

THE COMMUNICATOR

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Mount Airy Granite Bears: State Football Champions

Our Mount Airy High School Granite Bears (15-1) travelled to N.C. State University's Carter-Finley Stadium on Dec. 10 and soundly thrashed the Tarboro Vikings 20-7. The Granite Bears received the opening kickoff and marched quickly to paydirt. Players receiving post-game recognition were Ian Gallimore (#15), Tyler Moore (#5), Walker Stroup (#88), and Caleb Reid (#25).

Coach J.K. Adkins stated before the game, "We are an outstanding defensive team, and our players are selfless and make sacrifices that a great team makes. We play together and have confidence. We will not be denied."

A most unique feature of the Granite Bears' staff is Head Coach J.K. Adkins in his fifth year at the football team's helm is also its strength coach. Most astute gridiron analysts are cognizant of success teams are also stronger than opponents, in better condition, and put team before self. And to top things off, only one Mount Airy starter is a senior.

Mayor Jon Cawley and co-host Treva Kirkman and I made the trip to Raleigh, and the mayor said, "Our Bears played the best game I've seen them play in 30 years, and let's make a pact to return on the second Saturday in 2023."

The Mount Airy Granite Bears have won eight state championships: 1935, 1938, 1942, 1946, 1948, 1968, 2008, and 2022.

To Coach Adkins:

Never have I been so grateful as I was about 6 p.m. Saturday at Carter-Finley Stadium after our domination of Tarboro, 20-7. After we spoke pre-game, I could sense your confidence and knew we would win. As you said, "We make up any shortcomings." In your eyes I could see victory. Being on the field to share your and your team's preparation and execution is a wonderful honor. As Rudy Holbrook has said for years, "J.K. is a great coach and mentor." Being with him gave me a true blessing. Thanks for the gift, Coach.

J.K., my best tribute to you, your team,

assistants and families is Coach Bear Bryant's encomium for outstanding coaches: "He could take his team and beat your team, or take your team and beat his team."

Sincerely, *Gary York*

Public School Bus Drivers

Under the encouragement and leadership of Dr. Ashley Hinson, Surry County Schools Superintendent (2003-13), Neighbors Stores supported a campaign to honor and recognize Surry County, Elkin, and Mount Airy public schools' bus drivers and to designate a Driver of the Year. Several of our CDL-certified drivers have more than 40 years of dedicated experience, have great driving records, and are of good character. A most notable group of interest is Karen Lewis, Robin Jones, and Paula Key — sisters with more than 120 years of collective school bus driving experience.

Prior to COVID, drivers and their families were honored annually at a banquet with a catered meal, speakers, Public School Bus Driver of the Year recognition, and entertainment. Since the award's inception, Drivers of the Year have been the late Larry Wall of East Surry High School; Billy Dobbins, Dobson; Tim Burton, Dobson; Joyce Key, Copeland; Karen Lewis, Franklin; Faye Draughn, Pilot Middle; B.D. Reece, Elkin; Robin Jones, Gentry Middle; Paula Gray, North Surry; Andrew Draughn, Mount Airy; Gayle Holt, Central Middle; and Terry Lyles, Westfield Elementary.

Because of COVID, we replaced the banquet with gifts to all drivers for the public schools in Elkin, Mount Airy, Surry County, Wilkes County and Yadkin County who each receive a half-bushel box of Pink Lady Apples from Perry Lowe Orchard on the Brushy Mountain in Wilkes County.

Transportation directors at each school system recruit and train drivers and maintain nearly 100 yellow and white buses. Our outstanding transportation directors are Daniel Hardison, John Doss, Rodney Hardy, Eric Barker, and Phillip Chrisman. They graciously facilitate the Pink Lady Apples' delivery to each driver between the morning and afternoon routes.

