



National Boy Scout Week

The Boy Scouts of America • 1910-2016

The Cape Fear Council BSA • 1916-2016

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

The News Reporter

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75 Cents

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Today's *American Profile* features "CUTE & CRAFTY: Easy Valentine's Day Gifts and Treats."

DIDYOB?

Did you observe ...

Local Panther fans "DAB-Ostated" with the team's poor performance at the Super Bowl? And the Peyton Manning faithfuls proud of the Broncos? ... Bowers Auditorium's overflowing crowd at the inspirational gathering of the Women of Worth conference this weekend? ...

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Method, motive for Bolton murders reported by DA

■Courtroom summation shows how Bolton women died, and established probable motive by two suspects.

By BOB HIGH
Staff Writer

More details emerged Thursday in Justin Gray Reynolds' arraignment in the killing of his mother and her elderly friend near Bolton more than a year ago.

Jeanette Nancy Thut, 74, of the 2300 block of Blacksmith Road, Bolton, and Donna Reynolds Gore, 55, formerly of Nakina, and living with Thut, were murdered in late October 2014. Gore is Reynolds' mother.

Reynolds, 28, of Lee Ward Road, Nakina, and his former girlfriend, Megan Alicia Haynes, 27, of Howard Cox Road, Tabor City, were arrested Wednesday, and made their required first court appearances.

Armed robbery

Both Reynolds and Haynes are charged with two counts each of murder.

District Attorney Jon David said it's probable Reynolds will also be charged with armed robbery of Thut, and this would be an aggravating factor in her murder. David said his staff has yet to decide if Reynolds would enter a death-penalty trial.

Thut reported to the sheriff on Oct. 22, 2014 the theft of several tools, cash and medication, and David said some of the stolen items were pawned. The pawned items were recovered.

David said Thut's body was wrapped in a carpet and blankets. Gore's body was on the concrete floor of the same storage building



Justin Reynolds with bailiff Emmitt Brown.



Megan Haynes

where Thut's decomposing remains were found on Nov. 3, 2014. Gore had been strangled and Thut had been stabbed 15 to 17 times.

Tried to flee

Haynes was arrested at her residence shortly before 2 p.m. last Wednesday. When detectives announced their presence, she tried to escape by leaving through a window. Reynolds, being held here on unrelated larceny charges, was served in

jail with the murder warrants.

"We received vital information this week, and were able to piece together enough evidence to get the warrants," Sheriff Lewis Hatcher told the media Thursday. "There was significant information developed in the first of this week," David noted.

Haynes already faces a felony charge of financial card fraud in Bladen County for using one of Thut's credit cards, and David said it was likely this case would be moved to Columbus County so it could be addressed during the murder trial for Haynes.

'Shock waves'

Reynolds was sent to prison for less than 40 days in 2013 after convictions for breaking and entering and larceny. He had been sentenced to eight to 10 months in prison, and his final parole date was in the summer of 2014, about four months before the murders.

David said the discovery of the women's bodies sent "shock waves through the Bolton community. There was a lot of concern when the two women were found murdered."

The DA noted the victims' families were frustrated at how long it took for arrests to be made; "however, justice never stops. Time was our ally in these cases."

See Murder, page 4-A

Elections official: 'No one will be turned away'

■Voter ID laws in effect for March primary.

By SHALON SMITH
Contributing Writer

At least 100 county residents filled the seats and parking lot Thursday night at the National Guard Armory in Whiteville to get details of the state's newly enacted Voter ID law from State Board of Elections representatives.

Jennifer Faulkner, a state voter outreach specialist, explained in detail restrictions for curbside voting, "exceptions" to the law for voters older than 70 years of age, and the process for casting an absentee ballot, among other things.

All eligible voters are allowed to vote on Election Day, she said. "No one will be turned away from the polls or not allowed to vote because of (not having a) photo ID," Faulkner said.

A photo ID is not required to vote by mail-in absentee ballot but two witnesses' signatures or one notary signature is required.

"Notaries cannot charge for witness services on absentee ballots," Faulkner said.

Voters older than 70 may use any of the acceptable photo IDs that have expired for any length of time - provided it was unexpired on the voter's 70th birthday. Acceptable

See Voter, page 9-A

Centennial celebration



Photo courtesy of MARGARET HICKS and the MIKE SIMMONS COLLECTION

In this late 1950s photograph, Star Scout Robert Leder salutes a Scout leader during a Boy Scout court of honor inspection in the Columbus County Courthouse. Leder would later earn his Eagle Scout rank as would his son, Samuel. The Troop 513 Scouts behind Leder are, from left: Tommy Whitehead, Chuck Wheeler and Edward Shearin.

Boy Scout council celebrates 100 years

By FULLER ROYAL
Staff Writer

As the Boy Scouts of America celebrates the 116th anniversary of its 1910 charter by Congress, the Cape Fear Council is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its charter by the BSA.

Chartered on March 17, 1916, the council began with troops primarily in New Hanover, Robeson and Columbus counties.

That same year, the first recorded Scout troop in Columbus County was started at the White-

ville United Methodist Church.

Soon, a troop would form in Bolton followed by new troops in nearly every town and major community in the county.

As part of the celebration, the council is putting together a commemorative edition book featuring hundreds of vintage photographs with a narrative by council historian Robert Walton of Wilmington.

The book is still in the production phase. Boy Scouting photographs made prior to 1980 from across the council are welcome and needed.

The major event of the anniversary will be the council jamboree, Oct. 7-9, on the John Thomas property in Pender County.

The weekend-long event will involve all of the Boy Scouts in the council's eight counties: Columbus, Bladen, Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, Robeson, Scotland and Hoke.

Other events

On Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., the Cape Fear Scout Reservation will host open houses for

See 100 years, page 9-A

Meeting on City Hall mold is Tuesday

By JEFFERSON WEAVER
Staff Writer

City council will meet in a special session Tuesday to discuss options on the mold-infested Whiteville City Hall.

The 3:30 p.m. meeting will be held at the interim municipal complex at the Roses Plaza shopping center on Madison Street.

Officials toured the Whitley Municipal Building last month, getting a detailed breakdown of the City Hall's structural and environmental problems. Opened as a post office in 1938, the building was constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) using a standard building plan for post offices across the country - which included a basement.

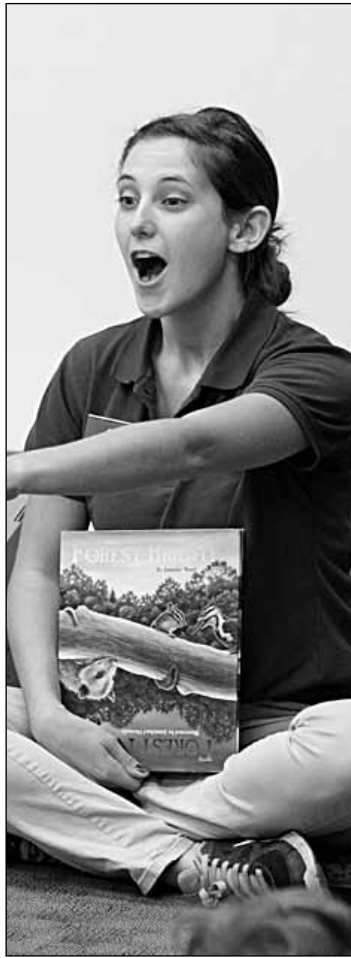
Monitoring wells show the water table on the corner of Columbus and Madison streets to actually be higher than the floor of the basement, causing groundwater to force its way into the basement of the building.

Moisture has seeped in through cracks in the foundation and walls of the building, as well as through the French drainage system that funnels stormwater from the roof through a network of pipes in the walls. Cotton batting used to seal and caulk windows, corners, walls and other joints has deteriorated through the decades, allowing even more water to drain into the building.

On the tour, Public Works Director Newlyn McCullen told the city council that city staff ran two pumps around the clock to keep the water level down in the basement. Since the building was closed, the city has run only a single pump.

Problems were first discovered when workers in the basement - nicknamed "The Dungeon" - complained of foul odors, mold, moisture and mold-related illnesses. The planning, inspections, zoning, recreation and fire marshal's offices were moved out of the

See Mold, page 9-A



Staff photos by FULLER ROYAL

Animated storytelling and interaction with youngsters are required.

UNCW grad Geer is new museum educator

By CLARA CARTRETTE
Staff Writer

Casey Geer is the new education specialist for the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville, a satellite of the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. Her main focus is to develop early childhood programs and explore other hands-on science for young children.

"I really love the museum," she said. "It is small and in a close knit community."

She is also impressed with the people's reaction to the museum.

A native New Yorker (Long Island), Geer now lives in Wilmington with her husband Kevin Geer, who does home renovation — updating homes and flipping foreclosures. Geer has a 55-minute commute to and from Whiteville, but fortunately she travels in the opposite direction from the usual traffic jams into and out of Wilmington and she says the trip home gives her time to decompress.

She and Kevin met when both were in college in New York where she earned a Bachelor of Science in early childhood education and childhood education.

She had planned to teach elementary school students. However, when she was looking at graduate school she came south, earning a Master of Science in environmental education at UNC Wilmington.

"My family had spent summer vacations in the Wilmington area and I was familiar with it," she said.

She learned about the job at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville through job listings, she said, and it was perfect for her. A lover of nature, she has a lot of ideas to take programs outside the building.

"There is great outdoor space here," she noted, "and I'd like to open it up to the people. We want to start a community garden this spring. Girl Scouts are participating and I would like to open it to other people. I'd like to have hikes to bring in different



Geer helps a youngster choose one of the forest characters she is preparing to read about.

people of all ages. I love nature and I want to develop that. You can teach from a book, but with science, you have it right out there and it makes more of an impression."

Geer will also conduct storytime programs and is in charge of the museum's social media to inform Facebook, Twitter and Instagram followers of programs and other events at the museum.

She plans to create new and fresh opportunities for toddlers, as there's not a lot for them to do.

Geer said she spent her first

day on the job in Raleigh at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, and was greatly impressed.

"There was so much to see," she said. "It was great to be able to see that museum, and then come here and see how we can mimic what they have on a smaller scale."

Geer has been familiarizing herself with the Whiteville area "by exploring on my own," she said. "I went to the Chamber of Commerce banquet and got to meet a lot of people. Part of my job is outreach."

Three-legged dog finds friends and a new family

By JEFFERSON WEAVER
Staff Writer

For the dog called Josh, the future looked bleak.

When the German shepherd mixed-breed came in at the Columbus County Animal Shelter, he was underweight and suffering. A badly-healed injury to his right front leg had left the leg useless.

"A lot of dogs can use a hurt leg like a kickstand, leaning on it," said Animal Control Supervisor Joey Prince. "He couldn't even do that."

State law and local regulations allow Animal Control to humanely euthanize seriously injured or suffering animals.

When Prince was hired in September, he set a goal of destroying no adoptable pets if it can be avoided. Adoption rates have risen dramatically since September, and euthanasia rates — already dropping before then — have gone even lower.

Josh, however, was in bad shape.

As with all injured or sick animals that come into the shelter, Josh was checked by Dr. Jeff Burroughs, the county veterinarian.

The prognosis wasn't good.

"We took him to the vet," Prince said, "and Dr. Burroughs said he would need a specialist. Even then he said he didn't think the leg could be saved. The damage was far more extensive than it looked."

Josh had a crushed nerve in the old injury, Burroughs explained, and the nerve was causing constant pain.

"The healed injury was in a really bad place for an amputation," Prince said. "I wasn't sure what we could do."

Even just amputating the leg wouldn't solve the problem. Prince said there was no way the shelter could afford sending a dog to a specialist.

"This cost was far beyond what we could pay," he said.

A non-profit foundation, however, was more than willing to help.

Noah's Ark Rescue is a dog rescue group from the Charlotte area. Jennifer Smith of the group had previously contacted Prince offering to help with shelter dogs that need extensive care.

"We hadn't called on them before," Prince said, "but this time, I figured we could at least try. Needless to say, I was surprised when they said they'd be more than happy to help out. All we had to do was get him there."

A trip to Charlotte, however, required more volunteer assistance.

"We can't justify taking a county vehicle to Charlotte to transport a dog," Prince said. "We just can't do that."

That's when Lisa Saunders of South Carolina stepped up to the plate.

Saunders transports dogs and cats between shelters,



Otis on the couch.



Otis

foster homes and rescues across the state.

"She does this out of her own pocket," Prince said. "She had picked up dogs from us before, but not in a case like this."

When Prince got in touch with Saunders, she "was ready to go," Prince said.

Saunders downplayed her role in the rescue during a brief conversation Tuesday.

"Josh was a good boy," she said, noting that she was in Raleigh at the time, delivering another batch of rescued dogs.

Saunders not only transported Josh to Noah's Ark for his surgery, but picked him up for the return trip to Whiteville.

"People like this make such a difference in the lives of animals," Prince said. "She never asks for money or anything — she just transports the dogs."

Noah's Ark specializes in dealing with sick and injured rescue dogs. Veterinarians there removed Josh's leg and repaired the nerve.

After a brief recovery, he was on his way back to Whiteville.

The bill for the amputation and treatment was more than \$4,000, Prince said.

"All that was paid for by the people at Noah's Ark," he said. "There's no way Columbus County could afford to spend that on a single dog, but the folks at Noah's Ark love animals, and do their work because they care."

That's when Charlene Bush and her husband Stan found out about the three-legged pooch named Josh.

"He looked just like our first dog, that we had for 13 years," Bush said. "That's the reason we stopped and looked

at him in the first case — he looked like our other dog, and he was just happy and healthy as he could be — so we brought home a three-legged dog."

Josh — who was renamed Otis — gets around just fine, despite the missing appendage.

"He runs much better than he walks," Bush laughed. "When he walks, he gets around okay, but when he runs, he flies."

The Bush family has a 15-year-old Chihuahua that rules the roost, as well as two cats. Josh is a happy dog, Bush said.

In addition to running on his remaining three legs, he enjoys playing and getting attention from his family.

"Otis is learning his place in the family," she said. "They don't like the fact that there's another dog in the house."

Prince praised Smith, Noah's Ark and Saunders for stepping up to help Josh/Otis — not to mention the Bush family, for adopting a disabled dog.

"Everyone really stepped up on this one," he said. "It makes you feel a little better about people when someone is willing to stand up and help an animal that's been so badly hurt."

"Now he has a new family, and we found a home for a dog that might have had a hard time being adopted. That's a win, all around, for people and animals."

Charlene Bush said that when they saw their new dog, there was no question he was going home with them.

"We looked at that face," Bush said, "and we just had to have him. We went out there for a puppy, and came back with a three-legged dog."

To donate to Noah's Ark, log on to www.noahs-ark.net.

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Santana McLean is accompanied by Curtis Martin on the hammered dulcimer.



Staff photos by FULLER ROYAL

An appreciative audience of more than 50 guests showed up for the unusual concert.

Duo presents concert of rare instruments, vocal music

By DIANA MATTHEWS
Contributing Writer

A series of unexpected occurrences brought two musicians and 27 instruments to the Columbus County Arts Council Center to perform for a crowd of more than 50 listeners on a recent Friday night.

Curtis Martin, a native of Missouri and most recently a resident of Rhode Island, moved to Whiteville to be closer to his son Anthony, his daughter-in-law Nicole and their 5-year-old son Ian.

Martin, an experienced engineer, came to Whiteville in October 2015, bringing a collection of unusual musical instruments that he has collected since the early 1990s.

While learning his way around town, he dropped in at the Arts Center, where he introduced himself to director Sally Mann. He was impressed with the "great facility" but also with the center's need for a control system to run the theatre lighting. He knew he had the skills to construct a light board, and he wanted to help raise funds to pay for the needed gear.

Mann encouraged him to schedule a performance at which audience members could become acquainted with the unusual instruments in his collection.

An errand to Lowe's Home Improvement store led to another artistic collaboration. "A beautiful woman with a beautiful voice was singing while she worked," Martin said. He hesitated to walk right up to her and ask her, "Will you perform with me?" but instead asked Mann to arrange an introduction with the help of her sister Alice Walker, who works at Lowe's.

Santana McLean, the singing cashier, said, "I don't know it sometimes when I'm singing. It just comes out." McLean is a Whiteville native and the mother of nine-year-old Gavin Weaver. She enjoys all types of music, but the last time she had performed in public was 12 years earlier in a Fair Idol competition. "I've gotten a little rusty. I'd been straying away from it, but you can't stray away from your gift," she said.

McLean was very surprised by the invitation but agreed to join Martin for the program.

She and Martin found that



Randolph Matthews, left, and Anthony Martin perform "Amazing Grace" as a duet on nose flutes

they collaborated well. He'd previously done very little group playing or accompanying, saying, "I'm not that good," but he noted that, over their month or so of preparation, he and McLean began to "play off of each other" more.

McLean described her favorite music style as "everything from rock to rap to rhythm and blues to country to gospel." She had never sung folk music, however. The pieces Martin asked her to learn, such as the 1869 hymn "How Can I Keep From Singing?" struck her as "very refreshing, different, new." She added, "I'm open to a lot of new things."

