



Winner

Woman wins Corvette, cash from
lotto ticket bought in county

▶▶ SEE PAGE 6A



Bond

Former Chadbourne police
chief out of jail

▶▶ SEE PAGE 4A

The News Reporter

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Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Celebrating 125 years

County, city schools issue last-minute mask mandates



Staff photo by Grant Merritt

Whiteville Primary School Principal Kimberly Ward points a student in the right direction at the drop-off area Monday morning. All students and staff are required to wear a face covering inside school buildings and vehicles.

By Diana Matthews
dianamathews@nrcolumbus.com

Students who returned to Columbus County and Whiteville City schools yesterday for the start of a new academic year were required to wear face masks following policy changes late last week by both school systems.

Both boards voted in late July only to recommend face coverings. After delta variant coronavirus cases climbed during the following weeks, Gov. Roy Cooper sent a message to school boards not requiring masks and asked them to reconsider.

Classical Charter Schools in Whiteville announced Wednesday, that students and staff will also be required to wear masks when indoors as well as on buses. The year-round school resumed classes in mid-July with masks optional for students and staff.

Whiteville City Schools Superintendent Marc Whichard announced Thursday, that city schools students and personnel will wear masks indoors and on school vehicles.

"This action is necessary due to the extreme level of viral transmission in our community and in an effort to keep students and staff members in school for in-person learning," according to the Thursday evening statement. "While face coverings may not be 100% effective in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, they do assist with contact tracing, which, in many cases, allows students and staff to remain in school and our athletic programs to continue."

In its Thursday statement, WCS said it would "continue to evaluate the rate of transmission in our community over the days and weeks ahead. As the case numbers improve, the requirement for face coverings will be revisited."

In an 8 a.m. emergency meeting Friday, the Columbus County Board of Education voted unanimously to follow the recommendation by Superintendent Deanne Meadows. Students were already required by federal law to wear masks on buses. They may take masks off when outside or when actively eating, and may sometimes receive teacher permission to remove them when working at least 6 feet apart from others indoors.

'No joke'

Meadows gave the board a chart showing 83 positive tests for COVID-19 and 127 quarantines within the school system during August. She said high school students had lost over 12,000 hours of instruction during the two-week "jump start" session meant to prepare them for fall classes.

Board Chair Worley T. Edwards said that all 14 principals supported the mandate.

"The safety of our kids is our first pri-

▶▶ SEE MANDATES 2A

Nursing homes confront 'deeply concerning' COVID-19 surge

By Ivey Schofield
iveyschofield@nrcolumbus.com

In the last two months, COVID-19 cases have been surging in Columbus County due to the more transmissible delta variant, and assisted living facilities have not been immune.

"We must all recognize this new surge and be super vigilant to protect those that are most vulnerable," said Lauren Reaves, president of Ren-Care Solutions, which manages Tabor Commons. "We have definitely seen

**Vaccination
rate of
assisted living
residents, staff
exceeds county
average.**

cases spiking."

Tabor Commons is one of three nursing homes in the county currently experiencing outbreaks, with two staff members testing positive, according to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The others include Shoreland, with

▶▶ SEE SURGE 7A

County to renew talk of Old Lake intersection

By Thomas Sherrill
By Diana Matthews

The Columbus County Commissioners are looking to potentially hold a special meeting with Lake Waccamaw officials regarding asking the N.C. Department of Transportation to add exits to the planned Old Lake Road and U.S. 74-76 overpass.

Commissioner Giles "Buddy" Byrd said during the commissioners' Aug. 16 meeting that Lake Waccamaw officials asked him to raise the issue.

Lake Waccamaw Mayor Daniel Hilburn said the next day that he had spoken the week prior with Byrd about the project because Byrd was at the DOT meetings and because of the project's impact to the commissioner's district.

Options

According to Byrd, a couple of years

▶▶ SEE INTERSECTION 10A

Honey Festival on Sept. 11 has 'together' theme

By Thomas Sherrill
tsherrill@nrcolumbus.com

Downtown Whiteville will be buzzing again Saturday, Sept. 11, in front of the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville with a ceremony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. in front of the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville with a ceremony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"As we reflect on that day," and the events that followed it, Cutler said, the message of

Together We Stand "remains relevant in every aspect of our lives — the crucial relationship between pollinators and all living things, the political divide in our nation and the unfortunate tragedies that have touched Columbus County in recent days and weeks. When we are divided, we fall.

"We are optimistic that this event will shed light on what is possible when we work together for the success and prosperity of us all," Cutler said.

Pancakes

The festival's kickoff will

again be a pancake supper benefiting charity.

This year's supper will be a drive-through pick-up-only event on Tuesday, Sept. 7, from 5-7:30 p.m. at Central Missionary Baptist Church, 443 W. Virgil St. in Whiteville.

In recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day, Sept. 10, proceeds will go to the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at Flavas Clothing Store, 1616 S. Madison St., Suite #F, or Families First, 121 W.

▶▶ SEE HONEY 7A



Carl Cutler and A.C. Cutler

DIDYOB
DID YOU OBSERVE?

Corey Beam of South Columbus High School attending the SkillsUSA North Carolina officer training?... Members of the Whiteville High School Class of 2022 gathering for a start of the school year kickoff party Sunday afternoon at Vineland Station?... Several dozen people came together outside Columbus Regional Healthcare System in Whiteville Sunday afternoon for a Healthcare Professionals Prayer Gathering?...

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Whiteville, North Carolina



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County board of adjustment OKs truck stop

By Thomas Sherrill
tsherrill@ncolumbus.com

The Columbus County Board of Adjustment last week approved issuing a special-use permit to the owners of a proposed Sun-Do truck stop off the Union Valley Road U.S. 74-76 exit.

County planning director Samantha Alsup said the special-use permit was required due to the station's bulk hydrocarbon storage.

The Aug. 17 meeting was a quasi-judicial process during which witnesses had to be sworn in and decisions were based on whether or nor the proposal met criteria laid out in the county's zoning ordinances.

"The site [is] proposed to consist of a 6,000-square-foot convenient store with restaurant, rest area and four shower facilities for truckers," the application submitted to the planning office states. "The site will have 10 gasoline pumps (20 hoses) for cars, six diesel fueling

stations for tractor-trailers and eight charging stations for electric vehicles."

Property owner Chris Oliver, who owns Sonny Oliver Realty out of Lumberton, filed the special-use permit for the proposed gas station July 23. The company is applying as Sun-Do Whiteville.

Alsup said the applicant now has to obtain certain permissions before building, including submitting a soil and erosion plan, obtaining an underground storage tank permit and then getting a building permit to put shovels in the ground.

Currently, there are Sun-Do Kwik Shop locations in Boardman and south of Hallsboro, plus a dozen more in Robeson County. Alsup said this station will resemble ones in Boardman and Maxton.

As far as actual construction, Alsup estimates that it shouldn't be too long before work starts as long as the permits are received.

Health department giving booster shots

The Columbus County Health Department on Friday started giving third doses of the Moderna vaccine to immunocompromised individuals.

These individuals include active cancer treatment patients, organ transplant patients, patients who received a stem cell transplant within the last two years, patients who taking medicine that suppresses the immune system, people with moderate to severe immunodeficiency like DiGeorge and Wiskott-Aldrich syndromes, people with advanced or untreated HIV infection and people who are on active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids.

All individuals must have had their second shot at least 28 days prior.

"You should talk to your healthcare provider about your medical conditions and [about] whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for you," a press release stated.

Call 910-640-6615 to make an appointment.



Staff photo by Justin Smith

Specialist Ricardo Abel Rodriguez of the U.S. Army National Guard Bravo Company 1-120th Infantry "Madd Dawgs" runs down Madison Street in Whiteville Saturday morning as part of a memorial run. Following a formation downtown, the guardsmen ran to the historic courthouse and back.

Priest is new SCC Foundation director

Southeastern Community College announced Monday that it has named Terrie Priest as the new director of the SCC Foundation. The foundation raises and manages funds that support the community college's mission.

"We are excited about the future," said Joe Hooks, foundation president. "Terrie brings great leadership to the foundation board, and I know she will continue that great work that had been laid by past foundation members and board directors."

Priest, who will assume the role Oct. 1, will be responsible for managing fundraising and financial operations for the foundation, including coordinating fundraising events and working with individuals, grantors, organizations and businesses supporting the college.

"As a development professional, I have always looked up to the SCC Foundation," Priest said. "It is a shining example of a well-managed development organization, and I am thrilled to serve as the new director. I look forward to honoring the



Terrie Priest

past success of the foundation while building on the excitement that is brewing at SCC."

SEE PRIEST 6A



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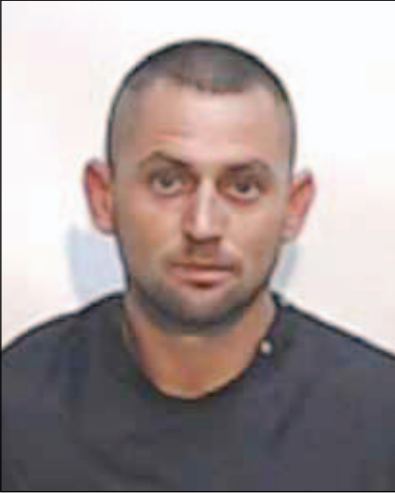
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Spivey posts \$500K bond in Bladen County

Former Chadbourn Police Chief William Anthony Spivey, who is facing 100 felony and misdemeanor charges, is out on a half-million-dollar bond after nearly four months in jail.

According to Assistant District Attorney Jacob Ward, Spivey used a bail bondsman to post the bond on Monday, Aug. 16, in Bladen County.



Anthony Spivey

Spivey got out after a “Nebbia hearing” with Judge Greg Bell in Bladen County, Ward said. A “Nebbia hearing” is when a detainee must prove that the money used for that bond isn’t any of the funds they are charged with stealing.

Spivey’s \$500,000 bond comes with the condition of wearing a GPS monitor before trial, as previously set by Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Douglas Sasser.

Spivey’s charges stem from his time as Chadbourn police chief from August 2018 through February 2020. The alleged crimes include stealing guns, money and drugs from his own evidence locker; forging prescriptions for opioids and embezzling money meant for charity.



Staff photo by Justin Smith

Whiteville police and Columbus County sheriff’s deputies responded to the assault at Columbus Correctional Institution Friday morning.

Correctional officer assaulted at Columbus prison Friday

A correctional officer was injured in an assault Friday morning at Columbus Correctional Institution, the state prison in Brunswick.

Brad Deen, a spokesperson for the N.C. Department of Public Safety, said an offender struck the officer, later identified

as Jacky Ray Deaver, 53, causing him to fall and cut his head around 10:45 a.m.

Whiteville Police Chief Doug Ipock, who was on the scene, said that Deaver was cut near his eye. Whiteville Rescue, escorted by numerous Columbus County sheriff’s deputies, took the officer

to Columbus Regional Healthcare System for treatment. Deaver, a 17-year veteran, was conscious when loaded onto the ambulance, according to Deen.

