

THE COMMUNICATOR

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Since January 1990

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Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament

The 16th annual Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament on Oct. 5 at Cedarbrook Country Club, put on by 30 volunteers and a stellar club staff led by Josh Ross, netted our organization \$53,177.77, a significant supplement to our income. Here are many of our 2023 tournament's volunteers:

Elkin Rescue Squad

Mike Bovender	Ben Burton
William Rountree	Tim Darnell
Chuck Holcomb	Charlie Harris
Jimmy Anderson	Jeff Whitaker
Lois Suddreth	Justin Bowers
Amanda Christy	Mike Greenstreet
Jane Hendrick	John Hogan

Community volunteers

Charlotte York	Savannah Bohr
Emily Antonecchia	Robert Rizoti
Jerry Atkins	Jennifer Atkins
Robby Timmons	Rudy Holbrook
Janice French-Atkins	Ralph Harding

Here are some notes from the tournament:

- An added feature was hand-dipped ice cream from C.F. Jones. The most popular flavor was butter pecan; the strawberry, chocolate, and vanilla were also hits. Fred Jones and I go back to the early 1980s. He has done well with his restaurants such as Sweet Sue's, C.F. Jones Classic Café, and Aunt Bea's Barbecue. He also promotes his brands on 100.9 WIFM Radio.

- Through the relationship of Jeremy Johnson and Chris Carter, the D.H. Griffin Corp. made a first-time, sizable donation to our cause. Last year the construction corporation also supported efforts to expand Pickleball facilities in Elkin. Chris Carter starred on our Surry Pride American Legion Baseball Team in the late 1990s. His father, the late Mickey Carter, was an Elkin stalwart.

- Our tournament had 50 teams, 21 in the morning and 29 in the afternoon. Vitro Automotive Corp. sponsored a team and was our lunch sponsor. Price Power Equipment entered a team and donated 10 Echo leaf blowers for door prizes.

- Sleeves of our signature Titleist Pro V1 golf balls were funded by Dr. Tom and Anne Fehring and

OrthoCarolina of Charlotte. They were gifted by 40-year paraplegic Robby Timmons, a highlight.

- PGA Professional Josh Ross led our tournament for his first time. We compliment his efforts. Many players said Cedarbrook was at its best.

- Special thanks to Jennifer Chatham, Danny Hall, and Joel Hooper for their photo assembly and time-sensitive execution.

First National Bank

Five years ago, Elkin Rescue Squad Chief Mike Bovender stepped up and spread his wings. He made several loan payment changes, enhancing our financial position, and now we are buying new equipment.

He also contracted with Elkin-based Hugh Chatham Health to be its primary transport service provider and we are expanding our scope of operations. Choosing to partner with Hugh Chatham Health is a sound strategic decision. The Elkin Rescue Squad has gained significant credibility with the partnership.

Coincidentally, we are purchasing a mid-sized patient-transportation vehicle and have chosen to finance 50 percent of the \$182,000 cost with the local branch of First National Bank. The vehicle is on order.

Chief Bovender and bank Branch Manager Frankie Pardue negotiated the financing. Several years back, with the help of bank representative Van Hamlin, we refinanced our squad headquarters for a sizable monthly saving which we applied to our loan balance.

First National Bank has a prominent reputation in the Yadkin Valley. Its service team is deserving of our business. We have mailed this thank-you note to Mrs. Pardue:

"The Elkin Rescue Squad is grateful for the guidance and loan we recently received to finance a much-needed piece of equipment vital to our mission and outreach. We are grateful for the effective accommodations extended by team members Wendy Billings and Karen Layell at your North Bridge Street branch in Elkin. Courtesy and kindness always matter!

"Respectfully, Gary York, board member"

CTE Building Dedication

At noon on Oct. 19, a sizable group celebrated the reopening of Mount Airy City Schools' Career and Technical Education (CTE) Building on the high school's South Street campus. The general contractor was J.G. Coram Co. Inc. represented by Buzz Wilmoth. School Superintendent Dr. Kim Morrison was our emcee. Speakers included CTE Director Olivia Sikes, Mount Airy High School Principal Jason Dorsett, and several staff and teachers.