Martin has spent most of his career in industry, working for major battery companies such as Eagle Picher Technology, Yardney, and Boston Power. He helped to develop one of the first lithium ion battery packs for underwater use by the famous Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. He spent time in Sweden designing batteries for Saab's electric models.

Although one of his inventions went to space as part of the power supply for a device called the Robonaut, Martin himself could not obtain his desired job as an astronaut. A rejection letter from NASA hangs on the wall of his Whiteville home from the time seven years ago when he applied to be part of the shuttle program. He points out, however, that a follow-up mailing invited him to try again.

When one walks in the front door of Martin's home, many of the items one sees hanging on the wall are musical instruments. He has a collection of guitars as well as other, less familiar, instruments.

About 1991, Martin began playing the hammered dulcimer and progressed to collecting and playing all the other instruments he now has. A skilled woodworker, he began building 19th Century-style instruments to sell. The demand for his beautifully crafted bowed psalteries outpaced his ability to build them, so he networked with a prominent woodcrafter in Black Mountain, NC, Tom Fellenbaum, to provide more. Fellenbaum, now retired, was well-known in folk music circles for his lovely mountain dulcimers and other instruments.

"Tom used to make the best psalteries in the world;

nel or of NBC specials with Stewart Price may recognize Martin, who has been featured on television numerous times. During an engineering meeting, he remembers, "I was demonstrating how to embed varied components inside a multi-layered circuit board when a woman in the back of the crowd shouted out, 'It's you! I saw you on TV!'"

The crowd at the Arts Center applauded for the instrumental demonstrations and listened attentively to Martin's historical and scientific explanations of how they were invented and how they worked.

In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, traveling "music men" peddled small instruments such as autoharps as cheaper alternatives for families who couldn't afford pianos. One distinctive example in Martin's collection is a "Marxophone," which has tiny hammers striking metal strings to produce a tune and another set of strings that can create chords for harmony. Martin pointed out that the Marxophone was still not a cheap instrument since it cost between \$20 and \$40 in the money of that era. "The traveling salesman would be out of town before the instruments he sold needed to be tuned. What a scam!" he commented.

Martin also explained how the reeds in a harmonica are arranged to create chords and how the terms "whole note," "half note" and "quarter note" originated.

Then he asked the audience, "Do you know the difference between a five-string and a four-string banjo?"

"One string?" someone suggested.

Martin said, "The five-string banjo burns longer." He spent only a short time demonstrating his banjo, saying that it was out of tune and he'd already tuned "hundreds of strings" that day to prepare



Curtis Martin strums a tune.

for the program.

Martin's collection includes a boat-shaped contraption called a hurdy-gurdy. It is like a stringed equivalent of a bagpipe: the player turns a crank on one end to produce a steady droning tone while playing a tune on wooden keys. It's not easy to tune or to play. Audience members will remember its distinctive sound for a long time.

Wanda and Darryl Diefes were sitting on the front row, enjoying the show, when Martin urged them to perform a

song on one of his guitars. "Come on, show everybody what the touch of the master's hand can do," he said.

They turned in a lovely impromptu performance of one of their favorite songs, "Give Yourself to Love," receiving generous applause. "What choice did we have?" Darryl Diefes said afterward.

Anthony Martin and Randolph Matthews were also invited to perform "Amazing Grace" as a duet on their own nose flutes. The touch of the masters' noses earned another round of delighted applause.

During a refreshment period after the demonstration, Martin welcomed audience members to handle many of his instruments and ask more questions. The Arts Council collected \$440 Friday night toward the \$1,000 they expect to need for light board materials. Mann said, "We're very, very pleased."

Mann, Martin and McLean think there could be more performances of this eclectic music style in the future.

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Crime briefs

Attempt One

Jimmy Eric Bright, 38, was the target of an attempted armed robbery at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, at the intersection of N.C. 214 and Pierce Cemetery Road, about two miles west of the stoplight in Hallsboro. Two males and a female were shown as the suspects in the sheriff's report filed by Deputy Antoine Freeman. The weapon used could have been a toy, according to the report.

There was only one break-in on rainy and cold Sunday, Feb. 7, reported by the Sheriff's Office. Walter James Ellis' home in the 14100 block of Rough-N-Ready Road, Cerro Gordo, was the target of unknown thief/thieves.

Ellis reported the theft of a shotgun, two TVs, coins, a bed comforter set and soft drinks.

Utility scammers call locals

Whiteville officials are warning residents that someone is calling local utility customers and demanding money for unpaid water, sewer and other bills.

"The caller ID looks like it might be a legitimate number," said the city's safety officer, Hal Lowder, "but it's not."

The flim-flam involves the caller warning the victim that their service will be disconnected without immediate payment via credit or debit card. They also attempt to get Social Security numbers of other personal information to "verify" the victim's identity.

The scammer then takes the victim's financial and personal information to obtain money and property, and the victim is left holding the bill.

Lowder said the city was first alerted to the scam when a couple who had paid their bill were contacted by an aggressive caller who demanded

the immediate payment. They went to the city water office about the call, Lowder said, and it was discovered the "collection call" was actually a scam.

The crime can be easily avoided, Lowder said.

"Never provide information of that kind to anyone over the phone or online unless you initiated the call, and are confident the person is legitimate," he said. "If you get a call claiming to be from a utility company, and they pressure you for this type of information, hang up and call the company's customer service line."

Although capturing such criminals is rare, Lowder said, phone scammers can be reported by calling 1-800-FTC-HELP, or local police.

Lowder said the best defense is simple.

"Just hang up on them," he said.

Break-ins, thefts

- Feb. 7 - Walter James Ellis, 14100 block of Rough-N-Ready Road, Cerro Gordo - break-in, theft of Remington Model 1100 12-gauge shotgun, 48-inch and 32-inch Emerson TVs, coins, bed comforter set, 12 cans of Pepsi-Cola.

- Feb. 6 - Billie Fitchett Leggett, Green's Mill Road, Clarkton - break-in, theft of 60-inch Sanyo TV, 55-inch Philips TV, 42-inch Sanyo TV, 32-inch Emerson TV, assorted clothing, Michael Kors watch, six Victoria Secret perfumes, two handheld Verizon tablets.

- Feb. 6 - Javier Cardona, Cypress Ridge Lane, Nakina - 18-pack Bud Light and six-pack Bud Light beers.

- Feb. 6 - Bernice Andrew Smith, Old Boardman Road, Evergreen - theft of white and yellow rooster, black-and-tan coon hunting dog, 100-pound bag of corn, mesh pan for eggs.

- Feb. 5 - Jamber Nichole Bryan, Will Inman Road, Tabor City - break-in, theft of Mossberg 12-gauge pump and .410 shotguns, Taurus 9mm pistol.

- Feb. 5 - Jessie Harold and Allen Lynn Hammond, 13900 block of Rough-N-Ready Road, Cerro Gordo - break-in, theft of Ithaca single-shot .22 rifle, Milwaukee Port band saw, jar of change, TV, container full of small items.

- Feb. 5 - Juana Maria Salerna, 13700 block of U.S. 76, Cerro Gordo - break-in, theft of Sharp TV, electric heater.

- Feb. 5 - Tiffany Lavane Evans, M.M. Ray Road, Nakina - theft of 50cc Yamaha dirt bike.

- Feb. 4 - Albert McLean Solomon, Tom Sessions Road, Whiteville - break-in of vehicle, any theft not shown.

- Feb. 4 - James E. Hill, N.C. 130, Whiteville - break-in, theft of Vizio TV, Microsoft Xbox and two controllers, 40-foot adjustable Weber ladder, two Stihl blowers, Stihl weed trimmer, Small toolbox full of hand tools.

- Feb. 3, Angela Clewis Rowe, 270 Shiloh Estates Rd., Whiteville - back door kicked in, no property reported stolen.

- Feb. 3, Tracy Joanne Lovette and Rodney Clifton Lee, 1939 Mino Meares Rd., Tabor City - two televisions, Wii system, 12 gauge Winchester XSP, 12 gauge Sears single shot, .410 Rossi single shot, .22 Remington rifle, two Daisy BB guns, .380 Jimenez handgun and holster, total value \$4,225, plus \$100 damages.

Medrano Express ordered to pay refunds, civil penalties

Shippers banned from N.C.

An international shipping company that failed to deliver packages is now permanently banned from operating in North Carolina and owes nearly \$800,000 in refunds and penalties, Attorney General Roy Cooper announced Oct. 27.

"Businesses that keep people's money and possessions but don't keep their word aren't welcome in North Carolina," Cooper said. "If you pay to have a package delivered, it should arrive or you should get your money back."

Under a default judgment signed by Wake County Superior Court Judge Donald Stephens, Medrano Express, Diamond Shipping, Inc., and individual defendant Jorge Medrano are permanently banned from the shipping business in North Carolina. The defendants cannot collect payment from North Carolina consumers for packages or shipping and cannot take advance payments for any type of business in the state.

The judgment includes consumer refunds of \$135,442.50 and civil penalties of \$660,000. The defendants have filed for bankruptcy and the Attorney General's Office has filed a proof of claim in the bankruptcy case to try to collect on the judgment. Cooper filed a lawsuit last year against Medrano Express asking the court to order the defendants to return all unshipped packages or reimburse consumers for the value of their contents. The Attorney General's Office filed the lawsuit after 118 consumers complained that Medrano Express never delivered packages, provided false shipping date estimates and failed to return undelivered packages or provide refunds. Medrano Express specialized in shipping items to Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Mexico. Based in Hempstead, N.Y., it also operated under the name Diamond Shipping. The company had locations in at least 20 states, including locations in Raleigh and Charlotte.

Any North Carolina consumer who shipped packages that didn't arrive through Medrano Express is welcome to file a complaint with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. Help is available at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM (toll-free within North Carolina) or (919) 716-0058 (Spanish language line). People can also file a consumer complaint online in English or Spanish at ncdoj.gov.



One person was ejected from this SUV Friday afternoon south of Whiteville near V&M Supply. A helicopter transported Joshua Thomas Sellers, 19, of Whiteville to New Hanover Regional, causing U.S. 701 to be shut down about 30 minutes.

Staff photo by Bob High

Murder

Continued from page 1-A

Hatcher expressed his gratitude for the patience shown by the victims' families, and he noted both the Thut and Reynolds-Gore families had been "very cooperative and assisted the investigators."

Attorney Butch Pope was appointed to defend Reynolds and attorney Bill Gore will handle Haynes's case. Both defendants were held without bond.



Justin Reynolds flanked by Baliff Emmitt Brown and defense attorney Butch Pope, made is first appearance in court Thursday, Feb. 4. Reynolds and a former girlfriend, Megan Haynes of Tabor City, are charged with two counts each of murder in the October 2014 deaths of Jeanette Thut, 74, and Reynolds mother, Donna Reynolds Gore, 55 living in Bolton.

Whiteville Police arrest county home invasion suspect

An early morning traffic stop from an unrelated case, according to the sheriff's office. He was jailed under a total secured bond of \$122,500.



Pierce

Whiteville Police reported that Pierce was a passenger in a car stopped for careless and reckless driving on Madison Street in the early morning hours of Feb. 3. He was wanted in connection to a Riegelwood home invasion on Dec. 15, when Pierce and another man are accused of breaking into a Hoover Road home and holding the residents at gunpoint.

Stericycle to pay N.C. \$2.7 for medical waste disposal overcharges

Stericycle Inc. will pay \$26.75 million, including \$2.7 million to North Carolina, for charging schools, health departments, colleges, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, Emergency Medical Services, and towns and cities millions of dollars more than it should have to dispose of medical waste, Attorney General Roy Cooper announced Oct. 12. The payment is part of a settlement to resolve allegations that the company violated U.S. and state false claims laws.

"Hiking prices unfairly isn't the way to do business with our schools, law enforcement and health departments," Cooper said. "We're cracking down on illegal schemes that waste tax dollars."

North Carolina, 12 other states and the federal government contend that Stericycle made false claims by requiring state and local government customers to pay fuel surcharges that did not reflect actual increases in the company's energy costs. The fuel surcharge - amounting to an 18 percent increase every nine months - violated prices set by contracts, according to a lawsuit filed by a whistleblower against the company.

The violations by Stericycle

False claim yields arrest

A "disturbance" in Tabor City assault had occurred, the report states, and Hammonds was upset because Hodge had asked her to "find a new place to live."



Hammonds

According to police reports, Tabor City officers were called to 400 Green Sea Road around 6 p.m. to investigate an assault. Tabor City Police reports show Eric Matthew Ward, 29, was jailed under a \$2,000 secured bond for traffic infractions and communicating threats. His address was listed as 690 Angelo's Court, Whiteville.

Witnesses told police no

assault had occurred, the report states, and Hammonds was upset because Hodge had asked her to "find a new place to live."

In the course of the investigation, officers discovered Hammonds had active warrants for a probation violation and possession with intent to sell and deliver synthetic marijuana. She was jailed under an \$11,000 secured bond.

Prior charges

A Whiteville man was arrested in a traffic stop at Tabor City after kicking a patrol vehicle and driving without insurance.



Ward

Tabor City Police reports show Eric Matthew Ward, 29, was jailed under a \$2,000 secured bond for traffic infractions and communicating threats. His address was listed as 690 Angelo's Court, Whiteville.

Patrolman Christopher Cotton reported that Ward, who has a criminal history of driv-

ing without insurance and driving while license revoked, was stopped for a traffic violation on U.S. 701 in Tabor City. The report notes that Ward said he was "not coming from work," and was on his way from a friend's car lot in Tabor City.

During the course of the traffic stop, Ward allegedly kicked a police car.

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Mary Wyche Mintz writes history of Lake Presbyterian Church

By CLARA CARTRETTE
Staff Writer

With the 100th anniversary of the Lake Waccamaw Presbyterian Church coming up in 2021, 97-year-old member Mary Wyche Mintz thought the church history should be recorded in a book that members, families and friends in the community could enjoy and preserve for generations to come.

It took about two years to complete, but the book has been published and is available for purchase for \$18 by calling (910) 770-1805.

Mintz, ever the modest woman, sought no credit for her tremendous research and writing of the book. She shies away from the spotlight and is sketchy with information about herself. However, anyone who lives in Southeastern North Carolina knows of her great record as a teacher for “about 50 years” and as a community resident.

However, Elizabeth Allen Andrews was fascinated with Mintz, so active at her age and remembering so much history, and started taking notes while talking to her. Andrews graciously shared that information so the reading audience will get a true picture of that grand lady, Mary Wyche Mintz. Andrews’ information accompanies this story.

Mintz said she made many trips to Elizabethtown, the capitol of the Coastal Carolina Presbytery, to gather history and she has talked to a lot of church members and former pastors. Donna Brown Askew did the typing for the book and Mintz gives credit to Henry B. Wyche Jr. and her daughter Mary McBryde for their assistance.

It is a beautiful book with an ivory and red hard cover featuring a drawing of the church on the front and a synopsis of Mintz’s research on the back. She said The art for the book cover design was painted by Agnes Lytton around 1956.

The book starts with the historical background of the Presbyterian Church that has its roots in Biblical times at Pentecost, beginning with the Acts of the Apostles who were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Mintz notes that the book traces the church’s humble beginnings in Hallsboro to its present day location. On the first page, The Minutes of the Session state that the Hallsboro Church was organized in 1915 by nine members. Chas. Rankin was elected Elder and Jno. W. Hall was elected Deacon. The year 1916 Rev. Dr. O.G. Jones conducted a series of services and 22 people were added to the church membership. Pastors listed were W.W. Morton, Rev. Stanley White and Rev. J.S. Crowley.

Mintz wrote that it was obvious that LWPC had its roots in Hallsboro. She wrote that the most reliable account of the origin of LWPC seems to be the one written by Margaret Hall Merritt about 1955. Merritt, daughter of Florence Meares Hall, lived at Hallsboro almost all of her life and had first hand knowledge of all that concerned the establishment of a Presbyterian church. Hall came to Hallsboro as a bride and for 18 years she and her two children, Margaret and John were the only Presbyterians in the area. The first Presbyterian Sunday School in Hallsboro was held in the living room of Hall’s house, and one young boy who attended later went to China as a missionary.

Some years later some of the Presbyterians moved away and the Hallsboro organization was dissolved. It would later become a part of the Lake Waccamaw church, which was organized on April 24, 1921 by a commission appointed by the Wilmington Presbytery.

Documentation

The book refers to many important documents, records, events and consults with various members of the congregation for their memo-



Mary Wyche Mintz looks through her new book.

Staff photo by FULLER ROYAL

ries of the church. Chapters review the church’s past congregations, ministers, elders, deacons, money matters, Sunday school, women of the church, music, flowers and groups since 1921, providing a rich history of the beautiful little church. Her goals were not only to record the church’s history, but to provide insight into what makes Lake Waccamaw Presbyterian such a special place to worship.

