for the state to offer need-based scholarships for students in North Carolina to attend private schools.

An investigative report showed that in 2014, nearly \$13.5 million in state lottery tickets were sold in Columbus County. That same year less than \$590,000 was returned to the county for school construction. In all, \$2.9 million was attributed to teacher salaries, pre-K funds, scholarships and digital learning that benefited Columbus County residents.

A Leland man who was disbarred in 2013 was arrested for using the name of a Wilmington lawyer and attempting to defend a case in Columbus County District Court. Court records show Nicholas Stratas, 57, was charged with three counts of criminal contempt of court. Stratas is alleged to have appeared before Judge Fred Gore to argue a traffic case for another man.

School was back in session for the year-round Columbus Charter School in Whiteville. Eighty-one teachers, staff and administrators of the public charter school welcomed back 850 students in grades K-8. The school began in 2007 with 132 students in K-2 and 14 employees.

August

The number of home schools was increasing across the state. More than 340 were registered in Columbus County.

Officials announced that the Whiteville City offices would have to move because of a mold problem in the 1930s structure.

The Carolyn T. High Library at 407 N. J.K. Powell Boulevard in Whiteville planned to close for a few weeks for renovations. In all, \$53,500 was earmarked in the county's general fund for capital improvements.

Local pilot, Andrew Register, a 19-year-old Nakina native, was one of the volunteers in a search and rescue or recovery mission for two teens, Perry Cohen and Austin Sephanos, who went missing off the coast of Florida.

A 72-year-old Clarkton man became Columbus County's ninth rural fatality of the year on Saturday, Aug. 1, when he died of multiple injuries sustained in a head-on wreck just inside the county at the intersection of Red Hill and

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Review

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Green-Elkins roads. Jerry Eugene Coleman of North Mitchell Ford Road, Clarkton, died in a New Hanover County hospital.

Columbus County Schools announced plans to start an afterschool program at Hallsboro Artesia Elementary school. It would be the first of its kind in the school district.

An Ocean Isle Beach woman was killed in this two-vehicle wreck on the U.S. 701 Bypass near Hay Street. Thelma Alexander, 86, died in Columbus Regional Healthcare's emergency department. She was the passenger in the four-door car that slammed into the out-of-control pickup truck driven by Samuel Jacobs, 20, of the Southwood community, Whiteville, according to police records.

The Whiteville City Council met in a closed session to work out the lease agreement on a potential location for the city offices.

Dr. Bryan Abernethy, 41, an assistant principal at Topsail Middle School in Pender County, was named principal of East Columbus High School.

Rain and soil issues delayed the new Old Dock school construction.

Bids for old courthouse work exceeded the budget by \$1.1 million.

A powerful storm that ripped across Peacock Road and eastern Chadbourne was not a tornado though it damaged buildings and downed trees.

The Columbus County School Board initiated the first step in a countywide facilities study of all school buildings and sites. David Clinton of Szotak Design, a Chapel Hill architectural firm, proposed all pre-K-8 schools in the county school system be included in the roughly \$40,000 study.

After several months of preparation by contractors, Columbus Regional Healthcare accepted delivery of its new \$1.3 million wide-bore Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) magnet.

The 11,000-pound magnet – the biggest component of the General Electric Optima 450W MRI – was delivered by flatbed truck from the GE plant in Florence, S.C.

Just two days before one continuing budget resolution was set to expire, state legislators adopted another one.

The resolution (Senate Bill 560) held state spending at levels set in mid-July and gave lawmakers until Aug. 31 at 11:59 p.m. to come up with a budget.

Whiteville City Council approved a contract with the Hill Company to lease 6,000 square feet for \$5,000 per month since mold at the city hall had become a bigger issue. The city would occupy three units beside the Rose's department store.

Samuel Bracey Jacobs III, 20, of Southwood Road, Whiteville, was arrested Tuesday, Aug. 11, on a felony charge of involuntary manslaughter involving the vehicle death of an Ocean Isle Beach woman in Whiteville on Aug. 5.

Rodney Register's 158-pound melon took third place and \$300 cash prize and Robert Worley 135-pound melon took fourth place and a \$200 cash prize at the State Competition held at the Farmers Market in Raleigh.

Tom Stanley, a familiar voice in the radio community, civic leader and director of the Whiteville Downtown Development Commission, died at 76. Stanley was a host of "The Hall of Fame Show" a popular show on Cool 105.9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Stanley, a "friend to everyone," was a lover of beach music and for 20 years owned and operated WTXY in Whiteville.

It was official. R.J. Corman Railroad Company had bought the former Carolina Southern Railroad line through Columbus County in a deal that had closed.