Give A Kid A Christmas

The significant yuletide initiative Give A Kid A Christmas, founded by Officer Graham Atkinson under the auspices of the Surry County Sheriff's Department and the Surry County Schools in the 1990s, celebrated its 32 years this season. It features Christmas gifts to 125 children identified by the school system and the Surry County Department of Social Services and 375 food baskets for needy families in Surry County.

Funds raised from anonymous donors exceed \$120,000 and a telethon generates more than \$45,000. The telethon held at the North Carolina Extension Service's conference room at Dobson in the second week in December is staged by the effort's Board of Directors, WXII TV personalities, Surry County Schools volunteers, and community phone operators.

Another meaningful contribution by volunteers is a second Saturday 8 a.m. event held at Surry Central High School where the food boxes are assembled for delivery. Among them volunteers are Surry County sheriff's deputies, Surry Community College baseball players, and another 75 community heroes. By 8:45 the contingent fills our 375 cardboard boxes with basic foodstuffs — mainly nourishing items requiring no cooking. The operation requires a 70-foot-long table at the center of the school lobby. Helpers stand by the table and place items in the boxes as they pass by. The operation is quite amazing, as the process has been fine-tuned over years.

Gift buyers purchase the best buys in November and December. Groups rally around the effort; often friends and entire families' members show up to do good for others. Children's gift selections from specific "want lists" are secured at an 11 p.m. shopping gala in the Mount Airy Walmart that gives deep discounts off retail.

Store Manager Will Pruitt's family is a key helping hand. Key team members Dr. Travis Reeves, Graham Atkinson, and Sheriff Steve Hiatt lead the charges. We celebrate the servant hearts that generate more than \$150,000 to meet those most needy needs and do the legwork. Members of its Board of Directors are:

Graham Atkinson	Jeffrey Trenter
Sheriff Steve Hiatt	Kristie Brady
Dr. Travis Reeves	Steve Marshall
Chuck Graham	Anne Wilmoth
Geni Dowd	Madison Robinette

Wanting To Help

During the pandemonium of the Give A Kid A Christmas food assembly line, I noticed a young lady and daughter shyly standing several feet from the fray, appearing alone but eager. I approached

them, asked, "Would you like to join us?" and the mom said, "We don't know how to get involved." I quickly offered, "Follow me and I'll help you find a spot to help." They did, and became valuable players.

In all gatherings there will be those timid and shy folks desperate to be involved. We must be on the lookout and give them a hand.

I do regret not following up with my new friends and I wonder how they made out. Did they stay until the finish? I learned a lesson about follow-up and follow-through. Hopefully the three of us left better people.

Ladonia Baptist

In early 1983, Neighbors Stores leased a tract of land at the intersection of I-77 and N.C Highway 89 in western Surry County from Grace Cooke and her daughter Jean Wright. Jean's significant other was Junior Hawks, and we became good friends as he was a knowledgeable electrician and a good man. In recent years, Grace passed and Jean had a stroke. Recently, Junior passed, too. After reading his obituary, I wrote "Ladonia at 11 on Nov. 29" in my Daytimer.

The directions to Ladonia Church were a bit sketchy, and at 10:50 I was frantic and lost. However, I got lucky and found the church, and the blessings started to fall my way. Walking to the front door, I met 13 family members, including son Tracy, holding hands and praying. I was then ushered in by funeral director Bob Moody, and I was at ease. The minister, Tony Holder, welcomed us, and after prayer the Foothill Quartet came front and center and gave a spiritual rendition of "Sweet Beulah Land" — the best I've heard.

The southern gospel music group included vocalists Trent Schuyler and Dennis Lowe, Larry Bryant on lead guitar, and Ann Bryant on upright bass. Dennis Lowe was a legendary teacher/administrator at Surry Community College. In his gentle, quiet way he brought out the "want to learn" in followers. For years I quietly applauded his steadfast encouragement for those willing aspirants seeking new starts.