Mintz has remained an active member for many years, serving as a member of the Coordinating Team of the Presbyterian Women for the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. As historian and recording secretary from 1980-98 she worked diligently reading and summarizing histories so that all churches in the presbytery had a properly recorded history.

She has recorded the history of many church-supported groups and events in the community. One is Boys Home, when a lot of women of the church spent Sunday afternoons preparing sandwich suppers for the youth as they gathered for the evening services. The church established a kindergarten-age Girl Scout Daisy Troop and Mintz notes that only one girl was Presbyterian and other members were welcomed from other churches in Lake Waccamaw. Membership increased and a second troop was organized. With a focus on community service, scouts had fun, especially during sleepovers in the LWPC. Girls were taught to clean up after each event, a way to show their appreciation for use of the facility. Still another Scout group, a Junior Troop was organized later.

For several years Lake Waccamaw was the site of

the Good Shepherd Home, a facility to house recovering alcoholics. LWPC helped in many ways, sometimes swapping services. At one time Good Shepherd men did yard work for the church in return for the new tile bathroom at their home, or whatever else was needed. In the early 1980s the church made donations to the home, in addition to “love” offerings and Christmas gifts.

Men of the church had not been successful in maintaining a formal organization, but Mintz noted that men were the breadwinners for their families and could not always attend meetings. That changed in 1994 when Dr. David Allen Walker, the new minister, proposed having a breakfast gathering of men. They met the first Saturday of each month and invited men from Baptist and Methodist churches. That resulted in the three denominations rotating the meetings. From this group the Handyman Mission began and they have built many handicap ramps. Women of LWPC have contributed Bibles to be distributed wherever this mission work was done.

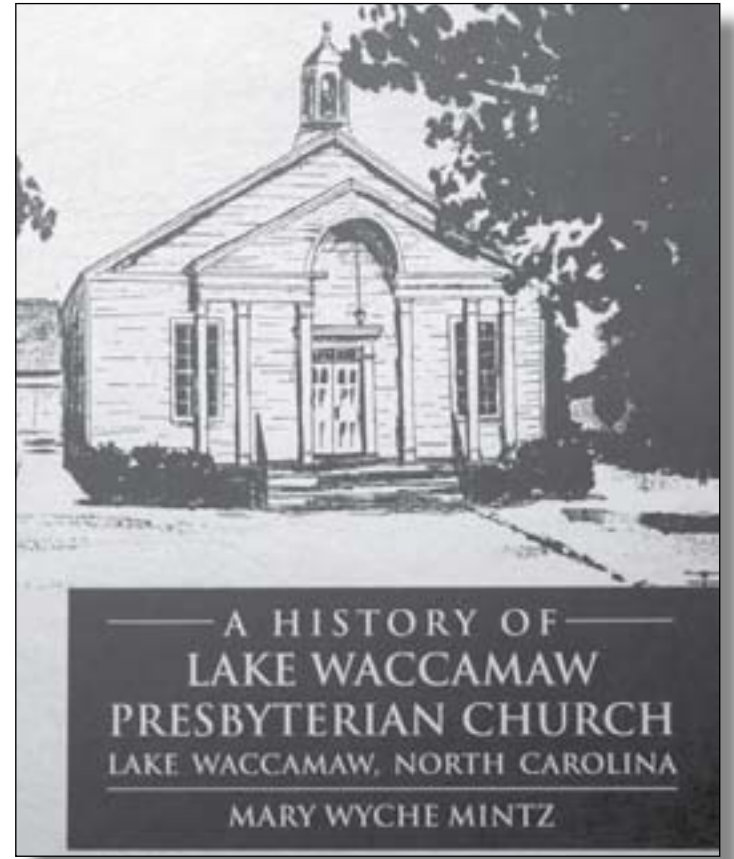
Mintz notes that men of the church have been the leaders and kept it alive, serving in every capacity from the ministers to the yard workers, and they have been generous with financial support.

There are notes on other LWPC ministries the church has undertaken, such as Vacation Bible School, the nursing home ministry, acolytes and how they were expected to perform and dress for the occasion. There are several pages of journaling about the restoration of the church undertaken in 2010, work that was done, fundraising

and names of donors. There are numerous photos made through the years of church members, pastors and groups of children.

The book contains a bibliography and a list of everyone Mintz interviewed, lists of infant baptisms, new members from 1962 through 2013, elders, choir members and additional information about the church music, including advice about music that was given at a July 25, 1954 service: “The Prelude is a veil dropped between everyday life and the sanctuary. The music, when you cross the threshold, should separate the world without from the world within. If you must whisper, let it be into the ear of your Heavenly Father.”

The book dedication, “For all the Saints,” was written by the Rev. Sommer F. Bower who stated that “This book is dedicated to all the saints of Lake Waccamaw Presbyterian who from their labors rest, as well as for the saints still living who will one day shine in glory.” She added that “A note of gratitude and appreciation



is extended to our author, Mary Wyche Mintz, for the painstaking care and love she

took while writing the history of the church. Her deep devotion can be felt on every page.”

New found friend writes about Mary Wyche Mintz

Compiled by
ELIZABETH
ALLEN ANDREWS

Mary Clayton Wyche Mintz was born at home in Hallsboro on May 11, 1918. Back then, doctors made house calls to tend the sick, deliver babies, etc. Her parents were James Avery Wyche and Olive McBryde Clark. She had six siblings: Graham, Paul, Cyril, Brett, Neil (a “blue baby” who died after three days) and one sister, Amy McBryde. Mary lives in the house in which she was born, a historic home built about 1882.

Mary decided at a young age that she wanted to be a teacher and likely was influenced by her parents, who were both teachers. Her mother taught school until she married and her father taught for a few years before becoming a mail carrier. He also worked part-time at Pierce & Co. after his father died. Eventually he became part owner of Pierce & Co.

A large wooden building that still stands on Red Bug Road served as the local schoolhouse. Mary attended grades one through five there before going to the new brick structure on Hwy. 74, which is now Hallsboro Middle School.

Mary was the oldest child in the family. Growing up, the three oldest boys played together and didn’t bother Mary much. After the younger children came along, Mary was a “little mother” to her only sister who was seven years younger, and also to her youngest brother.

After graduating from Hallsboro High School in 1934, she attended Meredith College in Raleigh and earned an A.B. degree in 1938. In 1940 she earned a Masters degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Further educational experiences included Columbia University in New York to study English, and a summer to study Shakespeare in England. While in England, Mary lived in a manor house on an estate owned by a viscount.

She also traveled to Mexico with her sister for a summer to study Spanish and lived in the home of a wealthy family. Mary enjoyed studying abroad and admitted that she didn’t get homesick.

Mary met her husband, Harry Luther Mintz Jr., while they were students at UNC-Chapel Hill.

They knew each other for about 10 years before they married on June 25, 1949. Although a Presbyterian, Mary married Harry in the Baptist Church in Hallsboro because the Presbyterian Church wasn’t large enough to accommodate all the guests.

She and her sister had a



Mary Wyche Mintz and Elizabeth Allen Andrews

double wedding and they wore identical dresses.

The couple lived in Harry’s hometown of Shallotte following their marriage. After Mary’s mother passed away, they moved to Hallsboro so that Mary could keep house for her father. She is the mother of three children: Graham Wyche Mintz, Mary McBryde Mintz and Henry Luther Mintz. Harry, Mary’s husband, was born Dec. 13, 1916 and passed away March 19, 1987 at the age of 71.

During her teaching career of more than 50 years, Mary taught in several schools, including New Hanover High in Wilmington, High Point High in High Point, and Hallsboro High School in Hallsboro. She mainly taught English, but also some Spanish, French and history. Additionally, she taught English for 13 years at Southeastern Community College and retired in 1990.

Reading, genealogy and cooking are Mary’s current hobbies, but in earlier years she also enjoyed gardening, traveling and needlework. Her favorite book is the Bible and her favorite authors are Shakespeare and Jane Austen.

A few of Mary’s honors, memberships and writings are:

- North Carolina’s English Teacher of the Year in 1980;
- Faculty Sponsor of the Hallsboro “Kin’lin” history periodical;
- Brown-Hudson NC Folklore Society award for her work on the “Kin’lin,” November 1987;
- Regent and registrar of the DAR chapter in Whiteville;
- FBLA Honorary Life Member;
- FFA Honorary Chapter Member;
- Lake Waccamaw Book Club member;
- Member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy;
- Member of Southeastern North Carolina Genealogy Society;
- Member of Alpha Delta Kappa - Honorary Teachers Society;
- Honorary Life Member-

ship presented by the Presbyterian Women (Presbyterian USA), May 6, 2007.

• Mary authored a book, “A History of Lake Waccamaw Presbyterian Church.” It was printed and became available for purchase in late December 2015 and has been well received by the community.

What an outstanding accomplishment for anyone, but especially a lady who is so capable at the age of 97 years.

About the bio

Approved by: Mary Wyche Mintz, Jan. 8, 2016

This document is the result of my personal curiosity to learn more about Mary Wyche Mintz.

“She is such an outstanding lady and I know that many pages of a book could be filled with stories from her teaching career. If I were a ‘real’ writer I would attempt such a book. Regardless, I wanted to share a brief summary of what I have learned about her,” Andrews wrote.

“I am in awe of Mary’s knowledge, talents and abilities, and honored to know such a fine lady who has been a teacher and mentor to thousands during a teaching career spanning more than 50 years. Some students who complained, ‘Mrs. Mintz is just too hard.’ look back and are thankful to have been her student

Mintz has modestly and quietly gone about doing good things in her community and for her church, the Lake Waccamaw Presbyterian Church.

“This independent lady still drives, shops, cooks, cleans and writes, amongst other things, at the fantastic age of 97,” Andrews wrote.

“I especially want to thank her for sharing information with me.

“It has been interesting and a joy to talk and visit with her. I am excited about our newly found friendship and look forward to learning even more about her in the days to come. She is amazing and an inspiration to those who know her, and most certainly to me,” Andrews wrote.

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Deaths

The News Reporter, Monday, February 8, 2016 -- 8A

DEATH NOTICE



ANN TAYLOR STANLEY
June 13, 1935 - Feb. 3, 2016

WHITEVILLE -- Ann Taylor Stanley, 80, of Whiteville, died Wednesday Feb. 3, 2016. A graveside service was held Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016 at Whiteville Memorial Cemetery.

Ann was a loving wife, mother, and Mema. Friends and family remember her as full of life and young at heart. She was always willing to listen, and she was never too busy to help and support those around her. Her love for others cannot be doubted, as it shone through her acts of service in the community; whether it was keeping the nursery, playing bingo at local nursing homes, or cooking meals for others.

She was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Whiteville. Her faith journey was an important part of her life, and now she is home with the Lord. She was a member of the Eastern Star.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents, Shelton Franklin Taylor and Ila Cook Taylor; and her brother, Arthur Taylor.

Survivors include her husband of 58 years, Bob Stanley of Whiteville; sons, Art Stanley (Martha Jo) of Wilson, Mark Stanley (Lisa) of Whiteville and Craig Stanley (Elizabeth) of Greenville; one brother, Franklin Taylor (Treena) of Baytown, Texas; grandsons, Zachary Stanley (Taylor), Fisher Stanley and Clay Stanley; granddaughters, Sarah Stanley, Katie Stanley and Emily Stanley.

The family would like to thank the special caregivers, Pearl Jackson and Vickie Parker.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church, 412 N. Madison Street, Whiteville, N.C. 28472.

Usher anniversary at Mt. Olive MBC

The pastor, Dr. Timothy A. Lance, officers, and members of the Usher's Ministry of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church invite your ushers and congregation to its usher's anniversary Sunday, Feb. 14 at 4 p.m.

There will be a musical drama "Usher me into the presence of the Lord" and musical guest will be the SMFC Singers of Lumberton.

All area church usher boards are invited to attend. Ushers are asked to be in uniform for a special "Usher's Salute."

The church is located at 5548 Silver Spoon Road.

Pleasant Grove MBC memorial benefit fund

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Calabash (Hwy. 17) will hold its fifth annual Memorial Benefit Fund drive Sunday, Feb. 21 at 4 p.m.

The theme for this event is "Where your shoe size matters." Various groups will be on the program singing the songs of Zion.

Timothy M. Randall is the pastor.

DEATH NOTICE



JOHNNY RAY DAVIS
WHITEVILLE -- Johnny Ray Davis, 58, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016 with his family by his side, after fighting a courageous battle with cancer. He was the son of the late Stencil Ray Davis.

He was a veteran serving in the U.S. Air Force.

The family received friends Friday, Feb. 5 at Worthington Funeral Home in Chadbourn. Final rites were held Saturday, Feb. 6 at the funeral home with Rev. Darren Moore officiating. Interment was in Rockwell Family Cemetery in Whiteville.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 36 years, Cynthia Russ Davis of the home; one son, John Bradley Davis of the home; his mother, Annette Thompson Davis of Whiteville; and three siblings, Shirley D. Callahan (Dwight-Preceded) of Whiteville, Juanita M. Coulson (Gordon) of Sunset Beach and Daniel Jeff Davis (Teresa) of Whiteville.

BEMC seeks community grant applications

Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) invites local agencies and groups to apply for a 2016 BEMC Community Grant. Begun in 2003, the program provides grants up to \$2,500 to local groups that provide family services programs, civic and community programs, cultural and arts programs, emergency services, and community development activities. The deadline to apply is Feb. 15.

Last year, 34 projects were selected from a field of more than 50 applicants to receive funding totaling about \$50,870 for projects in Brunswick and Columbus counties. Funding for these grants comes directly from proceeds from the equipment auction held at BEMC's annual membership meeting each September.

"These grants are used to help people of all ages in our communities; children and young families as well as those dealing with health issues, the homeless, and of course, our senior citizens," said Don Hughes, CEO and General Manager of BEMC. Since inception, more than \$410,000 in Community Grants has helped hundreds of projects benefiting citizens throughout the BEMC service area.

"This program is a very visible part of the co-op's ongoing commitment to community. It supplements our Bright Ideas educational grants for teachers, the Warm Homes, Warm Hearts community heating assistance campaign, and our participation in many other community efforts and events," said Hughes. "BEMC Community Grants are another way we can extend a helping hand to local community groups."

To learn more and how to apply visit www.bemc.org or call (800) 842-5871.

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AUSTEN STEVIE RAY COLLINS

LUMBERTON -- Austen Stevie Ray Collins, 17, formerly of Chadbourn, died Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016.

He was a junior at Fairmont High School where he played on the football team.

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

He is survived by his mother, Melanie Hammonds Collins of the home; his father, Pernell Stevie Ray Collins of Lehigh Acres, Fla.; three siblings, Christopher Gage Hammonds of the home, Kimberly Santana Pearson of Fair Bluff and Shaquille Stephon Collins of Whiteville; his maternal grandmother, Mary Quick Calder of Evergreen; and paternal grandmother, Joanna Turner Santes of Kinston.

JOSEPH WILKINS JR.

WINNABOW -- Joseph Wilkins, Jr., 82, formerly of Delco, died Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016 at the Brunswick Cove Living Center. He was the son of the late Joe Wilkins Sr. and Mildred Stubbs Wilkins.

A graveside service was held Saturday, Feb. 6 at Wilkins Cemetery in Freeman with Rev. Eddy Watts officiating. McKenzie Mortuary of Whiteville handled the arrangements.

Survivors include one daughter, Cathy W. Peterson of White Lake; two sons, Keith Wilkins and Travis Wilkins, both of Delco; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Progressive FHM monthly meeting

Progressive Friendly Household Ministry will hold its monthly meeting Saturday, Feb. 13 at 1 p.m. at Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church. All members are asked to attend.

For more information call Loris McClellan at 207-6574.

St. Paul AMEZ sets The Trinity

St. Paul AME Zion Church presents The Trinity-Father, Son, Holy Spirit Saturday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. The speaker will be Pastor Rev. Thomas Williams.

Also on the program will be Father-Rev. Jimmy McDuffie of Hills Chapel in Little Kelly, Son-Rev. Donald Mapson of Mt. Pleasant in Riegelwood and Holy Spirit-Rev. Robert Jacobs of St. John in the Freeman community.

The church is located at 507 Moneyhole Road.

For more information call John Howard at 231-4756.

Black History program Feb. 14

Lashoney Frink of Jerusalem Chapel Freewill Baptist Church will have a Black History Month program Sunday, Feb. 14 after church services.

Everyone is invited. For more information contact Frink at 234-9346.

HERMAN HART "HERSHEY" HIPPS

GREEN MOUNTAIN -- Herman Hart "Hershey" Hipps, 87, died Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016 at his home surrounded by his family and friends. He was a teacher and coach at Chadbourn High School during the 1950s.

A celebration of life was held Sunday, Feb. 7 at Higgins United Methodist Church in Burnsville. The family received friends Sunday, Feb. 7 one hour prior to the service at the church. Asheville Mortuary Services handled the arrangements.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ada Lee Bailey Hipps; children, Kitty Hipps Carter of Green Mountain, Boice Riggins Hipps of Sarasota, Fla. and Larry Henderson of Burgaw; seven brothers; one sister; nine grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Yancey County.