The CTE Building houses specialized classes, work spaces and labs to prepare students for the workforce in fields such as engineering, carpentry, cabinetry, graphic design, and family consumer science. Throughout its campus Mount Airy High School continues to expand workforce-development programs such as health sciences, agriculture, and e-sports.

The newly renovated CTE Building, constructed in 1968-69, has two stories and 24,000 square feet. It is one of the last buildings on the MAHS campus to be renovated and modernized. The project added an elevator and widened restrooms for ADA compliance. It also created workforce development labs to complement adjacent classroom spaces. The CTE renovation project's cost was covered by a \$1.75-million needs-based grant from an N.C. Education Lottery capital fund and a matching appropriation from the Surry County Board of Commissioners.

Mount Airy High School instructor Larry Davis (now retired) taught the first local career and technical education course, "Career Explorations," in the late 1970s. In the early 1980s, Mount Airy High School was among the first schools in North Carolina to buy personal computers (Tandy Radio Shacks) for classroom use. Davis would go to Raleigh in the summer to help North Carolina Department of Public Instruction staff member June Atkinson teach typing teachers some basic computer skills. Other early MAHS CTE pioneers were Lonnie Bledsoe, Robert Holder, and Emily Taylor.

An interesting observation: I was the eldest attendee and probably knew the most names of guests. I served the Mount Airy City School Board from 1992 to 1998 and was a Surry County Commissioner from 1998 to 2002.

Many of us were amused and entertained by many painted student parking places. Mount Airy legend Tommy Morrison shared a description of the program named "Paint Your Space." Rising seniors in August enter a first-come, first-served lottery and rent parking spots for the school year for \$30. Each may paint his or her spot and park on it until graduation. Students proposed the idea to administrators and it began in September 2019.

HCH Foundation Golf Tournament

In 1991, Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital Human Resources Director Jeff Seaford was invited to play in a charity golf tournament in Rutherford, N.C., and came away thinking, "We can do this!" Jeff, with the help of Zim Zimmerman and hospital staff, staged the HCMH Foundation's first benefit golf tournament in the fall of 1991. An early memory was a quadriplegic teen playing. An early helper was Mike Durlean who masterminded the first hole signage to honor those making contributions. At Jeff's retirement, Warren Bates became the tournament director.

The 2023 event netted more than \$90,000 for the hospital's special projects. Hugh Chatham Health personnel and Cedarbrook Country Club staff are responsible for one of our area's premier charity events. Key volunteers are:

Vicki Caudill	Brent Slote
Joni Gutierrez	Holly Stringer
Tonya Gentry	Vicky Tysor
Katee Hettleman	Josh Vogler
Danielle Marion	Josh Ross
Mike Parlier	Jeff Seaford

Director Bates says, "We have an outstanding, precision machine. I stand back and watch this incredible show. Each year we get better, and hope to better it often after tweaks. I may get some credit; however, effective delegation yields a performance that's beyond compare."

Greater Mount Airy Chamber's Autumn Leaves Festival

For the last 56 years, the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce has staged its legendary Autumn Leaves Festival in October in downtown Mount Airy, N.C. Hundreds of crafts and food vendors display and market their goods. For most area nonprofits the festival is their best annual fundraising opportunity.

Spaces for vendors start at the intersection of Main and Pine streets and extend north on Main Street, alternating on the east and west sides. Additional spots are found on Independence Boulevard and Franklin, Oak, and Moore streets. The Flat Rock Ruritan Club has sold ground steak sandwiches near the former Lamb Drug Store every year. There were nearly 200 vendors at this year's Autumn Leaves Festival.

Be Humble

It is far better to stay humble and have friends.
(From "The Friendship Book," D.C. Thompson Media, ©2020.)

