

THE COMMUNICATOR

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N.C. Principal of the Year Is Surry County School Leader

Donna L. Bledsoe, principal of Cedar Ridge Elementary School in Surry County, is the 2023 North Carolina Principal of the Year. The award sponsored by Wells Fargo was announced May 19.

Since becoming principal of the rural school in 2016, Bledsoe has cultivated a community with a clear focus on student success, strong faculty collaboration and overall school improvement, according to the award commendation. She says the culture of Cedar Ridge Elementary can be summed up in one word: "joy."

When Bledsoe speaks about her school's efforts and accomplishments, she is more likely to use the word "we" rather than "I." She started her tenure at Cedar Ridge by engaging the whole staff. "As a staff, we reimagined our school mission, vision and belief statements around our organizational values." She said that staff decided on their basic purpose: "We want to do what is best for students."

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt said Bledsoe helped forge a genuine school community where students and staff thrive. "Mrs. Bledsoe and her staff truly have put students at the center of all that they do," Truitt said. "It's one thing to say that and another thing entirely to make it happen, every day, in every class and with every student. It's clear that Cedar Ridge does. That takes committed and visionary leadership."

Surry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Travis Reeves said in support of Bledsoe's nomination to be Principal of the Year that she has a special passion for watching her students and staff grow every year. "Mrs. Bledsoe is the instruction leader of her school and has focused on bringing the joy to Cedar Ridge Elementary School," Reeves said. "With high expectations, she helps her staff and students achieve and excel in their goals."

Since earning her B.S in Elementary Education from Appalachian State University in 2004, Bledsoe has spent her entire career in education with Surry County Schools, first as a third-grade teacher, then as an elementary school assistant principal, and as principal since 2015.

North Wilkesboro Speedway

Since NASCAR track owners Bruton Smith and Bob Bahre closed the North Wilkesboro Speedway after purchasing it in 1996, our region's population has mourned its passing. Driving by on U.S. Route 421 brought an intense sadness and wistful hoping, year after year, as the grandstand faded a bit more and the grass grew higher.

The Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce meeting in 2022 started a major rebirth. The late Bruton Smith's son and Speedway Motorsports President and CEO Marcus Smith was the keynote speaker and never said "no" to repeated questions about whether the track could be reopened. In the autumn of 2019, NASCAR icon Dale Earnhardt Jr. made a memorable visit and the words "It's coming back" began to be heard. N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper allocated \$18 million of federal pandemic-relief funds to rehabilitate and reopen the track, and once again it's making history.

During a speech by NASCAR legend Benny Parsons' widow Terri and Wilkes Chamber Executive Director Linda Cheek at the Yadkin Valley Chamber, Terri stated, "Before Benny's passing, he gave me a wish list and No. 3 was to lead efforts to reopen the track, and I've committed time and energy to make it happen." Friend Ronald Queen also played a key role, as have the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners and our North Carolina General Assembly, both the House and Senate.

The North Wilkesboro Speedway's rehabilitation started in the first week of 2023. NASCAR's All-Star Race on May 21 concluded an exciting Grand Opening Week. The project has been uplifting, heroic, and dynamic, and its economic impact is expected to exceed \$20 million annually.

Peace Pole

A four-sided Peace Pole near the door of Elkin's First Presbyterian Church states:

1. May Peace Prevail on Earth.
2. Go Out Into the World in Peace.
3. Be At Peace With Yourself.
4. Have Peace With Our Neighbors.

Service Awards

On May 8 at least 150 gathered at Elkin's Presbyterian Church to celebrate the Hugh Chatham Health's coveted years of service awards. Among its 1,000 servers who together have logged 8,400 years of service, 130 have been at HCH for more than five years of service, Kathy Coe and Tammy Meadows have garnered 40 years, and Patsy Hooper leads all others with 45 years.

We were entertained by The Araniska Winds, a woodwinds quintet. Hugh Chatham Health Human Resources Director Jordan Mosley was our emcee. CMG President Rusty Tysor, husband of HCH Executive Assistant Vicky Tysor, gave a most spiritual prayer of invocation.

