

THE COMMUNICATOR

Phone: (336) 835-2511

Fax: (336) 835-5248

Email: wifm@wifmradio.com

Since January 1990

www.WIFMRadio.com

October 2023

Surry County Schools Educational Foundation Golf Tournament

Founded in 2010, our Surry County Schools Educational Foundation, with the leadership of Executive Director Ashley Mills, Superintendent Dr. Travis Reeves, and Board Chairman John Priddy, has staged a most successful annual fundraiser at Pilot Knob Park in Pilot Mountain, N.C. This year it attracted 48 teams and raised more than \$35,000.

The Educational Foundation provides financial support for the efforts of classroom teachers and stands ready to step up when significant scholastic needs arise. School staff members and other individuals help stage the golf tournament. Ashley Mills provided this list of volunteers:

Robert Draughn	John Priddy
Kevin Via	Lucas Gillispie
Neil Atkins	LuAnne Llewellyn
Hollie Lyons	Amber Flippen
Kim Freeman	Regina Richardson
Jennifer Coe	Jodi Southern
Amy Nitén	Dove Hunter
Melissa Spurlin	Amy Harris
DeAnne Danley	Amy Samples
Dale Badgett	Terri Mosley

Courtney Page (SCHS teacher, with students)

Participating in the golf tournament's morning and afternoon opening ceremonies were the East Surry High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) cadets led by Instructor Col. (ret'd.) Robert Sentell. They are Ethan Childress, Tommy Ledesma, Kendrick Oliver, Isaac McCormick, Stephen Hamann, Kadence Martin, Madison Blizzard, Michael Needham, and Saylor Chappell. Erika Foster is the unit's Public Affairs Officer.

ESHS Counselor Renee Henry directed two choral groups in performances at the tournament. From East Surry High School were Gabriel Torrey, Brooke Rodgers, Savannah Linville, and Analee Phillips. The singers from Pilot Mountain Middle School, all in the sixth grade, were Layla Leyva, Layla Ruiz, Abrielle Trent, Karizma Stiltner, Lilliuanna Chatman, and Annamarie Youngblood.

New Gymnasium

Wilkes Central High School recently dedicated a new 1,390-seat gymnasium. It will complement an existing facility built in the mid-1960s. Wilkes Central is an NCHSAA 2A school and has 740 students and 110 staff. Its address is 1179 Moravian Falls Road, Wilkesboro, N.C.; it is in the Moravian Falls community; and most of its students live in Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. Its feeder school is Wilkes Central Middle School.

The facility that will open in 2024 cost \$8.5 million and its general contractor is MDI of North Wilkesboro. State House District 24 Rep. Jeffrey Elmore played a key role in securing the state funding for the expansion.

Wilkes County Schools Superintendent Mark Byrd welcomed us and School Board Chair Rudy Holbrook gave the invocation and appreciation remarks. Other officials were school board members Kirk Walker, Vice-Chair Hardin Kennedy, Jammie Jolly, and Joan Caudill, and Principal Heather Freeman. We gathered at the school entrance and adjacent to the new facility.

Wilkes County Schools has 10,374 students and 1,330 staff members and operates 125 buses. Its Transportation Director is veteran Eric Barker.

Granite Bears Start Strong

The Mount Airy High School Granite Bears are a bona fide statewide powerhouse 1A football team led by Head Coach J.K. Atkins. It returned 17 starters from last year's team that totally devastated a strong Tarboro eleven 20-7 to win the NCHSAA State Championship in its division.

The Granite Bears in August averaged about 54 points per game and did not give up any points to its opponents. Through mid-September the Granite Bears' record was 5-0 and the only team who scored against Mount Airy was Ashe County High School with a single touchdown.

I became a J.K. Atkins' supporter when he said the Granite Bears are a good running team, play great defense, and "when we are at a disadvantage we make adjustments that help us overcome any shortcomings."

God Moment

Driving to Wilkes County to a ribbon-cutting celebrating the groundbreaking for the new 1,390-seat gymnasium at Wilkes Central High School, I realized I would need gas before returning to Pilot Mountain. Later I forgot, and ran out on Highway 268 east of the Fisher River Bridge. Please be aware of the dangerous nature of this stretch of road, as the speed is 55 mph and it's curvy and narrow. I created a potential nightmare as I had nowhere to exit the road and vehicles were zipping by and 10 deep behind me.