Mayberry Truck Show

Inspired by having a son receive care at Brenner Children’s Hospital, a vital part of the Atrium Health System in Winston-Salem, N.C., Mitchell Bottomley, owner and CEO of Bottomley Enterprises of Sparta, N.C., acted on an idea to raise money to support the needs of families needing help while staying near children being treated at Brenner. Mitchell envisioned a weekend gathering and exhibition, “Mayberry Truck Show,” that would contribute 100% of donations to Brenner’s. What was a hoped-for goal of \$20,000 grew in three years to 2023’s \$481,869.

The event this year attracted 413 rigs from 48 states whose owners and operators registered to compete for non-monetary recognition, vie for position in a celebratory parade through northern Surry County and Mount Airy, and showcase their prized and customized vehicles on Bottomley’s 26-acre facility west of Mount Airy. The Mayberry Truck Show also includes a light show, raffles, prizes, food trucks, calendar spots, fireworks, and live entertainment. We are likely to see Mitchell on a golf cart, high-fiving guests and owners. It’s said that the resounding truck horns heard during the Friday-night convoy echoed from the front of the Blue Ridge to the slopes of Pilot Mountain.

Bottomley Enterprises operates 150 long-haul tractors and 300 refrigerated, 53-foot trailers hauling dry goods west and refrigerated fruits and vegetables east. Its corporate conglomerate also raises sundry varieties of vegetables on the East Coast, Christmas trees in season, and Christmas greenery. The company owns or leases thousands of acres of farmland.

Many of us have witnessed spectacles; however, nothing comes close to the attraction Mitchell Bottomley has planted in Surry County. One must see it in person to grasp the opulence of the gathering. I understand the attending food trucks set sales records. It’s estimated that more than 50,000 spectators viewed the extravaganza. Plan to come when the Mayberry Truck Show returns on Sept. 27-28 in 2024.

Glade Creek VFD #734

Little did I know my visit to the Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department to share my gratitude to Chad Foster and David Clark and Chief David Higgins would receive a precious, remarkable blessing. The VFD #734 members under the tutelage of Chief Higgins are a team bonded to give, share, and care. Spending an hour with the group, recording several photos, and learning how things work, I was overwhelmed by how individuals can meld and unite. Members shared life-changing moments, career pinnacles, and acclamations — the

results of selfless dedication, valor, and teamwork.

I arrived at 6374 Glade Valley Road, nine miles south of Ennice, at 6:50 p.m. Oct. 16 with a congratulatory four-minute speech and left at 8 p.m. quite mesmerized by champions who are living lives of total commitment to others before self. One member shared how illnesses have led to biweekly dialysis treatment and how after years of futile attempts he is on a kidney replacement list. David Clark is an eighth-generation truck driver who in his Detroit power Peterbilt frequently delivers loads to Florida and Lexington. Our drive back to Pilot Mountain was filled with gratitude beyond euphoria.

I closed my oratory by sharing our pledge to seek and find ways to serve God, family, friends, and worthy causes and that Glade Creek VFD #734 is a most worthy cause. Its members are elevating courage and service to a level unknown to most of us. Special praise goes to Chief David Higgins who is celebrating 25 years of service.

Word Match Game

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

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|----------------------|
| 1. elaborate | _____ | A. Triangle |
| 2. leverage | _____ | B. Japanese plane |
| 3. plant | _____ | C. Alabama town |
| 4. Bermuda | _____ | D. cultivated |
| 5. protein | _____ | E. lentils |
| 6. Zero | _____ | F. unpredictable |
| 7. parallel | _____ | G. gain advantage |
| 8. Cropwell | _____ | H. incurable disease |
| 9. pie | _____ | I. wordy |
| 10. Parkinson’s | _____ | J. excel |
| 11. bellicose | _____ | K. seed |
| 12. verbose | _____ | L. tremble |
| 13. Nehemiah | _____ | M. persuasive speech |
| 14. urbane | _____ | N. slang |
| 15. meander | _____ | O. chart |
| 16. dagummit | _____ | P. parking |
| 17. vibrate | _____ | Q. aggressive |
| 18. fickle | _____ | R. builder |
| 19. oratory | _____ | S. self-important |
| 20. tomato | _____ | T. beefsteak |
| 21. shine | _____ | U. inform |
| 22. pompous | _____ | V. zigzags |

(See answers on Page 7)

We're Here For You

Dedicated associates of the Northwestern Regional Library gave a most interesting presentation to the Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce's Investors Luncheon on Sept. 26. The group included NWRL Executive Director Joan Sharif and librarians Jennifer Rogers from Jonesville, Susan Hutchens from East Bend, Angie Walker from Boonville, and Andrea Nichole from Yadkin County.

