

2024 Yadkin County ***Our Home***

*A celebration
of the people,
communities and
organizations of
Yadkin County, NC.*

- ★ Yadkin County Rescue Squad
- ★ 103-year Yadkin Woman Shares Stories
- ★ Yadkin Christian Ministries
- ★ Yadkin County Civil War Flag
- ★ "Grande Old Breed"

A Supplement of
THE TRIBUNE and *The Yadkin Ripple*

Starmount inducts *Hall of Fame* members

New members were inducted into the Starmount High School Hall of Fame in March 2023. Making up the Hall of Fame class, were Todd Wallace, Becky Bryant, Scott Johnson, Mark Royall, Stu Holt, David Baker, JP Vanhoy, Joe and Phyllis Stroud, and the 1998 Football Team — all of whom have had a prolific impact on the Starmount community. From revamping Starmount's band and choral programs, to coaching NFL players, to providing scholarship opportunities to students, here's a little bit about the inductees.

Todd Wallace

As a student at Starmount, Todd Wallace competed in multiple sports, lettering in football, basketball, and baseball. He was all-conference in football and baseball, and the Elkin Tribune named him the 1986 All Tri-County Defensive Player of the year in football, as well as the All Tri-County player of the week multiple times in football and baseball. In his senior year, he was named Ram of the Year.

Becky Bryant

Becky Bryant didn't just attend and later teach at Starmount — she practically grew up there. Bryant's parents, William and Mary Parker, both taught and coached at Starmount for 25 years. During Bryant's time as a student, she played tennis, ran track, graduated with high honors, and was awarded the Scholastic Athlete of the Year. She graduated in 1983.

Mrs. Bryant, who retired in 2018, was always passionate about helping her students understand and love biology. She is proud that many of her students went on to pursue careers in biology, and she was honored to have the 2018 yearbook dedicated to her. Even in retirement, she and her siblings continue to support Starmount students by awarding the William and Mary H. Parker scholarship each year — a scholarship that honors the legacy of their parents.

Scott Johnson

It's only fitting that Scott Johnson be inducted into the Starmount High School Hall of Fame, given that he was the one who wrote the program's bylaws and collected donations to get it started. Even though he attended a different high school, Johnson has been an instrumental member of the Starmount community since 1997.

Johnson graduated from Alleghany High School in 1985 and taught math at Starmount from 1997-2020, always challenging his students to understand the "why" of math. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics named him Math Teacher of the Year for Yadkin County

multiple times, he has been named Starmount's Teacher of the Year, and he has been Nationally Board Certified in Math since 2002. He even had the yearbook dedicated to him in 2008.

Mark Royall

Mark Royall was a student-athlete at Starmount, graduating in 1987. He competed in football and earned multiple varsity letters in track and field, but where he most stood out was on the wrestling team.

Royall was a four-year varsity starter on the wrestling team, and during his senior season, he won the state championship at 155 lbs., finishing with an undefeated record of 41-0. Throughout his high school wrestling career, he finished with an overall career record of 111 wins, 10 losses, and two ties. He was a two-time State Qualifier, a three-time Western Regional Champion, a two-time Northwestern Sectional Champion, and a three-time Northwest Conference Champion. He was awarded 10 Most Outstanding Wrestler (MOW) awards and was recognized as the Tri-County Wrestler of the Year in 1986 and 1987.

Stu Holt

Stu Holt graduated from Starmount High School in 1991. While there, Holt was named all-conference twice in both football and baseball, as well as MVP in the 1990 baseball conference tournament. In his senior year, he was named Ram of the Year.

After high school, Holt attended The University of North Carolina where he participated in football and lettered in 1994 and 1995. While there, he earned his B.A. in English, then in 2000, he received his MAEd. in Administration from Western Carolina.

David Baker

Back before Starmount High School was founded 1967, David Baker attended Boonville High School where he played football and baseball. Later, Baker coached pee-wee football and little league baseball.

Baker became the medical trainer for Starmount's football program in 1988 and later retired from Yadkin County Emergency Services with 33 years of service. In 1998, he started Boonville Driving School, and he carried that skillset over to his service at Starmount — he drove the activity bus for all sports teams.



Courtesy photo

The 2023 class of the Starmount High School Hall of Fame: (from left to right) Scott Johnson, JP Vanhoy, Becky Bryant, Mark Royall, David Baker, Todd Wallace, and Stu Holt.

JP Vanhoy

JP Vanhoy was just a junior in college when he was hired to be the choral director at Starmount High School in 1971 due to an extreme shortage of music teachers. He went on to work in Yadkin County Schools for 32 years.

The North Iredell High School graduate was studying music at Lenoir-Rhyne College at the time of his initial employment. As the choral director at Starmount, he co-founded the Yadkin County Choral Society — the forerunner of the current Yadkin County Arts Council.

Joe Stroud and Phyllis Fleming Stroud

Joe Stroud and Phyllis Fleming Stroud served Starmount High School for eighteen years.

Joe joined Starmount in its inaugural year as assistant principal, and along with Reid Lowder, led the successful high school consolidation. Then 13 years later, Joe became principal in 1980. Joe had high expectations for his students and staff and provided strong support to ensure their success, earning great respect and admiration from all whose lives he touched.

Phyllis served as school secretary during Joe's tenure as Starmount's assistant principal. Phyllis' warm personality and smiling face could always be found at the front desk — assisting students and teachers with issues and easing any nerves about having to come to the principal's office. During this time, Joe and Phyllis got married in 1973.

The 1998 Starmount Football Team

Twenty-six years ago, head coach Joe Hutchens led the 1998 Starmount High School football team through not only an undefeated run in the Northwest 1A conference, but a NCHSAA 1A State Championship. The team finished 6-0 in conference play and 15-1 overall.



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Looking back at the *Yadkin County* *Rescue Squad's* 50 years of service



Courtesy photo

Members and friends of the Yadkin County Rescue Squad pose with a rescue vehicle at a gathering on Sept. 30, 2023 to celebrate the squad's 50th anniversary.

Alli Pardue

Special to *The Yadkin Ripple*

"Be still. Get down."

Donnie Brown recalled these panicked words from years ago, spoken by a strange man crouching in the woods off Highway 421. Brown, on a call for the Yadkin County Rescue Squad, would soon realize the man was a paranoid Vietnam War veteran fearing an enemy attack. It was up to Brown to calm him and get him safely to his vehicle, which he did.