In a few moments, First Responder Robby Clark arrived and took charge along with a Surry County Sheriff's Deputy. They sent me to the top of the hill to slow down the westbound traffic and parked my vehicle into the driveway of Luis and Alwyn Feliciano. In a matter of minutes they were pouring gas into my van, and on the first try the engine fired and I was on my way to a nearby store where I purchased enough gas to get home to Pilot Mountain.

My offers to compensate Luis and Alwyn fell on deaf ears; collectively my rescuers refused any compensation and seemed pleased to help me overcome a potential accident and dilemma. Fortunately, there is so much good in our country. Luis and Alwyn came here from Puerto Rico in 2003. My helpers gave me kind words, warm smiles and sent me on my way. Hopefully I can return the favor in time.

Substitute/Fill-in

Occasionally I'm asked to sub at Mount Airy Friends Meeting's 11 a.m. service. I was chosen to help on Aug. 23 and shared my feeling about "hope" and using Mark 9:24 for my scripture. In the passage, Jesus says, "There is no if and everything is possible when we believe and pray." My stories included:

- Quaker founder George Fox's famous tort as to how we must be patterns and examples.
- Local Boy Scout leader Chris Lawson's nationwide impact as a devoted Scout recruiter.
- Mary Carter York's selection by her third-grade class as having "a heart of gold."
- Beautiful weekly floral arrangement by Bobé Westra at the Hugh Chatham Health reception desk sponsored by Explore Elkin, Ratledge Florist, HCH, and G&B Energy.
- Eden Cranford's dedication to Vulcan Materials as she loves her job and company.
- Our Jesus' resurrection as the most important event in the history of Christianity.
- The late L.M. and Jettie York's servant's hearts.
- Jack Gentry's devotion to passed wife Mary

whose adage is, "We take no material possession with us."

- Arnold Lakey's legacy as a Lowe's retiree.
- The impact of the Surry Medical Ministries, founded in 1992, upon the quality of life of our region's under-served unfortunates.
- Clayton and Carol Hall's endearing relationship.
- Dad's statement to future son-in-law Dr. Tom Fehring: "We never miss what we give away."
- Dale York's leadership of Union Hill Friends Meeting's \$5,000 scholarship campaign.
- The late Rev. Lynn Anderson's 3:30-minute YouTube oratory about belief and unbelief.
- Eye Surgeon Dr. Andrew Mincey's comment after my post-operative cataract checkup: "I have no concerns. All is well."

Violence Prevention

Some 15 years ago, a stately, confident man stopped by 100.9 WIFM Radio and asked to speak with Gary York. I was instantly drawn to his spiritual presence, humility, and pleasantness. John Freas asked WIFM to share a peace initiative made available by his Galloway Episcopal Church at West Main Street in Elkin. We became devoted friends.

John shared his youth years in Walnut Cove, his UNC-Chapel Hill roots, devoted marriage to Mary, his Angus herd and honey bee operations, Mary's weaving and spinning endeavors, his family farm in Traphill, and front-yard graveyard at his home on Swaringen Road in Wilkes County, N.C.

John has visited my Mount Airy Friends Meeting, and on several occasions I've shared our Peace Testimony and his intentions to go beyond being casual about his belief in nonviolence relationships. To that end he's written and published his feelings in a recent book named, "Violence Prevention: We All Can Help." It's a one-night read and it brings John's passion for pacifism, war objection, and how to live peacefully, harmoniously and kindly. When he stopped he graciously gifted me an autographed copy. On Page 14 he encourages us to de-escalate ourselves, listen, and seek non-violent resolution. We start by saying, "I feel." It's available at Amazon in paperback and digitally. Be pleased.

Hugh Chatham Health

Hugh Chatham Health's Environmental Services & Housekeeping contingent of 35 devoted servers is led by Warren Bates. They clean the hospital, Parkwood Place Assisted Living, and 29 health-care practices. They have been recognized as having the cleanest facilities in the past nine months. Warren says they look for folks with servant hearts who love to help patients improve and recover. They work to be a part of the healing process.