NWRL's motto is "So Much More Than Books." The group described benefits provided to patrons in Alleghany, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin counties by libraries in Sparta, Boonville, East Bend, Jonesville, Yadkinville, Danbury, King, Walnut Cove, Dobson, Elkin, Lowgap, Mount Airy, and Pilot Mountain. NWRL's online services include NC Cardinal, NC Live, NC Kids, the Libby app for young readers, and OverDrive for e-book readers.

"We're here for you," is the librarians' pledge to patrons in our region. Library cards are free to residents. The libraries' collections include thousands of hardbound and paperback books, audiobooks and e-books, music and videos on CDs, databases, and newspapers and magazines. Onsite services and facilities include wi-fi hotspots, computers, fax and copier machines, meeting spaces for community groups including book clubs, job-search assistance, business resources, genealogy information, children's story times, and even maker spaces at some locations. Tax and voter forms and information are at the library, too.

For more information about Northwestern Regional Library, its member libraries, and online services, visit the website www.NWRL.org.

Speaking Of Books

"Distilled Wisdom," Alfred Montapert's ageless "encyclopedia of wisdom in condensed form," contains nearly 50 quotes about books. Several are:

- Books are treasures.
- When I get some money, I buy a book.
- Books are lighthouses.
- Books include histories, travels, adventures, and poems.
- Books are masters who instruct us.
- Leaders are readers.
- The choice of books is a serious duty.
- The Bible is the most-read book.

Leadership Yadkin County

Biannually since 1996, the Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce and Surry Community College join to stage their renowned program Leadership Yadkin County. The seven-month-long program is designed to develop the leadership potential of individuals with diverse backgrounds

who have shown a potential to become quality leaders in Yadkin County.

Leadership Yadkin County's organizers were the late Thomas Wooten, Bobby Todd, the late Dr. Wayne Matthews, and the late Jimmie Hutchens who joined to start a program that is acclaimed and esteemed far and wide for its rich learning environment. Areas of concentration are leadership development, local culture, local government, health and human services, education, law enforcement and the judiciary system, and economic development. Sponsors contribute \$300 per participant.

Leadership Yadkin County's 2023 participants and their sponsors are:

- Amanda Adams, Zirrus
- Alison Ball, AgSouth Farm Credit
- Lindsey Cearlock, Yadkin County
- Whitney Collins, Surry Community College
- Katie Elizabeth Ferguson, Surry County Schools
- Crystal Folger-Hawks, Surry Community College
- Iva Gray, Surry Community College
- Zane Green, Yadkin County
- Chris Hampton, Hampton Law, PLLC
- Julie Hardison, Yadkin YMCA
- Whittney Harris, Surry Yadkin Works (SCC)
- Rachel Hiatt, Surry Community College
- Laekan Holzworth, Smart Start of Yadkin County
- Tim Kelly, Apache Solutions LLC
- Boomer Kennedy, Yadkin County Schools
- Kaylynn Lewis, Chick-Fil-A Mount Airy
- Sandi Scannelli, Shallow Ford Foundation
- Steven Settle, Childrens Center of NWNC
- Andrew Smythers, Skyline National Bank
- Sable White, Surry Community College
- Alston Wiley, First Citizens Bank
- Gary York, WIFM Radio
- Victoria Crissman, CMS Insurance

Bobby Todd and Jamie Johnston lead our Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce. For additional information about Leadership Yadkin County or to sign up for the 2025 class, contact Jamie at 336-679-2200. We aspire to provide involvement, awareness, commitment, and vision.