As I've said often, never miss a funeral. We always leave uplifted and closer to God. When the Foothill Quartet concluded with "Amazing Grace," Junior, family, and friends were at peace and blessed. And remember, a funeral is an "only once" occasion and event, and there is no "make-up date" because it is never to be again. Attendance is about honor, respect, and benevolence. Should we ever consider going or ponder going to a funeral or memorial service — go! We'll always regret not going. Let's leave a legacy of being there. Ladonia Baptist is my haven of precious memories.

Zim

After years as Cedarbrook Country Club CEO and PGA Professional, Zim Zimmerman is retiring. He has amassed a splendid record of membership growth, top-level course management and reputation, fiscal responsibility, and community advocacy. His partner, wife Deb, has marched with him every step of the way, and in the background helped him shine. When we arrive on the grounds there is an air of respect and gratitude. We feel welcomed and appreciated and we are met with a sense of "I matter."

My introduction to Cedarbrook was in August 1998 during the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital Charity Tournament. I met hospital stalwart Dr. Skip Whitman and could readily sense his pride in the club. He was hosting OrthoCarolina orthopedist Dr. Tom Fehring, my brother-in-law. While visiting, Federal Finance COO David Cline asked, "Are you a member of Cedarbrook?" After I said "no," he said, "Every thriving local community has good schools, a great hospital, and a top-rated country club, and our Cedarbrook is tops in every regard." I drove straight to Cedarbrook and joined. What a wonderful decision.

Cedarbrook hosts our 16-year-old Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament. Supporters say, "It's incomparable." Why? One driving force is Zim Zimmerman. He's the best charity golf stager known. For hospitality, course excellence, food, rules adherence, accommodation, parking, etc., all is well with Cedarbrook. The tournament flourishes due to Zim and Cedarbrook. In 2006, we netted \$28,000 for our cause and since then have averaged \$50,000 annually. When players and sponsors know our date in October, they book a count-us-in. The course is always in tip-top shape. We start and finish on time. We work hard to be Cedarbrook's best day of the year.

During the 2008-9 recession, Zim reinvented himself and Cedarbrook became a destination food draw. Its burgers, pasta salad, and pimento cheese are renowned.

Our tournament consistently attracts over 200 golfers and 200 sponsors. We are blessed to have Cedarbrook 3 miles from the Elkin Rescue Squad, Zim's remarkable leadership and a great cause give us a stellar reputation and we are known as our region's best charity golf tournament.

Deserved Recognition

Most of us like to feel good about the credit we deserve for exercising unsolicited pats on the back. We also probably remember a compliment from a teacher whose instruction we had adroitly followed and a mentor who noticed our task execution to

perfection. I remember the late high school Football Coach Charlie Atkins teaching effective defensive pursuit angles. He gave me a much rewarding, "Way to go, York," after making a tackle at the sideline in a well-fought victory in a 1959 game against Wilkes Central.

Timely compliments are most effective. The closer the compliment to the event, the more impactful the praise. Old thanks are just old thank-you's. Next day thanks you, needless to say, we do look for way-to-go's and usually never forget a good deed that goes unrewarded. I suppose compliments are so meaningful and take an insignificant amount of effort to execute.

J.K. Atkins' victorious Mount Airy Granite Bears stomping Tarboro for the NCHSAA 1A Football Championship was, in the words of Mayor Jon Cawley, "the best Bears game" he's seen since 1990. I know Coach Atkins will justly reward his valiant heroes. Teams win games and teams lose games, but all who play deserve recognition.

His Eyes

For some time I've mailed notes and pictures to seniors and shut-ins. A dear friend, Ron, is positive and challenged. He has Parkinson's, neuropathy, and diabetes. During a recent visit, his 24/7 caregiver, son Jeffrey, said, "Mr. York, Dad so enjoys your pictures. His vision is 25/150, he struggles to see. However, I'm his eyes. I read to him every word and tell the stories I see in the pictures. He understands every photo. Getting mail is a huge lift. It's really spiritual."