Our delicious meal was provided by the HCH Food Service. Food and Environmental Services Director Warren Bates said the following people from his team helped out with the Service Awards Banquet: Joni Gutierrez, Tonya Gentry, Brandi Steele, and Garrett Ratliff. Additional support came from community members Katie Lyles, Joshua Couch, Thomas Speaks, Payton Dunbar, and Hannah Rose. His team is beyond compare, and the food is superbly prepared and served.

CEO Paul Hammes' words of gratitude and appreciation were praiseworthy and gracious. He said, "You are my 'why' I look forward to being a part of our team. I live to serve and commend your resilience, humility, example, loyalty, family values, and willingness to always be present when it matters." He was ably assisted by Board of Trustees Vice-Chair Cynthia Gonzalez.

My table included Rusty and Vicky Tysor, Mary Blackburn, Ann Ashman, Cynthia Gonzalez, and Paul Hammes.

The Araniska Winds

A five-member group of woodwinds musicians entertained guests at Hugh Chatham Health's annual service awards banquet in May. The Araniska Winds is comprised of Mary-Emma Beres on flute, Debbie Brady on oboe, Michael Beres on clarinet, John Patton on bassoon, and Norma Whitfield on French horn.

The group's name is taken from the Cherokee name for Bullhead Mountain in Alleghany County. The Araniska Winds play classical, jazz, and show tunes. They have performed together for the last five years. They appear periodically at the Muddy Creek Café and Music Hall in Sparta and at the Reeves Theatre in Elkin.

Dr. Mary-Emma Holleman Beres is the woodwinds group's contact person and leader. She also is the Medical Director of Primary Care, Hugh Chatham Medical Group, at Hugh Chatham Health.

Public Servants' Roles

Gathering events most times are ribbon cuttings that reveal outstanding accomplishments and enhancement. Friday afternoon, May 12, 50 well-wishers joined to celebrate the opening of the Surry County Animal Science Lab, a collaborative effort between the Surry County Schools and Surry Community College. The metal enclosure, approximately 4,000 square feet, will provide a hands-on learning center for students at Surry Central High School and the college.

Those making remarks were:

- Misti Holloway, Surry Central Principal.
- Cheyenne Rippey, FFA Chaplain.
- Dale Badgett, Surry County Schools Board of Education Chairman.
- Dr. David Shockley, SCC President.
- James Quick, SCC Instructor.
- Sarah Johnson, Surry Central Teacher and FFA Advisor.
- Emily Hodges, FFA Vice President.
- Neil Atkins, Surry County Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director.
- Dr. Travis Reeves, Surry County Schools Superintendent.

Driving to church on Sunday, it dawned on me how often Dr. Shockley and Dr. Reeves are called to publicly speak. They must be prepared several times daily to share their faith, hope, vision, and astute knowledge on a plethora of subjects. Last Friday, Dr. Shockley spoke on the value of leveraging relationships and the college's role in preparing students to develop agricultural skills for the workplace. Dr. Reeves shared the opportunity Surry Central's students will have to raise livestock for competition and bring them to market. Dr. Reeves praised Administrative Assistant Kim Freeman's efforts to prepare him to speak.

Main Street Towns

The National Main Street Center has designated 42 communities, including Mount Airy and Elkin, as accredited Main Street America programs for 2023.

NMSC and the N.C. Commerce Department's Main Street & Rural Planning Center annually recognize communities for "demonstrating exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach."

To qualify for national accreditation status, communities must demonstrate a commitment to building grassroots revitalization programs, fostering strong public-private partnerships, nurturing economic opportunity for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and actively preserving historic places, spaces, and cultural assets.

Elkin's Pickleball

While capturing a mural presentation on a building south of the Yadkin Railroad Line off Bridge Street in Elkin, N.C., I started to hear a unique "pop" sound that led me to a vibrant group playing pickleball on Mickey Carter Courts at Standard Street. Officially dedicated last November, the brainchild of the late Mickey Carter and his wife, Judy, the pickleball facility is quickly becoming Elkin's and Jonesville's most popular and heavily utilized physical, spiritual, social, and mental enhancement in our area.

After the idea was pitched to Elkin's Parks and Recreation Director Adam McComb, a devoted and determined group of pickleball enthusiasts banded together to bring about the establishment of four regulation courts in downtown Elkin. Thanks to contributions from the D.H. Griffin Companies of Greensboro, Vulcan Materials, the Town of Elkin, Carl Rose & Sons, and several hundred loyal supporters — individuals donated 60 percent of the total funding — the dream became a reality. The Mickey Carter Courts soon will be lighted and expanded to eight courts with ample parking and public restroom facilities.