Brenden Jones, a Columbus County native and Tabor City businessman, announced that he would be a candidate for the N.C. House of Representatives in District 46 in 2016. Jones challenged incumbent

Kenny Waddell, a Chadbourne Democrat, for the seat in 2013. A 1,478 vote-margin in Waddell's favor separated the two candidates.

Sarah Prevatte van Dooren, 93, a native of Whiteville and caretaker of thousands of historic photographs and movies taken by her mother, Mabel Maulsby Prevatte, died in Chicago. Sarah van Dooren was fiercely proud of her mother's accomplishments, and donated dozens of albums and boxes of photographs to Bob High and Fuller Royal of The News Reporter.

The Carolyn T. High Library at 407 N. J.K. Powell Boulevard in Whiteville was set to reopen on Monday, Aug. 31 after closing for renovations on Aug. 5.

A state bill shifting \$928,028 from the Department of Public Instruction for the creation of the Transfer Office of Charter Schools was gaining momentum.

The Whiteville City Council accepted the gift of 95 percent interest in the Vineyard Station Depot from R.J. Corman, the new owner of the railroad.

A proposal that would bring millions in additional sales tax revenue to predominantly rural counties like Columbus was voted down in a 111-to-2 vote in the N.C. House.

Humid, muggy conditions were hampering procedures on the second and third floors of the new Columbus County courthouse. The humidity in the District Courtrooms on the second floor of the new courthouse was so thick and heavy that machines were kept on all night to lower the mugginess and attempt to get the rooms ready for the next day.

A meeting to discuss what it would cost to place more paid school personnel on duty at Cerro Gordo Fire and Rescue was held.

The meeting was in response to a letter about missed calls sent by Columbus County EMS Medical Director Dr. Joseph Dell'Aria to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

September

There were gains in standardized test results for nearly 55 percent of Whiteville City School students, and nearly 45 percent of county school children.

Roy Mintz of Ash completed all four Take The Lake X-Treme events in nine hours and 57 minutes, a personal best for the man who is a five-time winner of the event leading to the popular Take The Lake weekend where individuals swim, walk, bike and kayak/canoe measured courses at Lake Waccamaw.

Relocation of the Chadbourne ABC store was in doubt, and schools across the county with the most needy students posted the lowest overall scores in a state grading system.

Two men who were victims in 9-11 were remembered on the anniversary of the tragedy. Willie Q. Troy, a native of Delco who became a West Columbus High School graduate, was a victim of the 9-11 attacks by terrorists in 2001. Troy, 51, was an Army sergeant and had been in the service since he was drafted in 1970.

He was a victim of the American Airlines Flight 77 when the plane crashed into the Pentagon on the edge of Washington, D.C.

Another victim of the Pentagon chaos was James Daniel Debuneure, 58, a native of Whiteville, killed on the ground when the plane crashed.

He was a teacher at a nearby Maryland middle school. He was escorting a student to Los Angeles on a trip sponsored by National Geographic.

Columbus Regional Healthcare opened its Urgent Care center at the hospital.

The center is designed for patients who don't need emergency care, and don't want to have a long wait to see a medical provider Larry Burroughs of Whiteville, a familiar face in the medical profession, heads the clinic, according to a story in the Sept. 10 issue.



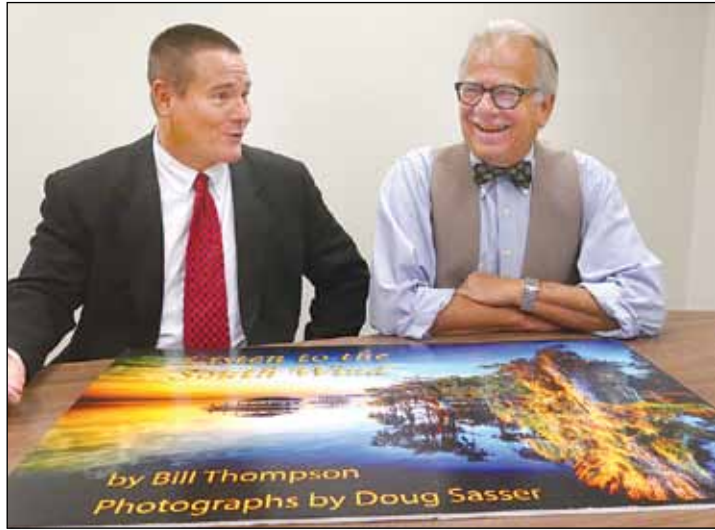
In June, Whiteville High School varsity baseball players pile on each other after securing the state 1A baseball championship at Five County Stadium. The win gave the team its second straight 1A championship. The Wolfpack, which also won the 2012 state 2A championship, now has a total of seven state baseball crowns since 1983.