Ipock said correctional officers immediately took the offender into custody following the assault. The

identity of the offender was not available by press-time.

Ipock said the offender would be charged with assault and potentially additional charges.

— Reporting by Justin Smith and Thomas Sherrill

Arrest reports

Arrest reports from the Columbus County Sheriff’s Office are public record after an individual is booked in the Columbus County Detention Center. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. If you have a question about these reports, you may call The News Reporter and speak to Thomas Sherrill at 910-642-4104, ext. 227.

August 10

Emily Baldwin, 40, Whitehall Road, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on two counts of failure to appear on misdemeanor.

Vernon Frank Bellamy, 60, Ridgeland Acres Drive, Tabor City, arrested by CCSO on one felony count of deliver cocaine.

Brittany Kaye Clewis, 32, Sikes Road, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of second degree trespass.

Marquise McDowell, 31, Southwood Drive, Fayetteville, arrested by CCSO on one count of writ.

Raymond McGriff Jr., 33, Maco Road, Leland, arrested by CCSO on five counts of failure to appear on misdemeanor.

Sheldon Glen Patrick,

54, Jacobs Lane, Bolton, arrested by CCSO on one felony count of break or enter a motor vehicle and one count of misdemeanor larceny.

Joshua Mark Walden, 33, East Goodman Street, Fair Bluff, arrested by CCSO on misdemeanor count of probation violation, one felony count of possession of firearm by felon and one count of felony probation violation.

James Roger Wilkins, 39, Stokes Road, Greenville, arrested by CCSO on five counts of failure to appear on misdemeanor.

August 11

Kelvin Michael Babson, 28, Whiteville Road NW, Ash, arrested by CCSO on one count of felony larceny.

Michelle Davis Cartrette, 45, Miller Road, Tabor City, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of possess drug paraphernalia and one misdemeanor count of simple possession schedule IV controlled substance.

John Angelo Dodato, 35, Forest Creek Road, Sunset Beach, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of driving while impaired.

Candy Herr Lee, 43, Beacon Lane, Chadbourn, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of possess drug paraphernalia.

Julian C. Lee, 40, Seven Creeks Hwy., Tabor City, arrested by CCSO on one

misdemeanor count of driving while impaired.

Travis Lee Lloyd, 35, Slippery Log Road, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of IV-D non-support child.

Justin Lee Nagypaul, 26, Springview Trail, Garner, arrested by CCSO, on one count of failure to appear on misdemeanor.

Arkeem Ward, 25, of Smithfield, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of malicious conduct by prisoner, two felony counts of malicious conduct by prisoner, one felony count of damaging computers and one count of criminal contempt.

August 12

Robert Jamar Avant, 30, Mill Street, Bladenboro, arrested by CCSO on one count of failure to appear on misdemeanor, one felony count of possession of cocaine, one felony count of assault with deadly weapon serious injury, one felony count of discharge weapon occupied property serious bodily injury and two felony count of possession of firearm by felon.

Tyquise T. Baker, 22, Baldwin Street, Chadbourn, arrested by CCSO

on one felony count of possess methamphetamine, one felony count of possess marijuana greater than ½ oz to 1 ½ oz., one misdemeanor count of simple possession schedule IV controlled substance, one felony count of possess schedule II controlled substance, one felony count of robbery with dangerous weapon and one felony count of assault with deadly weapon intent to kill inflict serious injury.

Latasha Toni Bustamanta, 30, South Robeson Road, Rowland, arrested by CCSO on one count of failure to appear on felony and one count of failure to appear on misdemeanor.

David Mark Fields, 52, Dylan Drive, Matthews, arrested by CCSO on one count of writ.

Nina R. Huggins, 49, Green Sea Road, Loris, S.C., arrested by CCSO on one felony count of obtain property by false pretense, one felony count of exploit disable/elder and one felony count of financial card theft.

Thurman Devon Jones, 27, Pinewood Drive, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on one felony count of possession of stolen goods.

Bobby Daniel Lee, 29, Mill Pond Road, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on one count of failure to appear on misdemeanor.

Mason Troy Nickelson, 32, S. Williams Street, Chadbourn, arrested by CCSO on one felony count of habitual felon.

Mason Troy Nickelson, 32, Benjamin Drive, Chadbourn, arrested by CCSO on one felony count of habitual felon.

William Earl Rivenbark, 41, of Wilmington, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of writ.

Edward Earl Shipman, 27, Bill Hooks Road, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on one felony count of larceny of motor vehicle, one felony count of larceny-free text and one count of misdemeanor IV-D non-support child.

William Farlie Simmons, 40, Wright Road, Tabor City, arrested by CCSO on one count of failure to appear on felony.

Equan Maleek Underwood, 27, Baldwin Street, Chadbourn, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of carrying concealed gun.

Cheron Dewayne White Jr., 28, Bart Road, Loris,

S.C., arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of carrying concealed gun and one misdemeanor count of possess schedule VI controlled substance.

SEE ARREST 5A

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Chamber Member of the Week

Angelina's Pizza & Subs

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Orlando and Stacy Martinez

Orlando and Stacy Martinez opened Angelina's in July of 2020. The business namesake is the couple's two year old daughter, Angelina. Angelina's serves homemade Italian specialties like manicotti, parmesan, cacciatore, alfredo, lasagna, and stromboli. They also serve subs and salads, beer and wine. Their pizza is made with the highest quality ingredients and fresh dough made in-house. They have recently expanded to include hand scooped ice cream, milk shakes, slushies and smoothies. In the cooler months they will have coffee and bakery items. Orlando and Stacy love being a part of the Lake Waccamaw community and have plans to expand back to the Whiteville market in the near future.

COLUMBUS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

Each week, the Columbus Chamber will feature a new member as a "thank you" for being a part of our membership. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Columbus Chamber, please give us a call at 910-642-3171 or find us online at www.TheColumbusChamber.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Incident reports

The following incidents were reported to the Columbus County Sheriff's Office.

August 10

Breaking and entering and larceny, 10:34 a.m., sub 100 block of Crabtree Lane, Hallsboro.
Larceny-shoplifting, 2:32 p.m., Dollar General Store #18773, 65 Mollie Rd., Williams Township.
Damage to property, 6:06 p.m., 3900 block of Old North-east Road, Lake Waccamaw.
Larceny from a motor vehicle, 11 p.m., sub 100 block of Gator Lane, Lake Waccamaw.

August 11

Possession of schedule IV CS and possession of drug paraphernalia, 12:02 a.m., Peacock Road and Will Inman Road, Tabor City.
DWI-alcohol and/or drugs, 1:21 p.m., intersection Swamp Fox Hwy. East and Sandy Plains Church Road, Tabor City.
Assault on a female, 4:49 p.m., 1400 block of Carl Stephens Road, Clarendon.
Littering, 11 p.m., 4000 block of Walter Todd Road, Clarendon.

Tabor City police reports

The following incidents were reported to the Tabor City Police Department.

August 8

Call for service-assault on a female, injury to personal property and interfere with emergency communication, 3:46 p.m., Todd House Restaurant, 102 Live Oak St., Tabor City.
False pretense/swindle/confidence game, 10:53 a.m., Pawn South, 802 E. Fifth St., Tabor City.

August 6

Shoplifting, 3:07 p.m., Food Lion, 108 Tabor Crossing Shopping Center, Tabor City.
Call for service - careless and reckless, 8:24 p.m. James B. White Hwy. S, Tabor City.

August 7

Call for service-disturbance and animal com-

plaint, 6 p.m., N. Lewis St., Tabor City.

August 16

Call for service-domestic, 8:29 p.m., Seals Street, Tabor City.

Whiteville police reports

The following incidents were reported to the Whiteville Police Department.

August 9

Larceny and injury to personal property, 10:39 a.m., San Jose Mexican Restaurant, 1616 S. Madison St., Whiteville.
Theft from motor vehicle, 1 a.m., Cox Warehouse Discount Furniture, 1423 James B. White Hwy. N., Whiteville.
Breaking and entering and larceny, 12:44 a.m., First Citizens Bank ATM, 422 S. Madison St., Whiteville.
Order for arrest, 2:14 p.m., Adult Probation and Parole, 805 N. Franklin St., Whiteville.

August 10

Drug/narcotic violations, 1:31 a.m., 1255 Prison Camp Rd., Whiteville.
Breaking and entering and larceny, 1:58 p.m., at Lowes, 100 Green Hill Dr., Whiteville.
Theft from building, 3:07 p.m., Murphy USA, 102 Columbus Corners, Whiteville.
Breaking and entering and larceny, 7:01 p.m., 200 block of W. Lewis St., Whiteville.

August 12

Shoplifting, 12:21 a.m., Minuteman #20, 1105 N. J.K. Powell Blvd, Whiteville.
Motor vehicle theft, 6:37 a.m., Volt Power LLC, 1454 Vinson Blvd, Brunswick.

August 16

Theft from motor vehicle, 7:19 a.m., at DaVita Dialysis Center, 608 Pecan Lane, Whiteville.
Assault on a female and destruction/damage/vandalism of property, 7:19 p.m., Minuteman, 5010 James B. White Hwy. S., Whiteville.
Shoplifting, 11 p.m., Minuteman #20, 1105 N. J.K. Powell Blvd., Whiteville.

August 17

Contraband inside prison facility, 12:37 a.m., 1255 Prison Camp Rd., Whiteville.
Counterfeit/forgery, 1:41 p.m., Zack's Discount Tobacco, 14 Whiteville Plaza, Whiteville.
Larceny, 2:01 p.m., at Sophie's Café Bistro, Whiteville.

August 18

Motor vehicle theft, 8:12 a.m., at Whiteville Mini Mall, Whiteville.
Larceny from coin-operated machine, 8:52 a.m., Taylor Manufacturing INC, 1228 S. J.K. Powell Blvd., Whiteville.
Obtain property by false pretense, 11:22 p.m., Minuteman #46, 2001 S. Madison St., Whiteville.
Obtain property by false pretense and counterfeiting/forgery, 11:22 p.m., Minuteman #46, 2001 S. Madison St., Whiteville.



Staff photo by Thomas Sherrill

A FirstNet temporary mobile cell tower was set up in the former BB&T office parking lot near the South Madison and West Columbus intersection Thursday. The tower helped the city of Whiteville maintain its emergency communications during the outage.