Those We Treasure

We are blessed to have and know good people. Keeping folk connected and close is wholesome, healthy, and inspiring. Several on a first-name basis lately were:

- Elkin Mayor Sam Bishop, Hugh Chatham Health CEO Paul Hammes, and Hugh Chatham Health Trustee Bob Midkiff conversing in the HCH cafeteria.
- Surry County Schools leaders Robert Draughn and Neil Atkins sharing at the Surry County Schools opening Convocation.
- Mountain Park Elementary School Principal Matt Scott and farmer Chad Badgett at the Convocation.
- Surry County Schools Board of Education members Kent Whitaker, Chairman Don Badgett, and Vice-Chair Clark Goings greeting school staff.
- Meadowview Magnet School Principal Colby Beamer with the staff at Pilot Mountain Middle School.
- Elkin's Vulcan Materials sales representative Eden Crawford smiling as she shares, "I love Vulcan and my career."
- Armfield Recreation Center Maintenance Associate Harry Simmons sharing his enjoyable career learning to use a squeegee.
- The entertainment venue owner John Jonscak greeting guests from Surry County Schools.
- Legendary minister and eulogist the Rev. Bill Johnson and Hugh Chatham Health leader Katee Hettleman at Zim Zimmerman's retirement.
- Edward Jones owner Aaron Misenheimer and the late Harold Swaim at an Elkin Valley Chamber of Commerce social.

Richard Brinegar, DVM

Dr. Richard Brinegar is a veterinarian in Elkin, chairman of the Elkin City Schools Board of Education, a Doctor of Divinity candidate at Duke University, the minister at Antioch Methodist Church -Roaring Gap in Alleghany County, and composer of 100.9 WIFM Radio's most original commercial spots. We respect him deeply as he always conveys passion for his calling to spiritual leadership and growth. Dr. Brinegar's call to the ministry blesses us dearly.

Antioch Methodist is at 10467 U.S. Highway 21 South near Glade Valley, N.C., 10 miles south of Sparta. On Sunday, Sept. 17, his membership celebrated its 175th year of continuous sharing of our Lord's words. An SRO crowd enjoyed his sermon taken from Acts that shares five essential goals toward getting into Heaven, Southern Gospel music by NuHiWay from Harmony, and a delicious fried-chicken lunch from The Pines Restaurant in Sparta.

Appropriate Recognitions

Speaking to others I invariably answer greetings with I feel "Great." Best friend Ray Earnhardt would say, "It's great meeting you." Late local attorney, husband of fellow church member Joy Gardner, John Gardner would answer, "Just the very finest!"

There are countless ways our communities are "getting on the Pickleball explosion" by meeting athletic citizens' demands by funding and building new courts which are a mere 25% of the size of a regulation tennis court. An 18-court facility was recently dedicated in Forsyth County and was ceremonially presented by County Commissioners Chairman Dr. Don Martin, a dear friend. Robert Rizoti, a daily player in Clemmons, shared that Dr. Martin's words were most appropriate, short, and effective. Dr. Martin, upon hearing my compliments, said, "I appreciate your remarks and please know I'm asked often to speak at events and usually in unfamiliar circumstances where I rely on staff knowledge. In the Pickleball dedication I leaned on Damon Sanders Pratt for several local facts." Dr. Martin is a most polished and prepared leader. We are grateful for his willingness to serve and lead.

Word Match Game

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

- | | | |
|------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 1. futility | _____ | A. mountain |
| 2. demise | _____ | B. art |
| 3. Dolomite | _____ | C. repeal |
| 4. F-4 jet | _____ | D. anti-union |
| 5. resurrection | _____ | E. Williams |
| 6. perennial | _____ | F. obscure |
| 7. seedling | _____ | G. unrestrained |
| 8. scab | _____ | H. procrastinating |
| 9. aspirant | _____ | I. mix |
| 10. mustard seed | _____ | J. parable |
| 11. brogan | _____ | K. rugged shoe |
| 12. culinary | _____ | L. sprout |
| 13. abrogate | _____ | M. pass away |
| 14. abstruse | _____ | N. striver |
| 15. demagogue | _____ | O. enduring |
| 16. enervate | _____ | P. weaken |
| 17. accede | _____ | Q. similar |
| 18. dilatory | _____ | R. pointlessness |
| 19. synonym | _____ | S. Phantom |
| 20. mingle | _____ | T. Easter |
| 21. Carbine | _____ | U. manipulator |
| 22. comingle | _____ | V. mix together |

(See answers on Page 7)

At 80

Turning 80 is rewarding, humbling, and expectant, but a dear friend in Wilmington, Carl Vinters, says his decade in the 80s was his life's best. "I recently turned 90," Carl said, "and my decade of the 80s was my best time ever. My health is good and Linda and I spend our lives traveling and enjoying our grandchildren."