During my visits, I've observed a deep sense of relationship building, warm comradery, social networking, gratitude, and appreciation. During a recent interview on WIFM Radio with Jack Jernigan and Sandy Martin, I learned of the group's sense of community buy-in and willingness to bring about an endeavor that is a classic tribute to the late Mickey Carter and his family.

The Carter Pride is obvious in the smiles worn and blessings portrayed by each individual who gave to receive such bountiful rewards. Participants are resoundingly uplifted and endeared. In giving we receive.

Tulip Poplar Topped

For years we've pondered how to remove a 75-foot tree on our Brendle property that could potentially fall across cars on the Scotty's Auto Sales lot in Elkin. When the epic storm blew through the town on Friday, April 28, we received the solution: countless pieces of specialized tree-removal equipment to help our community recover.

Most of us think bottom cutting when what is needed was equipment to remove trees from the top down. Dillon Tree Service from Colfax brought a boom with a knuckle claw and a scissor lift that together, in less than one hour, cut the tree in six sections and laid it on the ground 50 feet from the stump. The operation drew a crowd of 50 to witness the tree's removal. Dillon's crew took out the tree without Scotty having to clear his lot of cars.

Equally as important was the precision manner with which Dillon's two men worked together. Owner Victor Dillon shared that he has the boom, scissor lift with a Stihl chainsaw, five capable operators, and a dump truck in his operation.

The tree was 24 inches in diameter at the stump. To say the least, the accomplishment was amazing and needed.

Sharing The Good

Mount Airy City Schools has an educational foundation that supplements the financial necessities of the system. Most of the funds raised by donors go to fund college scholarships and classroom grants. Its annual meeting includes student presentations, dinner, and patron pledges. Significant sponsors were:

Advantage Construction & Remodeling
Lowe & Williams, PLLC, Attorneys at Law
Moody Funeral Service & Crematory
Champion Towing & Recovery
Hudson & Co. Hair & Makeup
The Greenhill Group, Holli Nowlin
Steve Tate & Sons Plumbing
Andrea Kniskern, CPA
Royster & Royster, PLLC
Surrey Bank & Trust
Surry Communications
John L. Gravitte, DDS
Bray Properties
Clara B. Farlow
Coram Construction
Fish Hippie
T.P. Supply Co. Inc.
Smith-Rowe, LLC

Word Match Game

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

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|----------------|
| 1. Excalibur | _____ | A. committee |
| 2. pontiff | _____ | B. helper |
| 3. squire | _____ | C. locator |
| 4. southpaw | _____ | D. fleeting |
| 5. hash mark | _____ | E. thwart |
| 6. whittler | _____ | F. adhere |
| 7. deacon | _____ | G. dapper |
| 8. governance | _____ | H. awed |
| 9. fascinated | _____ | I. ruler |
| 10. ephemeral | _____ | J. pause |
| 11. harmonious | _____ | K. teetering |
| 12. foil | _____ | L. likely |
| 13. wavering | _____ | M. lefty |
| 14. prone | _____ | N. magic sword |
| 15. lapse | _____ | O. celestial |
| 16. cling | _____ | P. amicable |
| 17. stellar | _____ | Q. 4-star |
| 18. neat | _____ | R. separate |
| 19. Cavazos | _____ | S. question |
| 20. discrete | _____ | T. gala |
| 21. Mayfest | _____ | U. lad |
| 22. ponder | _____ | V. idler |

(See answers on Page 7)

Honored Educators

Wilkes County Schools' 2023 Teacher of the Year is Adina Cockerham Watkins at Wilkes Early College High School and the district's Principal of the Year is Rebecca "Beckie" Spears, now in her fourth year at Wilkes Elementary.

Watkins is a Wilkes County native who graduated from Wilkes Central High School, received a bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University in 1993, and became a teacher in the Wilkes schools in 1994. She was one of the five finalists for Teacher of the Year in 2013 while at Central Wilkes Middle School and again in 2015 at Wilkes Early College High School. She is a member of the Wilkesboro Planning Board, Wilkes County Board of Health, and the Wilkes Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors. She also serves as a coach and volunteers in other ways.