When the man stood up, Brown saw a loaded .357 revolver under him — raising the stakes of the moment.

Brown recalls this day vividly, noting how lucky he was to have been regarded as a friend rather than foe by the man in the woods. The man, in his traumatized state of paranoia, could have ended Brown's life.

This was a psychological rescue — just another day's work as a member of the Yadkin County Rescue Squad.

"Some people can do it, some people can't," Brown, who was an active member of the squad for 21 years, said.

Many may recognize the Yadkin County Rescue Squad by their ambulance presence at Friday night high school football games. The squad is often mistakenly equated to county EMS drivers, Jeff Hinshaw, the squad's captain, said.

"We get mixed up all the time. People come here all the time to pay their ambulance service bill," he said.

While the rescue squad does have ambulances, they are not the same as EMS. They aren't the fire department or law enforcement either. Rescue squads act as backup for all three, as well as providing unique technical rescue services of their own — adhering to the simple goal of saving lives.

And Yadkin County's own rescue squad recently celebrated 50 years of doing just that.

A 'hodgepodge'

"Nobody really knows what to do with us," Hinshaw said of the Yadkin County Rescue Squad.

The squad's rescue services include vehicle extrication, rope rescue, confined space rescue, collapse and cave rescue, wilderness search, and water rescue — and in addition to their unique services, they interface with other emergency services as well.

The rescue squad acts as a backup for Yadkin County's EMS, supplying ambulances when the county runs out and treating patients at the scene. Nearly everyone on the squad has a medical credential from the state of North Carolina, Hinshaw said.

"Our stripes are red, the county's are orange. But at the end of day, an ambulance is an ambulance," he said.

The rescue squad also assists the fire department. Around a dozen squad members are certified firefighters in addition to rescue technicians.

Additionally, the rescue squad interfaces with law enforcement, supplying equipment and manpower as needed.

The rescue squad has 35 volunteer members, with a part-time paid staff — a collection of individuals possessing a "hodgepodge" of talents and skills, Hinshaw said.

The concept of a rescue squad was born out of the rural southeast, Hinshaw said. Today, rescue squads don't tend to exist outside of rural counties.

The Yadkin County Rescue Squad is funded by the county and supplemented by their annual gun raffle. The squad has hosted other fundraisers throughout its 50 year history, like the notorious BBQ chicken dinners and fruit selling at Christmas. They have also utilized funding from local businesses and organizations.

Nomadic beginnings

Nowadays, the Yadkin County Rescue Squad operates out of a central station in Yadkinville. But in the early days, the squad wasn't nearly as settled.

The Yadkin County Rescue Squad's humble beginnings go back to one man — Joe David (J.D.) Welborn Jr.

J.D. was a wrecker driver for Dan Beck Ford, an old car dealership. A wrecker driver's responsibilities include towing wrecked or disabled vehicles, changing flat tires, jump starting cars, and unlocking car doors.

"He was the rescue squad," Brown said.

In 1972, J.D. started pooling together a group of around a dozen men that would become the founding members of the rescue squad. J.D., being familiar with local and state government, was able to officially charter the squad in September of 1973.

"Back then, you know, it was just a little tackle box with some tape and gauze in it really, band aids," Brown said.

For a few months, the squad met in Yadkinville's town hall. They moved around from the Yadkinville Fire Department to



Alli Pardue

A framed portrait of J.D. Welborn hangs on the walls of the Yadkin County Rescue Squad's central office in Yadkinville. Welborn started the rescue squad and served as its first captain.

J.D.'s dad, Joe David Welborn Sr.'s, own car dealership Pioneer Chevrolet Company. At one point, they did their training at William Gentry Funeral Home.

"We just wandered from place to place," Brown said.

But in the mid-seventies, the rescue squad moved into a building that was previously a furniture store — and it is here that the squad remains today.

The building has been renovated and added on to over the years, but Brown said it still has the original tile flooring.

'It's not all for the glory'

Working on the rescue squad takes a physical toll to be sure — hundreds of hours of training, weekly meetings, late night calls, and constant readiness to jump into action. And all of this on top of the volunteers' regular day jobs.

But what's more is the emotional toll — bearing witness to loss and traumatic events.

Now, nearly 50 years after J.D. started the Yadkin County Rescue Squad, volunteer rescuers, like Brown, have certainly borne witness to a lot.

"Anytime I hear a siren, it makes cold chills on me," Brown said.

When the Siloam Bridge collapsed into the Yadkin River in February of 1975 — just a few years after the rescue squad's creation — Brown was one of the men called to the scene. He searched throughout the entire night and following morning to find a little girl who had gone missing in the collapse. Eventually, he found her body by the river.

Brown's own two children were around the same age as the little girl.

"[You drive] back home by yourself at three, four o'clock in the morning, and you cry all the way back home," Brown said. "It hurts."

Brown, who was captain from 1982-88, and Hinshaw, the squad's current captain, understand the devotion and sacrifice needed for a job like theirs. But shrinking volunteer pools imply that the younger generations are less willing to make those sacrifices.

"Volunteerism is a dinosaur," Hinshaw said.



An old backboard used by the Yadkin County Rescue Squad, signed by attendees of the squad's 50th anniversary celebration on Sept. 30, 2023.

Since the rescue squad's early years, call volumes have gone up nearly tenfold. This increase in demand, combined with a decrease in volunteerism and an increase in costs, means that many rescue squads are struggling to make ends meet. If these services were to go away, the absence of their specialized training and equipment would likely be deeply felt in times of crisis.

But for now, Hinshaw said the Yadkin County Rescue Squad remains well-funded and well-manned as it heads into its next 50 years.

"It's not all for the glory," Brown said. "It's just, you just got to have the willpower

to say 'I want to help somebody, and I'm going to do it.'"

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20th Anniversary of Oscar-winning movie that was filmed locally

Roger Cox

Special to *The Yadkin Ripple*

This year, 2024, our Yadkin County Oscar turns 20. Well, if we can claim the Oscar as our own for being filmed in Yadkin County and in nearby Winston Salem, that is. The film is *Two Soldiers* and it won an Academy Award for Live Action Short Film in 2004.