Word Match Game

Match the word on the right with its definition from the left.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------------------|
| A. pompous | _____ | 1. intense |
| B. abject | _____ | 2. logical |
| C. profound | _____ | 3. fourth down |
| D. meticulous | _____ | 4. low state |
| E. capitulate | _____ | 5. dull |
| F. cogent | _____ | 6. polite |
| G. culinary | _____ | 7. shun |
| H. decorous | _____ | 8. flippant |
| I. diffident | _____ | 9. surrender |
| J. facetious | _____ | 10. good taste |
| K. first up | _____ | 11. shy |
| L. glib | _____ | 12. plentiful |
| M. drab | _____ | 13. precise |
| N. prolific | _____ | 14. shallow |
| O. dissident | _____ | 15. objector |
| P. vilify | _____ | 16. denigrate |
| Q. ostracize | _____ | 17. about cooking |

(Answers are on Page 7)

Mercy And Truth Ministries

Mercy and Truth Ministries, founded by Rebecca Simpson, who along with Pastor Jeremy have served the Thanks to Calvary Baptist Church on Austin Traphill Road in eastern Wilkes County since 2016, reaches out to over 5,000 grateful beneficiaries on Christmas Eve. Word-of-mouth encouragement raises the outreach funds. Other key board members are Libby Price, Brianna Simpson, and Marty Roberts.

Thanks to a much-appreciated invitation from Program Chairman Marty Roberts I was asked to share at the group's Dec. 5 luncheon at the Yadkin Valley Heritage Trails Center on Standard Street in Elkin. More than 50 caring community leaders gathered for a delicious wrap from our local Speedy Chef and fellowship. Program participant Brianna Simpson shared the mission of the Ministry and I challenged the guests to be selfless devoted servants to helping others. Topics were:

A. The impact of the late benefactor Bobby Harold on the region.

B. Local leader Rudy Holbrook's willingness to handle significant community needs with total equanimity.

C. The importance of keeping in mind every day the message of Galatians 6:9: "Never grow weary while doing good for others. FAINT NOT — in just time we'll be rewarded."

D. Devoted family man Ron Ellis of Mount Airy and I have been close since 1958. Often he's taken in family members needing a fresh start. He also is a "go first" forgiver of our shortcomings.

E. By all means go to every funeral. Going is a grieving family gift. They may not know we attend; however, we'll know we are there. We'll always leave a challenged, more spiritual person.

F. Compile lists of people who enhance our communities and make it a point to meet those we don't know. Today that may be Warren Bates, Susan Stewart, Vicky Tysor, Jeff Eidson, Ann Ashman, Steve Owings, Libby Price, Jon Cawley, Treva Kirkman, Robert Rizoti, Petie Davis, Chad Tidd, Phillip Ratley, Phillip Gordon, Cheryl Largen, Zim Zimmerman, Bobby Todd, Linda Cheek, Arnold Lakey, and Jamie Johnston

G. Seize every opportunity to help others. A key "yes" for me was the Elkin Rescue Squad in June of 2006.

How We Met

I'm so grateful to know many people and want to always remember how we met. Also to work at nurturing each and every friendship.

John Freas and I met at WIFM in 2012 as he stopped to ask us to promote Galloway Episcopal Church's Peace Testimony. He's a rancher and

beekeeper. Wife Mary is an accomplished weaver and spinner.

Dr. Don Martin and I met at a school outing in Kernersville in 2014. I sought him out during a social break. Dave Odom, Danny McQueen, and the late John Owensby, my Guilford friends, attended. Dr. Martin helps me grow.

Doug Jessup and I met at the Armfield Center. His late wife, Donna, battled cancer for five years and never complained. Doug says, "She's always on my mind and in my heart." They met after high school.