Cut fiber optic lines disrupt cell, WiFi services in Whiteville

By Thomas Sherrill
tsherrill@nrcolumbus.com

Mobile and WiFi networks were offline in Whiteville and central Columbus County much of Thursday after two fiber optic lines were cut. According to Whiteville Emergency Services Director Hal Lowder, a contractor accidentally cut the lines between Whiteville and Lake Waccamaw around 8:43 a.m. Thursday. "Something like eight or nine towers were affected," Lowder said. The outage affected municipal and county emergency lines. County Emergency Services Director Kay Stephens said that while she doesn't

know how large an area was affected, it did cause problems for the county's 911 service, Columbus Regional Healthcare System and several county offices. Stephens said 911 calls had to be routed to Bladen County, which then radioed over the calls. Stephens said that she contacted the state's emergency management department, but due to the flooding in the western part of the state, much of its equipment was already deployed. Soon after the outage started, Lowder said he called FirstNet, a federal government wireless contractor, to bring in temporary mobile cell towers for the city's emergency com-

munications. Lowder explained FirstNet is contracted to respond within 48 hours. FirstNet set up a mobile tower in the former South Madison Street BB&T parking lot Thursday afternoon. Then networks were partially online around 9 p.m. and fully restored overnight. Worley said that one of the two cut lines was completely detached, so it took longer to fix. Lowder said that, when contractors dig, they have to call 811 to determine where to avoid fiber, water, power and sewer lines. Lowder wasn't sure whether this contractor called 811 or not before digging.

ARREST

Continued from 4A

August 13

James Raymore Brady, 44, Watering Street, Tabor City, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of assault on a female.
Evin Sean Brown 32, S. Brown Street, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of IV-D non-support child.
Johnny Houston Dyson, 36, Blackwell Road, Chadbourn, arrested by CCSO on one count of probation violation.
Clark Eliot Green, 59, Mt. Moriah Church Road, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of domestic criminal trespass and one misdemeanor count of communicating threats.

Chase Allen Johnson, 23, Ashland Drive, Leland, arrested by NC Highway Patrol on one misdemeanor count of driving while impaired.
Elizabeth Johnson, 36, Gapway Road, Fair Bluff, arrested by Fair Bluff Police Department on one misdemeanor count of driving while impaired and driving while license revoked no impaired revocation.

August 14

Ray Charles Bullock, 60, Center Street, Fair Bluff, arrested by CCSO on one count of failure to appear on misdemeanor.
Colton Phillip Fowler Jr., 23, Red Hill Road, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, one misdemeanor count of fictitious/altared/title registration card/tag, one misdemeanor count of possess drug paraphernalia, one felony count of possess with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver schedule II controlled substance and one felony count of maintain place for controlled substance.
Thomas Anthony Jackson, 36, Red Store Road, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on one count of failure to appear on misdemeanor and four misdemeanor counts of attempt break/enter motor vehicle.
Colvin William Joseph, 40, Minos Meares Road, Tabor City, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of assault on a female.

August 15

Brandie Cynee Bell, 34, W. 6th Ave., Chadbourn, arrested by CCSO on one count of failure to appear on misdemeanor.

Ashlyn Grace Dial, 22, Azalea Drive, Laurinburg, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of driving while impaired.
Jeffery Dale Fowler, 50, Wagonwheel Drive, Chadbourn, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of assault on a female.
Akeyra Kornegay, 19, Washington Street, Whiteville, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of false imprisonment and one misdemeanor count of assault with a deadly weapon.
Marshall Lunsford, 53, Palmer Green Apts, Rereford, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of assault on a female.

Shamar Melvin, 23, Shiloh Drive, Fayetteville, arrested by CCSO on one count of failure to appear on misdemeanor.
Carol Ann Rogers, 46, Minos Meares Road, Tabor City, arrested by CCSO on one misdemeanor count of simple assault and one count of failure to appear on misdemeanor.
Samantha Brylese Stanley, 24, Sherbrooke Circle, Laurinburg, arrested by NC Highway Patrol on one misdemeanor count of driving while impaired.
Danyell Courtney

Young-Garnett, 28, Panda Street, Hope Mills, arrested by Cumberland County Sheriff's Office on one misdemeanor count of maintain vehicle/dwelling/place for CS.

August 16

Randy O'Bryan Bellamy, 33, Scott Circle, Fair Bluff, arrested by CCSO on one count of failure to appear on misdemeanor.
Angelo Ramir Bobbitt, 28, Swamp Fox Hwy. West, Tabor City, arrested by CCSO on one count of extradition/fugitive other state.



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A look at life’s verities

By Bill Thompson
Special to The News Reporter

As I have now reached that age that some refer to as “elderly,” I look back on what I learned from my elders: my parents, grandparents and some of my uncles and aunts. (At the time, some of my uncles and aunts were the age I am now.)

In retrospect, I have found that most of the verities of life that I learned came from their instruction or example. I realized recently that almost all of those people have passed on and I felt like I should write down some of these truths so that those who follow me can benefit from them. After all, a verity is a never-changing truth that applies for all time.

I guess the first thing I should mention is that we should have respect for our elders. I know that sometimes young folks think old people are out of touch with modern culture. In some cases that may be true but it doesn’t mean that what they tell us is not still applicable in this changing world.

Take manners, for instance. I have written many times about the lack of civility in today’s world, how people consider, or don’t consider, the feelings of the people with whom they interact. Manners are just one element of civility. A man should stand up when a lady enters the room. (I don’t want to hear a lot of discussion on what constitutes a lady. A woman is a lady until she proves

differently.) We should open doors for the people behind us when entering a building. We should say “Yes, Ma’am” and “Yes, Sir,” “No, Ma’am” and “No, Sir.” I know of some younger ladies who consider “Ma’am” an insult; it’s not. It is a sign of respect. There are a lot of other acts of respect, manners, but that’s a good start.

When you are driving down the road and meet a funeral procession, pull over. It’s a sign of respect not only for the deceased but a way to let the family and friends know that we share in the sadness of the passing of another human being.

Write “thank you” notes for any gift, even Christmas presents. If somebody does something nice for you, let them know with a personal, handwritten note acknowledging their act. Remember, if you are writing to a young person, they may not be able to read the note if it is written in cursive.

In regard to note-writing, I think all of us should write more notes or, at least, send cards to those we love letting them know we love ‘em. We certainly should

tell them as often as possible, but sometimes a note or card will serve as a reminder until we get to see ‘em and hug ‘em.

I thought of one thing that hasn’t got anything to do with manners but is an essential element of respect for fellow humans. Teach your children, boys and girls, about gun safety. Here in the South, guns are a part of just about every household.



Write “thank you” notes for any gift, even Christmas presents. If somebody does something nice for you, let them know with a personal, handwritten note acknowledging their act. Remember, if you are writing to a young person, they may not be able to read the note if it is written in cursive.

We should make sure that young folks know the dangers of handling a gun in an improper manner. The hardest way for them to learn would be pulling over for the funeral procession of a friend or relative who was killed by a gun.

I guess one of the most important things I learned from my elders was to do what’s right regardless of how many are doing wrong. I remember Mama saying,

“Just because Jerry will jump off the Cape Fear River bridge doesn’t mean you should.” Sometimes truth comes with the simplest expression.

I’m pretty sure that the best instruction I ever got was from my mother when I would leave the house to go somewhere with my friends. She always said, “Y’all be sweet now, you hear.” That about covers all interaction with people.

Quotes of the Week

“Those numbers are scaring me.”
Tabor City Town Manager Al Leonard reacting to the 2020 U.S. Census numbers that showed a 12.9% population decrease in Columbus County since 2010.

“The pandemic shifted the meaning of work and personal life for all of us. Many entrepreneurs recognized this as an opportunity.”
Pamela Young Jacobos, director of the Small Business Center at Southeastern Community College, on the news that 204 new businesses were created in Columbus County between January and June of this year. That’s a 68% increase compared to the first six months of 2020.

Woman wins Corvette, \$100,000 from lotto ticket bought in Riegelwood

A Riegelwood convenience store sold a winning lottery ticket that netted a Wilmington woman a new Corvette Stingray and \$100,000 in cash. Linda Botello is the second winner of the new Corvette & Cash \$5 scratch-off game, the N.C. Education lottery announced in a Monday press release. She bought her ticket at the Scotchman on Old Stage Road where she works. She said she stopped back by the store after work to

buy some ice cream and purchased the ticket too. Corvette & Cash launched in July with four top prizes of a Corvette Stingray plus a \$100,000 cash prize. Winners get to choose a 2021 model, or a current available model, and pick their favorite options, to bring home a sports car with a value of up to \$109,600. They also get a \$100,000 cash prize. Botello claimed her cash prize Thursday at lottery headquarters in Raleigh and took home

\$70,751 after required federal and state tax withholdings and began the process of getting her Corvette. Two top prizes remain to be won instantly. A fifth Corvette plus \$100,000 will be the grand prize in a second-chance drawing offered as part of the new game. All Corvette & Cash tickets can be entered into the drawing. The date of the drawing has not been set.



Corvette & Cash launched in July with four top prizes of a Corvette Stingray plus a \$100,000 cash prize.

PRIEST
Continued from 3A

Priest has extensive experience in the fundraising and development field, having served as executive director of the Columbus Regional Healthcare System Foundation for 16 years. During that time, she managed all aspects of the CRHS Foundation organization, including board management, fundraising activities, donor relations and accounting requirements for the foundation. She directed multiple fundraising campaigns for both community and employees, including a 14-year run with the CRHS Hospital Gala.

Before joining SCC in January of this year as executive assistant to the president, Priest served as the foundation director for the Lower Cape-Fear LifeCare (LCFL) in Wil-

ington. During her time at LCFL, she was accountable for the execution of the agency development plan, which raised funds for a seven-county area.

“We are confident that Terrie is the right person to lead the SCC Foundation toward continued growth and support of the college’s mission,” said SCC President Chris English. “She brings extensive knowledge, experience and passion to take the foundation to the next level as we continue to serve our students and community as we work to help them achieve their goals.”

Founded in 1968, the SCC Foundation comprises a 31-member board that awards scholarships to students. The foundation also receives and administers private gifts, bequests and donations to benefit SCC programs and activities.

EMPTY SHIRT



Staff photo by Justin Smith

A homemade scarecrow stands guard over a field on McNeil Road in Cherry Grove Friday.

SCC, Mount Olive sign agribusiness transfer agreement

By Thomas Sherrill
tsherrill@ncolumbus.com

A new agreement will allow Southeastern Community College agribusiness graduates to transfer all 60 credit hours of their associate degree toward a bachelor's degree at the University of Mount Olive.

Representatives of both schools signed the agreement Aug. 16 during a ceremony at SCC.

"This is a great moment for us," said SCC President Chris English. "It's going to encourage job growth in the county."

The University of Mount

Olive bridge program, known as UMO Promise, is the name of the partnership between the UMO and SCC to allow what UMO Vice President of Academic Affairs Todd Telemeco called a "seamless transfer" of 60 agribusiness credits earned at SCC.

"I think it speaks well that y'all have a great agrobusiness technologies program, and that will transition seamlessly into our agro-business program, both our B.S. and B.A. programs," said Sandy Maddox, dean of Mount Olive's school of agriculture and biological sciences, who

boasted about the school's 100% job placement rate after six months of graduating from their program.

English said discussions about this partnership started in 2019, before his arrival, but stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resumed in summer 2020 after starting as president at SCC.