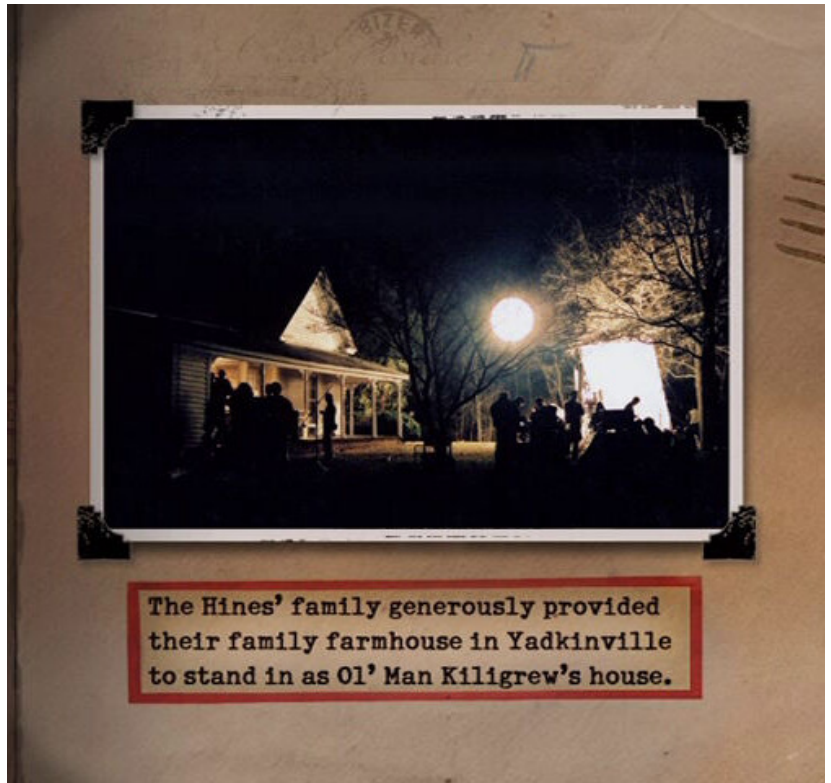
Based on a short story by William Faulkner, the movie opens in 1941 just before War World II is declared. The movie revolves around two brothers, Pete the older at 19 and Willie the younger at 10. After war is declared, Pete leaves home to enlist, Willie soon misses his older brother, and decides to follow. Along the way, Willie, with much determination, overcomes objections to his journey from adults he encounters and makes it to the enlistment center Pete had previously passed through.

While at the enlistment center Willie is taken under the wing of Colonel McKellog,

played by Ron Perlman, as the Army attempts to locate Pete, Willie's brother.

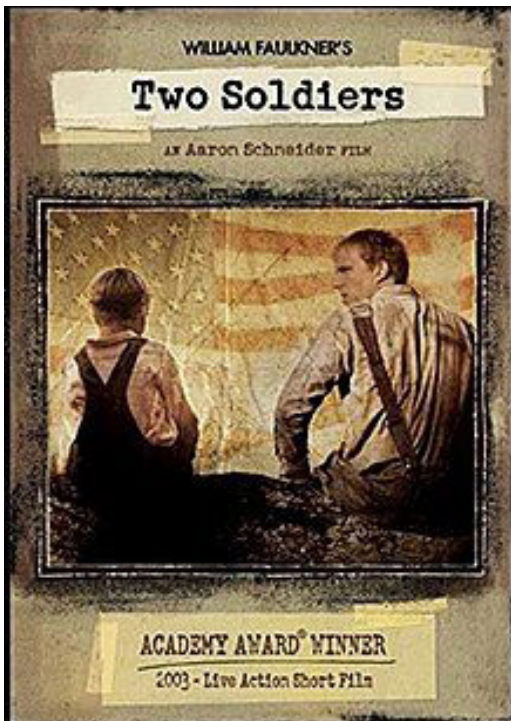
A gem of a film about patriotism, brotherly love, with excellent acting, and great local scenes. The former Davis Brother's General Store in East Bend, now home to Kitchen Roselli, can be seen in the film, as well as the Morse and Wade hotel building which was torn down some years ago.

The film is available to watch free on YouTube, or better yet, purchase the DVD to see over two hours of bonus features that highlight filming locations in Yadkin County and Winston Salem. Look for the DVD at Amazon or on eBay.



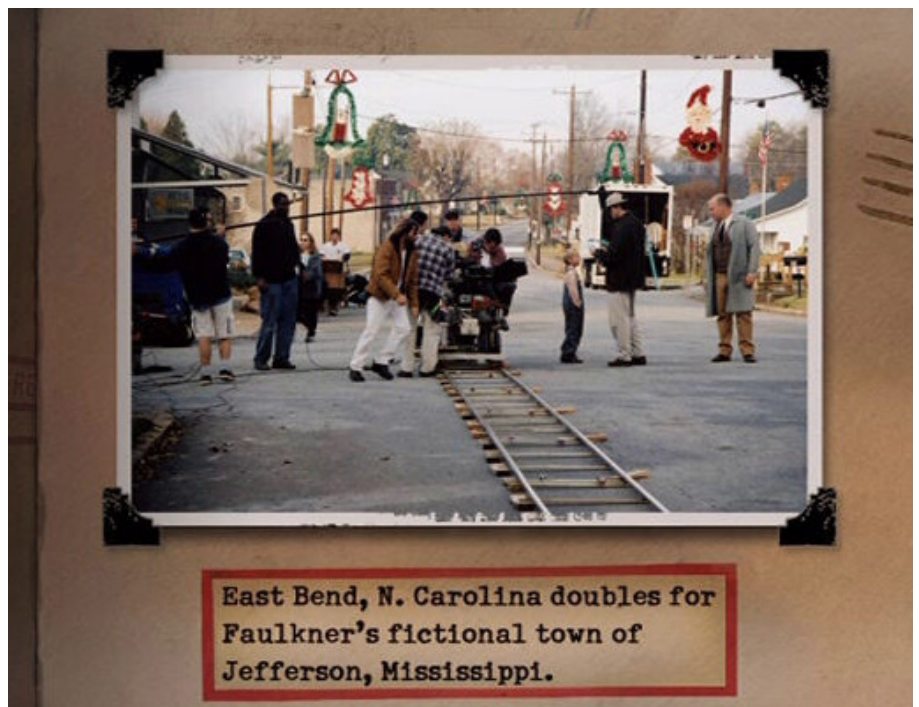
File photo

A screenshot of one of the images of filming in East Bend in the bonus features included on the DVD of the film *Two Soldiers*.