First met Jim Blackburn, 78, as we were honoring Jeremiah Price when he signed his NCAA grant-in-aid contract to attend Appalachian State University in 2023. Jeremiah is a three-time state champ at Surry Central coached by Stephen Priddy.

In the Mount Airy Municipal Building's annual fall display was a pumpkin man whose tee shirt read, "Making a difference is what I do." Mount Airy's seasonal displays are unmatched.

Gerald Plaster and I met at the Armfield Center. He and son Allen, athletic director at East Forsyth High School, paint the football field with a laser-directed robot that responds to 15 satellites. Allen is a former professional baseball pitcher. Gerald and wife Teresa are regulars at the Armfield Recreation Center. She made us a scrumptious Pink Lady Apple Pie after I gifted her a half-bushel box.

Great Teams

We are aware of individuals who chose to bond with others in remarkably amazing ways. State Treasurer Dale Folwell frequently arrives on the shoulders of unsung heroes who day in and day out are willing to sacrifice the limelight for self-assured feelings of accomplishment. In the case of superstar Bobby Harold, his devotees included wife Sylvia, Bruce Ayers, Troy Hodges, Arlis Vernon, and late sister Marie. Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bobby Todd has assistant Jamie Johnston. Surry Community College President Dr. David Shockley has Cheryl Largen and Tony Martin. Rudy Holbrook has Charlie Parsons and Rocky Lyons. David Smith has daughter Aleisha and sons Dakota and Dallas. Jon Cawley has wife Jill and Treva Kirkman. Ron Ellis has wife Diana and son Jeffrey. The mentions are never totally inclusive; you will think of your own examples.

Greatness rides on the back of "united we stand and divided we fall." The ones with the broad shoulders can finish the sentences of the CEO and in most instances can provide information that CEOs would be pressed to provide. The beautiful part of this discussion is the CEOs readily admit another is most vital to company success. As many have heard me say, "Our right person appeared and felt a need to see the CEO succeed."

Mount Airy Friends

I'm occasionally a Sunday School teacher at our Mount Airy Friends Meeting. Our group — Phil and Nancy Thacker, Sarah Johnson, Judy Kirkman, Joy Gardner, Clayton and Carol Hall, Joy Bono, and me — gathers at 9:30 a.m. for snacks provided by the Thackers and a 30-minute Bible Study session on topics produced by the Barclay Press of Newberry, Oregon. Our Q&A sessions incite lively discussions and opportunities. Several of these ideas recently have been:

1. The Apostle Paul's letter from Ephesus to Corinth in Greece concerning church divisions and idolatry.
2. The leadership and football acumen of J.K. Atkins at Mount Airy High School whose team handily defeated Tarboro 20-7 at Carter Finlay Stadium on Dec. 10. Our game plan, execution, and strategies were masterful. We conquered a most formidable foe with profound domination.
3. Our attention at gatherings that include being inclusive of the shy and timid. We need pay attention to silent bystanders who feel uneasy and reserved. They may need a helping hand to get involved. They want and need encouragement.
4. Be mindful of our necessity for being humble. Those who are humble by nature are likely to admit wrongs, include others, ask for opinions, make quick decisions, compliment others, and praise readily and willingly. They lead by example and are confident.

Sela Bible Study

In 2010, the late David Morrison, co-owner of D-Rex Pharmacy; Jack Gentry; and Sela Builders owner Phillip Ratley founded the Sela Bible Study at Sela's corporate headquarters on North Bridge Street in Elkin. To this week and over 600 sessions at 6:30 a.m. on Friday mornings, I've attended over 90% of those sessions.

Phillip is the epitome of a host as he arrives at 6 a.m. and provides our study video, hot coffee, and meeting room. Our members — David Hutchens, Phillip and Alex Ratley, Sam Allen, Jack Gentry, Gary York, James Reece, and Max Haynes — are grateful and profound beneficiaries. We've developed friendships that are lifetime gifts. My ultimate compliment: It's my weekly focus. Everyone I know knows I'll be at Sela on Friday at 6:30 a.m.