Principal Spears was a pupil at Wilkesboro Elementary, she worked there as a teacher in 2006-2012, her children attended the school, and she became its principal in July 2019. Her career in the Wilkes schools began in 1997 when Mike Dancy, Millers Creek Elementary Principal, hired her as an eighth-grade language arts and social studies teacher there. Spears was an instructional specialist in the Wilkes schools in 2012-2014 and an assistant principal in the system in 2014-2019. She also was an AIG resource teacher.

She graduated from Meredith College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and from Appalachian State University with a Master's Degree in School Administration. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and a past Wilkes County Teacher of the Year.

Shortly after Wilkes County Schools announced the top award winners, I sent the following letter to each one:

"Congratulations for being honored by your peers as one of Wilkes County's most outstanding educators.... Your commitment to public education answers one of society's highest callings.

"We praise your dedication and tireless efforts that matter in countless ways. May your future be fulfilling, gratifying, and rewarding!

"Respectfully, Gary York."

Surry County EDP

The Surry County Economic Development Partnership is a collaboration of public and private organizations whose goal is to bring new employment opportunities to Surry County by recruiting new industry and helping existing industry build its capability and potential. SCEDP had its 27th annual meeting in April when about 120 business, governmental, and educational

representatives from across the county met at the Surry Service Center in Dobson. The featured speaker was Randolph County Economic Development Partnership's CEO and President Kevin Franklin who shared how his county had landed Toyota's new battery-manufacturing plant and the partnership's 10-year outreach program.

The meeting gave many members an opportunity to meet new SCEDP President and CEO Blake Moyer. His previous economic-development experience includes working in Henderson County and Burlington.

SCEDP's leadership includes an Executive Committee comprised of Chairman Peter Pequeño, Vice-Chair Ron Sutphin, Secretary Chris Lumsden, and Treasurer Julie Perkins. Members of the Board of Directors are:

Robert Ball	Chris Knopf
Nathan Rule	Dr. Kim Morrison
Michael Boaz	Richie Parker
Travis Bode	Joanna Radford
Rachel Collins	Dr. Travis Reeves
Brent Cornelison	Jeff Sedlacek
Dr. Myra Cox	Dr. David Shockley
Dave Dinkins	David Steelman
Stan Farmer	Robin Testerman
Paul Hammes	

The organization's website is at scedp.com. Its telephone number is 336-401-9900.

Lee Cook

Lee Cook is Executive Vice President of the Omega Construction Co. of Winston-Salem. It covers the southeast U.S.A. and it recently has specialized in building industry distribution centers.

When Lee visited WIFM Radio in Elkin, he mentioned that Matt Wilmoth, co-owner of Commercial Air Systems of Elkin, is a premier subcontractor that is in a select group that is highly recommended by the Omega Company.

Lee, an Eagle Scout as are his two sons, is the Assistant Scoutmaster and Eagle Coordinator for Boy Scouts Troop 545 in Pilot Mountain. First United Methodist Church sponsors Troop 545. It's led by Lee and Scoutmaster Donnie Diamont. Meetings are each Monday evening, usually at the Scout Hut, 1308 Jessup Grove Church Road, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041.

Founded in 1955, the troop has had 207 members achieve Eagle Scout rank. Nationwide, only 3 percent of Scouts earn this rank. A youngster must earn 21 designated Merit Badges to reach the coveted rank. The troop has 12 young men working on projects leading to the Eagle rank. Troop 545's latest Eagle candidate, Colby Goins, is building a video/audio cabinet for the technology presentations at the Methodist Church.

Wayne C. Matthews Monument

Since purchasing WIFM Radio in 2004 and subsequently meeting Dr. Wayne C. Matthews, both I and the station became significant supporters of his leadership at Surry Community College and in the Yadkin Valley. He was available and always attended every public gathering in Yadkin County. My ultimate compliment is, "Dr. Matthews had an uncanny way of sensing who should be involved in all meaningful success — in essence, 'Who must be at the table' for major project success. He always gave his time, expertise, and hope."