File photo

Two Soldiers



File photo

A screenshot of one of the images of filming in Yadkinville in the bonus features included on the DVD of the film *Two Soldiers*.

103-year Yadkin County Woman

Shares stories with American Legion historian



Courtesy photo

American Legion Historian Linda Quinlan with Kate Shore and her daughter-in-law Cathy Shore.

Linda J. Quinlan

North Carolina American Legion Auxiliary Historian

Special to *The Yadkin Ripple*

Editor's Note: On a warm spring afternoon in 2024, North Carolina American Legion Auxiliary Historian Linda J. Quinlan paid a visit to the Vienna Village Assisted Living facility in Pfafftown to chat with Martha (Kate) Shore. Kate — as she is affectionately known — is the most senior resident at Vienna Village, and is a healthy, spry 103-year-young lady.

Linda Quinlan was joined by her husband Jim, along with David Shore, Kate's son, and Cathy Shore, David's wife. The Shores live in Boonville and the Quinlans reside in Shelby. As the Auxiliary State Historian, Linda was very interested in chatting with Kate to hear about her life and the many changes she has seen through the years. Here Linda shares an account of her interview with Kate Shore.

On the day of our visit, Kate was waiting for us in her room at Vienna Village which family members have decorated with many framed photos of relatives and friends, special occasions, etc. She

looked lovely — her snow-white hair was styled (she has her hair done weekly), her fingernails sported a French manicure, and her complexion was flawless.

Born in January 1921, Kate was the youngest child in a family with two brothers and two sisters. As many North Carolinians of her generation, they were a very industrious and hard-working family. Kate's parents were tobacco farmers. Kate was married at the tender age of 17 to Alvis Shore.

They eloped to Hillsville, VA and got married by a Justice of the Peace, after which they spent the remainder of their life together near Boonville. Her husband was also a tobacco farmer, and together they also raised hogs, and planted a big garden every year.

The Shores welcomed four sons over a span of 11 years: Keith (who passed away in

2014), David, Clark, and Neil.

During the visit, both Kate and her son David recalled a humorous incident which happened when David and his brother Clark were youngsters, probably around four to six years of age.

Their parents had saved enough money to buy their boys new straw hats. One day, after a heavy rainfall, the boys couldn't resist running outside to play in the mud puddles around the house.



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Kate Shore with son David canning pork sausage.

Courtesy photo

They remembered to take their shoes off and roll up their overall pant legs, but since they loved their new straw hats so much they also put them on before going outside. About 30 minutes later, after much rough housing and jumping in puddles, both boys were covered head to toe with mud. Kate went outside and when she saw her filthy muddy little boys, the boys figured they were in for a good spanking. But Kate was a patient mother who always saw the bright side of life. She told her boys to stay right where they were and she would be back in a minute. While the boys nervously awaited her return, they wondered who would get the first whooping. But instead — Kate came back outside — and in her hand was her camera! She smiled and laughed as she took several photos of her messy little boys. A photo hanging on the wall in her room indeed shows the little muddy boys, and the picture never ceases to bring a smile to her face when she reminisces about that day.

Both David and Clark Shore served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era. Kate was well aware of the sacrifices her sons had to make serving in the military, as both of her brothers also served in the Army during World War II. One of her treasured possessions is a beautiful kimono a brother sent to her while he was stationed in Japan. She kept in touch with Clark and David while they were in the service, and they, in turn, would write to Kate often. She kept every letter they wrote back and they also remain very treasured mementoes.

As her sons got older, Kate worked at several jobs. For 16 years, she worked for Hunter Publishing and helped to assemble high school yearbooks. She also worked as a cook at Lightning Drive-in close to Boonville, and for several years baked pies for Aces Restaurant in Yadkinville. According to David, Kate was considered

the best chocolate, butterscotch, and coconut pie maker (ever!) in Yadkin County.

As seems so often, life got busy and the years passed quickly. Kate and Alvis enjoyed a very long and happy married life together until Alvis' death in 1996. As she got older her sons wanted Kate to take turns living with them so they could keep a closer eye on her.

While living at Cathy and David's home in Boonville, one of her favorite things to do was helping can pork sausage. And when Cathy needed to make her scrumptious

homemade apple cakes, Kate helped peel dozens of apples by hand. Always known as a sweetheart to her many friends and relatives, Kate's son Neil, who owns the Sanders Ridge Winery in Boonville, even named a wine after her — "Sweet Kate".

David is a very active member of The American Legion, which is the nation's oldest and largest veterans service organization. For the past 20 years he has been Commander of the East Bend Legion Post 336. David was also the NC American Legion State Commander 2016-2017, National Sergeant-at-Arms 2019-2021, and currently serves the organization as a National Executive Committeeman.

The Quinlans' became acquainted with David and Cathy Shore in 2017 as they worked on several American Legion committees together and have been good friends ever since. Linda and her husband are active members of the Shelby, NC American Legion and Auxiliary. David decided to sign up several ladies in his family to become members of the

Auxiliary, including his wife and his mother. Thus, Kate became the most senior member of the Auxiliary in North Carolina.

One item that must be mentioned is that she is also one of the UNC Tarheels basketball's biggest fans. On game days she gets out her Tarheels jersey and hangs a UNC sign on her door. She makes sure the TV remote and her favorite snacks are handy so she can enjoy the basketball game uninterrupted. She even scored an autographed birthday card from beloved Tarheels former coach Roy Williams when she turned 101.

Today, after moving to Vienna Village Assisted Living several months ago, Kate is doing well and is very happy. She has a daily routine which includes exercise and walking up and down the long hallways. Kate likes to participate in the Bingo games, said the food is delicious, and enjoys singing at religious services when a preacher comes on the weekend. She has many friends there already, loves the staff, and they in turn love her back. They told her she is one of the sweetest ladies there, so she tries to behave herself. She says she has had a very blessed life and is very grateful.

When asked what her wish for Christmas would be, she immediately stated she hopes to be as mobile then as she is now. Kate Shore is a sweet, lovely lady and all who meet her hope for her continued good health and that all her wishes come true. Blessed indeed!



Courtesy photo

Kate Shore received a birthday card from her favorite college basketball team on the occasion of 101st birthday.

Yadkin Christian Ministries

feeding and loving those in need since 1983

Alli Pardue

Special to The Yadkin Ripple

In Beth Steelman's four years at Yadkin Christian Ministries, she said she has seen "miraculous things."