I met Carl and wife Linda at Wilmington through the connections of the late Bob Fountain and Mike Cooke of North Myrtle Beach. The Vinters are as caring, endearing, engaging, and encouraging a couple I know. Making new friends is a blessing. A few I'll mention are Daniel and Robin Beseth, Gerald and Teresa Plaster, Ronnie and Melissa Smith, Elsie and Mindy Rhodes, Amanda Cook, Terry Bralley, Justin Draughn, and Bill Junker. Max and Jane Carter, near Guilford, enrich countless souls daily.

Being 80 brings more falls, stumbles, memory losses, and prolonged times in getting ready to leave for commitments. Many of us have mobility and memory challenges. Today I'm facing Afib, arthritis, cataract surgery, and hearing aids. Nevertheless, I have daily exercise sessions, my vitals are in range, and I look forward to writing The Communicator monthly, attending gatherings and Sunday church, and sending thank-you notes.

90 And Beyond

Dr. Paul Zaph was my Sociology professor at Guilford College in 1962. He was humble, gentle, kind, and caring. At 92 his faculties are capable and his memory astounding.

Chris Lawson

So fortunate to know Boy Scouts of America District Executive Chris Lawson, a former outstanding Surry County Schools music teacher. For 30 years he provided music education — Music Theory, Marching, and Choral Arrangement — to youngsters in the East Surry district. He's now a District Executive with the Old Hickory Council BSA. Fellow District Director Kevin Cheek says Chris is one of America's most noted recruiters of youngsters to Scouting. Chris' own three sons were Scouts and all achieved the Eagle rank. Son Nicholas graduated from Appalachian State University and is a 2nd Lieutenant in the National Guard. Son Joshua is a Junior majoring in Spanish at App State. Son Thomas is a Senior at East Surry.

In addition to teaching, a music director is often challenged with raising funds for instruments, uniforms and travel expense. Music, being an elective, often is funded by the efforts of instructors and parent boosters. We are grateful for Chris' awesome talents in many varied areas of need.

Dale York

Cousin Dale York is always up to monumental endeavors. His minister at Union Hill Friends Church, Ernest Brown, hoped to establish a college scholarship fund and suggested the church stage a BBQ chicken fundraiser. He invited Dale to lead it.

The Port-A-Pit Chicken BBQ company provides the chicken and cooks it on site for fundraising events. Church members boxed the chicken and condiments. We credit Dale, who's been doing community goodwill for decades, with enhancing the offering; he added small baked potatoes to green beans. Dairy Center owner Freddy Hiatt chopped and seasoned the slaws. Sam's Club Yeast Rolls were a nice complement. Charlotte York's team provided P-Nut Butter D-Lite as dessert (Dale says the PBD is a customer favorite).

Union Hill Friends netted \$5,000 for its efforts. I'm sure Dale is on schedule to have a repeat or better yield next spring. He's raised community help in White Plains for nearly 50 years. He and Garnett Beasley were the stewards for funds left by Tom and Marian York to the White Plains Ruritan Club and more than doubled the bequest's value.

The York family moved to White Plains in 1935 and has been involved in benevolences for years. Tom York started coaching Little League in 1955. The family also was instrumental in founding the local Volunteer Fire Department. Brothers Jack, Bob, and Russell played key roles.

Warm Memories

An endearing group of photographs gives me warmth, appreciation, and gratitude. Several are Phillip Easter, Dr. Swanson Richards, Don Rumble, the Rev. Daniel Miller, Garrison York, Savannah Bohr, Gerald and Teresa Plaster, Luis and Tyler at the Jonesville Bojangles, Clayton and Carol Hall, Phillip and Nancy Thacker and family, Derek and Tara Hill and children Lillie and Bennett, Kristen Lasley, Joy Gardner, Judy Kirkman, Eden Cranford, Thomas Pendergraft, Gov. Roy Cooper, Bob Midkiff, Paul Hammes, Elkin Mayor Sam Bishop, the Rotary Four-Way Test, Misty Matthews, Kent Whitaker, Clark Goings, Dr. Travis Reeves, Dr. Deane Danley, and Brent McKinney.

Wes Triplett

Wes Triplett and I became close when I did interviews at Wilkes Communications from 2018 to 2022. His mother, Crystal, keeps me up to date and he's well and involved. He has exceptional poise, talent, and confidence and will lead others in time. He's well on his way and loved. His people skills are exceptional and endearing. Wes graduated from Wilkes Central High School and UNC-Greensboro.