The main – and only public – entrance to the new courthouse annex features little in the way of cover from inclement weather.



In October, Clancy and Theys Construction vice president David Michael, right, discusses renovations to the historic Columbus County Courthouse as architect Paul Bonsall listens.



In September, Doug Sasser and Bill Thompson announced the publication of their first book together.

James Pierce, 76, of Chinquapin in Duplin County, was killed Friday, Sept. 11, in the crash of his private plane near Riegelwood, according to a story in the Sept. 14 issue. Another story was about the lack of new electronic equipment in the new courthouse, equipment that would cut and costs for required first-appearances for felony defendants, and hearings for jail inmates on bond and other issues.

Cerro Gordo resident and Black's Tire President Ricky Benton was named National Tire Dealer of the Year by Modern Tire Dealer magazine.

Columbus County was slated to get \$2.2 million from the

new North Carolina budget in new revenue distributed to 79 of the 100 counties. Gene Merritt of Wilmington was named interim director of downtown development for Whiteville.

Neil Hector McNeill of Whiteville – a veteran of the battle at Iwo Jima in February 1945 – who championed the U.S. Marine Corps the rest of his life died at 90.

The groundbreaking for new middle school for Flemington Academy at Boys and Girls Homes was held at Lake Waccamaw. Masonry, plumbing and carpentry classes at Southeastern Community College would become continuing education courses.



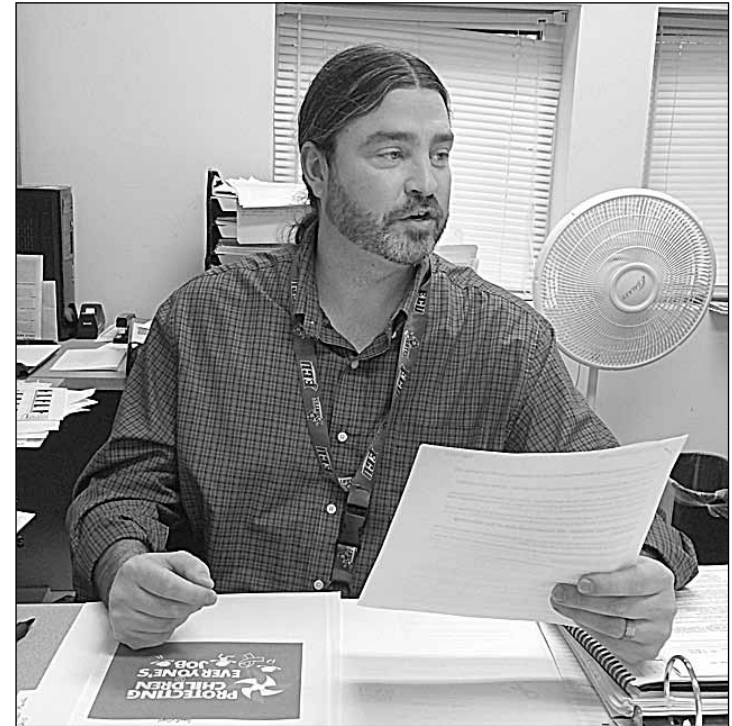
In March, Go Tell Columbus executive committee members Alan Thompson, Brenda Jolly and Andy Wayne talk after a Sunday night community prayer service at Bowers Auditorium.



In August, CCCA Principal Nicky Hobbs and Emily Watts chat during lunch at the school's Fair Bluff campus.



In April, while waiting for the opening ceremonies of the Whiteville Optimist Club's Dixie Youth Baseball season, players on Southern Tire and Muffler's team quickly discovered their teammate had gum. The rains stopped in time for the annual event.



In March, Jim Warlick, the DSS Child Protective Services intake and investigations supervisor, speaks to a visitor about Child Abuse Prevention Month and a prayer and remembrance service at the health department.

SCC was in line to receive \$6.9 million of a state bond package that would go before voters in 2016.

Trina Osborne of Central Middle School was named Teacher of the Year in the Whiteville City Schools. Humidity and mold problems continued in the new courthouse.

The International Paper plant in Riegelwood would get nearly \$3.5 million in incentives from the county that could make the difference in saving some jobs as the plant shifted production since the sale of Carolina Brands Paper products.

Betty Lou Memory was named the parade marshal for the 2015 Pecan Harvest Festival in November.

October

The Go Tell Columbus Christian Crusade prepared to open its five-day run at South

Columbus High School on Saturday, Oct. 3. The crusade, supported by churches all over the county, would open with a message from Steve Payson of the Go Tell Ministry staff of Georgia.