Some would say these events — the arrival of a truck hauling 4000 lbs. of chicken in the middle of a meat shortage, for one — were merely coincidental, but Steelman believes they were gifts from God.

Yadkin Christian Ministries (YCM) is a cooperative effort of more than 60 churches, 150 volunteers, and several non-profit agencies, unified in a mission of sharing Christ's love by helping the less fortunate in the community. Services extend to families in all parts of Yadkin County in need of food, medication, and other miscellaneous items.

Formed in 1983, YCM celebrated its 40th anniversary last fall.

Steelman is in charge of the "entire operation" at YCM, she said. She has been the organization's executive director since 2019. Steelman has a myriad of executive duties, like securing funding and spearheading community outreach, but she said her overarching mission is to be an "ambassador of love."

The people at YCM aspire to, as best they can, live like Christ by serving those in real need. Steelman said Christ didn't seek out people living comfortable lives — "he went to the man on the street and said, 'I love you,' and that's what we want to do."

YCM is primarily a food pantry, serving between 45,000 and 46,000 lbs. of food every month.

Donations are accepted on a regular basis. YCM requests food items like canned goods and cooking ingredients, as well as household items like toilet paper, toothbrushes, and detergent. Donations can be dropped off at either of the Yadkinville or East Bend locations.

Second Harvest Food Bank is a strong partner to YCM, offering them government services and alleviating some of the financial load. Second Harvest serves 18 counties in North Carolina.

YCM also does some of its own grocery shopping — endeavors typically totaling in the thousands of dollars.

"That's why we depend so much on the government food, and donations from this county are so so so critical to us," Steelman said.

Each month, YCM serves around 400 families. Many in Yadkin County live below the poverty line — 12.1 percent, according to 2022 census data.

"We see people here who live in tents, who live in abandoned buildings, who live off the grid, who live without power, who cook over open fire," Steelman said.

It grinds Steelman's gears when people in the community criticize her organization for "empowering these people to live in poverty." This stigma is something she tries to rectify, explaining that nobody is immune to the possibility of their life falling apart.

If there's a need, there's a story, and everyone who walks into Steelman's office at YCM has a story. Sure, many have made poor decisions, but many have grown up with hardships beyond their control. Some have even worked steady jobs and achieved high levels of education.

Sometimes, life has a way of unraveling — your house burns down, a stroke takes you out of work, your son leaves you with grandchildren to raise. Without a backup plan or a strong support system, what's left to do but turn to your community for help?

"These people are real," Steelman said. They know that hardships can befall anyone, no matter their background — they've lived it.

"I think what we have to realize is, but for the grace of God, we could be on the other side of that desk," Steelman said.

Steelman said that YCM hopes to build a community that "understands need" — a community that feels a kinship with all of its members and knows that this is everyone's problem.

"We're just blessed that there were people who had that insight in 1983, that this needed to be a part of our community," she said.

As for the next 40 years, Steelman foresees that YCM is here to stay. She said the world would need to see



File photo

All hands on deck for Yadkin Christian Ministries volunteers at the 2023 Empty Bowls fundraiser.

"huge economic turnaround" helping to alleviate food insecurity and "huge social improvements" destigmatizing mental health issues in order to eliminate the need for YCM's services.

"There's a huge need in this county," Steelman said, "and we feel very blessed that we can be a part of the solution."

To learn more, search for Yadkin Christian Ministries on Facebook or visit their website at <https://www.y-c-m.org/>.



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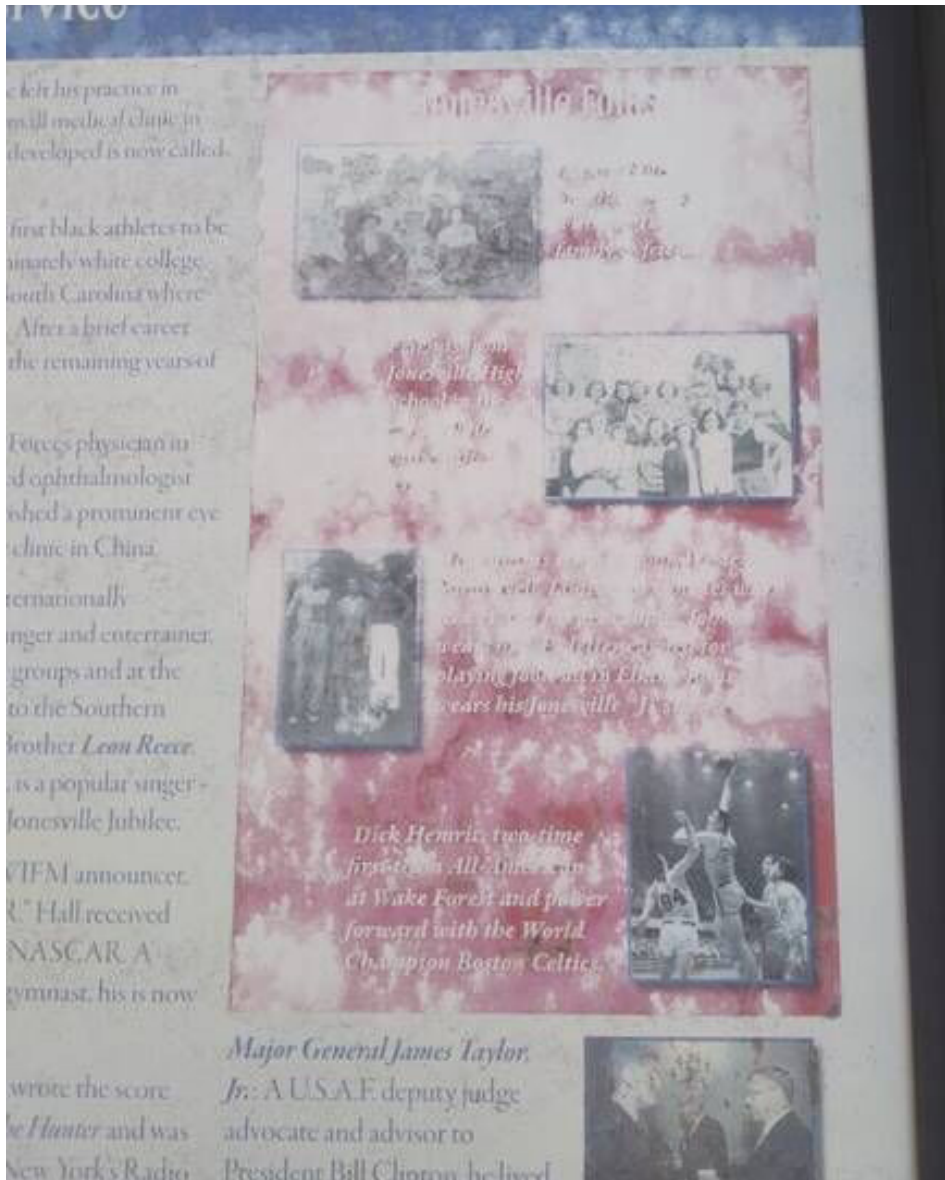
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Jonesville man shares *History of local park*

Plea to improve Veterans Park



Weather-damaged signs at the Jonesville Veterans Park are nearly unreadable.