Dr. Matthews began his career at SCC in August 1993, and immediately became a pivotal figure in the establishment of SCC's Yadkin Center where he served as director and worked tirelessly to expand the center and its programs into a full campus. The agricultural, banquet, and classroom expansion; the Mebane Mechanical Complex; and the Truck Driving School — all were pushed by Dr. Matthews. He was and is ever-present in spirit, having passed away unexpectedly in June 2020.

In a special ceremony April 10, SCC President Dr. David Shockley and Kevin Austin, Chair of the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners, unveiled a beautiful stone monument at the Surry Community College Yadkin Center to honor Dr. Matthews' life and work. The new monument, a fitting tribute to his impact on the Yadkin County area, reads, "In memory of Dr. Wayne Curtis Matthews for his lifelong dedication, service, and commitment to the academic achievement and personal success of Yadkin County students and citizens."

Partners in making this monument a reality are Surry Community College, the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners, and the Surry Community College Foundation. Dr. Shockley commented, "We are pleased to honor Wayne's legacy by erecting this beautiful monument at the Yadkin Center. People of Yadkin County are able to enjoy better lives because of his tireless work and dedication to our community." Board Chairman Austin said, "Dr. Matthews' commitment to Yadkin County and its people led to great things for the Yadkin Center of Surry Community College, especially the ultimate designation of it as an official campus. Wayne led by example by furthering himself to earn his Ph.D. later in life, serving as a shining example to others. He was a pivotal influence in the creation of every facility on the Yadkin Center. I thoroughly enjoyed working with him."

Dynamic Trio

The Surry County Schools Board of Education in 1961 chose R.O. Lanier to be Surry Central High School's first principal. Shortly before its August opening, business teacher Gene Everett

joined the school's faculty and together he and Mr. Lanier led the Golden Eagles community to many incredible achievements including a North Carolina High School Athletic Association Division 3A State Championship in 1965.

In 1972, Petie Davis came to Dobson Elementary after graduating from Western Carolina University. Petie credits Mr. Everette's mentorship with leading to his meritorious career in public education, administration, bus service supervision, and coaching. The following letter expresses Mr. Davis' gratitude:

Gene Everette

"Gene Everette graduated from Appalachian [State University] and was hired by the great Principal R.O. Lanier to teach business classes, journalism, and driver education and to coach the golf team at Surry Central High School. Later in his career, Gene would become the school's Guidance Counselor. He literally impacted thousands of students in a positive and professional manner. He became a mentor and role model for many, including one of his students, Petie Davis.

"Petie wanted to become a teacher and coach just like his mentor, Mr. Everette. With Mr. Everette's constant encouragement, Petie would become a teacher, coach, and administrator at Dobson Elementary for 38 years. Petie credits Gene for helping him attain his goals to become an educator.

"Mr. Everette recently received his 60-year membership pin from Copeland Masonic Lodge, and Petie received his 50-year membership pin on the same night. Way to go, mentor and student!"

Elkin's State Farm Agent

State Farm Insurance Agent Steve Owings and wife Autumn came to Elkin in 2007. Their daughter Caroline graduated from University of North Carolina-Wilmington in May and will begin teaching at Elkin Elementary School in August. Son James is a sophomore at Appalachian State University.

After coming to Elkin, they immediately joined the Elkin Valley Baptist Church and their participation has been steadfast. Steve has served as a Deacon and, in the words of fellow member Jack Gentry, "Steve Owings is a significant contributor, having filled numerous roles. He's played in our praise band, directed the choir, chaperoned many youth outings, and in essence is a most dependable member. Steve can be counted on to always do his part and more. When called, he and his family meet and exceed requests."

The office of Steve Owings – State Farm Insurance Agent is at 1332 N. Bridge St. in Elkin. Its telephone number is (336) 526-8900. The agency's staff includes Sandie Brown, Corey Combs, Melissa Shoemaker, and James Owings.

Kallam

Allen and Lillian Kallam and their eight children have blessed the White Plains Community for more than 100 years. Devoted farmers off the Siloam Road south of Mount Airy, the mere mention of the Kallam name would bring a deep sense of respect. A wonderful tribute was Kenny saying, "Getting off the school bus meant shortly we'll be enjoying a hot pastry from Mom's wood stove." The family lived lives of quiet devotion to God, the White Plains Friends Meeting, and being neighbors everyone wants to embrace. They shared their character and just rewards and lived The Golden Rule.