All of us share responsibility. Wife Charlotte provides us yogurt with fresh fruit and sugar-free muffins every last Friday. Bojangles is our favorite biscuit brand. Several of our teammates are gifted, astute Bible scholars. I'm the biggest beneficiary of the experience.

Lend A Hand

The ManiDental Family Practice in Elkin is a second home. My hygienist, Melissa, is retiring, and time changes things. However, in my 20 years there, quality care is ever-present.

This morning, Dec. 15, I was there to see Dr. Emily Maltba fitting two implants. Her assistant, Sydney Hayes, after discussing her aspirations for becoming a dental hygienist, remarked, "Let me step around the corner to see if Dr. Maltba needs my help!" We don't often see that unsolicited initiative and willingness to lend a hand.

Sydney, hoping to receive a school acceptance letter, said, "I'll wait my turn. After all, I have a good job here. I can't wait to get to work each day!" All of us would enjoy having a cadre of Sydneys leading our companies. We congratulate Sydney's family, East Wilkes High School, and Wilkes Community College.

Surry Bridge Builder

Smith-Rowe Construction of Mount Airy, founded in 1983, is a regional general contractor who builds bridges, utility systems, and roads. A present project is replacing the Mitchell River Bridge on Highway 268 between the 601/268 intersection in Surry County and east of Elkin, N.C. Instead of reusing the original built in the 1940s, our NCDOT chose to build a new, wider, 150-foot-long bridge north of the existing structure. During an interview, Vice President Judy Phillips stated, "The most challenging aspect of the construction schedule to open in mid-2024 is traffic control. The old bridge is open only to single-lane traffic and traffic is controlled by flagmen during construction hours. Off-hours traffic returns to two-lane movement."

What's Significant

Clark Goins, renowned Farm Bureau Agent for over 30 years and LDS Church devoted member, says the late legendary Farm Bureau Agent Van Whitaker had a profound knack for being able to discover in a prospective buyer his most significant interest and to lead conversations in that direction.

In my close-knit exercise group, Conner Bouldin's interest is girlfriend Kate and his career at Duke Energy. Doug Jessup is sharing his love for late wife Donna. Armfield Civic Center's receptionist Amanda is always opening the Center 10 minutes early at 5:20 a.m. WIFM's on-air personality Danny Hall's interest is in never having been late opening WIFM at 6 a.m. in his 18 years at the microphone.

When people take pride we have incredible accomplishments. I challenge all Communicator readers to seek our peers' most significant area of interest and learn to explore it in depth.

Meaningful Reputations

- Forty-three students entered projects in the Meadowview Magnet School Science Fair. Six community members were asked to judge the contest in November, and I thank Principal Colby Beamer for the invitation. I arrived at 8:30 for the start at 9 and a school administrator said, "Mr. York, you have a reputation for being early. Welcome to Meadowview Magnet. We appreciate your help."

- Since becoming a supporter of the VFW Honor Guard in 2009 and its commander, the World War II veteran Thurmond Midkiff, I attend and am invited to veterans' events annually. Always there were Pete Welborn, George Speight, Mickey Venable, the late Judge Otis "Bud" Oliver, Ronald Hull, Roger Webb, Dr. Ashley Hinson, and Arlis Thomas.

- In 2004, the late Howard Reynolds came to WIFM Radio and stated, "The Lord has asked me to make a friend every day, and today you are it." In mid-December I sought out Walter and Betsy White who own an antique store south of the Fairview community in Surry County. I used Mr. Howard's opening remark and the Whites were joy-filled.

- John Freas of Stone Mountain in Wilkes County came to WIFM Radio in 2007 and asked the station to support the Galloway Episcopal Church's Peace Testimony. We obliged, and John and I became close, close friends. He brings a quart of his wholesome honey every Christmas.