Courtesy photo

on to Wilkesboro. Wilkes County was at one time part of Surry County. The Adams family is a prominent family in the area till this day. The Adams family, along with others, discovered ore (mines still existed in Jonesville but closed), established a shoe factory (Brogans), textile mill and other businesses in Elkin. One such business became known as Chatham Blankets. They made blankets for the military in WWII, car upholstery, and many other items.

There is a Veterans Memorial Park on River Road in Jonesville and Jonesville Historical Society across the street. The park is where the Adams family first settled. The spot has a good view of the Yadkin River.

And then the politicians came. They began to tax the people and build themselves big fine homes and tried to control the people. So, the people moved to the mountains to what is now Tennessee and became known as the Mountain Men. Ten years after they moved to the mountains the British came into the area during the Revolutionary War. They established a strong hold at what is now Kings Mountain. They thought they were secure but did not know mountain and woods fighting tactics. The Mountain Men returned to Jonesville and rallied a militia to fight the British. They overcame the British at Kings Mountain and that was the turning point of the Revolutionary War. Had it not been for them this nation possibly could be under the British rule. The Mountain Men returned to their homes to never fight again.

Life Goes On

Jonesville became the crossroads for the trade route which is now Highways 67 and 21. The town developed and became prosperous. The town started educational and academic institutions.

When I was a boy, before school age, I had a Radio Flyer wagon. I used the wagon to haul neighbors' laundry for my mother. She worked at Chatham Blankets and "took in" laundry. She first washed the laundry by hand until she earned enough money to buy a washing machine. She heated her irons on a wood burning stove. Then I returned the laundry after she finished washing it.

I also used the wagon to pick up scrap iron and take it to Browns Machine Shop which had moved from Jonesville to Elkin. Browns Machine Shop helped develop and make the trigger mechanism for the Atomic Bomb that was used to bomb

Jimmy Sloop

Special to The Yadkin Ripple

Brave men and women stepped forward to protect their freedom and taxation and many gave their lives during the Revolutionary War. One such place and people was the Adams family. They moved to the banks of the Yadkin River in what is now Jonesville in the early 1700s. They traveled, as my ancestors and others did, from Holland/Germany/England/Ireland etc. to Philadelphia then traveled what

became known as the Philadelphia Road. It followed the Appalachian Mountains to North Carolina. My ancestor, Conrad Schupp, settled in Salisbury, Rowan County. He later went to the county seat in Salisbury in mid 1700 and changed his name to Sloop. It was common for the immigrants to do that back then.

The Adams family became very prominent people and expanded across the Yadkin River to what is now Elkin. Daniel Boone settled in the area along the Yadkin River for a time before moving

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan to end WWII. The Enola Gay, the plane that dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, is at the Dulles Airport Museum in Washington DC.

Then when I was 10 years old, I delivered The Elkin Tribune and got my social security card. I walked the route until I saved enough money to buy me a bicycle. I installed a siren, light, speedometer, and handlebar tassels. When it snowed, I wrapped a small rope around the back tire for traction.

Jonesville and Elkin produced some infamous people. Barney Hall became NASCAR's announcer for some 50 years. Leon Reese wrote songs and sang for many people and if I am not mistaken, the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. Both worked at radio station WIFM in Elkin during their early years.

The Yadkin River often flooded the rich farmland along its banks. At times it would rise to the streets in Elkin. The Kerr Scott dam was built in Wilkesboro to help control the flood waters. The lake is now a great recreation and fishing area with beautiful campgrounds. Wilkesboro is where Lowes started with a grocery store and is now one of the largest retail stores in the nation. Tyson Foods also has a large plant there which was formerly Holly Farms. I drove a truck for Holly Farms for a short time. Junior Johnson also called Wilkesboro home. He was instrumental in developing the race car track there.

Elkin and Jonesville continue to prosper. The racetrack in Jonesville is now Lila Swaim Park. The racetrack was at one time "the" track for racing. It hosted drivers like Lee Petty, Ralph Earnhardt, the Flock brothers, Curtis Turner, Junior Johnson, and many others. A committee was formed and developed a Jonesville Historical Society and Veterans Memorial Park mentioned earlier. Both are in dire need for restoration as of this writing. Shameful to allow a place of this prominence to deteriorate. As people traveled through on foot and wagons, they stopped at the spring in Adams Settlement (Veterans Memorial Park) to rest and fill their water jugs. There was a dipper there for people to use. I was there before this writing and the spring is still



A canon on display at the Jonesville Veterans Park has sustained damage from vandalism.

Courtesy photo

active with clear water coming from Mineral Springs Hill.

It is suggested that the citizens and businesses of Jonesville and Elkin support this great historical place and get it back in a respectable condition to represent the Veterans and both towns.



Jimmy Sloop

Signage at the Jonesville Veterans Park on River Road are nearly unreadable due to wear and tear.



Jimmy Sloop

Items at the Jonesville Veterans Park on River Road show signs of damage.

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Ceremony held for historic *Yadkin* County Civil War era flag

Greg Cheek

Special to The Yadkin Ripple

The Yadkin Gray Eagles SCV Camp 1765 began a project in 2016 to raise funds for the conservation of the Yadkin Gray Eagles Company flag used during the Civil War. The flag is historically significant as it is the only known company silk flag from North Carolina, carried through 26 major battles, from Manassas to Appomattox, never captured nor surrendered, and returned to its original owner after the war. Kept in storage at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh over the last 120 years, this historical flag had become only a shadow of its original state, with much of its silk material suffering significant deterioration.