University of Mount Olive, located just south of Goldsboro in the town of Mount Olive, is a private university sponsored by the Original Free Will Baptist Convention. The university enrolls around 2,800 students.



Staff photo by Thomas Sherrill

Southeastern Community College President Chris English and University of Mount Olive Vice President of Academic Affairs Todd Telemeco sign the UMO Promise agreement during Monday's ceremony.



Staff file photo by Grant Merritt

Festival-goers walk up and down Madison Street to visit booths and vendors at the N.C. Honey Festival in 2019.

HONEY

Continued from 1A

Main St. in Whiteville.

Supporters of the charity pancake supper will receive a plate of pancakes and sausage (non-pork and non-meat alternatives available while supplies last), literature about the foundation, suicide prevention information and a purple wristband to wear in observance of World Suicide Prevention Day.

To donate items for the pancake supper or to make a donation to the cause, contact Cutler at 910-446-6771 or send an email to NCHoneyFestival.com

New attractions

Cutler announced the following new additions to the festival:

■ The "How Well Do You Know Your Honey?"

game for couples will reward the pair who know each other best with a sweet prize. "We will choose up to four couples from the crowd, from a drawing of names," Cutler said. "Visit the main booth at the festival to enter for a chance to play."

■ "We are planning a large-scale 'together' art activity for everyone attending the festival," said Cutler. "This will take place in the middle of the street and we look forward to a lot of fun and unity."

■ "We are partnering with Phillip and Shannon Britt and the Town of Chadbourne for a Strawberry Lane at the honey festival," Cutler said. "The vendors in this area will be selling strawberry treats and products, and a percentage of their sales will be donated to support our state's oldest agricultural festival, the North

Carolina Strawberry Festival."

Cutler hopes to hear from anyone, particularly any Chadbourne non-profits, interested in engaging with festival visitors in the "lane."

■ Raffles for a jar of honey every 30 minutes. Local charities will benefit from the raffles. Tickets can be purchased at the main booth on the day of the festival.

■ A Game Zone with cornhole, chess and other favorites.

■ Brunswick Electric will sponsor honey facts on Facebook.com/NCHoneyFestival leading up to the festival. The page offers videos about Earth's sweetest treat and the pollinators that make it possible.

■ Having Aunties In Reach (H.A.I.R.) will be providing arts & crafts activities for youth near

the museum.

Returning features

As in past years, the Columbus County Beekeepers and the science museum will provide exhibits. There will be honey and bee by-products for sale along with hive demonstrations. Vendors will offer beekeeping supplies, crafts and food. "There may even be gator on the menu," Cutler said.

Farmacy on Main will sponsor a mead tasting. Starting at noon, adults may sample honey wine produced at meaderies across the state of North Carolina.

The Carl Cutler Run is being planned to take place on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 12, Cutler said.

For more information contact DDR Experiences at 910.446.6771 or send an email to NCHoneyFestival@gmail.com

SURGE

Continued from 1A

one staff member and one resident; Premier Living, with one staff member and three residents; and Liberty Commons, with three staff members and two residents.

"The recent surge in coronavirus diagnoses in our state and our community is deeply concerning," said a spokesperson of Liberty Healthcare, which manages Liberty Commons and Shoreland. "We are doing everything we can to prevent COVID-19 from spreading in our communities."

Mitigation efforts include wearing personal protective equipment and screening staff and visitors prior to entry, according to the spokesperson. Shoreland even limited its visitations to outdoors except for "compassionate care circumstances."

At the end of July, Premier Living also paused indoor visitation "to assess potential facility impact and set up our COVID-19 unit in preparation for any new internal or admission needs," said administrator Gennie

Parnell.

On Aug. 10, Premier Living opened back up to visitors. "We continue to monitor the community positivity rate and adjust accordingly," Parnell said.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reports that the positivity rate among nursing homes in Columbus County was 18.2% on Aug. 10. At the beginning of July, it was just 3%.

North Carolina has not adjusted its visitation policies for assisted living facilities since mid-March, when it allowed indoor visitation once again.

Higher vaccination rates

During this recent surge in COVID-19 transmission, assisted living facilities in the county haven't been as hard-hit as they were in 2020, when dozens of staff and residents were contracting the virus.

At least two-thirds of assisted living residents in the county are vaccinated, with 73% at Premier Living, 78% at Liberty Commons and 83% at Shoreland, according to data through Aug. 8 from CMS. There was no data

for Tabor Commons.

The vaccination rates among staff, however, weren't as high by Aug. 8, with 41% at Liberty Commons, 47% at Shoreland and 55% at Premier Living, according to CMS.

Premier Living on Friday, however, posted on Facebook that its vaccination rate among staff was 73%.

At Tabor Commons, Reaves said that the "majority" of residents have received vaccines and did not provide any information on vaccinated staff.

"We are considering all options for protecting residents," Reaves said. "We also value the voices of our employees and support their personal health care decisions with their providers' recommendations."

The federal government announced last week that it would soon require vaccinations among staff at nursing homes.

"We do not know at this time when the requirements of the regulation will go into effect," the Liberty Healthcare spokesperson said. "We are committed to caring for our residents and working with our staff

members in sharing information and complying with the new regulations."

The federal government also announced last week that it would permit third doses for vaccinated individuals starting Sept. 20. Nursing home residents would be some of the first eligible individuals, since many received their vaccines in December.

The Columbus County Health Department began scheduling appointments for booster vaccines for immunocompromised individuals on Thursday.

Liberty Healthcare helps residents interested in vaccines "as quickly as possible through arrangement with our affiliated pharmacy, which is typically administered within a few days of the request," the spokesperson said.

Representatives of Premier Living and Tabor Commons also said that they assist interested staff and residents to get vaccinated.

"We are committed to protecting our residents and the greater community," Reaves of Tabor Commons said.

Reaves also asked the community for help pro-

tecting residents of assisted living facilities. "We ask that everyone do their part to stop the spread, including getting vaccinated, staying home if they are unwell and communicating with close

contacts if they are exposed," she said.

Liberty Healthcare agrees. "We need the support of our Columbus County community in order to defeat this virus," the spokesperson said.



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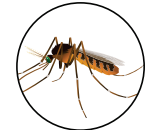
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The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) recommends an annual skin check with a dermatologist. In addition, the AAD advocates monthly self-skin checks, especially if you have moles or dark spots. If you notice any of the following “A-B-C-D-E” warning signs, consult your dermatologist immediately.

- A** stands for **ASYMMETRY**, when one half of the mole doesn’t match the other half.
- B** stands for **BORDER**, when the border or edges of the mole are ragged, blurred or irregular.
- C** stands for **COLOR**, when the color of the mole is not the same throughout or if it has shades or tan, brown, black, red, white or blue.
- D** stands for **DIAMETER**, if the diameter of a mole is larger than the eraser of a pencil.
- E** stands for **EVOLVING**. A mole or skin lesion that looks different from the rest or is changing in size, shape, or color.

PREVENTING SKIN CANCER

Here are some sun safety habits that should be a part of everyone’s daily healthcare:

- Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen daily, with an SPF of 30 or higher. Apply 30 minutes before going outdoors. Reapply every 2 hours.
- Schedule a skin cancer screening with your dermatologist yearly.
 - Examine your skin from head to toe every month.
 - Avoid tanning booths.
- Wear cover-up clothing, including broad-rimmed hats and UV-blocking sunglasses.
- Keep babies out of the sun.
- Sunscreens should be used on children over the age of six months.

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Obituaries



**VIRGINIA
KATHERINE 'KAT'
COLEMAN**

TABOR CITY -- Virginia Katherine "Kat" Coleman, 94, left her earthly struggles Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021, at her home with her three children by her side and is now with her Lord and Savior.

She was born March 5, 1927, in Marion County, S.C., the daughter of the late Lawrence Gilbert Poston and Bertha Alma Ard Poston and the widow of Joseph Elwood Coleman Sr.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by one brother, Lawrence A. Poston.

She was a godly wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She loved her family, church and friends. Kat enjoyed cooking, traveling, gardening and reading. She was a member of Tabor City Baptist Church and a founding member of the Dirt Daubers Garden Club.

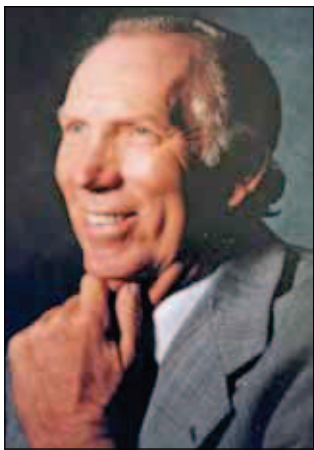
A graveside service was held Sunday, Aug. 22, in the Coleman Cemetery officiated by Rev. Earl Spivey. Inman Ward Funeral Home and Crematory served the family.

Pallbearers were Richard Coleman, Bradley Loflin, Jesse Coleman, Christian Coleman, Adam Melton and Jimmie Hewett.

She is survived by two sons, Joseph E. Coleman Jr. (Deb) and Richard Poston Coleman (Cathy); one daughter, Sherry Coleman Loflin; one sister, Margaret Earley; five grandchildren, Richard Coleman Jr. (Heather), Bradley Loflin (Molly), Jesse Coleman (Amber), Nicole Melton (Adam), Christian Coleman; nine great-grandchildren, Sawyer Coleman, Bryson Coleman, Cooper Coleman, Brody Coleman, Madeline Loflin, Abigail Loflin, Finley Melton, Hadley Melton, and Blakely Melton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Community Home Care and Hospice, 333 Jefferson St., Whiteville, N.C. 28472.

A guest register is available at inmanwardfuneral-home.com.



**CARLTON MONROE
CARTRETTE**

WHITEVILLE -- Carlton Monroe Cartrette, 85, died Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, at Columbus Regional Healthcare. Born July 5, 1936, in Columbus County, he was the son of the late Cleve McCoy "C.M." Cartrette and Rebecca McPherson Cartrette; and the widower of Blonnie Cribb Cartrette.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by one daughter, Sheila Reed; and one brother, Lloyd Cartrette.

Services will be private. Inman Ward Funeral Home and Crematory of Tabor City is serving the family.

He is survived by his children, Beverly Cartrette Mobley Sessions and husband, Ricky, of Socastee, S.C., Tommy K. Cartrette and wife, Marlene, Michael Cartrette and wife, Traci, and Sherry Beck and husband, Doug, all of Whiteville, and Debbie Hartzog and husband, David, of Goldsboro; 12 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Beaverdam Original Freewill Baptist Church Building Fund, 2665 Beaverdam Rd., Chadbourn, N.C. 28431.

A guest register is available at inmanwardfuneral-home.com.



R.L. LEWIS JR.

WHITEVILLE -- Our dad, R.L. Lewis Jr. went to be with our mom Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021. Mom left us six weeks ago. Dad was 92 years old.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Rita; his parents, Maude Anderson and Ressie L. Lewis Sr.; two sisters, Katie King and Margaret Boykin; and his brother, Willard Anderson.