Ralph Harding

Friend Ralph Harding lives in Mocksville, N.C., with Baptist Medical Center leader Deb and UNC graduate son Matthew; is an astute real-estate broker, property manager, and developer; a concerned community advocate; and peer and friend to many. He carries a huge smile, treasures puppy Sam and cat Oscar, and shares his adoring demeanor with all he meets. Daily he brightens others' days, lends helping hands, and exceeds promises. A Pilot Mountain native and Eagle Scout, Ralph's family members were late parents Henry and Helen and sister Emily Antonnechia. For sure we look forward to Ralph's call and welcome his visit. Ralph is an exceptional includer and connector of potential peers.

We recently attended a mixer in Davie County that was attended by 60 who have been gathering for years. Being honored was 101-year-old Dr. Slate who came to Davie County in 1950 from South Africa. Years ago, he and fellow physicians delivered 18 babies in one day. Notable attendees were Davie County Economic Development President Ted Bralley, developer Bill Junker, Sheriff J.D. Hartman, and five Wilkes County executives. I made six new friends.

Lewis Carroll

Sitting in the waiting room prior to my cataract surgery, I spoke to another patient and he said he was a Spainhour from King and was being driven by his cousin, a Spainhour also. I asked, "Do you know Lewis Carroll?" They quickly replied, "Oh, yes. We really respect Lewis. He had a great career at RJR."

Lewis and I met in February of 1998 as he was a political advisor and advertising sign fabricator in King, N.C. He was most influential in my campaign for Surry County Commissioner.

Today he lives at Homestead Hills, an assisted living facility in Winston-Salem. Seeing Lewis there recently, I told him of meeting the Spainhour cousins at the Carolina Eye Center and their generous compliments. In return, Lewis praised the cousins and shared his career.

Lewis shared, "I graduated from King High School on Friday night and started at RJR on Wednesday on second shift. I got there at 1:00 so as not to be late, and for 34 years I readily accepted, with honor, every assignment; volunteered for every opening; and quickly figured who and to whom I needed to be subordinate. In fact, I was always a little-me-big-you follower. Looking back, a light-blue college diploma might have helped; however, I did quite well. My career afforded me many incredible opportunities that rewarded me generously, and my self-esteem and humility provided me ample upward achievement.

RJR was good to and for me and my family."

On my last visit to see him, Lewis gifted me "The Tao of Willie," a 2007 collection of singer-songwriter Willie Nelson's wit and wisdom. Lewis inscribed it, here's what he wrote: "Gary, thanks so much for being such a guiding light for me and my family. I always look forward to your visits. Hope you will find some similarities to my, your and Willie's beliefs." He also pointed me to page 28 of "The Tao" with Willie's meaningful insight:

"If you think that people whose skin is a different color from yours are beneath you, then you are particularly not my friend. Nearly forty years ago, I introduced country singer Charley Pride to a redneck audience that looked like they wanted to lynch him for being black. Before they knew what was what, I'd walked up to Charley and kissed him full on the lips. The crowd was so shocked, they actually quieted down and listened to his music and discovered that he was pretty dang great. In other words, they got over their wasteful and ignorant prejudice. If you haven't gotten over yours, you are somewhere between forty and four hundred years behind the times."

Check On Things

During the late Bobby Harold's and my relationship, he'd frequently speak of stopping by H&W to check on things. Not long ago, after making an appointment in Yadkinville, I started to question whether I locked the front door of WIFM a few hours earlier after visiting the office. So, leaving Yadkin County, I stopped by WIFM in Elkin to check the door. It was indeed locked, so no problem, but my time was well spent if I could sleep easy.

We are always reminded that we all have ownership and a simple check on things may prevent a disaster brought on by a simple oversight. Let's help one another.

Keep Hope Alive

My mom, Marian York, passed her New Living Translation Bible to me, and inside I discovered a White Plains Friends Church bulletin for March 24, 2019. It listed Don Marshall and John Moseley as ushers. The Bible verse was Psalms 91:1, "Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

Barbara Edmiston in a note of encouragement said to a struggler, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!" (Matthew 25:21)

Mom also shared in Jeremiah 90:13, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Harold Swaim

We deeply regret the passing of monumental benefactor, humanitarian, environmentalist, family icon, and community servant Harold Swaim, 82. On Tuesday, Sept. 12, he quietly slipped away to meet his Maker after living to serve, inspire, encourage, and uplift all with needs and hopes.