With the nearly \$29,000 needed to conserve the flag, the conservation was finally completed in 2023. With the conservation effort, this fragile historical flag has undergone an amazing transformation that will allow it to be displayed in the near future at the museum. The Yadkin Gray Eagles want to again thank all who contributed to the fund raising efforts with their generous donations to help make this possible.

In order to commemorate this historic achievement, a Yadkin Gray Eagle's Flag Dedication Ceremony was held on Sept. 9, 2023 in the Daniels Auditorium at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh. Many from Yadkin County were in attendance, including members of the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners, the Yadkinville City Manager, members of the Yadkin Gray Eagles, and other Civil War historians from North Carolina and beyond.



Greg Cheek and Charles Mathews unveiling the flag at a ceremony held in Raleigh.



Karen Bowen

Members of the Yadkin Gray Eagles SCV Camp 1765 posing with the flag: From left to right — Jim Jones, Dale Reynolds, Charles Mathews, Devin Brown, Mike Cranfill, Charles Brintle, Stan Bowen, Greg Cheek, Tara Houston, Scotty Linville, Brian Houston, Ronald Allen, Tony Hine.

The ceremony began with welcoming remarks from Yadkin Gray Eagles Camp Commander Charles Mathews, followed by an opening prayer by Herman White, SCV NC Division Chaplain. Charles Mathews then introduced all of the special guest speakers. Greg Cheek, Chair of the Flag Conservation Committee, shared the journey of the Yadkin Gray Eagle Flag, highlighting the time it was sent off to war from Yadkin County on June 17, 1861, its return to Yadkin County after the war, its eventual donation to the North Carolina Museum of History, and its recent conservation.

Following Cheek's comments, Stan Clardy, a local Civil War Musician, performed a beautiful rendition of "The Old North State", a song which still warms the hearts of many North Carolinians today.

Charles Mathews recognized those who made significant donations to the conservation effort. Kenny Ramsey, Lt. Commander of the SCV North Carolina Division, provided words of praise for the conservation of the flag, as did Dr. Stan Latta representing the Society of the Order of the Southern Cross. Both organizations combined for \$4000 in donations to support the conservation effort. Many history related groups and SCV camps across the state were recognized as well for their generous support.

During the ceremony the conserved historic Yadkin Gray Eagle Flag was officially unveiled for the first time by Cheek and Mathews to the cheers

and standing ovation by the more than 75 attendees. In memoriam, Cheek also reminded everyone of Marlena Mathews' handiwork in making a beautiful silk reproduction of the original flag. Her reproduction of the flag was also on display during the ceremony. Marlena unfortunately passed away in 2020 from COVID-19.

Following the unveiling of the flag, representatives from the North Carolina Museum of History spoke regarding the flag conservation effort. John Campbell, the NC Museum of History Collections Management Section Chief, highlighted the museum's history conservation and preservation program. Paige Myers, the NC Museum of History Textile Conservator, highlighted the challenges faced by the conservators and interesting things that were uncovered about the flag. The most interesting of which was the discovery of five bullet holes in the flag from the war. Charlie Knight, the NC Museum of Military History Curator, spoke also on the future exhibit rotation to tell the story of the flag at the museum.

After the ceremony, the Yadkin Gray Eagle and the Brown Mountain Boys flags were on display for all to see up close. The flag of the Brown Mountain Boys was conserved several years earlier. The group was then treated to lunch, followed by a special viewing of other North Carolina Civil War flags and military artifacts belonging to actual Yadkin Gray Eagle soldiers.

Raising, loving, and sharing the “*Grande Old Breed*” at Crooked Creek Highlands

Alli Pardue

Special to The Yadkin Ripple

Nearly 4000 miles away from their ancestral homelands in the rugged Scottish Highlands, 14 Highland cows live happily on an 80-acre family farm at the edge of neighboring Wilkes County.

The farm is called Crooked Creek Highlands. Owned and operated by Megan and Evan White, the property has been in their family for over 200 years. In 2023, the Whites put their farm on the map by merging traditional farm practices with new age spectacle to create unique and engaging experiences for visitors.

“The breeding is more traditional, and then the events are kind of more new agritourism. So we have a little bit of both,” Megan said.

Crooked Creek Highlands breeds and sells Scottish Highland cattle and invites the public to interact with them. Other resident critters include goats, donkeys, and a pony named Zilly. The Whites offer educational farm tours, photography sessions, and specialty events. Yoga sessions with goats, paint parties with Highland cows, and movie nights under the stars are among the events offered at the farm.

“We want to find fun and engaging ways to interact with the community, educate on the breed, and then also have fun,” Evan said.

The Whites are proud of the variety of experiences they offer, but the stars of the show are undoubtedly the Highland cows — a fluffy, docile, “majestic” breed of cattle that headlines most of their events, Megan said.



Courtesy photo
Evan and Megan White, owners and operators of Crooked Creek Highlands, pose with their two kids Beckham (left) and Evy (right).

The “Grande Old Breed”

The Whites currently have 18 cows with 14 of them being Scottish Highlands — and they’re expecting six calves this Spring.

They keep both registered and non-registered Highlands. Registered animals cost more than non-registered ones, as they ensure the cow’s lineage can be traced back to Scotland. Keeping a mix of both gives their customers more financial variety.

According to the American Highland Cattle Association, Highlands tend to be a calm, docile breed. They have a distinct double hair coat, which adds an extra layer of warmth and reduces the need for expensive barns and shelters.

“They’re easier cattle to raise,” Megan said.

Highlands are one of the oldest breeds in the world, giving them the nickname the “Grande Ole Breed.”

“They’re just really cool,” Evan said.



Courtesy photo

Two Highland cows at Crooked Creek Highlands, graze in their pasture.

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Alli Pardue

The chalkboard welcome sign at the guest parking area of Crooked Creek Highlands

The Whites view their Highlands like little people. The cows create their own hierarchy, and each one has a name and distinct personality. Jolene, one of the younger ones, is a bit of an escape artist, often getting into mischief. Megan has seen that Jolene understands the kinship between her mother and grandmother, and she has a best friend named Elsie.

"Getting [a new cow] is like getting a new family member," Megan said.

A family endeavor

Crooked Creek Highlands is "a true family farm," Megan said. Evan and Megan manage the property with help from their young kids, Evy and Beckham, and Megan's parents.

"It's something we all share, so that makes it really special for us," Megan said.