DURHAM ANDERSON

NICHOLS, S.C. -- Durham Anderson, 72, died Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016 at his home. Born Aug. 30, 1944, he was the son of the late Alies Anderson and Levern Anderson. He was a lifelong farmer.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8 at Meares Funeral Home of Fair Bluff. Final rites will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9 at the funeral home. Burial will be in Powell Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Thomason Anderson of Nichols, S.C.; one sister, Rebecca Maples of Lugoff, S.C.; one son, Barret of Easley, S.C.; one son of one's own heart, Russ of Charlotte; and four grandchildren.

ANNIE MAE THURMAN

HALLSBORO -- Annie Mae Thurman, 80, died Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice and LifeCare Center in Whiteville.

Viewing was held Sunday, Feb. 7 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home in Whiteville with Eastern Star rites. Final rites will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 8 at Mt. Hebron AME Zion Church with Revs. Alonzo Braggs and Maria Lacewell officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Hebron Memorial Garden. Viewing will be held Monday, Feb. 8 one hour prior to the service at the church. There will be no viewing following the service.

She is survived by one son, Manwell Thurman of Whiteville; three sisters, Mamie Brown of Bolton, Mary Lewis of Lumberton, Joanna Williams of Hallsboro; and three brothers, Leroy Thurman of Waterbury, Conn., Evander Thurman of Danbury, Conn. and Larry Thurman of Hallsboro.

Friends may visit the family at the home of Joanne Williams, 99 Thurman Road.

AKRA 'PEDRO' MERRITT JR.

BLADENBORO -- Akra "Pedro" Merritt Jr., 70, died Friday, Feb. 5, 2016.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 8 with Rev. Danny Lewis officiating. Bladen-Gaskins Funeral Home of Elizabethtown is handling the arrangements.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen Merritt of the home; one daughter, Heather Merritt of North Myrtle Beach, S.C.; two brothers, Graham and Michael Merritt, both of Tarheel; and one sister, Gail Merritt of Elizabethtown.

SANDRA LOGAN

WHITEVILLE -- Sandra Logan, 50, died Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016 at her residence.

Final rites will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11 at First St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Lester Frink and Pastor Tracey Troy officiating. Burial will be in Campground Cemetery. Viewing will be held from noon-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home and Thursday, Feb. 11 one hour prior to the service and following the service at the church.

She is survived by her mother, Mattie L. Logan of the home; and her siblings, Sylvia Logan and Mattie Lean Logan, both of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. and Henry Logan of Whiteville.

JAMES NATHAN GRAHAM

NEW JERSEY -- James Nathan Graham, formerly of the Welches Creek community of Whiteville, has passed away.

Arrangements will be announced by Smith Funeral Home of Whiteville.

MARIE CAPEHEART

CHADBOURN -- Marie Capehart, 95, died Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016 at Columbus Regional Healthcare in Whiteville.

Arrangements will be announced by D&A Funeral Service of Chadbourn.

LARRY A. MCNEIL

MEBANE -- Larry A. McNeil, 56, died Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016 at Alamance Regional Medical Center in Burlington.

Arrangements will be announced by Westside Funeral Service in Tabor City.

Education Lottery sets sales and earnings

For the 9th year in a row, the N.C. Education Lottery set new records in sales and earnings in fiscal year 2015, raising \$522 million for education programs in the state.

As the lottery ended its fiscal year on June 30, preliminary and unaudited results showed lottery ticket sales totaled \$1.97 billion, up 7.2 percent from the year before. The lottery raised \$522 million for education, up 3.8 percent.

"This success comes from North Carolinians enjoying our lottery games and winning prizes," said Alice Garland, executive director of the lottery. "Our job is to operate fair and honest games and to encourage those who choose to play to play responsibly. The result is extra money for good causes. The popularity of our games combined with the hard work of our retail partners and lottery employees enabled us to raise the most money ever for education."

During the year, prizes of \$1 million or more were won 55 times. Total prize money won was \$1.23 billion, or on average about \$3.4 million a day. Many winners put their money right back to work in the economy, by paying bills, buying new houses or cars, taking vacations, saving and investing the money for re-

tirement or college, or donating to personal good causes.

Garland said after nine years it was good to see interest and participation in the lottery continuing to grow.

The number of retailers interested in selling lottery tickets grew to the highest number ever, 6,901, up 127 from the year before. Retailers earned \$137.7 million in commissions, up \$9 million. More than 588,000 North Carolinians have joined the lottery's Lucke-Zone, a website where they can get lottery news, ask questions about lottery games, and enter second-chance drawings and other promotions. The lottery launched its fourth draw game played only in North Carolina, All or Nothing. The new game is the only one where you win a top prize of \$250,000 by matching all or none of the numbers.

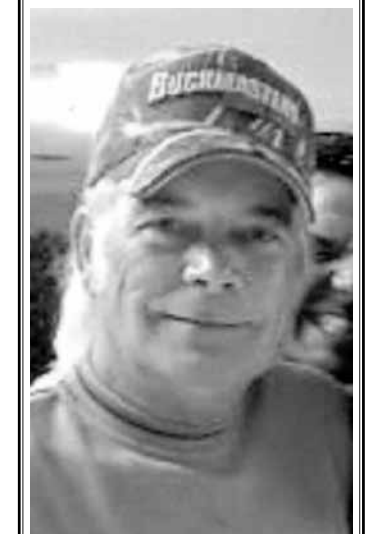
Along with the growth in participation, the lottery strengthened its programs to encourage responsible play. During the year, the Education Lottery became the 5th U.S. lottery to achieve one of the top certifications from the World Lottery Association for its responsible gaming program. The Level 3 certification attests that the Education Lottery has established the resources and programs to support top principles of

responsible gaming governing the protection of players, cooperation with others interested in problem gambling, and advertising practices.

Final transfers of revenues to the state in June brought the lottery's total contribution since inception to more than \$3.9 billion. Legislators allocated lottery proceeds to help pay salaries of teachers and teacher assistants; help counties with construction and repair of schools, help North Carolina students pay the cost of going to a state university or community college, and help "at-risk" four-year-olds attend an academic preschool in the N.C. Pre-K Program.

Gone but not forgotten Barry Norris

2-8-56 ~ 2-25-15



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Black History program Feb. 21

Piney Grove AME Zion Church of Clarkton will hold its annual Black History program Sunday, Feb. 21 at 4 p.m.

The theme is "Where have we been, where are we now, and where are we going?"

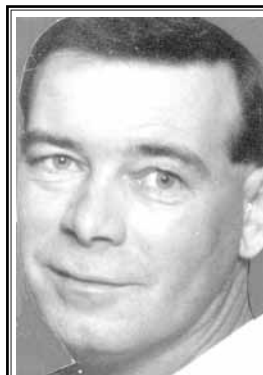
The featured guests will be the group Totally Committed.

Barry Norris

2-8-56 ~ 2-25-15

Buddy, this past year has been hard for all of us. I would give anything to see you Son. But my greatest consolation is knowing that you are in Heaven, waiting for us. We Love and miss you.

Mama, Marty, Darryl, Jody, and all the grandchildren #6085



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The made-over fourth-floor nurse's station.



Actor Benjamin Walter runs along the east corridor of the CRH fourth floor.



British actor and Oscar nominee Tom Wilkinson waits outside a fourth-floor CRH room in a scene with Benjamin Walker, center, and Teresa Palmer, right.

Hospital has much screen time in new Sparks film

By FULLER ROYAL
Staff Writer

Columbus Regional Healthcare is a "major player" in the new film adaptation of author Nicholas Sparks' "The Choice."

It's not the first production Columbus Regional has hosted, but it's the biggest.

The hospital's interior was first used for several episodes of 1994's "The Road Home" starring Karen Allen.

And, several years ago it was the first choice for scenes for "One Tree Hill," but scheduled inspections of the hospital prevented the production from using the 39-year-old facility.

"The Choice" cast and production crew shot scenes on the hospital's fourth floor – and at the main entrance on the east end of the building – in the fall of 2014.

The fourth floor received a makeover for the multi-



The poster for "The Choice" features Walker and Palmer.

million dollar production.

The film stars Benjamin Walker (*In the Heart of the Sea* and *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*), Teresa Palmer (*Warm Bodies* and *The*

Sorcerer's Apprentice), Tom Wilkinson (*The Patriot* and *Batman Begins*), Tom Welling (*Smallville* and *Cheaper by the Dozen*), Alexandra Daddario (*San Andreas* and *Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters*) and Maggie Grace (*Taken I, II and III*).

Also in the film with the multi-scene speaking role of "Matt" is Jesse Boyd, the grandson of retired CRH LPN/pharmacy tech Mary Sue Green.

Sneak preview

Last Thursday night, more than 150 CRH employees were treated to a sneak preview showing of "The Choice" at the Coastal Stadium Cinemas in Shallotte.

During the screening, hospital employees reacted to seeing dozens of shots of their workplace on the big screen.

One excited staffer pointed out her "fourth-floor crash cart" when the camera panned by.

Voter

Continued from page 1-A

IDs include an N.C. driver's license or DMV-issued identification card, U.S. passport or passport card, military identification card, veteran's identification card, and certain tribal enrollment cards.

Faulkner also provided clarification on mismatches between addresses shown on the voter's ID and the addresses that may be listed in the poll book.

"Your address on your ID does not have to match the address in the poll book – where you live does," she said.

This point may be helpful for college students that are unsure whether they have to return to their hometowns to vote or if they should update their registrations to their current address at college.

Mail-in absentee voting is always an option.

Faulkner also provided examples of "substantially equivalent" names should the voter's name on their ID not match their name in the poll book.

Examples included Joseph Jackson Jr. compared to Joe Jackson and Suzanne being listed simply as Sue.

Acceptable differences include omission of one or



Jennifer Faulkner of the State Board of Elections Voter Outreach makes a presentation to county residents.

more parts of the name; the use of a variation or a nickname instead of a formal name; the use of an initial in the place of one of more parts of a given name; use of a former name, including maiden names or a variation that includes or omits hyphens; ordering of names; and variations in spelling or typographical errors.

Local DMV offices can issue a North Carolina identification card for the purposes of voting.

State residents who are

legally blind, at least 70 years of age, who are homeless, or who have been issued a driver's license which has subsequently been cancelled as a result of a physical or mental disability or disease are eligible to receive a free DMV-issued photo ID card.

The State Board of Elections has a Voter Outreach Team available to answer any questions voters may have and may be reached at (866) 522-4723 or by email at VoterOutreach.sboe@ncsbe.gov.

Mold

Continued from page 1-A

basement in 2012 while the problem was evaluated.

Inspectors noted large amounts of asbestos as well as mold in the basement area and the French drainage system.

Estimates to clean, strip and seal just the basement were in excess of \$600,000, before restoring the basement area to usable status.

Unofficial estimates to eradicate the mold and make all necessary repairs to the entire building call for two to three million dollars.

City council made the decision to temporarily close the entire building last fall after employees and citizens complained of mold in the main office area.

At least one water customer had to leave the building due to an allergic reaction to the mold.

On warm days, the mold and mildew could be smelled from the sidewalk along Columbus Street, more than 20 feet away.

Mayor Terry Mann and Councilwoman Sarah Thompson have continued to be strong advocates for keeping the city offices downtown, and restoring the Whitley

Building if there is any way possible.

Other board members



The Columbus County Partnership for Children is in need of gently used children's books to be used in various literacy projects for the agency. Anyone with books that are suitable for children ages birth to 5 should consider donating them to the Partnership. Books for donation may be delivered to the Smart Start Early Learning Facility, 107 W. Main St. in Whiteville. For additional information, call (910) 642-8226.

have mentioned possibly tearing down the Whitley Building.

The city bought a former rental home beside the city hall last year for possible future expansion.

Filling the basement with sand or concrete – an option half-jokingly suggested by former city manager Larry Faison when the mold was discovered – would cost more than \$1 million, and pumping more than one million pounds of concrete into the basement would likely cause the foundation to collapse, according to City Manager Darren Currie.

Official estimates to restore the building have not been assembled.



This is the oldest known photograph of Boy Scouts in the Cape Fear Council. Made in 1917, it shows Boy Scouts at Camp Penton, at Lake Waccamaw. Penton was a YMCA camp the Scouts made use of for one week each year. These Scouts, most likely from Wilmington, were photographed after "church services" by the lake.

100 years

Continued from page 1-A

Camp Bowers and the John A. McNeill Cub Scout World. Guests are invited to visit and explore.

The Klahican Order of the Arrow lodge will conduct special programs for the visitors.

On Thursday, March 17, the anniversary date of the charter, the council is hosting

a 100th Anniversary recognition banquet at the Hilton Riverside in Wilmington at 6:30 p.m.

The 112 young men who earned their Eagle ranks during the past year will be recognized as well as the five new recipients of the Silver Beaver Award.

The Silver Beaver is the highest honor Scouting can bestow on a volunteer at the council level.

On, March 19, the Lakes District BSA (Columbus and Bladen counties) will host its annual Scout Show and Pine-wood Derby at the Columbus County Fair Grounds.



FEBRUARY SPECIALS

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Prices Good February 1-29, 2016

<p>LANCE Popcorn 3.5 Oz.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">\$1.29</p>	<p>All Fountain Drinks 16, 24 & 32 Oz.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">69¢</p>	<p>2 Liter Pepsi 2/\$3.33</p> <hr/> <p>2 Liter Coke 2/\$3.33</p>
<p>Rock Star 16 Oz.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">2/\$3.00</p>	<p>AMP 16 Oz.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">2/\$3.00</p>	<p>6 Pack Cans Coke Products 2/\$3.00</p>

Sam's Pit Stop

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



Editorials

The News Reporter, Monday, February 8, 2016

Take no chances at the polls

The turnout at the voter ID information session last week at the National Guard Armory was encouraging.

People care about their right to vote – as they should.

In recent years, voter turnout has steadily declined in most elections. In the 2015 municipal elections in Columbus County we saw firsthand how some races were decided by one vote.

Voters will decide a county commissioners race and a state bond referendum, among other important decisions, on March 15 during the primary election.

The point Voters shouldn't let confusion over the new voter ID law prevent their ballot from being counted. Get educated now about what is needed

All voters should be aware that their vote matters, but because of new laws, so does having a photo ID.

There are many exceptions to the law. Elections officials say no voters will be turned away but it is best to be safe rather than sorry.

When the law was adopted by the state legislature in 2013, it was one of the strictest voter ID laws in the country. More than 300,000 registered voters did not have the proper ID required under the new law.

Some people can't imagine not having a state-issued photo ID, but for some it is a reality.

Lawsuits followed the passage of the new law.

Lawmakers added exceptions to the law last year. For example, a person with no ID may vote a provisional ballot by signing an affidavit and presenting alternate forms of ID.

The law does not disenfranchise anyone according to supporters, but in practice, it could.

The best option is for voters to educate themselves about the new law.

Like it or not, the General Assembly has shortened the early voting period, eliminated same-day registration and created confusion about what it takes to make your vote count on March 15. It is up to voters to make sure their vote counts.

The State Board of Elections has a Voter Outreach Team available to answer any questions voters may have and may be reached at (866) 522-4723 or by email at VoterOutreach.sboe@ncsbe.gov.

Quotes of the week

"This (county) board committed \$75,000 in taxpayer dollars and that board needs to be totally diversified."

– Columbus County Commissioner Chairman Buddy Byrd on the Columbus County Veterans Park Board.

"The veterans park committee is composed of volunteers. Fred Gore volunteered along with the rest of them ... We have no respect of whether a person is black, red, yellow, green or white. All served together; died together and lived together. Any of you who want to volunteer, regardless of race or ethnic background, we will put you to work."