A son, Steve, at 85 passed recently and hundreds gathered to praise his good name at Moody Funeral Services and the Friends Meeting. His benevolences, accommodation, athleticism, and giving heart was shared by his countless admirers. For me his presence gave much needed confidence, raised my expectations, and we'd depart better than before. Steve was an icon whose service to God, family, friends, and worthy causes is legendary. His life matters to many and our regard to wife Norma and son Winston are gifted and well deserved. We could be absent for years and catch up in a few moments as we were so attuned in values and hope. Brother Kenny, a retired Surry County teacher and co-Little Leaguer, had a legendary eulogy. In closing he said, "One thing for sure is that now Steve's got it made."

Steve's remaining siblings are Kenny and Larry, Wanda Barlow, and Judy Gray. Blessed be the Steve Kallam saga and way.

Good We Know

Acoustic guitarist, songwriter, and entertainer Presley Barker of Traphill, N.C., started to follow in the footsteps of the legendary Doc Watson at age 7. On May 15 he was the featured guest at the Wilkes County Retired Teachers banquet. His musicianship was outstanding as well as his refined oratory and gratitude for the retirees was exceptional.

Presley, a handsome 18-year-old, graduated No. 1 in his class at East Wilkes High School, earned an Associate's Degree from Wilkes Community College, and will enter University of North Carolina-Charlotte as a Junior in August. Wake Forest University School of Law is on his radar. He stated his two childhood dreams were to play on the Grand Ole Opry and to open Merlefest on the Doc Watson Stage, and he's already achieved both.

Special notes of praise go to his father, Eric, who silently supports all of Presley's aspirations; to mom Julie who is 100 percent devoted to providing Presley with the wherewithal to foster his career; and to his brother Luke who makes every

engagement and supports his big brother's dreams. Luke also is an aspiring drummer. Eric is the Wilkes County Schools Director of Transportation. Julie is a dental hygienist who put her career on hold to facilitate Presley's dreams. For the Wilkes County Retired Teachers' gig, the entire family arrived early and applauded greeters and well-wishers.

New Chamber President

John Pynakker from Bullhead City, Ariz., is the new President and CEO of the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce. A Wisconsin native and President/CEO of the Bullhead City Area Chamber of Commerce for the past four years, he brings to Mount Airy his experience as an entrepreneur (owner of Travel Network for nine years), a Chamber leader, and U.S. Army veteran. He has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from American Intercontinental University, graduating in 2006. At the Bullhead City Area Chamber of Commerce, Pynakker oversaw improvements in multiple areas including finance, membership, event attendance, and public relations.

Pynakker has visited the Surry County area previously and took a liking to it. A news release quoted him as saying, "...I look forward to living and thriving in the Mount Airy community. We have been to the area a few times and are excited to raise our children in such a friendly, beautiful city."

When asked about his new role with the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce, Pynakker said, "The Chamber is already in great shape thanks to the board and staff, but I will be out meeting members of the community to find out what else they would like to see the Chamber do for them. If you are a member, I will see you soon. If you are not, then I will also see you soon!"

Once Pynakker arrives and settles into his new role, the Chamber will host a Meet and Greet so the community, Chamber members, and local leaders can welcome him.

Sharing & Caring

In Mount Airy's Canteen Alley just off Main Street is a time capsule created by First Baptist Church's Cub Scout Pack 538. It was sealed and dedicated in 2018. It was made possible by contributions from The Woltz Foundation, Albert Lara Family, Ben Cooke and Family, J.G. Coram Company Inc., Aaron Tate and Family, Riverside Building Supply Inc., Gene and Peggy Rees, Smith-Rowe Inc., J. Brady Johnson, Judy Phillips & Family, Allan Vaughn Family, Jeremy and Jessica Cockerham Family, In Memory of Harry R. Vaughn Sr., and In Memory of Ben F. Bolick Jr. The sealed time capsule is scheduled to be opened in 2048.