Harold was a frequent visitor to 100.9 WIFM Radio in Elkin and always brought good cheer. Devoted wife of 63 years Wanda usually would be with him. Harold would say, "I'm driving Miss Daisy," taking a line from the Morgan Freeman classic movie. Connecting weekly, I'd catch up on his immediate community outreach and surmise the untold charity only he knew.

At his viewing I said, "Harold always had his priorities in order with God first, then Wanda, Lisa, Michelle, and Violete. Weekly he would call to report on the findings after making 'my community rounds.' A few weeks ago he called to share how, after 15 years, the NCDOT had made a decision to change the speed limit on Windsor Road to 45 mph to protect various Amish vehicles.

"Harold lived to fulfill the needs of others. During his career with Woodmen of the World, he championed initiatives to provide recreation facilities for community youth, including taking them to summer camps. He and Wanda were master gardeners and we were blessed with delicious vegetables from their efforts. Harold also enjoyed gifting us huge bowls of to-die-for potato salad. Woodmen of the World's American flags adorn the WIFM office and the Elkin Rescue Squad conference room thanks to Harold's influence. Not only did he think of how to honor others, he went about bringing things to reality."

A few years ago, more than 100 of us gathered to celebrate the birthday of his Woodmen of the World organization. Harold's role was as official greeter, hospitality agent, and includer. We all looked to him for guidance and goodwill.

The highlight of 2022 was Harold's winning recognition as North Carolina Tree Farmer of the Year. To learn of his plans for shepherding the family's 265 acres was to be the recipient of a vision to walk with God and touch each acre. He spent his last day nurturing the Swaims' closeness to our Creator.

We met in 2004 as Harold was breakfast crew chief at Junior Johnson's Outreach Breakfast. He asked to volunteer at our Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament and he instantly brought credibility that only Harold could. He knew more participants than anyone ever, and this was a gift to contributors which made each feel bona fide and special.

The most meaningful part of his funeral celebration at Gentry Family Funeral Service was

his son Jeffrey's splendid eulogy. He said, "How does one justly speak to the achievements and accomplishments and benevolences of one who lived to enrich the lives of others? He shepherded the lives of all who were. We were the recipients of Harold's servant's heart and will to bestow!"

We'll miss Harold's bib overalls and uplifting spirit. His touch was a high calling and he leaves a void no one will fill. All is well, good and faithful servant. All is well.

Carmen Long

Carmen Long, wife of Brent and mother of Carson and Kelsey, is a career North Carolina Cooperative Extension Family & Consumer Services Area Agent. She is a graduate of Berea College and came to her present position in the Surry County Extension Center in 1987. Her assignment includes helping the folk in Alleghany County, too. We know her to be dedicated and willing to serve our communities.

Recently I called Carmen for suggestions about snacks that might curb my insatiable hunger urges while spending time at the 100.9 WIFM Radio offices, writing and sending pictures to friends. She is a same-day responder. I quickly received eight pages with low-fat and low-carbohydrate, high-protein, easy-to-prepare ideas. Included in her suggestions were low-fat cottage cheese, celery with peanut butter, tomato and cucumber sandwiches, Jell-O and fruit parfaits, delicious salads with low-fat dressings, and delightful banana pudding desserts. To top off the timely help, Carmen called to follow up on the reception of her recipes.

Carmen, who always wears a great smile and offers cheerful words, is an enthusiastic, caring lady. When the Extension Advisory Board meets, she prepares our light meals and we are treated as kings and queens. She is a remarkable steward and team player. Gatherings are informative, educational, and energized when Carmen is a part of the mix.

Carmen and Brent spent years following Carson's and Kelsey's basketball careers as they starred at Belmont Abbey College and Guilford College.

Harry's Burger

Owner Teresa Chatham revels in Harry's Place's reputation for serving the best burgers in the region. She does share that many factors contribute to the exceptional product. One is fresh meat delivered by Combs Butcher Shoppe daily. Also, Teresa hand-pats each burger for consistency and precise portioning. Harry's Place is at 135 Front St. in downtown Elkin.