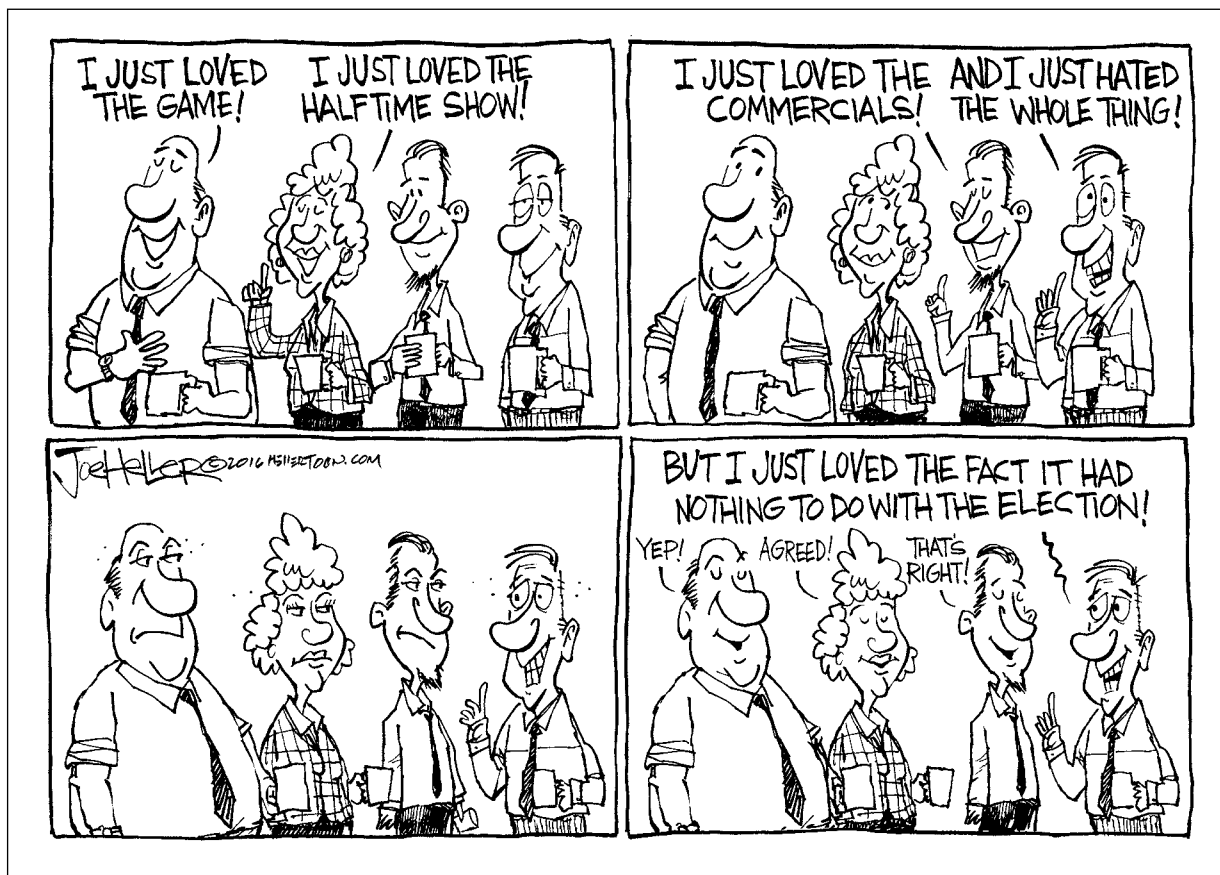
– Robert Adams, husband to Anita Adams, vice president of the veterans park committee.

"We never anticipated anything like that."

– Co-Chair and founder of the Women of Worth Conference sponsored by Western Prong Baptist Church. The weekend event was sold out with more than 750 attending.

"The education lottery's not an education lottery anymore."

Commissioner James Prevatte who expressed concern last week for how proceeds from the N.C. Education Lottery are distributed.



Running away on a rainy day

By JEFFERSON WEAVER
Staff Writer

When the geese joined the chickens and rabbits on the porch, I knew any plans for a day outside were washed away.

I normally won't let a frigid wind or even a driving rain keep me inside; snow and ice accumulating in my beard are not a problem. A discomfort and annoyance, perhaps, but spending too much time inside walls makes me nervous and restless.

A spiteful Februrarian nor'easter, however, brought such a plague of meteorological misery that I threw my hands up in disgust. When the geese sought high ground, I knew it was time to seek other pursuits.

Television bores me after a certain point, especially when the Springsteen song, 57 Channels and Nothin's On, proves exponentially prophetic with satellite television on Super Bowl Sunday. Thankfully, I had a backup plan.

From before I can remember, my parents and siblings read to me; I learned a love of books early on, and it served me well as a chubby, awkward kid with few friends except for a loyal dog. One is never alone nor does one have to be lonely as long as there is a book close at hand.

I am shocked whenever I hear of a child, or especially a grownup, who doesn't know the joy that comes with even a few good friends with battered covers, dog-eared pages and broken spines. Perhaps I shouldn't be surprised, what with the speed at which life passes nowadays, as well as the digitalization of nigh onto everything. It was on a day similar to the one I relate when the father of a schoolmate rightly predicted that video games would "change everything for the bad." His son, a friend of mine, had received a video gaming system for his birthday, and since foul weather precluded our outside activities, the party moved indoors, where the Atari dominated the television set (and our attention).

That was a year or three after scarlet fever kept me at home and in bed for a week. By Saturday, I was better, but not well. Mother took note of how I complained about not being able to go to the barbershop

with the Old Man and listen to the World War II vets spin tales, so she went somewhat secretly yard selling. A brown grocery bag that cost about a buck brought home enough treasures that I didn't want to go to church that Sunday, much less to school on Monday.

I was perfectly happy, as a cold rain tried to freeze against the big window in my bedroom, to spend time with Col. Robert Scott as P-40 airplane pilots fought a valiant, losing battle in the Philippines. I was warm as David Richardson took over that fight when the last of the planes and torpedo boats were destroyed.

As my fever finally gave up its fight, I sweated alongside Peter Hat h a w a y Capstick as Cape buffalo and man-eating lions hunted their hunters. Louis L'Amour and I chased outlaws, rustlers and renegades, whilst Mark Twain taught me the rudiments of river navigation (which were all but useless on the brownwater streams of my childhood).

Another of Mother's yard sale safaris yielded a treasure that causes many to shudder – a nearly complete set of slightly water-stained, second printing collection of Edgar A. Poe. Most of those books were read to destruction, sometimes by a flashlight under the covers, sometimes (rarely) read aloud by my father. I suppose they were and are valuable, but as books, they were priceless.

We had a room in the old house on Divine Street that was called the Library, and it was called such with good reason. The Old Man had a certain dramatic flair that only came through when he was reading aloud; he was of the last generation where that was considered a normal family activity, and had learned from some of the best. Comfortable in his rocking chair, Papa could bring any story to life, whether it was the Nativity in Luke or the Adventures of Brer Rabbit.

Although I became something of a gourmet later on – well, let's face it, a literary snob, like many college kids – my reading tastes were more gourmand when I was a kid, as they became again around the time I got married. Pulp detective novels kept me warmer than my woodstove one cold, strange winter, while Doc Savage dealt out his own style of saving the world, and Mike Hammer his own brand of justice. I am still very fond of a particular series of mysteries from the 1930s, which recounted the adventures of three private detectives, a young couple and their flippant, stylish friend.

In those years where I was trapped in one city or another, attempting to make a living, Hugh Glass and Jeremiah Johnson made places by their campfires for me. Ruark and I hunted quail and practiced translating Kikuyu to Swahili as I languished in a cookie-cutter apartment surrounded by other modern cave dwellers whose lives consisted of volleyball, beer and mild debauchery. Lawrence handed me the detonator as we waited for the Imperial German train to round a bend and fall into the hands of the Bedouins, the same robed horsemen whose fathers slew Gordon at Khartoum. I watched sadly as a Lost Generation led by Fitzgerald, Huxley, and Hemingway yielded to the reins of a restless generation captained by Orwell and Thompson.

I am sure that, had I the patience, I could have found something somewhat worthwhile on the television; after all, my friend Salome Veres and her husband have a better-than-average television program where they hunt the same ground once tread by Hemingway and Ruark. The retro channels prove that color isn't necessary to produce a half-hour's escape from the dreary misery that washes away the hopes of a day away from the office.

Instead, I was more content to spend time with some of my old friends, riding the dusty trails, trapping beaver in streams that had never seen a white man's hand, and saving the world from evil.

I do pity those who don't know the smell and feel of a beloved book; they have no real way to run away on a rainy afternoon.

That's one

By RAY LUNDY
Special to The News Reporter

An elderly couple was celebrating their 50th Anniversary, and everyone was ecstatic. One of the people in attendance asked the man: "How in the world did you stay married so long? What is the secret of your success? You never had a quarrel?"

The old man said that it was quite easy. "We never had a quarrel, and I'll tell you why. On our wedding day my wife wanted a horse-drawn carriage, and I thought it a splendid idea. After the wedding, as we were leaving the church, the horse proceeded about three hundred yards and stopped. My wife said: "That's one." The horse proceeded on down the road another three hundred yards and stopped again. My wife said: "That's two." The groom

wondered what in the world his new wife was doing, and then the horse stopped about another three hundred yards down the road. "That's three," the newly-married wife said. She pulled a pearl-handled derringer from her tiny purse and shot the horse in the head killing him stone cold dead. She slipped her pretty little pearl-handled pistol back into her dainty little purse.

And I said, "Darling, what are you doing? You've killed a perfectly good horse." "That's one," said his lovely bride. "We've been happily married ever since," he said.

Two Irishmen, fresh from the old country, were on a train in the Rockies. Both had never eaten a banana. Sean takes his banana out and peels it, and as he takes his first bite the train goes into a tunnel. In a minute Sean says

to brother: "Ian, do not eat the banana. It will cause you to go stone blind."

In Colonial Days, some churches had head knockers: men with long sticks with brass knobs on the end. If a congregant was caught sleeping during the sermon, the head knocker gently tapped the sleeper on the shoulder or head.

One man, sound asleep, was tapped gently by the head knocker. The man continued sleeping. The head knocker hit him harder. The man slept on.

The head knocker hit the man too hard, causing him to fall into the aisle. The head knocker tried to wake him three times, and all the man did was mumble. The head knocker put his ear to the sleeper's lips, and the sleeper said softly: "Hit me again; I can still hear him." Amen.

North Carolina could be a player

By TOM CAMPBELL

You've no doubt heard the spin put on the outcome of the Iowa caucuses, but when you cut through the noise this week's vote was a good indicator of what to expect going forward. The table is set for a most unusual presidential nomination process and North Carolina could play a big role in it.

By the time our Primary Elections are held, 29 other states will have had votes for one or both parties, notably the big states of Texas, Georgia, Virginia and Massachusetts on March 1st. In addition to North Carolina, four of the 10 most populous states, including Florida, Ohio and Illinois, vote on March 15.

Our legislature set this date, hoping North Carolina might once again have a real voice in the nomination outcome, but we have serious doubts this will be the case.

If Florida is hotly contested we might not experience a flood of candidate appearances or strong advertising, due largely to a decision the state Republican Party made to award convention delegates proportionally instead of employing a winner-take-all system. Major candidates might decide to skip our state in favor of ones where the potential payoff is larger.

If you want to know why North Carolina politicians are paying so much attention to primaries just ask former Senator Elizabeth Dole and candidate Pat McCrory, both defeated by the 2008 coattails of Barack Obama. North Carolina candidates recognize that the person at the top of their respective party ballot can have a huge effect of their own chances, especially in the important offices of governor, attorney general and state treasurer.

While the official Iowa winners were Ted Cruz and Hillary Clinton, the real winners were Marco Rubio and Bernie Sanders. Front-runners in the polls didn't fare as well as projected. Donald Trump was the big loser. The Republican beauty pageant is essentially reduced to three candidates, with the possible addition of a fourth emerging from New Hampshire or South Carolina who could hang on deep into the selection process.

GOP party leaders breathed a sigh of relief that Rubio demonstrated himself a viable contender; thinking he may be the consensus candidate who can actually win in November. Democrats are still uneasy. Clinton squeaked out a victory but obviously has a lot of baggage. Sanders attracted younger voters and exit polls reported he was the most trustworthy Democrat. He no doubt benefited from an anti-Hillary vote.

Iowa confirmed several things. Iowa voters proved polls are not infallible. We saw the anger and disillusionment of the electorate, especially among the white middle-class and younger voters. But the candidates who did well were those with strong grass-roots organizations. They always trump flashy candidates grabbing media attention. Both Rubio and Sanders will now get a huge boost in momentum and a strong flow of dollars needed to wage the fights ahead.

Our best advice is to discount the polls, mute the back and forth

See Campbell, page 12-A

Write 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.



Tom Campbell



Jefferson Weaver

McDONALD'S PRESENTS

Whiteville High School



Jordan Thompson

Sophomore Jordan Thompson is the 15-year old daughter of Mike and Becky Thompson. She has been involved in the school's cheerleading squad, softball team, art club, band and dance group. Softball is her favorite activity. "There's something about being on the field that makes me happy," she said. She said that every day she goes home – if she doesn't have cheer practice – she does homework. "I normally have lots of homework," Jordan said. Homework is the one thing she said she'd change about the school. "It can be too much sometimes." Dance is her favorite class and other than softball is what she does best. "I'm okay at it, but I love making new friends," she said. She likes all of the educational opportunities as well as the extracurricular activities Whiteville High offers. She said most people don't realize she is very devoted to making good grades and her lowest grade during the last nine weeks was a 96. After high school she'd like to go to N.C. State University and become a pediatric therapist.

East Columbus High School



Derek Solomon

Derek Solomon has a can-do attitude. "I never quit, no matter what the outcome is," he said. "I'm proudest of the way our basketball team always keeps working and never quits," Solomon said. "One of my favorite things about East Columbus is the way our sports are set up, and because of the way our coaches train us." The 11th grader is the son of Albert and Tammy Solomon, and said his two favorite classes are agricultural mechanics and physical education. "They both have a lot of hands-on activities," he said. Solomon stays busy as a member of the varsity basketball and baseball teams, FFA, and ag mechanics. He hopes to go to college to become a welder after high school. "I like being involved with all of my classes and the students at ECHS," he said.

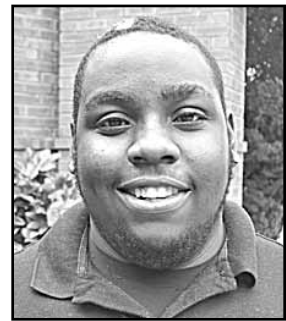
West Columbus High School



Shamekia Vereen

Eighteen-year-old senior Shamekia Vereen is the daughter of Lisa Williams and Randolph Vereen of the Mt. Olive community. "I like how the teachers at West Columbus are so involved with students and how students show so much school spirit," she says. She has been involved in the WCHS girls' bowling team for two years, is on the yearbook staff and is a member of the Beta Club. She adds, "I am proud that I get to graduate in June and go to college." She says that most people don't know that she is "really goofy" and "laughs at everything." After high school, she hopes to attend UNC-Chapel Hill and become a doctor of physical therapy. Shamekia's favorite musical performer is J. Cole, her favorite book is "To Kill a Mockingbird" and her favorite movie is "Friday." Mac and cheese is her favorite food and her favorite non-school activity is going to the beach.

South Columbus High School



Jonathan Chestnut

Jonathan Chestnut is the 17-year-old son of Alice Chestnut and Franklin McCray. He said what he likes best about South Columbus High School is "the staff members because they help us strive for greatness." His favorite classes are Spanish II and English IV "because of the teachers and learning environment." His hobbies include fishing and football. He enjoys going to church. He said that most people may not know that he is a "conscientious older brother." Chestnut has been accepted at East Carolina, UNC-Greensboro, Fayetteville State, and Wingate University, but plans to attend ECU and major in computer science. His favorite book is "The Lightning Thief," his favorite movie is "Legion" and favorite food is pizza.



COLUMBUS STUDENTS of the week



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A sign in front of Dale's Seafood at the Lake warns motorists of the pending detour.

Canal Cove detour starts Feb. 22 at Lake

Despite multiple delays, the Canal Cove Bridge project is scheduled to get underway Feb. 22.

By JEFFERSON WEAVER
Staff Writer

A drive along Canal Cove Road at Lake Waccamaw will become a lot longer Feb. 22.

The Canal Cove Bridge, which spans the outlet between the canal and the lake, will be closed for 75 days during a replacement project. The Department of Transportation said in an announcement the cost for that portion of a larger, \$11.3 million contract with E.S. Wagner Co. is just over \$300,000.

The roughly 5.3 mile detour will take travellers from Canal Cove Road along Flemington Drive, down N.C. 214 to Giles Byrd Road, across Dupree Landing and Wooded Acres roads, back to Canal Cove Road.

The bridge, which was built

in 1954, was the last part of a resurfacing and grading project on the busy stretch of road. Canal Cove is within the town limits, but is a state-maintained road. The bridge will be replaced by an aluminum box culvert in a project expected to take up to 45 days to complete.

The project has been rescheduled twice – last spring and again last fall – to avoid the busy season at the lake. The project was delayed last year due to concerns over rights of way, raised by a neighboring property owner, according to the Department of Transportation. Town officials are also finalizing details of how to handle wastewater that is transferred through a pipe along the bridge. The pipe will be briefly cut during the bridge replacement, and the town is working with the contractor to minimize the duration of the outage. A date for that portion of the project has not been announced.

Sandyfield clerk wins LGFCU scholarship

Sandyfield town clerk Claudia Bray will soon be going back to school.

Bray was recently tapped for a Local Government Federal Credit Union (LGFCU) scholarship to the UNC School of Government.

She was in the last round of winners for 2015, and will use the money to attend the course Clerks' Certification Institute at the School of Government (SOG) at UNC-Chapel Hill.

"The credit union is proud to partner with the School of Government to offer these scholarships to North Carolina's local government employees," said LGFCU President Maurice Smith.