He worked at Carolina Laundry & Drycleaners for 36 years and then went to work for Bruce Foods. Dad was a Korean War Veteran and very proud of his service.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Peacock Funeral Home is serving the family.

He leaves behind his two daughters, Leslie Robinson (Rick) and Kim Smith (Mark); three grandchildren, Christy Stoops (Jason), Melissa Raff (Erik) and Leigh Edwards (Chris); and two great-grandchildren, Andrew Stoops and Zoey Raff.

Online condolences may be made at www.peacockfuneralhome.net.



**GEORGE 'RONNIE'
RONALD BUTLER**

NAKINA -- Mr. George "Ronnie" Ronald Butler, 51, passed away Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, at the Lower Cape Fear LifeCare in Whiteville. He was born July 15, 1970, in Columbus County.

His funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, in the Peacock Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Roger Coffey officiating. His family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will be in Peacock's Columbus Memorial Park.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Watts Butler; one daughter, Morgan Butler Feltz and husband, Zachary, of Whiteville; his parents, Eugene and Alice Butler of Nakina; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Jimmy and Violet Watts of Nakina; and a brother-in-law, James Watts and wife, Dawn of Nakina.

Online condolences may be made at www.peacockfuneralhome.net.



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**TONNIA LYNN
DUNCAN SMITH**

BLADENBORO -- Tonnia Lynn Duncan Smith, 43, died Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021, in Whiteville. Inman Ward Funeral Home, Tabor City.

**SANFORD ERVIN
GASKINS**

WHITEVILLE -- Sanford Ervin Gaskins, 72, died Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, at Columbus Regional Healthcare. Majestic Funeral Home.

**ELOISE ELENORA
MARTIN**

LORIS, S.C. -- Eloise Elenora Martin, 92, died Friday, Aug. 6, 2021, at McLeod Seacoast Hospital. Inman Ward Funeral Home, Tabor City.

KENNETH McDUFFIE

CHADBOURN -- Kenneth McDuffie, 47, died Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021. S&L Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Fair Bluff.

Skin screening Sept. 11

The Donayre Cancer Care Center at Columbus Regional Healthcare System and Atlantic Dermatology are sponsoring a free skin screening event on Saturday, Sept. 11.

The event, which includes raffle prizes, will be held from 9 a.m.-noon at Whiteville United Methodist Church, 902 Pinckney St., Whiteville.



WHITEVILLE PRIMARY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



Staff photos by Grant Merritt
Students arrive at Whiteville Primary School Monday morning for the first day of school.



PLANTING POLLINATORS



Staff photos by Justin Smith



Members of the Whiteville Rotary Club work Thursday to plant native flowers and greenery in raised beds they constructed earlier this summer in front of the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences on Madison Street. One of the club's current goals is to increase the number of local pollinator plants, building on the organization's recent support of the Whiteville Butterfly Mural Trail. Pictured clockwise from top left: Sally Mann and Gayle Kindschuh, Chris English, Caroline Smith and Coburn Powell. Local civic clubs are invited to submit photos to *The News Reporter* for publication. Please e-mail high-resolution photos to Publisher Justin Smith at justinsmith@NRColumbus.com.

INTERSECTION

Continued from 1A

ago, “a majority” of Lake Waccamaw locals wanted the intersection, which currently is a traditional at-grade intersection with left and right turns, to become a “cloverleaf.” Byrd said that would involve one of the roads going over the other, with exit and entrance ramps as on interstates.

Byrd said that NCDOT told the public at the time that since the intersection would be only a mile from the Chauncey Town Road interstate intersection, federal dollars couldn’t be used on it. However, Byrd said now there have been conversations saying it can be done.

In 2019 NCDOT and consultant engineers proposed a two-lane service road between Chauncey Town and Old Lake roads north of 74-76. NCDOT held a public meeting at the school that month and received mixed reactions from area residents.

A May 2019 statement from the department said that the service road would “follow a portion of Georgia Road, which now has a dead-end behind East Columbus High School off Old Lake Road.”

NCDOT spokesperson Andrew Barksdale said on Aug. 17 that the plans for the project have not changed, but that Hilburn had expressed concerns about the service road.

Byrd said recently that the proposed service road would pass through wetlands and would cost \$5-6 million.

Byrd stressed the need to preserve the lake’s accessibility for locals, tourists and also rescue vehicles, specifically saying Buckhead Volunteer Fire Department could have its response times increased by an Old Lake Road overpass.

“Lake Waccamaw is the largest natural lake between Florida and Maine,” Byrd said, adding that there are only two entrances to Lake Waccamaw from the highway. “It needs to be reconsidered.”

Temporary measures
In April, NCDOT an-

nounced that the Old Lake Road and Chauncey Town Road intersections with U.S. 74-76 would temporarily be converted into “reduced conflict intersections.”

“[A reduced conflict intersection] design includes concrete traffic islands and raised medians that redirect side-street motorists into turning right; if they want to go in the opposite direction, they go right first, then turn around in a dedicated lane just a few hundred feet away,” NCDOT said in its announcement.

The work on the temporary intersections recently began and is scheduled to be finished in October.

Weaving and wetlands
Hilburn forwarded *The News Reporter* a February 2019 NCDOT summary of a public meeting held in October 2018 at N.C. Boys and Girls Homes to provide information and gather comments on the proposed long-term improvements.

Hilburn pointed out that NCDOT had ruled the service road out due to high cost and “extensive wetlands impacts,” but then revived the idea months later.

Hilburn now suggests that an auxiliary third lane running along the highway between the two interchanges would achieve the same goal as a service road more cost effectively and without disturbing wetlands.

Hilburn also said he had spoken with state Transportation Secretary J. Eric Boyette and engineer Drew Cox, head of NCDOT’s highway division for Columbus and four other counties. Hilburn, a retired Highway Patrol trooper, said that officials had told him the general rule against cloverleaf interchanges within two miles of each other is variable. The safety concern behind that rule, Hilburn said, is to eliminate “weaving” of cars entering and leaving the highway.

“Division staff are evaluating these concerns and are planning to meet with [Hilburn] with a response in the next few

▶▶SEE INTERSECTION 18A

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Spotlight on City Hall

By Fair Bluff Mayor
Billy W. Hammond

Fellow Citizens:

The 2021 NC Watermelon Festival has come to a close, and this year's event was a great success. The Watermelon Festival has had to endure two massive floods, and now a worldwide pandemic. But the festival organizers continue to work hard and put on a great day for festival goers. The Watermelon Festival this year had a very good attendance and it seemed like everyone had an enjoyable time. By my count, there were over thirty vendors set up on Riverside Drive. The watermelon eating contest was so much fun to watch.

A special word of thanks goes out to the Fair Bluff Fire and Rescue for their efforts to organize the festival parade. Similarly, the Fair Bluff Rotary Club did an outstanding job with their annual duck race. Also thanks goes out to the Chamber of Commerce, the visitors center and a special thanks to Gene Martin for his all around help with vendors, etc. Mother Nature cooperated as usual by giving us one of the hottest days of the year to hold a town wide outdoor event.

The Watermelon Festival is synonymous with the Town of Fair Bluff. If

you meet a stranger and tell them you are from Fair Bluff, they will probably tell you that they have heard of the Riverwalk and the Watermelon Festival. As our small town continues to recover from our natural disasters, we want to always celebrate our small town atmosphere and we always want to say a word of thanks to those who volunteer to make our town a better place.

In closing this week I'd like to extend our greatest sympathy and condolences to the family of Linda Lundy, who passed away this week. Mrs. Lundy and her husband, Dr. Rev. Ray Lundy, have been fixtures in the Fair Bluff Community for decades. They were instrumental during Rev. Lundy's career at the Fair Bluff Baptist Church in serving our community in countless ways. As a career educator, Mrs. Lundy was able to interact with most of the students who grew up on this end of Columbus County. She and her husband were a compassionate pair who touched the lives of so many of us here in Fair Bluff.

We wish her surviving friends and family the very best during this trying time.

Waccamaw Store part of incentive program for BGHNC youth

A special grand opening ceremony took place Tuesday, July 27, for the resident-only Waccamaw Store on the Lake Waccamaw campus of Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina.

"The Waccamaw Store is meant to teach youth to always try to help others and the importance of keeping campus and areas around them clean as well as the importance of assisting their peers when they need help," said recreation therapist Lauren Geiss. "They are also learning the value of saving money toward something they really want, but also having money available when they want something small like a snack or drink."

The Waccamaw Store is open twice per week for youth to shop from a variety of options, ranging from small snacks and beverages to clothing items to coping skills items like fidget spinners and journals.

The only currency accepted in the store is Waccamaw Bucks, said Geiss. Waccamaw Bucks are part of the campus life program for youth.

Staff award the "bucks" to residents for a variety of behaviors and activities, such as helping another resident without being asked,



The Waccamaw Store will allow youth at Boys and Girls Homes of N.C. to shop for items using the Waccamaw Bucks they earn through behavior and skill development. Store leadership cut the ribbon at a grand opening ceremony July 27.

making a healthy decision when previous decisions had been unhealthy, and accepting responsibility for negative behaviors. Waccamaw Bucks also encourage residents to develop positive social interaction and relationships, succeed academically and exhibit attitudes of going the "second mile," said BGHNC President/CEO Ricky Creech.

"Our staff are given the

freedom to determine what behaviors are deserving of receiving Waccamaw Bucks," said Creech. "We do ask that they reward them sparingly and for significant breakthroughs so that it encourages the youth to understand the value of the reward."

The Waccamaw Store also provides an opportunity for one youth to earn "real world" money as the

store manager.

"It is part of the Life Experiences Activity Program (LEAP), so we will have one youth employee run the store, keep it clean and organized, shop for items and keep inventory while earning real life money for their bank account," Geiss said. "This is just one more way we are preparing our youth for success beyond our campus."



Tabor City Happenings & Events

By Dianne Nobles Ward
Promotions Director

Scams are everywhere and we in Tabor City don't want our citizens to be fooled by these sites. One scam that Tabor City citizens need to be aware of is a site saying that you can go on their site and pay your Tabor City water bill online through them. This is not true. We do not want our citizens to fall prey to these scams. There are four ways for Tabor City citizens to pay their water bill to the Town of Tabor City. All options are stated on your water bill, and you can get assistance from the staff of the Tabor City Water Department to help you figure out what works best for you. Here are your options: (1) You can mail your payment in, (2) you can call Amy Fowler at 910-653-3458 and pay over the phone with a debit or credit card, (3) you can set up an automatic bank draft or set up with your debit or credit card an automatic draft and (4) you can drop your payment in the metal drop box in front of Town Hall. Contact Amy Fowler at 910-653-3458 if you need assistance.