The crusade was threatened by Tropical Storm Joaquin, which was forecast to dump drenching rain over the county during the first weekend in October.

The first "Lip Sync Battle" in the county was sold out as participants prepared for the event, which benefited the Columbus County Arts Council and Families First.

A tropical rain system brought from 16 to 20 inches of rain to the county – most of it in southern county areas – and flooding threatened some communities.

The Go Tell Crusade opened in the county with Columbus High School gym, shrugging off the damp weather.

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Review

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Gann Memorials of Raleigh announced it would open a manufacturing facility in Tabor City, a venture expected to bring 50 new jobs to county residents.

Walt Gray, a Whiteville native, was named Chief Deputy Secretary of the N.C. Department of Transportation beginning Monday, Oct. 5, according to an appointment by Gov. Pat McCrory.

Heavy rain from the tropical system caused flooding and delays across the county, and Gov. McCrory visited nearby Dublin in Bladen County to meet with area farmers about crop losses. Columbus County would be one of 15 school systems in the state to be labeled "low performing" by changes in how the state defines the term.

Officials said 854 people committed to Christ during the Go Tell Crusade's five-day run. The Columbus County Schools declared that county field trips to the N.C. State Fair, carnivals, amusement parks, water sports and boating activities were "off limits" for county students due to safety concerns.

Chadborn's ABC board tabled action on relocating a liquor store in the town.

Helen Barefoot Pope of Hallsboro, 100, was featured in the newspaper.

The county was expected to buy property at 100 Jefferson Street, site of gas station in the 1950s, from Clinton Grainger.

The Donayre Cancer Care Center would move to a location inside the Columbus Regional Healthcare hospital.

Roadwork on the slippery part of U.S. 74-76 in Whiteville's White Marsh area would be resurfaced with more of a "crown" for the asphalt, improving drainage.

The annual Waccamaw Siouan Pow Wow was held in the Buckhead community. The first bids to renovate the old courthouse came in \$1.5 million higher than budgeted funds.

County commissioners pondered a request to provide security for the county's health department.

County commissioners approved an economic development grant of \$3.5 million in incentives for International Paper's plant at Riegelwood. Dr. H.G. "Hez" Walters, of Whiteville, died at 93.

The sister of a man killed in a rural wreck on Nov. 10, 2014, questioned a judge's requirement that Justin Travis Ward, 22, of Chadborn, keep a copy of Charlie Bernard Bullock's obituary in his pocket during two years of unsupervised probation. Ward hit and killed Bullock in the incident.

Kena McMillian, 41, of Chadborn, was remembered by family, friends and coworkers after the domestic violence victim was shot and killed by Wendell Hardie, 42, of Whiteville, on Saturday, Oct. 24.

November

Early voting showed that 374 voters has cast early ballots at the Board of Elections office in Whiteville for town officers for Bolton, Cerro Gordo, Chadborn, Fair Bluff, Lake Waccamaw, Whiteville (two



In June, two possible logos for the reconstituted Committee of 100 were unveiled. The group became the Columbus Jobs Foundation. At right, Rick Edwards addresses the group.



As Coke Gray, center, and Judy Nelson, right, look on, Whiteville First Presbyterian Church pastor Joshua Bower thanks the congregation for the church supper held in his honor. After nine years in Whiteville, Bower left for to Albany, Ga., to lead the First Presbyterian Church there. Bower came to Whiteville straight out of seminary. His wife, Sommer, had been the pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Lake Waccamaw. She assumed the pastorate at a Presbyterian Church in Americas, Ga.

districts), Tabor City, Sandyfield and Riegelwood. The Chadborn ABC Board voted to purchase the building the Chadborn store is now using.

Two-term state Representative Ken Waddell announced that he would not seek another term in the state legislature. The United Negro College Fund honored Everlene Davis for having taught school for more than 59 years.

Town elections in Brunswick and Chadborn were slated for recounts due the closeness of the vote for town councilmen.

The Whiteville City Council voted to charge at-fault drivers a fee when fire department units go to a wreck scene.

County commissioners voted to employ an armed guard rather than a sheriff's deputy to keep order in the county's health department.

The unusually long session of the state legislature brought comments from the county's representatives, Sen. Jane Smith and Rep. Kenny Waddell, both Democrats in the Republican-controlled legislature.

A father and son, both natives of Whiteville, celebrated their victories in different town races recently. Robert Leder was re-elected to his sixth term on the Whiteville City Council, and his son Sam won his first try at politics by gathering 64 percent of the votes to win a seat on the

Concord City Council.