"As a result, these LGFCU members are able to strengthen their skills and enhance their job performance, thereby better serving their communities."

The SOG is the largest university-based local govern-



Claudia Bray

ment training, advisory and research organization in the United States, offering classes, seminars, schools and specialized conferences for more than 12,000 public officials each year.

Bray has been Sandyfield's clerk for five years.



Staff photos by FULLER ROYAL

A paint crew member, 125-plus feet up on the Smith Street water tower, pulls up a bucket full of equipment.

Work gets underway on water tanks

By JEFFERSON WEAVER
Staff Writer

Crews began work this week on a major rehabilitation and painting of Whiteville's water tanks.

The contract with Utility Services Group was approved in December, and is the first overall refit of the tanks in years. The \$82,313 contract will provide for painting, repairs and removal of lead-based paint from the 1950s era tower on Smith Street uptown.

City Manager Darren Currie said the northern tower will be offline for 10 to 12 weeks, but city water residents should notice no difference in pressure.

"The framework you see around the tank (uptown) right now is for containment of the lead-based paint," he said.

Utility Service Group will monitor and maintain the tanks, and make any repairs needed during the contract's three-year life span. The firm has been used by a number of local governments and water systems across the state, Currie said.

"Contracting this work out allows us to free up staff for other duties, as well as having a professional in the field keep track of the condition of the tanks," Currie said.

Through the years, Currie explained, the tank has either



A \$82,313 contract is providing the repainting, repairs and removal of lead-based paint from the 1950s era Smith Street water tower.

been completely repainted over the old paint, or "patched and spudded" as needed. The last full repainting on the older tower was several years

ago, he said, and that did not involve a full bare-metal cleaning.

"The average maintenance paint job is just a few years," Currie said.

The older tank will be stripped to the bare metal, repainted and sealed, and sanitized, Currie said. Repairs will also be made to the ladders, catwalk and other support structures on the water tank.

In addition to rust and age, Currie said, the sheer weight of the old paint has a detrimental effect on the water tank.

"Think about what it's like to hold a five-gallon can of paint at arm's length," he said. "Then think about all the thousands of gallons needed to paint a water tank."

"That's a lot of weight, and can cause some serious wear and tear. The engineers pointed out we were close to having some structural issues, and the weight of the paint had a bearing on that."

The framework will use specialized containment sheets to catch the paint chips and dust created by the sanding process, Currie said. The frame will then be removed when the work is completed.

The tank in the southern end of the city does not have lead paint, Currie said, so it will not require as extensive a makeover as the older tower. The contractor did not recom-

mend a bare-metal cleanup on the newer tank, but instead it will be painted, sealed, repaired and sanitized.

Hydrants will be open in some parts of uptown Whiteville to allow for pressure changes in the system during the refit, Currie said.

"The water will be the same as is always in the system," he said. "They won't be pumping leaded paint out of the tank with drinking water."

Lead contamination has become a major interest across the nation recently due to the presence of large amounts of lead in the Flint, Mich., municipal water system.

Currie said that hasn't been an issue here, and the rehabilitation of the tanks was discussed by the board months before the Flint contamination.

"It's a good thing we got on this contract now," Currie said. "The lead contamination (in Flint) is going to make a lot of municipalities take a long, hard look at their systems. We've had no lead issues here, though."

In addition to maintaining the water tank – and likely extending its lifespan—the rehabilitation will also have an effect many city residents should notice.

"When this is all over with," Currie said, "we should have much better water quality as well as a clean, sturdy tank."



Teacher Amanda Tedder helps student onto Brent Wheatley's combine.



Roy McPherson shows a bushhog.



Luke and Dinah Elkins show collection of artifacts.



D.J. Peterson shows a video.



Luke Elkins shows a fox skin to students.

Edgewood Elementary School's Junior FFA tours farm equipment

By SHALON SMITH
Contributing Writer

tary School each day. Some of those students are members of the school's Junior Future Farmers of America club sponsored by teacher Katherine Hyatt.

The FFA students meet monthly to learn the basics of the FFA organization.

out and next month we're walking over (to the high school) for those students to lead lessons for ours," Hyatt said.

Recently, the club was joined by members of the Cape Fear Farm Heritage Association and other local farmers to learn

about old and new methods for harvesting various crops.

More than 180 students are involved with after school programs at Edgewood Element-

Farmers Market to open with big show May 14

By RAY WYCHE
Staff Writer

day on Saturday, April 30. The market will continue its tradition of holding special days throughout the summer and fall.

Some of the special Saturdays will feature Fun Run and Walk, Summer Vegetable Day, Watermelon Day, Back to School Fun Day, Old Fashioned Farm Day, Sweet Potato Day, Collard and Cornbread Day, and "Christmas from the Heart" Craft Show and Sale.

The Columbus County Community Farmers Market will open for its 18th season with entertainment, cooking demonstrations, samples, recipes and nutritional information on Saturday, May 14.

The once-per-week market will kick off its sales season at 10 a.m. with an opening ceremony.

Market manager Carol Shuman is optimistic about the sale of homegrown vegetables, baked goods and crafts during the coming summer.

"We've had good rains," she said, portending a good year for growing things. Unsettled weather last year put a damper on the availability of local produce at times during the summer sales season.

The market will have its annual meeting in February at which time the number of vendors who have signed up will be revealed. Vendors may join the market at any time.

Although sales will begin May 14, the market will hold its annual plant swap and sale

Campbell

Continued from page 10-A

harangues and recognize that debates and candidate forums are little more than stage shows where candidates repeat highly rehearsed talking points.

Pay close attention to what the candidates say and even more to what they aren't saying. Ask yourself which candidates stand the best chance of winning, because in the election game if you don't win, you don't play in political outcomes.

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Sports

The News Reporter, Monday, February 8, 2016 - Page 1B



Photo by Grant Merritt

West Columbus forward E.J. Miller puts up two of the team-high 14 points he scored Friday in the Vikings' 62-53 Three Rivers Conference basketball loss to South Robeson at the WCHS gym.

Viking squads fall to South Robeson

CERRO GORDO - Davonte Banks scored 21 points and Jared Morgan tallied 20 in leading South Robeson to a 62-53 Three Rivers Conference boys basketball win over host West Columbus Friday night.

West Columbus, which had defeated the Mustangs in their earlier TRC meeting at Rowland, trailed 41-40 after three quarters before South Robeson pulled away in the final quarter with 21 points. The Mustangs moved their conference record to 5-7 and they now stand at 6-14 overall.

E.J. Miller led West Columbus with 14 points. Johnny McFadden and Dillajuwan Willis each

scored eight points for the Viking squad, which saw its record slip to 2-10 in the conference and 4-13 for the season.

The South Robeson girls stayed in a three-way tie for the first place in the Three Rivers Conference race by defeating the Lady Vikings 64-41. The Lady Mustangs are 10-2 in TRC while West Columbus fell to 0-12. A'terria Quick had 28 points for South Robeson, and Reana Goodman scored 19 for West Columbus.

The West Columbus teams will close their regular-season schedules with games at St. Pauls Tuesday and East Columbus Friday.

St. Pauls teams capture home victories over Stallions

ST. PAULS - The host St. Pauls Bulldogs rode the one-two scoring punch of Deonte Bridgers and Dante Burden to a 69-51 Three Rivers Conference boys basketball win over South Columbus Friday night.

South Columbus' Kendrick Green scored a game-high 19 points for the Stallions, who held an 11-9 lead before the Bulldogs took charge in the second and third quarters to take a 43-27 advantage into the final eight minutes. St.

Pauls has an 8-4 conference record and is tied with Red Springs for third place in the TRC boys standings. South Columbus holds a 3-9 record in Three Rivers play.

St. Pauls also won the girls game by a 43-29 score. The Lady Bulldog bolstered their late-season run by moving their conference record to 5-7. West Columbus fell to 3-9. South Columbus will entertain Red Springs Tuesday before closing out regular-season play Friday at Whiteville

WHS bowlers qualify for state tournament



The Whiteville High boys bowling team has qualified to compete in the state tournament in Fayetteville on Feb. 12. Zachary Ward also qualified for the individual boys state tournament. Pictured above, left to right, are Ward, Jaquan Johnson, Wynston Shuman, Tanner Hester, Luke Connor, John McGougan, Ryan Worthington, Marcus Greene.

Three Whiteville High girl bowlers also qualified for the state tournament. They are left to right are:



Shacaroa Richardson, Kaylee McCullen, and Jozi Patterson.

Lady Gators get back on winning track Pack manages victory at East

By **DAN BISER**
Sports Editor

LAKE WACCAMAW - The Whiteville Wolfpack made it look too easy Friday night as it jumped to an 18-0 first-quarter lead and extended the margin to 22-0 in the opening moments of second quarter.

But things quickly changed in the Three Rivers Conference boys basketball game.

The host East Columbus Gators answered with 13 straight points and held the Wolfpack to one field goal in second quarter to cut the Whiteville halftime lead to 24-15.

The Gators cut the Wolfpack advantage to as few as five points in the second half and stayed within striking distance until the game's final moments as WHS recorded a 48-31 Three Rivers Conference win.

Whiteville scored the last nine points over the final three minutes of play to assure the victory.

"We got some early momentum, and set ourselves up for some good things in the first quarter," said WHS Coach Jerry Singletary. "But once East Columbus got on the board in the second quarter, we started getting a little careless on offense, ... and they hit some big shots that got them back in the game."

Whiteville played without standout guard Tyrell Kirk, who was sidelined by an injury, but junior post player Lamarr Green had a big night for the Wolfpack with 17 points and 16 rebounds. Whiteville's conference record climbed to 9-3, while its season record moved to 12-4.

Starting guard Germaine McNeil had 13 points as he and point guard Tre Davis helped spark the Wolfpack's big first quarter.

"Give East Columbus credit for battling back like they did,"



Photo by Hannah Bullock
Justin Chestnut
ECHS guard

Singletary said. "Their kids did a good job."

East Columbus Coach Marcus Skipper was pleased with his team's effort in the final three quarters, but added that falling behind 22-0 in the game's first nine minutes was a tough deficit to overcome.

"We had situations when we got back in the game that probably gave us even more momentum, but we just didn't execute."

The Gators played their second straight game without starting forward John Baldwin, who was out with an injury.

Justin Chestnut was high scorer for ECHS with 12 points while Alex Moore, who fouled out in the final quarter, had

eight points.

The Gators suffered their 11th straight Three Rivers Conference defeat as they now stand at 1-11 in the TRC and 2-20 overall.

The East Columbus girls team bounced back from back-to-back conference losses to St. Pauls and South Robeson to defeat the Lady Wolfpack 39-24.

Coach Candra Powell's Lady Gators gained an 11-7 halftime lead while Whiteville spread the floor to control the tempo as much as possible as the Lady Wolfpack was playing without starting guards Dellasia Freeman and Nsaia Rogers, both out with injuries.

The junior duo of Marlena McClure and Charity Powell once again led the Lady Gator scoring attack.

McClure finished with 17 points, including eight straight in a Lady Gator run midway through the fourth quarter.

Powell followed with 13 points and had a big night rebounding on both ends of the floor. The Lady Gators have a 10-2 conference record and remain in a three-way tie for first place in the TRC race with South Robeson and Red Springs.

Marquasia Smith had eight points for Whiteville and Ericka Vereen scored seven.

Whiteville will play host to South Robeson in its annual "Pink Out" Night Tuesday. The Pink Out is a fund-raiser that promotes breast cancer awareness. All breast cancer survivors present will be recognized during special ceremonies during halftime of the boys varsity game. The Wolfpack basketball teams

See TRC on 2B



Kligerman to drive RBR entry in Feb. 19 NCWTS event at Daytona

CERRO GORDO - Ricky Benton Racing (RBR) Enterprises announced last Wednesday that Parker Kligerman will be behind the wheel of the No. 92 Valvoline/Advance Auto Parts/BTS Tire and Wheel Distributors/Goodyear Commercial Tire Network Ford 5-150 on Feb. 19 when the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series makes its first stop of the 2016 season at Daytona International Speedway for the NextEra Energy Resources 250.

"Over the last few years, I have watched the Ricky Benton Racing Team improve their program and their results," said Kligerman, a 25-year-old native of Connecticut.

"Having this opportunity, as they come off one of their best years in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, is a massive honor," he said.

Daytona marks a return to NCWTS for Kligerman, who competed fulltime in the series in 2011 and 2012 (winning once in 2012) before moving to the Xfinity Series in 2013. He also had NASCAR Sprint Cup starts in 2013 and 2014. In 2009, he ran the full ARCA Series schedule, finishing the year



Parker Kligerman

with nine wins, 14 top fives and 18 top 10s in 21 races.

When not racing over the past two seasons, Kligerman has served as an analyst for the NBC Sports Network.

"Parker comes to us with a great racing resume," said RBR owner Ricky Benton. "He has proven that he can be competitive and win races in good equipment. Now it's our job to make sure we give him fast trucks and put him in positions to be successful."

As part of joining the team, Kligerman met with employees of Columbus County-based Black's Tire and Auto Service, the company owned by Benton and one of the team's primary sponsors.

"I was recently able to spend time with many of the Black's Tire Service employ-

ees and learned about the passion they have for what they do," Kligerman said.

"The BTS culture is about taking care of customers and providing them with experiences that make them customers for life. I hope to provide the same level of passion and success on the track," he added.

Benton said he appreciates what his new driver did to ingratiate himself to his new team. "Black's Tire and BTS is a big family," Benton said. A big part of why we do what we do with the race team is for our employees. In fact, many of the guys who work on our trucks on race weekends spend their weeks working for our BTS customers. It means a lot to have Parker take the time to get to know our people."

Beyond the new driver, there are very few other program changes for the 2016 Ricky Benton Racing Team. Mike Hester returns atop the pit box as crew chief. The team will again be running Roush-Yates-powered Ford F 150s.

At Daytona, the team will be running the same T-2 truck that David Gilliland drove to a sixth-place finish in the 2015 NextEra Energy Resources 250.



Photo by Grant Merritt

West Columbus girls basketball player Raeana Goodman (10) cuts through the lane while putting up a shot in Friday night's Three Rivers Conference basketball with visiting South Robeson. Goodman led the Lady Viking scoring with 19 points. South Robeson won the game 64-41 behind A'terria Quick's 28-point effort. West Columbus will travel to play St. Pauls on Tuesday.



Staff photo by Franklin Davis

Hallsboro's Kat Reaves (23) puts up a shot in last Wednesday's Columbus County Middle School girls basketball game with visiting Williams Township. Hallsboro won 14-10.

Middle school basketball round up

Hallsboro played host to Williams on Wednesday. The Tiger girls took the win in a low-scoring game 14-10. Hallsboro's boys completed the sweep with a 38-14 victory.

Thursday saw eight teams in action. The closest game of the day was the Cerro Gordo and Hallsboro's boys contest.

Cerro Gordo managed to tie the game at the end of regulation and then pulled out a 35-33 win in overtime. Tyquawn Johnson scored 17 points for the Stingers. Curtis Watson had 13 for Hallsboro.

Alanna Deal scored 13 points to lead the Tiger girls to a 33-7 win.

Antonio McFadden and William Godwin scored nine points each as Central held off a game Tabor City boys

squad. Alex Bellamy's 24 points was the top individual total for a girl this season and helped Central to a 37-14 win.

Aveon Bellamy and Riley Hewett shared scoring honors with 17 points apiece but Aveon Bellamy's Nakina team came out on top 40-31 over Williams. Laquan Childress added seven points for Nakina. The Mustang girls defeated the Aggies 36-15. Chantel Washington scored 16 points and Nonchalont Hemmingway added 14 for Nakina. Briana Wideman scored eight

for Williams. Evergreen swept Acme-Delco. The Trojan boys won 49-32 and the girls took a 24-21 decision.

For middle school schedules and scores, visit whiteville.com/sports.

Cerro Gordo Dixie Youth sets player registrations

The Cerro Gordo Dixie Youth Baseball program will hold player registrations at the Cerro Gordo Dixie Youth Complex on the following date and times:

Saturday, Feb. 13 12 noon to 1 p.m. Registration for Majors/Minors/Coach-Pitch/T-

Ball - ages 5-12.

Registration fee is \$30 per player. Feb. 13 is the final registration date.

For more information, contact Kiley Hinson (512-4524), Rick Benton (840-5857), Kevin Bowen (640-9626) and Kris Ward (232-7424).

TRC

Continued from 1B

will celebrate Senior Night Friday when they will play host to South Columbus.

East Columbus will travel to play Fairmont Tuesday before closing out the regular season against West Columbus.

GIRLS GAME

Whiteville 4 3 10 8 - 25
E. Columbus 7 4 14 14 - 39

WHITEVILLE (25): Marquasia Smith 8, Breanna McCollon 2, Jerica Gamble 2, Ashlin Floyd 2, Madison Hinson 4, Ericka Vereen 7,

EAST COLUMBUS (39): Marlana McClure 17, Tia Campbell 7, Charity Powell 13, Sayeh Campbell 1, Destiny Graham 1.