Tonight, the Greater Tabor City Chamber of Commerce is celebrating 75 years of service at their Annual Banquet. The guest speaker will be Pamela Young-Jacobs, Director of the Small Business Center at SCC. Pamela initially began her own educational journey at SCC before becoming a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She is a Columbus County native and newly appointed chairwoman of the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe of North Carolina. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree because Pamela was born into a family of entrepreneurs. Her grandfather was a master carpenter, and her father was a construction worker who became a self-made businessman and the first 8(a) contractor on the east end of Columbus County. Pamela credits her work ethic to her father, whose motto was "Never Give Up." With her father having such a strong influence in her life, she credits her ability to think outside the box to accomplish difficult

tasks in the business world to him. After the passing of her father, she successfully bid and was awarded her first multi-million-dollar contract with Charleston Air Force Base. She is the wife of Marine veteran Velton Jacobs. Together they have six children and three grandsons. The Chamber is excited to have her as their guest speaker tonight and look forward to hearing her message about the goals that she is setting in the Small Business Center at SCC to promote and nurture new and existing businesses in our county.

The Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce is also planning a street dance, which will be held in the fall. This dance will be sponsored by the Fair Bluff Chamber and the Rotary Club. More details of this event will be provided later.

The Greater Tabor City Chamber of Commerce will also be assisting Dr. John Stamey and Transamerica as he hosts a free lunch and learn in late August - early September. Stay tuned for details on topic and date.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety is a group of wonderful individuals who spend every day of their lives doing their part to protect the safety and security of the public. A combined campaign was formed to prove that unity can make a difference. The Secretary's Cup Annual Fund-raiser provides a platform for gathering donations and promoting fellowship.

This year the Secretary's Cup proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. Delicious BBQ, chicken or combo plates will be sold on Aug. 25 and 27. Costs are as follows: BBQ Plate - \$8, Chicken Plate - \$8, Combo \$10, sides will be baked beans, slaw, bread and dessert. To order ahead contact Jana Nealey at Tabor Correctional at (910) 653-6413 Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Locations of events are:

Aug. 25 location: Columbus County Law Enforcement Center, 300 Alfred Hayes Dr. Chadbourne, N.C. 28431.

Aug. 27 location: Lumberton Agricultural Center, 1027 US-74 ALT, Lumberton, N.C. 28358.

There are still a few seats open for the sweet potato canning class. The class will be held Thursday, Aug. 26, from 5-8 p.m. at Old Zion Wesleyan Church. Attn.: Rev. Josh Glagola, 10144 Swamp Fox Hwy. East, Tabor City, N.C. 28463. This class will be taught by Meleah Evers, USDA certified, Columbus County Extension Office. It will be offered on a first come first serve basis. If you would like to sign up, you must call the N.C. Yam Festival office and have them put your name on "reserved list" to hold your spot. This event will also be available via video on Facebook Live, so be ready to make a list of what you will need as soon as we get that information together. Participants will be taught how to can sweet potatoes in a simple syrup solution and all participants will

go home with their own large jar. To reserve a spot call Rachel Todd at 843-504-5306.

The N.C. Yam Festival's Sweet Potato Cook Off committee will host a Yam-tastic Cookie Baking Class Tuesday, Sept. 14, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Dixie Belle Place, located at 106 Mallard St., Tabor City, N.C. This class is open to children ages Pre-K through 5th grade. The cookie baking class instructors are Pam and Alex Byrd. A registration form needs to be filled out to participate along with a \$5 entry fee. Forms can be picked up at the Tabor City Visitor Center, Tabor City Chamber of Commerce and the Tabor City Library. Mail your

form and fee to: N.C. Yam Festival, P.O. Box 725 / 103-D East Fifth St., Tabor City, N.C. 28463.

A car, truck and bike show will be held at this year's NC Yam Festival. Committee Chair Tiger Lovette can be contacted at 843-333-0947 to answer questions and get you signed up to participate. Kid Zone is another popular area that our festival is known for and will be located on Live Oak Street. Erin Mincey is currently looking for more children's educational booths to be a part of that area. She can be contacted at 910-625-6753.

That's what's happening in Tabor City this week.

Until next week.....

EDU-Cable programming can be viewed locally on Spectrum of Whiteville and surrounding areas, CH. 6. Tune in weekly from 9 a.m. - midnight or view us online at www.sccnc.edu

This week on EDU-Cable:

Monday - Wednesday - Friday - Sunday

9 a.m., 2 & 6 p.m. - The Reading Room

9:30 a.m., 2:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Inside Whiteville City Schools - Whiteville High School - Kathryn Faulk, Gina Deans and Julia Heckathon

11 a.m., 4 & 7 p.m. - Spotlight NC Cooperative Extension - Agronomic Division Field Services - Phyllis Creech-Greene and Georgia P. Love

11:30 a.m., 4:30 & 7:30 p.m. - Volunteer Connection - Columbus County Partnership for Children - Millicent Collins and Selena Rowell

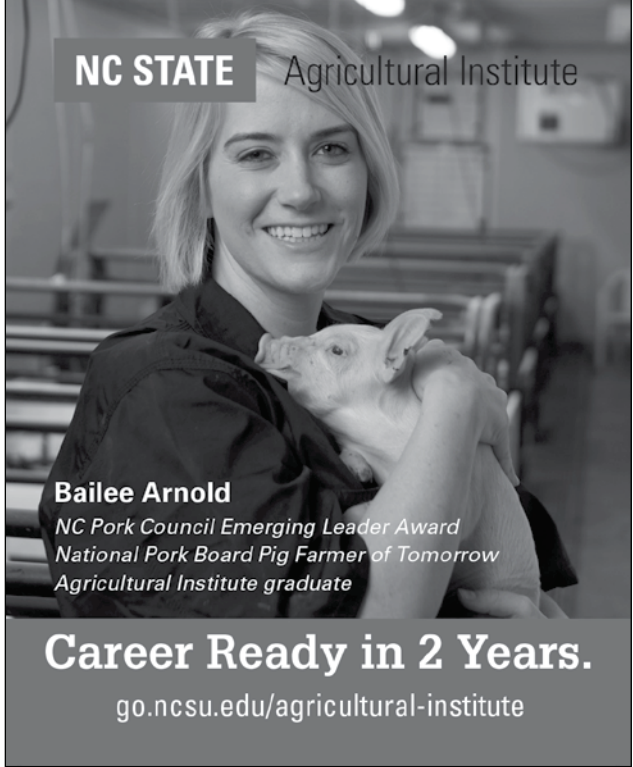
Tuesday - Thursday - Saturday

9 a.m., 2 & 7 p.m. - SCC Presents - Career & College Promise - Melody Callihan, Natalie Freeman and Veronica Powell

9:30 a.m., 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. - SCC Presents - Small Business Center - Melody Callihan and Pamela Young-Jacobs

11 a.m., 4 & 9 p.m. - Velvet Caravan

NC STATE Agricultural Institute



Bailee Arnold
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National Pork Board Pig Farmer of Tomorrow
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A Look Back



1981 — NEITHER RAIN, NOR SNOW — or however the saying goes — nothing kept Whiteville mail carrier Karen Ward from making her rounds. Her government-issued raingear kept her almost dry while she made sure the mail got through.



1985 — BLOOD DRIVE — United Carolina Bank employee Chris Jernigan donned a Dracula cape and used an old horse needle to “scare up” donors for a blood drive at the UCB support building. Eighty-five pints of blood were collected to help ease a critical blood shortage. At right are Kevin Maurer of UCB and nurse Phyllis Bacey.



1996 — HARVESTING — Workers crop tobacco at T.E. Noble's field between China Grove and Ward's Station. Local prices for the leaf had reached an average of nearly \$1.70 a pound, following a very wet growing season.



1981 — Wendy Ray Suggs and DeAnn Ray Bullard, now both local educators, enjoyed swimming lessons under the direction of Randall Wingfield, a certified water safety instructor for the American Red Cross.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. One of the four Vedas

5. Part of (abbr.)

8. At the peak

12. African antelope

14. Expression of satisfaction

15. Yankees' ace

16. Belittled

18. A baglike structure

19. Utah Jazz coach Snyder

20. Actress Tomei

21. Explosive

22. Formal for "on"

23. Cruelties

26. Country singer Brad

30. Make very happy

31. Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal

32. Albanian currency

33. Subatomic particle

34. Type of salt

39. 007's creator

42. Emerging

44. Railroad flare

46. Observed

47. Capable of reproduction

49. Indicates adjacent to

50. Legendary Notre Dame coach

51. Not wide

56. An embarrassing mistake

57. Pearl Jam's debut album

58. Denotes passerine birds

59. Stumble

60. Midway between east and southeast

61. W. Indian trees

62. You

63. Pigpen

64. Be aware of

CLUES DOWN

1. Crease

2. "Honey" actress Jessica

3. Broad volcanic crater

4. Product safety watchdog

5. Southern Colombian city

6. Part of a church

7. Perceptible by touch

8. Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

9. Hairpiece

10. Variety acts

11. "Mystic River" actor Sean

13. Remove salt

17. Went out with

24. Type of bread

25. Popular Eagles song

26. Philosophy degree

27. Yes vote

28. Passports and licenses are two

29. No seats available

35. Pounds per square inch

36. A way to launch an attack on

37. The lowest cardinal number

38. Popular Miller beer

40. Pokes holes in

41. Closest to

42. Folk singer DiFranco

43. Rivne's former name

44. Flat ruler

45. Lacking the means to do something

47. Cockatoo

48. Dred Scott decision deliverer

49. Explosion exclamation

52. Canadian flyers

53. Houston university

54. At some prior time

55. Red, swollen mark

PAYCHECK WORD SEARCH

G X H A U E E X I M N Y L K E E W N R T

H E L B L T B A I Y O B R T Y S W U E H

A M G R A Y T R A N S A C T I O N S M R

T O A R C Y C X Y X S X E X E M P T P I

I C S K L M O W K P T W E H P S R E L N

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G D P C E S N T N G L E D G Y M K U E U X

E I U R N R S B U D I B G Y M K U E U X

L S N E H K A E M X G N I P W N S G I P

E C P Y N T T D H L I N G K D N A W B B

M X A B L M I B D D B M C I D S O R H W

E R A C E T O C L O L D E P O S I T L W

K P O O C K N O X Y E R T L K N N P G D

T B D N E R H U G M D B W D U D U S O R R

C M L C Y H U H N I O A W A G E S G O D

X O L Y T G R E E A R N I N G S H P S H

N P S I Y T I L I B A I L T A U T E S W

I A W H R K R N H I P A W O I I T I G H

WORDS

ACCUE
BASE
BONUS
COMPENSATION
DEBT
DEDUCTIONS
DEPOSIT
EARNINGS
ELIGIBLE
EMPLOYER
EXEMPT
EXPENSES
GROSS
INCOME
LEDGER
LEGAL
LIABILITY
NET
RATE
TAXES
TRANSACTIONS
WAGES
WEEKLY
WITHOLDING

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

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45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55

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Sports

The News Reporter, Tuesday, August 24, 2021 - 13A

Wolfpack rout Scorpions 54–13 in weather-delayed game

By Thomas Sherrill
tsherrill@nrcolumbus.com

An old coaching adage is that a team improves the most between the first and second games. Whiteville seemed to improve between Friday night and Saturday morning as they used a weather delay to run away from North Brunswick 54–13 in Leland.