- Stellar Duke Energy lineman Carter Bouldin of Pilot Mountain, along with friend Katee and dad Brian, are regulars at the Armfield Recreation Center. Before being hired at Duke Energy, Carter trained at the highly reputed Electrical Lineworker Program at Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston-Salem. When I asked him for advice to aspiring trainees, he quickly quipped, "Listen." Carter is a program winner!

- David Smith, owner of Smith's Hauling in Mount Airy, is helping Phil Harris restore a 1960 B-61 Mack Tractor that has been in storage for 37 years. Needing a new clutch, David drove to Harris Leather and Silversmith Company in State Road to pick up one. David shared the cordial and warm demeanor of father Ralph and sons Phil and Eddie. The Harris family and associates have an impeccable reputation for a pleasuring outreach, loving humility, and inclusion. The Harris Way is about never appearing to be better than anyone and all others.

Humility

Liberty University Football Co-Defensive Coordinator Josh Aldridge stated in a recent interview for WIFM Radio that his prized recruits have an innate love for the game and have an abundance of humility. The traits of humility include

arriving early and staying late for practice, asking daily questions of coaches about how to improve, maintaining a great work ethic, and an intensity for improvement and stardom.

Former Alleghany High School superstar Jerry Duncan said the University of Alabama Head Coach Bear Bryant spoke of the values of humility daily. Local leaders imbued with humility are David Smith, the late Bobby Harold, Ann Ashman, Martin Cheek, Rudy Holbrook, Marty Roberts, Warren Bates, Paul Hammes, Vicky Tysor, Sue Stone, Dr. Ashley Hinson, Phillip Thacker, Phillip Gordon, and Arnold Lakey. We are drawn to people of great humility.

C.S. Lewis said, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."

Family Meals

Many of us are the beneficiaries of elaborate and sumptuous holiday meals because the cooks in the household first of all love and enjoy preparing large spreads with so much food they'll never run out and guests will enjoy taking home leftovers for tomorrow. Below is the menu Gerald and Teresa Plaster of Pilot Mountain, N.C., prepared for 23 family members celebrating Thanksgiving 2022:

Turkey and dressing	Tater Tots
Baked ham	Corn bread
Chicken casserole	Yeast rolls
Cranberry sauce	Gravy
Mac & cheese	Pinto beans
Green beans	Corn
Creamed potatoes	Deviled eggs
Broccoli & cheese casserole	Apples

Desserts:

- Peanut Butter Pie
- Italian Cream Cheese Cake
- Banana Pudding
- Chocolate Eclairs
- Cupcakes

The Plasters are huge fans of WIFM's Pink Lady Apples. They both are retired from UPS. Gerald is a veteran who served in Vietnam. Their families live in West Virginia, Mount Airy, and Kernersville, N.C.

How Caring Doctors Work

Dr. Robert Peterson is a highly respected and widely admired thoracic surgeon primarily practicing at Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital in Elkin, N.C. A dear friend, Tim, has been a patient of Dr. Peterson's for several procedures and highly recommends Dr. Peterson. Tim recently had an emergency gall stone removal by an Emergency Room surgeon. The next day, Dr. Peterson, seeing Tim's name on the patient list, visited his room to check on Tim's condition. After checking on Tim, Dr. Peterson said his farewells and moved on. That's how caring doctors work.

Bobby and Arlis

In the mid-1950s, Mount Airy native Bobby Harold and the owner of Vernon Produce in Winston-Salem, Arlis Vernon, partnered to bring fresh produce, particularly lettuce, from the Salinas Valley near San Francisco in California to Vernon Produce on University Parkway in Winston-Salem. H&W Trucking originated the first six-day-turnaround trips to California and back. In its heyday, H&W would bring 15 40,000-pound loads of lettuce weekly to Vernon.

H&W also brought countless varieties of fresh fruit to North Carolina, and Bobby established his rich tradition of gifting fruit at Christmas. Neighbors Stores followed his lead in the mid-1980s.