BOYS GAME

Whiteville 19 5 11 13 - 48
E. Columbus 0 15 11 5 - 31

WHITEVILLE (48): Tre Davis 8, Germaine McNeil 12, Cameron Smith 2, Monchovia Gaffney 5, Lamar Green 17, Philip Powell 1, Demetrius Brown 2

EAST COLUMBUS (31): Justin Chestnutt 12, Shaheed Bellamy 3, Kushod Tucker 6, Travin Squires 2, Alex Moore 8.

Dixie Softball umpire clinics

Columbus County Dixie Softball Association, in conjunction with District 9, will co-host three softball umpire clinics.

Anyone interested in umpiring Dixie Softball in Columbus County must attend one of these MANDATORY scheduled dates. Dates and locations are as follows:

Saturday, Feb 13 at Leland Northwest Park, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 20, at Leland Park, 1429 Village Rd. Leland 28451, 2-4 pm (classroom w/test only)

Sunday, March 6, at Lake Waccamaw Brinkley Park, 2-5 pm

The clinic includes field work and taking a written test with a review afterwards. Cost of clinic/test is \$25. For more information please call Willie Wilkins 640-0102, Melissa Sykes 625-9491 or Stuart Carroll 770-0499.

Hallsboro Dixie Youth sign-ups scheduled

Hallsboro Dixie Youth Baseball sign-ups for tryouts will be held Feb. 13 and Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. until noon at Mike Mobley Field.

Three Rivers Conference basketball standings

BOYS			GIRLS		
	Conf.	Overall		Conf.	Overall
Fairmont	12-0	18-0	East Columbus	10-2	15-4
Whiteville	9-3	12-4	South Robeson	10-2	16-5
Red Springs	8-4	13-9	Red Springs	10-2	15-6
St. Pauls	8-4	16-5	Whiteville	6-6	7-9
South Robeson	5-7	6-14	St. Pauls	5-7	6-14
South Columbus	3-9	4-13	South Columbus	4-8	5-12
West Columbus	2-10	4-13	Fairmont	3-9	5-14
East Columbus	1-11	2-20	West Columbus	0-12	2-15

WEDNESDAY'S RESULT

Whiteville 71, West Columbus 56
Fairmont 62, Lumberton 55

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Whiteville 48, East Columbus 31
St. Pauls 59, South Columbus 41
Fairmont 69, Red Springs 44
South Robeson 62, West Columbus 53

TUESDAY'S GAMES

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

WEDNESDAY'S RESULT

Whiteville 56, West Columbus 38
Lumberton 62, Fairmont 26

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

East Columbus 39, Whiteville 25
St. Pauls 43, South Coumbus 29
Red Springs 52, Fairmont 42
South Robeson 64, West Columbus 41

TUESDAY'S GAMES

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

Wolfpack battles back to top Vikings 71-56

By DAN BISER
Sports Editor

For the second straight night, the Whiteville Wolfpack found itself on the short end of the score at halftime.

And for the second straight night, the Wolfpack made a big second-half turn-around as they piled up 33 third-quarter points to take a 71-56 Three Rivers Conference boys basketball win over longtime arch-rival West Columbus Wednesday at the WHS gym.

Coach Michael Powell's West Columbus team used strong 3-point shooting in the first half and caused several WHS turnovers that led to a 28-19 halftime lead.

Seniors Fred Evans and Ozzly Johnson led the way for the visiting Vikings in the first two quarters with their torrid outside shooting.

In the third quarter, Coach Jerry Singletary's Wolfpack made a 22-point turn-around that included a 17-0 run. Junior Tyrell Kirk led the surge with a pair of three-point plays and Demetrius Brown came off the bench to score key field goals.

The Wolfpack led 52-38 at the end of three quarters as they went on to cop their eighth Three Rivers Conference win of the season.

"We've had two slow starts this week," Singletary said. "We have come out both times and have been out-rebounded and been beaten to the ball in the first half before turning it around after that,

"We can't let that kind of thing keep happening at this time of the season because sooner or later, it will catch up to you,"

On Tuesday, the Wolfpack rallied from a six-point halftime deficit to overtake St. Pauls 51-46.

Kirk scored a game-high 16 points for the Wolfpack while Germaine McNeil and Lamarr Green each had 12 for the Wolfpack. Brown finished with 10 as Whiteville took its second TRC win of the season over the Vikings.

Evans bucketed 13 points for West Columbus, followed by Johnson with nine. Dillajuwan Willis, Jacob Baldwin, Latreyl McCollum, Johnny McFadden and E.J. Miller each had six points for the Vikings.

In the girls game, Whiteville took a 56-38 win after holding a 28-12 halftime lead.

Dellasia Freeman tallied 12 points while Ericka Vereen and Madison Hinson each had 10. Marquasia Smith followed with nine points.

West Columbus, which scored 26 second-half points, got an 11-point effort by Annela Tiffany, followed by Raeana Goodman with nine and Jay'brehom Shanks with eight.

GIRLS GAME

West Columbus 7 5 11 15 - 38
Whiteville 16 12 9 19 - 56

WEST COLUMBUS (38): Annela Tiffany 11, Raeana Goodman 9, Jay'brehom Shanks 8, Larramie Whitehead 2, Tah'nijah McKoy 3, Jennifer Williams 2, Excellent Green 2.

WHITEVILLE (46): Dellasia Freeman 12, Ericka Vereen 10, Madison Hinson 10, Breanna McCollon 9, Marquasia Smith 6, Nsaia Rogers 5, Ashlin Floyd 2, Shanya Thompson 2.

BOYS GAME

West Columbus 11 17 10 18 - 56
Whiteville 10 9 33 19 - 71

WEST COLUMBUS (56): Dillajuwan Willis 6, Fred Evans 13, Jacob Baldwin 6, Johnny McFadden 6, Latreyl McCollum 6, E.J. Miller 6, Ozzly Johnson 9, Fabian Frink 2, Nick Godfrey 4

WHITEVILLE (71): Tre Davis 6, Germaine McNeil 12, Tyrell Kirk 16, Lamarr Green 12, B.J. Edwards 3, Phillip Powell 4, Demetrius Brown 10, Raquon Shipman 2.



Special visit

North Carolina State University football player Pharoah McEver (center) made a recent visit to Tabor City Middle School where he was a standout student/athlete. McEver went on to star-studded seasons in both football and basketball at South Columbus High School before graduating in 2013. McEver recently capped his sophomore season on the NCSU football squad by snagging an 82-yard touchdown pass for the Wolfpack's first score in their 51-28 loss to Mississippi State in the Belk Bowl at Charlotte. While at TCMS, McEver spent time with students in the school's computer class.

Dixie softball sign-ups now underway

Sign-ups for Columbus County Dixie Girls Softball will be held Feb. 13 from 9 a.m. until noon at the following locations:

- Buckhead Store
- Lake Waccamaw Town Hall
- Nakina Middle School Gym
- Riegelwood concession

stand at girls fields
- Tabor City Sports Complex concession stands at girls fields.

Also, Monday through Friday until Feb. 19 at Whiteville Town Hall (Hill Plaza) and Chadbourn Town Hall.

The league is open to players of ages 4-18.

Registration fee is \$50 per

player.

New players should bring birth certificates to sign-ups.

For questions, please contact the following league presidents:

Willie Wilkins (Central Columbus), 640-0102; Melissa Sykes (South Columbus), 625-9491; Stuart Carroll (East Columbus), 770-0499.

**Subscribe Today,
Call 642-4104**

tion, contact T.J. Wilson (840-9214), Mike Mobley (918-4656) or Ashley Barnhill (840-6831).

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SPORTS OF ALL SORTS

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Local Panthers fans urge team on

We asked local Panther fans Friday to show their support on The News Reporter's Facebook page before last night's Super Bowl. Below are some of the submissions.



Columbus Charter School sixth grade



Tabor City Elementary



Columbus Christian Academy



Columbus Christian Academy



JRay Realty



Columbus Christian Academy



The WHS girls basketball team



Central Middle School eighth grade social studies



Edgewood Elementary



Herald Office Supply



Whiteville Post Office



SCC Child Development



Columbus Charter School



Columbus Charter School

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SPORTS

photography

To See All of The News Reporter's Sports Images, visit whiteville.com and click on News Reporter Galleries.

Sell it, find it...in the Classifieds

NOTICES 010 Found 020 Lost 030 Personals 060 Special Notices	WANTED 070 Wanted To Buy 080 Wanted To Rent	SALE ITEMS 085 Auctions 090 Lawn Mowers 100 Pets & Animals 110 Appliances 120 Antiques 130 Yard & Garage Sales 140 Clothing 150 Furniture 160 Musical Items 170 Televisions, Satellites	180 Farm Supplies 190 Farm Equipment 200 Computers/Software 210 Heaters & Firewood 230 Miscellaneous 240 Produce	EMPLOYMENT 250 General Employment 255 Drivers & Delivery 260 Health/Medical 270 Employment Wanted	SERVICES 275 Financial Services 280 Child Care 290 Business Opportunities 295 Schools/Institutions 300 Insurance 310 Business Services 315 Farm Services	AUTOMOTIVE 320 Cars 330 Trucks 335 Vans & SUVs 340 Vehicle Accessories 350 Travel Trailers 360 Motorcycles 365 ATVs	MARINE 370 Boats 375 Jet Skis 380 Trailers 390 Motors 400 Accessories	REAL ESTATE SALES 410 Permanent Homes 420 Manufactured Housing 430 Resort Homes	435 Water Front Homes 440 Commercial 460 Lots 470 Land 480 Farms 490 Auctions	RENTALS 500 Houses 510 Resort Homes 520 Apartments 530 Manufactured Housing 540 Condominiums 550 Rooms 570 Commercial 580 Land 590 Equipment 600 Farms 610 Manufactured Housing Lots
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SELL YOUR HOME

In the classifieds...

\$2995

Your ad runs 3 times (twice in the News Reporter, and once in the News Times) and reaches practically all the households in Columbus County. It's working for others; why not give it a try?

Call 642-4104



2000 Redman Silverlake double-wide. 1680 sq. ft. Wind Zone 2. To be moved. \$30,000.00 or best offer. Serious inquiries 910-840-4107.

www.whiteville.com

The News Reporter CLASSIFIEDS

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All major credit cards accepted as well as Visa debit cards.

Don't Wait To Call...
Monday
Deadline: Friday, 2 pm
Thursday
Deadline: Wednesday, 10 am

CORRECTIONS
Persons should check their advertisement for accuracy the first time it appears in the newspaper so that any necessary changes can be made. The newspaper will not be liable for mistakes in an ad beyond the first issue. If a mistake is found, please notify WANDA or HANNE at 642-4104.

NOTICES EMPLOYMENT EMPLOYMENT AUTOMOTIVE REAL ESTATE REAL ESTATE

060 Special Notices

SEEKING INFORMATION about Ottis Ward DOB 5/25/1912, adopted age 2 by Hugh (Jim) Williamson, Green Sea, SC. Contact Althea 1-704-663-5998

WANTED

070 Wanted to Buy

CORBETT TIMBER COMPANY
Buyers of land and timber. We buy pine saw timber, hardwood saw timber, and pulpwood - 5 acres or greater. Call days 642-2909.

SALE ITEMS

100 Pets & Animals

FREE KITTENS TO A GOOD HOME. Call 642-2107.

MT. CUR PUPS - DOB 12/07/15. Great for squirrel/coon. \$50 males/ females. Call Jeff Corbett 910-876-3786.

WANTED PUG PUPPY. Call 910-499-2683.

180 Farm Supplies

COASTAL BERMUDA HAY for sale. Round or square bales. Call 910-840-3157.

HAY FOR SALE
Round & Square Bales
SPRIGGING/PLANTING
of Coastal Bermuda grass. Call 910-649-6145 or 910-770-0910.

OATS FOR SALE; also shelled & cob corn. Call 910-640-7806.

210 Heaters / Firewood

FIREWOOD FOR SALE - will deliver. 910-840-4631, or 910-918-2009

230 Miscellaneous

4 PIECE FARM shop equipment, 1 & 2 man plywood boat, 280 gallon fuel tank, hand pump. Clean out auger, 3 & 4000 bushel bin, 40 inch white gas stove. 840-1805

BRISTAL II BRUNSWICK pool table. 5'5" wide & 8'4" long with accessories. \$400. 910-356-4042.

EMPLOYMENT

250 Gen. Employment

CARPENTER NEEDED - FULL TIME WORK. CALL 910-874-1325.

CERRO GORDO BODY SHOP looking for experienced Body men and Painters. Must have own tools. Pay depends on experience. Call 910-654-5256.

EXPERIENCED RECEPTIONIST Wanted at local medical office. Please provide prior receptionist experience and references when you submit your resume. Submit resume to Receptionist P.O. Box 1437, Whiteville, NC 28472.

LOCAL HEATING & AIR company needs experienced HVAC installer. Must have valid drivers license, able to pass drug screening. Please apply at northcarolinahvacservices@gmail.com.

LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED Track Hoe operator. CDL A plus. Contact Don Prince. 910-640-0683

WELLONTON APT is looking for PT maintenance/caretaker. 25 hrs week. Must have vehicle & MUST pass criminal background check. Call 910-654-3067

METAL RECYCLING SERVICES

has an exciting opportunity as an Inspector for our Whiteville, NC facility. Metal Recycling Services offers competitive pay, benefits and a safety bonus. For a full job description and to apply online, please visit our website at www.metalrecyclingservices.com MRS is an EEO/AA employer who encourages females, minorities, veterans and disabled to apply.

PART-TIME Apartment Manager in Tabor City area. 21 hour wk. \$10 hourly. Excellent computer and management skills. 910-653-9560.

PART-TIME APT MAINTENANCE. Must have own tools & vehicle. \$10 hr, 21 hrs wk. Able to paint, clean minor plumbing & electrical. 910-653-9560.

260 Health/Medical

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT-(CNA) - Autumn Care of Shallotte has full-time and part-time- 3rd shift C.N.A positions. Performs patient care activities and related services necessary in caring for the personal needs, safety, and comfort of patients. Please come by our facility and complete an application. Autumn Care of Shallotte, 237 Mulberry St. Shallotte, NC 28459. EEO/M/F/Disabled/Veteran Employer

COASTAL CAROLINA BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, LLC is currently seeking a LPC and/or LCSW for immediate employment. Please call 910-640-3535 or email info@coastalcarolinabehavioralhealthcare.com for more information



Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCareCenter has the following opening:

Children's Bereavement Counselor (Brunswick, Columbus & Bladen) 20 hours per week - Plan, develop, conduct, and evaluate the Children's Grief education & counseling program, which includes training & supporting school counselors, doing grief groups and developing & implementing pediatric palliative care services for newborns & children in hospitals and home. NC Certification as a Clinical Social Worker or Counselor, MSW from a CSWE accredited School of Social Work or Masters of Counseling & at least 2 yrs. of professional social work/counseling experience providing counseling/therapy to children & program mgmt. Email resumes to Wendy.Sandlin@lcfh.org or fax to 910-341-1907. No phone calls. EOE

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

6 Wooded Lots in Fair Bluff, NC Columbus County
Also in Auction: 100+/- Acres in Beaufort & Commercial & Residential Tracts in NC & SC
Begins Closing: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:00 pm
IRON HORSE AUCTION
Auctioneers & Brokers
1.800.997.2248
www.ironhorseauction.com

NURSES: BLADEN COUNTY Hospital-Cape Fear Valley~ Elizabeth-town is seeking Registered Nurses for the ED, Med/Surg, OR and ICU. FT, PT and Per Diem, Day or Night shifts positions are available. New Grad Welcome. Competitive salary, excellent benefits. Send resume to gparks@capefearvalley.com or by fax to GParks 910-862-1127.

PREMIER LIVING & REHAB CENTER - 106 Cameron St., Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450
Positions available
Dietary Aide and Cook 1st shift; 6a-2p; 2nd shift; 1p-7:30 p.
Healthcare dietary experience is a MUST for providing dietary services in food preparation and sanitation, Serv-Safe Certified preferred. Serious inquiries only apply in person. Drug-free workplace.

ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGIST: Bladen County Hospital in Elizabethtown, NC is seeking a Registered Ultrasound Technologist. Must be registered with ARDMS as a RDMS or equivalent. Will consider RDMS, RVT. Two years experience preferred. Half Time (32 hrs) Competitive Salary, Excellent Benefits. Send resume to gparks@capefearvalley.com or by fax to 910-862-1127.

SERVICES

310 Business Services

****Watts Backhoe & Tree Service***
Insured, tree removal, bucket truck, top soil, fill dirt, marl for driveway, land clearing. Free estimates. 640-2463 or mobile 770-0534.

Bobby Hinson Construction
Lot clearing, pond building, bushhogging, lots and hedge rows with mini excavator. Call 640-7606.

LARRY HINSON'S BACKHOE
All types of backhoe work, lot clearing, sand, top soil and marl.
Call 654-4503.