Unique Offerings

Foothills Meat Center at the corner of South Bridge Street and Jimmy Couch Parkway in Jonesville is owned by Greg Pardue. It opened in 1986. The store is known for its fine selection of quality meats and top-flight customer service, and it advertises some of its unique offerings on WIFM Radio. For example, here's a commercial written for Foothills Meat Center by our Paul Kayanek:

You know Foothills Meat Center in Jonesville offers the best cuts of meat and a lot more. But did you know they also offer something you can't get anywhere else in the Yadkin Valley? — Captain John Derst's Good Old Fashioned Bread. A southern tradition for over 150 years, Captain John's bread is only available in our area at Foothills Meat Center. This one-of-a-kind bread has a golden color and rich taste sure to make your sandwich better. You're gonna love it! So pick up some Captain John Derst's Good Old Fashioned Bread today, only available at Foothills Meat Center, 224 South Bridge Street, Jonesville.

That commercial is aired frequently on WIFM 100.9 FM. Foothills Meat Center also supports our daily Birthday Calendar. Listeners can report upcoming birthdays by calling 336-835-1233 or sending email to WIFM@wifmradio.com. One winner, drawn daily, receives a package of Foothills Meat Center Country Ham.

Foothills Meat Center is online at <https://foothillscountryham.com/pages/meat-center> and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FoothillsMeatCenter/. Foothills Meat Center's devoted staff includes Richard Shaw, Will Shaw, Dean Groce, Tonya Richardson, Dawn Childress, Raymond Yocum, John Dickerson, Ciara Martin, Jane Byrd, Jettie Walker, Jaylee Byrd, Brittany Adkins, Brittany Holifield, Mackenzie Barker, Haydne Bryant, Emily Burk, Gabby Caudill, and Chaeli Parks. The store's telephone number is 336-835-7100.

Standing By

WIFM 100.9 FM commercials' writers assiduously search for and find unique products, services, and special qualities our sponsors possess. Whether a business, organization, nonprofit, service provider, or event organizer, you will receive all the benefits of our staff's years of broadcasting experience. Jennifer Chatham, Joel Hooper, Danny Hall, Paul Kayanek, and Gary York are standing by to help you stand out! Contact the station by calling 336-835-2511; sending email to wifm@wifmradio.com or regular U.S. Postal Service mail to P.O. Box 1038, Elkin, NC 28621; or visiting us at 813 N. Bridge St. in Elkin.

Speak Without Fear

By Jan D'Arcy

To be a fearless public speaker, there are qualities most people would like to possess and project. The first one is enthusiasm. "Nothing is ever accomplished without enthusiasm," Emerson said. Enthusiastic people are interested in projects and absorbed in life. They have energy in their bodies, expressiveness in their voices, and give attention to what they are doing. A person doesn't have to be "bubbly" or dramatic to be enthusiastic. A quiet intensity can command as much attention. We don't all have to be Billy Graham, but it is worth noting he started out as a Fuller Brush salesman. In his first year, he became the top salesman in his state. And when asked his secret of success, he said, "I believe in what I'm selling."

Trustworthiness. Now, this quality is essential for a continuing business relationship, a marriage, or a lasting personal friendship. Trustworthy people have open body language, seemingly no defenses. Their gestures are open and welcoming. They have direct eye contact. They project a feeling of assurance that they will follow through with whatever they say they will do. There's no evasiveness or hesitation in their speech. They are relaxed and sincere. They are vulnerable, but that vulnerability gives them a great deal of power.

Confidence. Henry Kissinger said, "No one gives prizes for lack of self-confidence." Incidentally, Henry Kissinger is someone who fashioned a winning public image against incredible odds. He is not a "ten" by Hollywood standards, and he speaks with a foreign accent, but he does have a charming smile and a great sense of humor, which he displays whenever possible. He is apparently fascinated by each person that he meets. He is self-confidence personified.

Self-confidence is having complete trust in your talents and abilities. If you don't have confidence in yourself, then why should anyone else? I have found, over the past 23 years of teaching, that the one quality that most people lack, no matter how high their income or social or professional position, is confidence.

Jan D'Arcy is a communications executive and author of "Speak Without Fear: How to Give a Speech Like a Pro," Nightingale Conant, 2005.

Word Match Game answers

(from Page 3)

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. N | 6. V | 11. P | 16. F | 21. T |
| 2. I | 7. B | 12. E | 17. O | 22. S |
| 3. U | 8. A | 13. K | 18. G | |
| 4. M | 9. H | 14. L | 19. Q | |
| 5. C | 10. D | 15. J | 20. R | |

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.” Proverbs 16:3



Congratulations Class of 2023!



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