“I thought when we came out, we took it right down the field and scored [on Friday night],” Whiteville head coach J.P. Price said. “Defense got a stop and after that, we kind of got in a funk.”

A fast start

On a muggy Friday night, Whiteville started the game marching down the field, with Zion Wilson and Shaheem Shipman carrying the load. The drive ended with Shipman running down the left sideline for 27 yards to make it 7–0.

After two defensive false starts gave North Brunswick the easiest first down they’ll ever get, the Whiteville defense forced a punt and looked to take control. On the drive, Whiteville kept going two steps forward and one step back, but eventually got down to the endzone, mainly aided by a 52-yard Shipman run. However, consecutive pass drops on third and fourth down turned it over on downs.

The Scorpions got into a groove with slant routes over the middle of the field, eventually scoring to make it 7–6 after a PAT failed with 3:18 left in the first.

After falling on an attempted onside kick (North Brunswick attempted an onside kick every kickoff), Whiteville used four different runners to churn up yardage, ending with E.J. McLeod taking the ball 36 yards to the house to make it 13–6

with 28 seconds left in the first.

A second quarter struggle

Whiteville looked to be in groove as the second quarter began, aided by Brandon Tyson and Daejuan Thompson getting a sack to force a punt. Eventually, the Wolfpack got the ball back. With Shipman gaining first downs and already over 170 yards rushing, Tyson got the ball in the end zone to finish it, making the score 19–6 after the two point conversion with 6:54 til halftime.

The Scorpions got aided in their next drive by two Whiteville personal fouls, the second of which came after a third down sack. Using a bit of tempo, North Brunswick eventually ran it in with 2:20 until halftime to make it 19–13.

The onside kick attempts went the way of the home team for once, and the Scorpions looked to take the lead going into the break. With lightning in the visible distance, the Scorpions got near the red zone, but a quarterback scramble ended with a sack as the horn went off.

“I think we had 12 penalties (in the first half) to their two, holding calls, blocks in the back,” Price said of the first half. “I thought our effort was good last night, but we definitely need to clean some of those mistakes up.”

Then the storms came

To start the third quarter, the Scorpions got the ball for the third straight possession, but a sack and two incompletions led to a punt. With the ball for the first time in a long while, the Wolfpack made it count as Wilson took it 66 yards to the endzone on the very first play.

With a lead buoyed out to 26–13, the

▶▶SEE **WOLFPACK** 14A



Staff photos by Thomas Sherrill

Whiteville’s Brandon Tyson stiff arms the helmet of a North Brunswick defender off during Saturday morning’s game conclusion.



E.J. McLeod runs for a touchdown Friday night at North Brunswick.



Whiteville’s Jamal Faulk is about to jump on a fumble late in the North Brunswick game on Saturday morning.



Whiteville’s Shaheem Shipman runs for a touchdown in the first quarter against North Brunswick.



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MacKenzie Gore returns to action

After taking time to let his most recent finger blister issue heal and making some minor modifications to his pitching mechanics, MacKenzie Gore returned to the mound Thursday evening. Pitching in the Arizona Complex League, Gore allowed one run on two hits, struck out eight, walked one batter and hit another in four and two-thirds innings. The game was his first since June 18 at El Paso.

Gore made his return against a team primarily composed of players recently signed by the Kansas City Royals. Despite not facing top line competition, San Diego Padres officials were “cautiously optimistic” about what they witnessed. Even though San Diego has seen a rash of pitching injuries, the Padres are not looking to rush Gore to the big leagues. A few more performances like Thursday’s could possibly see Gore join the big league club in September as it battles for a playoff spot. Stay tuned. — *Franklin Davis*



MacKenzie Gore

Brooks Baldwin to remain at UNCW

Former Whiteville High School baseball player and current UNCW Seahawk Brooks Baldwin turned down the San Francisco Giants signing offer and will return for another year of college baseball. He was selected in the 15th round by the Giants in the 2021 MLB draft.

Baldwin will be a redshirt junior in the upcoming season. He was a first team All-CAA selection and second team American Baseball Coaches Association All-Atlantic Region choice after the 2021 season. Baldwin batted .325 with 15 home runs and 45 RBIs. He led the CAA in hits (79) and total bases (141) while playing center and right field, second base and first base at various times during the season. He also stole 11 bases to become the first Seahawks’ player to have double figure steals and home runs since 2012. — *Franklin Davis*



Brooks Baldwin

East Columbus Gators soccer action



The East Columbus High School Gators battled against the South Brunswick High School Cougars Thursday evening on the ECHS soccer field. The Cougars defeated the Gators 6-0.

WOLFPACK

Continued from 13A

Scorpions got a first down, but incompletions forced by a Wilson pass break up led to a North Brunswick punt.

The Wolfpack offense stalled but got some time to think about 4th and 8 when the refs suspended play due to the approaching lightning around 9:40 p.m. with 7:21 left in the third quarter.

Half an hour later, rain and winds joined the thunder and lightning, and officials decided to return roughly 12 hours later at 10 a.m. Saturday to resume the game.

“We got back last night and everybody got to bed at 12 o’clock. They had to be back at the stadium in Whiteville at 7:30 [a.m.],” Price said.

A Saturday morning shutdown

With the bright sun drying out the rain on the black track and turf field, and no cheerleaders, band or public address announc-

er, Whiteville’s punt to start Saturday went horribly wrong as several Scorpion rushers forced an attempted run to their own 29, giving North Brunswick the ball back with great field position.

The Scorpions quickly got into a fourth down situation, but the Wolfpack defense then made what Price calls the biggest momentum changer of the game.

A quick pass was deflected, still caught, but then immediately fumbled, with Wilson scooping it up and returning it 75 yards the other way to make the score 33-13.

The home team looked to score again quickly as they got across midfield, but a 4th and 3 quarter-back run was stopped short and Whiteville got the ball back.

Shipman quickly pushed the ball downfield and Tyson finished it off with a 20-yard touchdown to make the score 40-13 all of a sudden.

“I thought our offense was doing what we do most of the time, and that was

running the football,” Price said after the game. “Our back ran well, but they’ll tell you the same thing, credit goes to the offensive line. While our offensive line didn’t block great at all times, they were opening up those holes and our back runs with tremendous effort. What I’m most impressed with is the yards after contact.”

As the fourth quarter started, the Scorpions tried to get their offense going and got to the 2 yard line. However, in what was a fatal blow for the home side, Shipman forced the NBHS running back heading for a touchdown to fumble right at the goal line, returning the ball past midfield.

That Whiteville drive ended in a punt, but three consecutive incompletions gave the ball back to the Wolfpack at midfield. After a 25-yard run by Wilson, Tyson capped the drive and drove a stake into the heart of North Brunswick with a 32-yard touchdown run with 6:21 left to make it 47-13.

The wheels fell off for

North as they fumbled the ball away the next offensive play, with Jamal Faulk recovering it. Afterward, as the sun baked the field turf in Leland, Shipman got over 200 yards rushing on the day and Tyson got his fourth score of the day, a 1-yard touchdown, making it 54-13 with 5:07 left.

“One of our goals before every game is to cause three turnovers. We didn’t last night, but we came out today and caused them,” Price said.

With many subs getting playing time, NBHS punted, Whiteville fumbled it back and the game ended with Zayvion Brady and Thompson each getting a blindside sack at approximately 10:50 a.m.

Now with a semi-shortened week, Whiteville turns its attention to what Price calls the “Battle of [N.C.] 130,” next Friday at West Brunswick.

“It’s a rivalry game. I know their coach very well. We’re good friends; we go to FCA coaching camp together,” Price said. “We’re ready for a battle.”

Waccamaw Conference Standings, results and schedules

FOOTBALL

	Conf.	Overall
Pender (1A)	0-0	1-0
Whiteville (2A)	0-0	1-0
East Columbus (1A)	0-0	0-0
South Columbus (2A)	0-0	0-0
West Columbus (1A)	0-0	0-0
Trask (2A)	0-0	0-1

Friday’s results
Whiteville 54, North Brunswick 13
Topsail 47, Trask 0
Pender 24, Lejeune 0
West Bladen at South Columbus (canceled)
Rocky Mt. Prep at East Columbus (canceled)

Thursday’s game
East Columbus at John Paul Catholic

Friday’s games
South Columbus at East Bladen
Whiteville at West Brunswick
West Columbus at West Bladen
East Columbus, Trask & Pender are OPEN

VOLLEYBALL

	Conf.	Overall
Whiteville (2A)	0-0	3-0
South Columbus (2A)	0-0	2-0
Pender (1A)	0-0	0-0
East Columbus (1A)	0-0	0-0
West Columbus (1A)	0-0	0-0
Trask (2A)	0-0	1-2

Thursday’s results
Whiteville 3, East Bladen 0
Trask 3, North Brunswick 2

Monday’s matches
Whiteville at West Brunswick
South Columbus at West Bladen
Laney at Pender
Trask at Topsail

Tuesday’s matches
East Columbus at Red Springs
South Columbus at West Brunswick
Dixon at Trask
Topsail at Pender

Wednesday’s matches
West Columbus at Red Springs
Whiteville at Fairmont
West Bladen at East Columbus
Pender at Wallace Rose Hill

Thursday’s matches
Whiteville at Clinton
South Columbus at East Bladen
West Columbus at West Bladen
East Columbus at West Brunswick
Trask at North Brunswick

MEN’S SOCCER

	Conf.	Overall
Trask (2A)	0-0	0-0-1
Pender (1A)	0-0	0-0
West Columbus (1A)	0-0	0-0
East Columbus (1A)	0-0	0-1
South Columbus (2A)	0-0	0-1
Whiteville (2A)	0-0	0-2

Thursday’s result
South Brunswick 6, East Columbus 0
Trask 2, North Brunswick 2

Monday’s matches
Whiteville at St. Pauls
West Bladen at West Columbus
Wallace Rose Hill at Pender

Tuesday’s matches
West Columbus at Purnell Swett
Wilmington Christian at East Columbus
Whiteville at West Brunswick
Trask at Jacksonville

Wednesday’s matches
West Bladen at South Columbus

Thursday’s matches
Whiteville at East Bladen
East Columbus at South Brunswick
White Oak at Trask

WOMEN’S TENNIS

	Conf.	Overall
Whiteville (2A)	0-0	1-0
East Columbus (1A)	0-0	1-0
South Columbus (2A)	0-0	0-0
West Columbus (1A)	0-0	0-0

Thursday’s results
East Columbus 5, West Bladen 2
Whiteville 6, West Brunswick 3

Tuesday’s match
Whiteville at North Brunswick

Wednesday’s match
West Columbus at West Bladen

Nonprofit helps build future leaders

By Ivey Schofield
Border Belt Independent

After her mother died in 2009, Alyssa Delts didn't expect to find a new family.