In 2005, Neighbors started its long-standing relationship with Perry Lowe Orchards of Moravian Falls in Wilkes County on the Brushy Mountain. N.C. Cooperative Extension Director Bill Hanlin first introduced me to Ty and Mother Shirley Lowe.

The Lowe family has been orchardists for six generations on Highway 18 south of Wilkesboro, N.C. Perry Lowe Orchards currently raises 40 varieties of fresh fruit on 100 acres. At 2,421 feet above sea level, temperatures are 10 degrees warmer on the Brushy Mountain, making conditions more conducive to less freezing in the orchards.

Today, WIFM Radio distributes Perry Lowe Orchards' Pink Lady Apples as Christmas treats. The juicy, tart, delicious, healthy, and versatile apples are picked in early October and can be held in cold storage for up to 120 days. Eric Adams, Perry Lowe III, Abraham Delgado, Abraham Cruz, and Rosie Morales can load 70 half-bushel boxes into our Chrysler SUV in three minutes and 30 seconds. Each box weighs 22 pounds. The van with rear and side doors is custom-made for distributing the boxes. Many of our gifts go to Elkin, Mount Airy, Sparta, Winston-Salem, and King; Surry, Yadkin, and Wilkes public schools; and Surry Community College and Wilkes Community College.

Classic Program

One of our most heralded entities of all time is the Copeland Ruritan Club chartered in 1961. The foundational documents remain proudly posted on a wall at the Ruritan Building at 975 Copeland School Road in central Surry County.

I recently was privileged to see a 1973 gospel singing program. An outstanding fundraiser, it featured some 50 pages of club officers, celebrity performers, community hallmarks, and legendary landmarks. On the concluding page is a listing of 165 community companies that were showcased as supporters of the worthy Copeland Ruritan Club. Below are listed the surviving companies:

Mount Airy Equipment	Airmont Florist
Newman Bros. Well Drilling	Dobson Citgo
Merritt Machine Shop	Stanley Realty
Mount Airy Southern States	F. Rees Co.
Mountain View Florist	Surry Insurance
Kentucky Fried Chicken	Belk
The Mount Airy News	Pilot Farm Supply
Brannock & Hiatt Furniture	Carl Rose & Sons
Surry Communications	Lowes Hardware
Moody Funeral Home	

In 1966, the Ruritan Club had 165 members and raised funds to buy equipment for Copeland Elementary's 7th- and 8th-grade football teams. Sam Moser and Garland Johnson were star players.

Alan York

Son Alan York is a devoted, articulate, and accomplished play-by-play sports commentator at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, with 12 years as "The Voice of Liberty Flames." During a recent Google search, I was connected to a nationwide ESPN commentary prior to Liberty's thrashing of Brigham Young University in early November. Alan was prepared, informative, and decisive. His story of Liberty's 7-1 record painted a word picture of the Flames' national prominence. Alan loves his calling to tell great sports stories.

Master Beekeeper

Paul Madren of Mount Airy, a North Carolina Master Craftsman Beekeeper — one of only 12 in the state — has kept bees for more than 70 years. He recently stated, "I have never observed a beehive when I didn't learn and see something new." From Paul we learned that bees don't like chilly days; they will only leave the hive when the temperature is 50 degrees or higher.

Pure Wisdom

We are responsible for our own happiness. Cherish self-esteem. Be willing and quick to say, "I blew it and I'll make amends." Share our shortcomings with friends and at the same time our appreciation, and reserve judgment. Be willing to meet challenges, be ambitious, kind, and considerate. Spend time with our children, be respectful, and be willing to ask for help as everyone we know is searching to help others.

Word Match Game answers

(from Page 3)

1. C	5. M	9. E	13. D	17. G
2. F	6. H	10. A	14. L	
3. K	7. Q	11. I	15. O	
4. B	8. J	12. N	16. P	

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