AUTOMOTIVE

320 Cars

2001 NISSAN MAXIMA, black. Great condition, nothing wrong with this car. \$3,500. 910-625-0910 or 642-2454

2012 KIA SOUL +, Plus Trim Pkg., steering auto control, alloys, 53k. \$12,500. Fair Bluff Ford. 649-7531

2013 FORD FIESTA SEDAN SE trunk spoiler, moonroof, alum wheels, 58k. \$10,800. Fair Bluff Ford. 649-7531

2013 FORD FUSION SE, turbo, auto, SYNC, heated leather, luxury pkg, 33k. \$17,900. Fair Bluff Ford. 910-649-7531

SUNSET PROPERTIES

Looking to make some extra MONEY this Summer?
Sunset Properties is looking for the best men & women to join our Cleaning Team on the Islands of Sunset Beach & Ocean Isle.
All who apply must have reliable transportation and be available to clean on Saturdays May-September.
Please reserve a seat with us for March 12th by calling Phyllis or Pam at 910/575/8645, or 910/575/8614.
You may also email phyllis@sunsetproperties.travel

2014 FORD MUSTANG 3.7L V6 convertible auto, SYNC, Tech pack, alloys, 25k. \$19,900. Fair Bluff Ford. 910-649-7531

2014 FORD TAURUS SEL, 3.5L V6, SYNC, auto, MyFord Touch-Screen, alloys, 18k. \$21,900. Fair Bluff Ford. 910-649-7531

2014 NISSAN MAXIMA 3.5 S, V6, auto CVT, Push-Button start, 25k. \$19,900. Fair Bluff Ford. 649-7531

2015 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S, inteli-key w/push-button start. 16k. \$19,990. Fair Bluff Ford. 649-7531

330 Trucks

1993 FORD TRUCK SWB, 351 engine, power windows, power door, dual gas tanks. 2006 Keywest Boat. 910-649-2975.

2014 FORD F-150 XL reg cab 4x2 long bed, power pack, trailer hitch, 12k. \$23,500. Fair Bluff Ford. 910-649-7531

335 SUVs/Vans

1994 GMC VANDUA 2500. Garage kept, good condition. 90,852 miles \$2,500. 910-840-4363

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

2013 FORD EDGE SEL, 3.5L V6 auto, SYNC, heated leather, 36k, \$24,900. Fair Bluff Ford 910-649-7531

2015 FORD ESCAPE SE, Turbo SYNC, auto, MyFord Touch, with camera, 224k, \$22,500. Fair Bluff Ford 910-649-7531

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 ille-

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REAL ESTATE

gal 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.

410 Permanent Homes

5 BR, 2 1/2 bath 2 story on 6 acres with fish pond and small house on premises in Cerro Gordo. Priced to sell. Call 910-840-2991

420 Mfg. Housing

2006 WINDZONE II DOUBLEWIDE Excellent condition. 3 BR, 2 bath Oakwood Homes. 910-654-4128

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

DISPLAY MODEL CLEARANCE SALE. Several beautiful homes to choose from. Save thousands!- Oakwood Homes. 910-654-4128.

LAND/HOME. Move in ready double-wide on nice large lot. 3BR, 2 bath. Call Oakwood Homes. 910-654-4128

TRUE FACTORY DIRECT Custom built Modulares. Your plan or ours VA, FHA, and no money down programs available. Manis Custom Builders Retail Center 910-754-2005.

460 Lots

LOT FOR SALE: Williams Township/ Mollie area. Large lot, nice community. Call 642-2872 or 653-3582.

RENTALS

500 Houses

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

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

520 Apartments

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

Pro Carpet Cleaning
\$19.99
PER ROOM / AREA
(2 room minimum)
"Clean Carpet At A Low Price"
Owned/Operated by
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Our beautiful apartment complex features on-site laundry facilities, picnic area, playground, business center, on-site management and maintenance staff. Make sure to call or stop by today to find out about our move in specials and our availability. Let us help you move into your new home!

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910-640-1656
Covey Run II Apartments
910-640-2438

Office Hours are:
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*rental rates depend on availability; apartments are income to qualify

Covey Reserve Apartments

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AVAILABLE UNITS NOW
Call for Move In Specials
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For more information and applications, contact Norco Management Company (910) 642-4663 or (910) 640-1460



REAL ESTATE

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT for rent. Stove & refrigerator. CALL 910914-1384.

EVANS POINTE APTS Tabor City. Now leasing 2 BR at \$410 monthly. Certain restrictions apply. Call 910-653-9560

530 Mfg. Housing

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

2 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS. Name your sec. deposit & rent. Job & credit check required. 910-207-8853

2BR, 1 BATH. appliances, incl. landscaping. \$400 month, \$250 sec. deposit. Nakina 910-770-1922

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH mobile home for rent or lease to own. Bladenboro area. 910-840-3518.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH mobile home for rent or lease to own. Chadbourne area. 910-840-3518.

570 Commercial

FOR RENT Downtown Commercial Building. Spacious parking. Call J.L. Powell & Co., Inc. (910) 642-4049.

FOR RENT/LEASE - 1,200 sq. ft. 6 room office. Powell Plaza. Call Memory Enterprises 910-642-5824.

NEW OFFICE FOR RENT, convenient location near hospital. Call 910-640-8098

610 Mfg. Housing Lots

MOBILE HOME LOTS FOR RENT. 294 Thompson Rd., Whiteville. Tony Stanley 840-2454.

LEGAL NOTICES**Notice of Foreclosure Sale**

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust executed by Robert B. McDuffie and Wanda H. McDuffie (PRESENT RECORD OWNERS: Wanda H. McDuffie), to James O. Buchanan, Trustee, dated April 1, 1980 and recorded in Book 184, Page 559, Columbus County Registry, North Carolina; default having been made in the payment of the Note(s) thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Richard R. Foust, Attorney-at-Law, having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust by an instrument duly recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Columbus County, North Carolina, and the holder of the Note(s) evidencing said indebtedness having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the Columbus County Courthouse, in the city of Whiteville, North Carolina at 1:30 PM on Thursday, February 18, 2016, and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following real estate situated in the County of Columbus, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows: LYING IN TATUM TOWNSHIP, COLUMBUS COUNTY, AND BEING LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF STATE ROAD 31525 AND BEING BOUNDED ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH BY LANDS OWNED NOW OR FORMERLY BY JAC D. CARTER AND ON THE WEST BY STATE ROAD #1525 AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT AN IRON STAKE, SAID STAKE BEING LOCATED IN THE EASTERN RIGHT OF WAY OF STATE ROAD 1525, THE SAID BEGINNING STAKE BEING LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWESTERN CORNER OF THE LANDS HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED AND SAID BEGINNING STAKE BEING FURTHER LOCATED NORTH 23 DEG 42 MINUTES EAST 401.75 FEET FROM A NAIL AND CAP LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF STATE ROAD 1525, WHICH NAIL AND CAP IS LOCATED NORTH 19 DEG 23 MIN EAST 1,461.50 FEET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF STATE ROAD 1504 AND STATE ROAD 1525; AND RUNS THENCE FROM THE BEGINNING POINT AND WITH THE EASTERN MARGIN OF STATE ROAD 1525 NORTH 23 DEG 28 MIN EAST 100 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE; AND RUNS THENCE SOUTH 56 DEG 26 MIN EAST 204.59 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE; AND RUNS THENCE SOUTH 25 DEG 23 MIN WEST 99.46 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE; AND RUNS THENCE NORTH 56 DEG 26 MIN WEST 201.20 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 0.46 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION WAS TAKEN FROM A MAP MADE FROM AN ACTUAL SURVEY BY BILLY M. DUNCAN, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR ON DECEMBER 23, 1975 AND THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED ABOVE IS DESIGNATED AS LOT 2 ON THE AFOREMENTIONED MAP.

COMMONLY KNOWN AS 360 PAUL BARNES ROAD, CHADBOURN, NC 28431
Should the property be purchased by a third party, that person must pay the tax of Forty-Five cents (\$.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by NCGS 7A-308 (a)(1).
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 Trustee nor the holder of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust/security agreement, or both, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employ-

LEGAL NOTICES

ees, agents or authorized representatives of either the Trustee or the holder of the Note 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 subject to all taxes, special assessments, and prior liens or encumbrances of record any recorded releases.

That an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold.
Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement upon 10 days' written notice to the landlord. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

A cash deposit (no personal checks) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale.

This the 19th day of January, 2016.
Richard R. Foust
Substitute Trustee
Richard R. Foust, Attorney at Law
204 Muirs Chapel Road, Suite 102
Greensboro, NC 27410
Ph. No. 336-834-0510
Fax No. 336.834.0160
February, 8, 15, 2016

Notice of Public Hearing of the Columbus County Board of Health

Public notice is hereby given that the Columbus County Board of Health will conduct a public hearing at 6:00pm on the 24th day of February, 2016 at the W.E. Miller building, 304 Jefferson Street, Whiteville, N.C. 28472 on the proposed rules and regulations governing Individual Home Burial Sites, Church and Family Cemeteries in Columbus County, proposed effective date March 1, 2016.

At the time and place fixed for the said public hearing, all who appear will be given an opportunity to express their views for or in opposition to the proposed said rules and regulations governing the Individual Home Burial Sites, Church and Family Cemeteries in Columbus County. Copies of the proposed rules and regulations can be obtained at the Columbus County Health Department at the above address or the Columbus County Clerk's Office, Columbus County Administrative Building, 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, N.C., during normal business hours (9:00am-5:00pm). Prior to the public hearing, written comments maybe submitted to Kimberly L. Smith, Health Director located at the W.E. Miller Building, 304 Jefferson Street, Whiteville, N.C. 28472. All those who wish to speak at the public hearing must sign a list at the door of the room prior to the public hearing. The rules governing the presentation of information, comments and data will be announced immediately prior to the commencement of the public hearing by the presiding member on the Board of Health.

Submitted this the 8th day of February, 2016,
Kimberly L. Smith,
Health Director.
February 8, 2016

Notice of Sale

New South Mini Storage, PO Box: 585/218 North Brown St, Chadbourne, NC 28431 will hold a public auction to dispose of various items of personal property, pursuant to the assertion of a lien for rental at New South Mini Storage facility. Units will be sold individually.

Sale will be conducted at storage facility.
Located at: 606 North Brown St Chadbourne, NC 28431.
Date of Sale: February 27, 2016.
Time of Sale: 10:00 AM
Items to be sold: Personal belongings and furnishing belonging to:
Unit 6-Tina White,
Unit 9-Sean Frazier,
Unit 10-Earrest Smith,
Unit II-Lenora Floyd,
Unit 16-Tyrone Graves,
Unit 26-Doreathia Thomas,
Unit 30-Skylor Stanley,
Unit 39-Martha Dowe.
New South Mini Storage By.
R M Powell Jr
February 8, 15, 2016

LEGAL NOTICES**Notice of Service of Process by Publication**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO.: 15 CV 1359
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS,
Plaintiff

vs
ANGELA MARIE LEWIS; LEWIS SPAIN; STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, NC Office of Indigent Defense Services, Judgmentholder (Lienholder); SOUTHEAST PROPERTIES OF COLUMBUS, LLC, Judgmentholder (Lienholder),
Defendants

To: ANGELA MARIE LEWIS and LEWIS SPAIN, above named Defendants:
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against the Defendants ANGELA MARIE LEWIS and LEWIS SPAIN and naming you as a Defendant has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Tax Foreclosure for the collection of past due Columbus County property taxes.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than the 14th day of March, 2016, said date being 40 days from the first publication of this notice and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 28th day of January, 2016.
WILLIAM E. WOOD
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS
100 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
WHITEVILLE, NC 28472
TELEPHONE: 910-642-3965
STATE BAR NO.: 5901
February 1, 8, 15, 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 992
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS,
Plaintiff

vs
PENNIE COX; SABRINA ROSE WATTS; CITIFINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., Beneficiary (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 its boundaries in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina and the Summary Judgment and Order of Sale entered on the 15th day of December, 2015 and is foreclosing on the following land of PENNIE COX and SABRINA ROSE WATTS in order to satisfy the properly assessed but unpaid taxes upon certain lands. Pursuant to the Judgment entered on the 15th day of December, 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 16th day of February, 2016 and will sell to the highest bidder for cash all interest in the following described real estate:

Lying and being in Lees Township, Columbus County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:
Being all of that 0.69 acre tract of land designated as Lot No. 3 the same being shown and delineated on a survey entitled "DEER RUN ESTATES- ADDITION NO 1 SURVEY FOR REGISTER'S EXCAVATION AND DEVELOPMENT CORP.", dated July 7, 2001, prepared by Jimmy Dale Etheridge, P.L.S., which said plat is recorded in Plat Book 70, Page 40, Columbus County Registry, and is incorporated herein by reference for more particularity of description.
Subject to an easement located along the Eastern boundary of the above

AmeriGas
America's Propane Company

Propane Refills

SAVE **20%** OR MORE

From exchange prices

Quick Lane
TIRE & AUTO CENTER
106 Quality Street, Whiteville
910-640-FAST (640-3278)

LEGAL NOTICES

described tract being fifteen (15) feet, more or less, in width, said easement being that portion of said tract located within the right of way of Deer Run Estates Drive and being a non-exclusive easement for the purpose of providing roadway access from said lot and other adjoining lands with SR 1925, said easement being more particularly described and shown on said plat referred to above.

There is also hereby conveyed an easement over and upon that certain thirty (30) foot wide right of way designated as Deer Run Estates Drive for the purpose of ingress to and egress from said tract of land and other surrounding tracts to SR 1925. This easement is to inure to the benefit of the grantee and all adjoining landowners who have the right to pass and repass over and upon said right of way and shall be perpetual and non-exclusive in nature.

Being the same property conveyed by Register's Excavation and Land Development Corp. to Linda H. Cox, by Deed dated October 4, 2002, recorded in Book 707, Page 235, Columbus County Registry. Linda H. Cox died May 14, 2011, in Columbus County, North Carolina. See 12-E-4 as located 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 Scott L. Ussery, District Court Judge for Columbus County, North Carolina was held in connection with this foreclosure on 15th day of December, 2015 at which time Judge Scott Ussery authorized this foreclosure sale as required by statute.

This the 26th day of January, 2016.
WILLIAM E WOOD
COMMISSIONER
100 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
WHITEVILLE, NC 28472
TELEPHONE: (910)-642-3965

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE BAR NO.: 5901
February 1, 8, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administratrix of the estate of David James Stramara, 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 1st day of February, 2016.
Carrienne Volk, Administratrix of the estate of David James Stramara
1113 Faison Ave
Fayetteville, NC 28304
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Martha Watts Caldwell, 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 8th day of February, 2016.
Jimmy Lenneau Caldwell,
Executor of the estate of Martha Watts Caldwell
520 Trader Mill Road
Columbia, SC 29223
February 8, 15, 22, 29, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Mildred Daniels McKoy, 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 18th day of January, 2016.
Gardner H. Altman, Jr.,
Executor of the estate of Mildred Daniels McKoy
PO Box 234
White Oak, NC 28399
Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

North Carolina
Columbus County
The undersigned, Michael Ann Williamson, has qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Margaret Ethelene C. Williamson, of Columbus County, NC, and this is to notify all persons having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before May 15, 2016 or this Notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned Executrix.
This the 1st day of February, 2016.
Michael Ann Williamson, Executrix
463 E Vinedo Ln

LEGAL NOTICES

Tempe, AZ 85284
Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 2016

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
16-E-5
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS
The undersigned, BRENDA CAROL FISHER JOHNSON, has qualified as Executrix of the Estate of CARL RICHARD JOHNSON, 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 April 25, 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 25th day of January, 2016
BRENDA CAROL FISHER JOHNSON
P.O. BOX 2369
WHITEVILLE, NC 28472
C. Greg Williamson
Williamson, Walton & Scott, LLP
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 1467
Whiteville, NC 28472
Jan. 25, Febr. 1, 8, 15, 2016.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified on the 22nd day of January, 2016, as Executor Of The Estate Of Bobbie Jean Formyduval Stanley, deceased, of Columbus County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the decedent or said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before May 2, 2016, a date that is three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery. Please direct all claims to the attention of Mark Council, Executor, Estate Of Bobbie Jean Formyduval Stanley, 134 Summer Lane, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472. All persons indebted to said Estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment thereto. This the 27th day of January, 2016.

MARK COUNCIL, Executor Of The Estate Of
Bobbie Jean Formyduval Stanley
134 Summer Lane
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472
T. SCOTT SESSIONS, Attorney For The Estate Of
Bobbie Jean Formyduval Stanley
The McGougan Law Firm
130 Jefferson Street
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472
February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2016

Public Hearing

Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department is announcing a public hearing at the Fire Department February 9th, 2016 at 7:30 pm.
This meeting is to discuss the need, and purchase of a new fire truck. All interested persons are invited to attend.
Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
1465 Vinson Blvd.
Brunswick, N.C. 28424
February 4, 8, 2016

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