Rid-A-Bug And The Hinsons

Dr. Ashley Hinson has been a close friend since 1994. He honorably served with distinction as Surry County Schools Superintendent for nine years before retiring in 2012. He and devoted wife Lynne are full-time residents of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., and frequently visit their summer home in Ashe County, N.C. We met them here again last month.

The Hinsons' exterminator is Rid-A-Bug Exterminating owned by Marty Roberts and his mother, Jerry Ann Roberts. She and her late husband, Linnie L., started the company in 1972 in West Jefferson in Wilkes County. Son Marty and her daughter, Michelle Cass, manage the company their parents started. The technician serving the Hinsons in Ashe County is Marty's son-in-law, Hayden Brooks. Marty is a Yadkin Valley Chamber Ambassador and provider of goodwill, accommodation, and cheer. When two or more gather, Marty's smile will appear. He is our region's most prolific charm. We are blessed by the Hinsons and Rid-A-Bug.

Fortunate Gifts

Met former Goodwill CEO Art Gibel as he was taking the leadership reins from Billy Whitaker in 2005 at a ribbon-cutting at the Elkin store. Watching his meritorious tenure for 15 years was a high honor. Goodwill of North Carolina added 25 new stores and increased sales 300%. Shall forever cherish a generous gesture by Art in 2020 as he left his cell number with incoming Goodwill CEO Barbara Maida-Stolle and a promise to be available 24/7/365 for any and all needs.

We grew close and connected and continue to have breakfast monthly at the Midtown Café in Winston-Salem. When we meet at 8 a.m. he greets and has friendly exchanges with many customers. He enjoys wife Kathy, grandparenting, trustee board service, travel, golf, and gardening.

Stone's Throw Christian Ministries

Stone's Throw Christian Ministries near Elkin has proudly painted on its Chevy delivery pickup: "God has a stone for every Goliath" (1 Samuel 17). Its founder is Mitch Calloway, assisted by Robin Calloway and Greg Swaim. A nonprofit organization, Stone's Throw provides goods and services to other agencies. Its specialty is accepting furniture and appliances, warehousing and repairing the same, and upon request sharing the items with those in need. Its headquarters is at 103 Fellowship Way and its warehouse is on Poplar Springs Road in State Road. Its phone number is 336-366-7591. It is on Facebook at facebook.com/stones.throw17.

AA Medallions

Alcoholics Anonymous bestows upon members either colored plastic or metal chips. I often see a fellow member with 51 years of sobriety; on his anniversary date he received a metal chip with a Roman numeral designation of "LI" for 51 years.

Most folks in AA, unfortunately, are not active members. Their attendance sort of wanes with years. In my case, I go occasionally and have been sober for 37 years. Then again, there are those who continue to be sponsors and attend weekly. The program works when we work it.

AA saved my life as I chose to attend meetings for three consecutive years — 1,098 meetings. My first sponsor, Bob K. of the Unity Group in Winston-Salem, has passed. Those who were beneficiaries of his quality of sobriety, matter-of-fact demeanor, and counsel number in the thousands. He would invariably say, at every meeting, "I have evidence in my life to prove that if I don't drink I'll never receive another D.W.I." Bob lived to attend meetings. He went daily for more than 30 years.

Dr. Gordon Burns

I met Dr. Gordon Burns as he was the President of Wilkes Community College and a loyal member of the North Wilkesboro Rotary Club. As a recent guest at the Wilkesboro Methodist Men's monthly meeting, my table partners were Robert Rizoti, Arnold Lakey, Joe McMillian, Sam Burchum, and his wife BJ. During our meal, BJ shared that she had been Dr. Burns' executive assistant for 13 years of her 35-year career at Wilkes Community College. She mentioned how he had given countless hours to help a staff member meet the challenges of cancer, adroitly lead the college, freely share his photographic skills with nonprofits, support his Rotary club and always treat her and her family with utmost respect and loyalty. She ended with, "He was the model supervisor, leader, and friend."

Words Of Wisdom

Sister Anne and husband Dr. Tom Fehring met at Wake Forest University. Shortly afterwards, Tom and our father went to Pilot Knob to play golf, and for Dad to have an opportunity to check out Tom. Tom later told Anne he'll always remember Dad saying, "We'll never miss what we give away."

Word Match Game answers

(from Page 3)

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

The Communicator

A Publication of:
100.9 WIFM
Post Office Box 1038
Elkin, NC 28621

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



TOP 8%
NATIONWIDE FOR
STROKE CARE



www.hughchatham.org