The next year, when she was 11, her social worker signed her up for a summer camp with Men and Women United For Youth and Families. That's when Delts found a group of people that continues to support her more than a decade later.

Founded in 2006, the nonprofit tries to holistically meet the needs of people in rural Bladen, Brunswick and Columbus counties. The area has endured severe flooding from hurricanes and other storms in recent years, and some residents, especially farmers, are still struggling to rebuild or even put food on the table.

In Riegelwood, home to one of Men and Women United's two locations, more than 25% of residents live below the poverty line, compared to about 15% statewide, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Only 3% have a bachelor's degree, compared to about 33% statewide.

"We exist because of the need," said Randolph Keaton, executive director of the group.

To meet that need, Men and Women United partners with local community colleges, food banks, career centers and local governing bodies to provide workforce training, mentorship, disaster relief, scholarships and entrepreneurial development.

Delts can personally attest the nonprofit's commitment to the region.

As a child in the foster care system, she didn't feel like she had a voice. Men and Women United, especially its Youth Ambassadors for a Better Community program, changed that.

"Because of the program, I gained a voice, I gained independence, and I gained a sense of wanting to do more outside of myself," Delts said.

'They're all our babies'

As a part of the inaugural group of youth ambassadors in 2015, Delts earned money helping local farmers grow and sell their crops.

Since then, the youth ambassadors program has expanded to dozens of kids who speak at food policy conferences across the state, maintain five community gardens and travel to the beach to sell locally grown produce to vacationers.

And it's all youth-led, instilling responsibility and work ethic in children as young as 10.

"It's more than just earning the money. We want to teach them social responsibility and civic engagement," said LaVonia Lewis, the grant writer and special events coordinator for Men and Women United. "We try to cover all areas, so by the time they graduate they've matured a lot without having to have gotten it negatively."

Thirteen-year-old Latorrye Daniels has been a youth ambassador for years. Her family farms, and she enjoys helping other local farmers. But the program has led her to dream bigger: She wants to one day work in the medical field.

Cameron Blanks, 14, also has an uncle who farms. He's not sure what his future holds, but the youth ambassadors program has taught him important life skills, such as registering to vote and writing resumes and cover letters. Professors and local leaders also join to educate the ambassadors on food and climate policies.

"It's different to tell somebody that they can do it versus them being able to touch somebody who's done it," said the Rev. Keith Graham, who is on the board of directors. "You can see their spirits light up because they can see something other than, 'What am I going to do this summer?'"

That's why youth ambassadors come back year after year. "Being a rural community, our youth don't have as



Staff photo by Ivey Schofield

Left to right: Grant writer LaVonia Lewis, intern Molly Bennett, youth ambassador Mariah Simmons, youth ambassador Ja'maya Hazel, intern Gabrielle Rousey and youth ambassador Latorrye Daniels.

many opportunities as kids in New Hanover [County] who have parks to go to 10 minutes from their houses or the pool in the summertime," Lewis said. "Our youth have to be creative if they're not guided to do constructive things for their own benefit."

For example, years ago a local 16-year-old got into trouble and was facing jail time. Several youth ambassadors rallied behind him and wrote letters of support to the judge. As a result, the judge allowed the teen to avoid jail and instead mandated community service, which the boy completed with Men and Women United. Now, he's a high school graduate who recently enlisted in the military.

"With a program like this, we're trying to keep as many kids as possible out of that situation," Lewis said. "We can't keep them all out — because they're not all going to be youth ambassadors — but, for those that do, they get that advocacy."

Men and Women United has partnered with juvenile crime prevention councils in Bladen, Brunswick and Columbus counties to help reduce juvenile crime and sentencing.

"We just want to help them all," Lewis said. "They're all our babies."

Sustainable support

The nonprofit also helps older people, regardless of their criminal records, find jobs through its new tri-county job center. The center is a collaborative network of local businesses, community organizations, government agencies and community colleges that promote workforce development through continuing education classes, access to computers, food distribution and case management.

Locals in need participate in an intake process, when staff identify barriers to success, establish goals and create a plan. "We try to put things in place, so they can overcome those and be productive citizens," Graham said. "They're not stuck, being held back with no hope to feed their families."

Fostering hope is the key to success, especially if someone or a family has multiple barriers to overcome. "If we could just help five of those needs, six of those needs, we could help build a foundation to give them hope to get out of whatever situation that might be holding them back," Graham said.

Money is often the biggest barrier, but Men and Women United uses grant funding and donations to help. Now scholarships to two- and four-year universities are available. In 2019, the nonprofit awarded a total of \$70,000 in scholarship money.

Devin Bowen, a former youth ambassador and recent high school graduate from Elizabethtown, was worried about paying for his education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. At the end of June, Men and Women United gave him a \$1,000 scholar-



Executive Director Randolph Keaton

ship, which will help him purchase books and a laptop for school.

"They'll definitely help you out with anything you need," Bowen said.

Men and Women United has also partnered with colleges across the state to offer paid summer internships. Gabrielle Rousey, a Pender County resident attending the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and Molly Bennett, a Wilmington resident attending N.C. State University, currently run the youth ambassadors program.

Support from the nonprofit expands into adulthood. Staff like Keaton routinely touch base with Delts, who works at the Durham County Public Health Department and is pursuing a master's degree. "There have been times when I felt like there wasn't anything I could do," she said.

"They motivated me to keep going."

Keaton hopes that kids like Delts who have gone through programs at Men and Women United will return to southeastern North Carolina to support the community that has supported them. "Although you're going away to college, you need to come back home and use your talents here," he said.

Keaton's focus is on sustainability, to make sure the community remains resilient enough to last for generations. "We try to create leaders, so they can understand what their role is in making our community better," he said.

Even though she now lives in Durham County, Delts is still trying to make the community that accepted her in 2010 a better place. She has mentored several local children, but wants more youth in need to join the supportive family that she's found at Men and Women United.

"It's an awesome opportunity that more people should take advantage of," Delts said. "They provide so much to our community."

The Border Belt Independent(borderbelt.org) is a nonprofit, online newsroom that provides indepth reporting in Bladen, Columbus, Robeson and Scotland counties.



Alyssa Delts

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 This the 19th day of August, 2021 Mary Joy Phillips Bullard Executrix
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Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Carlotta Smith Guyton, deceased, of Columbus County, State of North Carolina, the undersigned does pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 28A-14-1 hereby notify all persons, firms, associations or corporations having claims against the estate of the said decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before November 11, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, associations or corporations indebted to the said estate will please make payment immediately.
This the 4th day of August, 2021.
Phillip R. Guyton
Administrator of the Estate of Carlotta Smith Guyton
JOHN ALAN HIGH, PLLC
Attorney at Law
102 Courthouse Square
Whiteville NC 28472
Telephone: (910) 640-2111
Facsimile: (910) 212-7333
Aug. 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Mildred Annette Efrid, 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 24th day of August, 2021.
Denise Branch,
Administrator of the estate of Mildred Annette Efrid
2448 Farmer's Union Rd.
Clarkton, NC 28433

LEGAL NOTICES

Aug. 24, 31, Sep. 7, 14 2021
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Beatrice Formyduval Sellers, 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 24th day of August, 2021.
Angie Melinda Sellers,
Executor of the estate of Beatrice Formyduval Sellers
PO Box 130
Delco, NC 28436
Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 7, 14 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Janice Vanderford Dow, 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 24th day of August, 2021.
Carol Sue Dickson,
Executor of the estate of Janice Vanderford Dow
20 Georgetown Dr.
Delaware, OH 43015
Aug. 24, 31, Sep. 7, 14 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS
The undersigned, SANDRA

LEGAL NOTICES

DAMERON, has qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of DO-RIS A. POPE, 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

LEGAL NOTICES

November 10, 2021, 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

LEGAL NOTICES

following address:
This the 10th day of August, 2021.
SANDRA DAMERON, ADMINISTRATRIX
2875 Walter Todd Road
Clarendon, NC 28432

LEGAL NOTICES

Williamson, Walton & Scott,
L.L.P.
Attorneys at Law
P. O. Box 1467
Whiteville, NC 28472
August 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2021 & 31, 2021

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INTERSECTION

Continued from 10A

weeks,” Barksdale said. NCDOT also announced that Chauncey Town Road will eventually become an interstate-style intersection and Old Lake Road will become an overpass with no intersection like the one at Pinckney Street and U.S. 74-76 in Whiteville. Bids for those permanent projects would be sent out in June 2022, Barksdale confirmed Tuesday. “We will continue to do our due diligence as we finalize the plans to deliver this important project to Columbus County,” Barksdale stated. **More discussion**

Commissioner Charles McDowell recommended having a discussion with Lake Waccamaw officials 30 minutes or an hour before the commissioners’ next regular meeting, slated for Tuesday, Sept. 7 due to Labor Day. Board Chair Ricky Bullard said to wait and see on how the scheduling can work out before calling for a special meeting. Hilburn said Tuesday that he had “been informed of [the commissioners’ meeting] being set for September and been requested to go.” In other news from the Aug. 16 meeting, the commissioners unanimously approved an ordinance to demolish and remove a structure and

debris at 386 Red Bug Road in Hallsboro. The structure, a dilapidated trailer, has gone through the county’s ordinances, and the property owner hasn’t taken care of the nuisance yet, according to John Ganus, county senior code administrator and housing inspector who works for N-Focus Planning. Ganus also spoke about a number of other dilapidated mobile homes and structures that his office has been working to get demolished or remedied. More details will be printed in an upcoming edition of *The News Reporter*.



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At CRHS, we know and embrace the value of our nurses. The past two years, **we were voted the "Best Place to Work" in Columbus County**. We are actively seeking nurses that want to make a difference. If you are interested, go to: crhealthare.org/careers and **apply today!**

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How to Participate in your 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting

Due to continued COVID-19 safety precautions, there will be no in-person membership meeting this year.

The business portion of the 2021 meeting will be held in a virtual format, and **will be broadcast at 10:30am on September 25.**

Members will have the opportunity to register and vote for the Board of Directors at all three office locations on September 23 and 24.

The important things to remember for this year are:

- There will be no in-person Annual Meeting
- You can attend the virtual business portion of the Annual Membership Meeting Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 10:30am
- Information on how to attend the meeting, and how to submit questions ahead of time, will be posted on social media and at bemc.org
- Register and vote for your Board of Directors at any office location on September 23 from 9am – 6pm and September 24 from 9am – 3pm
- Gifts will be available for the first 2,000 members who register and vote
- Those who register and vote will be eligible for prize drawings
- The drawings will be held during the virtual annual meeting, and prizes will be mailed to the winners

Learn more at bemc.org/annual-meeting