The R.J. Corman Railroad Group, a Kentucky company that recently bought the Carolina Southern Railroad that served part of Columbus County, hosted about 50 area officials in Vineland Station to express their thanks to the local group for their help in purchasing the railroad.

A new law allowing certain types of hunting on Sundays had not caused much of a stir in Columbus County, Wildlife Commission officials said. A Lumberton fisherman drowned in Inman Lake when he apparently fell from his one-man boat.

December

Three Democrat challengers for Democrat James Prevatt's District 2 county commission seat had filed for slots on the March 15 ballot. An independent, Lavern Coleman of Byrdville, announced he would seek the commissioner's seat currently held by Edwin Russ as an unaffiliated candidate.

Whiteville preschool teacher Debbie Simmons was awarded the Whiteville City Schools' designation of Teacher of Excellence. Southport Attorney Jason Disbrow was named District Court judge to replace Marion Warren.

Warren was appointed to head the administrative office

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Ashlin Floyd, right, hugs teammate Shae Cokley after the Whiteville High School women's soccer team's 2-1 overtime loss to Raleigh Charter High School in May. The game was for the 1A Eastern Championship, with the winner advancing to the state championship. Cokley is a four-year starter and a team captain. WHS finished the season 22-2-1.



In April, Whiteville firefighter Scott Hardison prepares to douse the still-hot metal and plastic of the Leder Bros. sign in downtown Whiteville after it burst into flames one April morning. The decades-old sign caught fire when power to it was restored in the search for a blown fuse.



In December, Jordan Johnson, 12, receives a lesson on boxing from Paul Stevenson after one of the free KidFit classes Stevenson offers in Tabor City twice a week.



John Deans finishes the first quarter of his 14-mile kayak journey around the lake in choppy waters during September's annual Take the Lake event.



In November, clockwise, from foreground, Columbus County Board of Election members JoAnn Garrell, Harold Fipps and Mack Ward and staff Jackie Bozeman go through absentee ballots. Those ballots arrived after the Tuesday election results were announced but were postmarked in time to be counted. Provisional ballots were to be considered in a meeting that day and the board canvass, after which election results became official, was the next day.

Review

Continued from page 7-C

of the courts in Raleigh.

Work continued on rehabilitating the sewer system at Lake Waccamaw by repairing broken cleanouts and cracks in the underground lines that allowed surface water to overwhelm the treatment plant and to damage lift stations.

A knee injury sidelined UNC-Pembroke basketball player Quamain Rose, a graduate of Whiteville High School, for the season.

Rose was named one of the best basketball players in the nation by the Pembroke coach. Columbus County's total fund balance (savings account) as of June 30 totaled \$23,142,074, according to an audit of county finances. Columbus Regional Healthcare System was dropped from one of Blue Cross Blue Shield's health plans. The insurance company gave no reason for the move.

Norfolk "Fuzzy" Best's efforts to have his convictions for double-murder and rape in 1991 overturned failed when new DNA testing showed that the chances of Best being innocent were 490 trillion to one.

Friends of Lake Waccamaw State Park, a volunteer group that supported some park activities as well as other improvements to the lake, has disbanded.

County Commissioner Buddy Byrd of Lake Waccamaw was elected chairman of the commission. Christmas tree sales began earlier than usual this year.

Attorney Randy Cartrette pleaded guilty to seven misdemeanor counts of obstruction of justice and one count of misdemeanor forgery.

In the plea deal, Cartrette agreed to close his office, was disbarred and was sentenced to two years of probation.

Bear-hunting in the county, which ended Dec. 26, attracted both dog hunters and still hunters, according to Wildlife Commission officers.

The number of bears killed



Kelsey Coffey, left, of Charlotte and Noah Nealey of Tabor City are all smiles after completing the SCC 5K Eco-Color in April.



Thousands of people attended the annual Southern Farm Days on the farm at the N.C. Boys and Girls Homes at Lake Waccamaw in March.

in the county remained low. Replacement of a bridge on Canal Cove Road at Lake Wac-

camaw was delayed because of right-of-way problems with a homeowner.

The holly trees that decorate downtown Whiteville streets are due to be checked out by an arborist.

Some of the trees will probably be removed and all need trimming, officials said.

Influenza, the wintertime disease that shows up every year, seemed to be a little late, with few cases being reported. The state health department warned that January and February are the months in which most flu cases are reported. The local health department continued to urge residents to get a flu vaccination.

Robb Cross, "the local history dude" and researcher and writer for The News Reporter, died Dec. 18 following a heart attack. Cross was extremely knowledgeable about Whiteville's buildings and early residents and was often called upon for information about earlier times.

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