The farm is located on the Wilkes County side of Hamptonville — an area called Somers Township. Somers is Megan's maiden name, and the land has been in her family for around 200 years. Megan's grandfather raised Hereford cattle, her dad raised Black Angus cattle and then she and Evan decided to do Scottish Highlands.

"We are fifth generation farmers, and our children, if they decide to do this, will be sixth generation," Megan said. The kids love helping out on the farm, so the path to such a legacy may not be far out of reach.

"Our oldest, she tries to give tours now herself. When she's out here at paint parties, she hands out fliers and she loves to help," Megan said.

Farm life suits the White family, but their permanent move to the country was actually fairly recent.

We lived in Charlotte for 10 years. We love Charlotte. It was a great area. I never thought we'd move back here," Megan said. In Charlotte, they rarely went outside — something they wanted to change for their kids.

"We want them outside like we were outside" — a lifestyle where they can run, play and be free, Evan said. And so, after exploring the world and achieving career goals in the big city, the Whites realized their true home was tucked away on Somers Road at the farm where Megan grew up.

In 2022, the Whites moved in with Megan's parents on the farm, began constructing their own house on the property and bought

two Scottish Highlands.

"And we just kept building on that," Megan said.

Evan and Megan still work in Charlotte. Megan works from home as a family law attorney, and Evan makes a 50-minute commute once a week for his job at Principal Financial Group. Still, the duo manages to effectively juggle working full-time jobs, managing the farm, and parenting their kids.

"We don't sleep," Megan joked.

When you're passionate about something, "you just find a way to make it work," she said.

Uplifting the community

In addition to building their own brand, the Whites work to build up the local community. They've collaborated with businesses in Elkin, like Laura's Brushes for paint parties and Yoga on Main for yoga sessions. They attend local festivals and events, including the Pumpkin Festival and this year's Christmas in the Grove at Blake Farms.

Evan and Megan also take their animals on visits to spread joy and comfort people in difficult situations. Their cows and goats have visited Fifth Street Ministries in Statesville, a domestic violence clinic, and Safe Spot Child Advocacy Center in Wilkesboro.

"Animals are therapy," Megan said.

They also enrich the community through educational initiatives. Megan said they work to combat misinformation on the Highland breed. Then their farm tours teach people about farming, provide interactive experiences with the animals, and showcase the simple joys of farm life.

"It's surprising how few people, even from the area, know about cows, or about farm or agriculture, where their food comes from," Evan said. They've even had people ask them if their cows were dogs.

Clearly, Megan and Evan White's mission goes beyond farming. Their goal with Crooked Creek Highlands is to be an asset to the community — to make farm life accessible, to help those in need, and to share the love of Highland cows.

Visit the farm

Those interested in visiting Crooked Creek Highlands can schedule a farm tour or get tickets to a specialty event on their website. For more information, check out their website at <https://www.crookedcreekhIGHLANDS.com>.



Alli Pardue

Two Highland cows on the farm, Jolene (left) and her best friend Elsie (right)

Falcons announce ne *Hall of Fame* inductees

Zach Colburn

Special to The Yadkin Ripple

Forbush High School inducted five new members into its hall of fame in a ceremony to earlier this year during the Falcons' basketball games with North Wilkes.

Dylan Andrade, Michelle Baity-Bryant, Debbie Motsinger, Dr. Barbara Todd and Coach Jimmy Warden joined an already prestigious class of hall of famers.

Below is a list of each of the 2024 inductee's credentials:

Dylan Andrade

A 2015 Forbush graduate, Andrade was all-conference performer in four different sports, which included being a four-time all-conference performer in outdoor track and field. He was an all-conference selection in swimming and a two-time all-conference selection in boys soccer. He was also a North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association all-region section. Andrade was a two-time state qualifier in indoor tack and a four-time state qualifier in outdoor track.

Michelle Baity-Bryant

One of the most accomplished athletes in school history, Bryant was an all-conference performer in volleyball, softball and girl's basketball, won numerous state championships and was named the Female Falcon of the Year during her prep career. Bryant's presence was most felt on the volleyball court as where she was a key part of the back-to-back NCHSAA 2A championships in 1996 and 1997. Those teams combined for 60-straight wins, which included the 1997 campaign where the Lady Falcons did not lose a set the entire season while going 30-0 overall.

Bryant continued her volleyball career at Lenoir-Rhyne College, where she was named the Freshman of the Year and was the school's only four-time all-conference first team performer and was named a Lutheran College All-American.

Debbie Motsinger

An accomplished educator with a distinguished career in English instruction, Motsinger graduated summa cum laude from Pfeiffer College in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts in English. After beginning her career at Lexington Middle School, the majority of Motsinger's career was at Forbush, where she taught for 29 years until 2011. Her teaching repertoire included standards, honors and Advanced Placement English. But her primary

focus was on the freshmen and senior classes.

Motsinger's dedication to education earned her numerous awards, including Outstanding Young Educator in 1989, Forbush High Teacher of the Year for the 1999-2000 school year. She was also named the Yadkin County Teacher of the Year the same year.

Dr. Barbara Todd

A 1969 Forbush graduate who served in various clubs including the National Honor Society's president, Dr. Todd's teaching career began in neighboring Wilkes County after graduating from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. While teaching (and pursuing both her masters and doctoral degrees), she began a program for high school students interested in early childhood education.

Dr. Todd returned to Yadkin County after two decades in Wilkes to become the assistant superintendent for Yadkin County Schools, then superintendent for the school system. She served nine years in that capacity.

Coach Jimmy Warden

A legend in the world of softball, Warden dedicated his life to coaching and mentoring young athletes across North Carolina for two decades. He first stepped to the plate in 1993 as a coach at Yadkinville Elementary, leading the recreation softball team for five seasons.



Zach Colburn

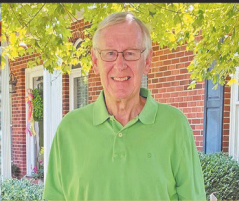
Dylan Andrade, Michelle Baity-Bryant, Debbie Motsinger, Dr. Barbara Todd and Coach Jimmy Warden, pictured, left-to-right, were recently inducted into the Forbush High School Hall of Fame.

Since 1997, Warden has offered private pitching lessons to players across multiple counties. In 2000, he became an assistant coach for the Carolina Cardinals travel softball programs.

Two years later, he led the 14-and-under squad all the way to Nationals and the program enjoyed tremendous success over the next decade under Warden's guidance. Warden also served as the pitching coach for Forbush's softball program from 2001 to 2014.

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