Razor Or Axe?

Which is sharper, a razor blade or an axe? A razor blade, one would guess. But which would one use to cut down a tree? When we are judging something or someone, as we so often do, remember that the standard we are measuring them against might have nothing to do with the unique gift or purpose they offer to the world. Everyone is important according to his or her unique purpose. —African proverb

A Monumental Gathering

As former House Speaker Tip O'Neill was fond of saying, "All politics is local." A most stellar local political event in Surry County attracted more than 60 well-wishers to the home of Brent and Brenda McKinney at 925 Tom Jones Road near Ararat, N.C., to welcome Rachel H. Hunt, who aspires to receive the Democratic Party's nomination to become North Carolina's next lieutenant governor.

State Sen. Hunt, D-District 42, is a former two-term member of the North Carolina House of Representatives who took her seat in the N.C. Senate in January. She is an attorney and the daughter of Gov. Jim Hunt who led the state of North Carolina for four progressive terms in 1977-85 and 1993-2001 with major advances in the fields of education and economic development. Sen. Hunt and her husband Olav live in Charlotte and are the proud parents of Katia and Jonas.

For Sen. Hunt's visit the McKinnies' daughter, Mamie Sutphin, a past chairman of the Surry County Schools Board of Education, was the gathering's designated chair and key organizer. She's married to Ron and their sons are Sid and Mac.

The McKinnies' home, built in the late 1800s, is splendid. The scrumptious food was prepared by Brenda and Mamie and guests will long remember the delicacies and delights. Attendees clung to Mamie's opening remarks about her family's legacies and traditions and their gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Sen. Hunt's oratory about effective and fulltime leadership and vision to enhance public education, women's rights, and equality for all was persuasive. The grassroots political endeavor lifted spirits, hope, and commitments.

Dr. Keith Bentley

A most outstanding guest on Wilkes TV's "People Doing Good For Others" was Dr. Keith Bentley. We deeply regret losing his significant daily contribution. Dr. Bentley, 92, passed Oct. 14.

Dr. Bentley's North Wilkesboro First Baptist Church celebrated his love for God, family, friends, and worthy causes. The gathering of Wilkes County's prominent and blessed friends we will forever remember. As I've exclaimed time and time again, the rewards for attending funerals are blessings beyond mention.

This tribute to Dr. Bentley is overshadowed only by his influence upon all he touched. When we read the following list, one is taken by his journey (Oct. 21, 1930-Oct. 14, 2023).

- He was a source of wisdom.
- Much is given, much is expected.
- He was a gifted writer. He enriched lives. He

fought the good fight. He worked for Lowe's. He utilized the G.I. Bill.

- He attended a two-room schoolhouse. He loved playing baseball. He loved to square dance.

- He was a U.S. Air Force navigator.

- He was a founder of the Wilkes Free Dental Clinic that provides essential dental services to low-income patients. He was the first president of Wilkes Educational Foundation. He was a North Wilkesboro Citizen of the Year, and is a member of the Wilkes County Hall of Fame.

- He ran 5-kilometer races. He had a 3 handicap in golf and was a 15-time Club Champion.

- Dental Mastership designation.

- World traveler.

- 50-year Sunday School teacher.

- Avid reader and gardener.

- Dedicated husband, dad, granddad, and consummate gentleman.

These superlatives are but a sprinkling of Dr. Bentley's attributes. He came and gave and shared. Dr. Bentley's smile thanked us, too!

Featured presenters were Tommy Pevette, Dr. Bert Young, Allison Lee, the Rev. Steve Snipes, and Laura Leapley. Music included "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art," "In The Sweet By-and-By," "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "It Is Well With My Soul." Among Wilkes County stalwarts stopping to say "hello" were Lee and Ginger Bentley and Steve Foster.

Dennis Thompson

When I became a member of the Surry County Board of Commissioners on Dec. 3, 1998, our outstanding County Manager was Dennis Thompson. In January I was ready to make a board appointment that was controversial, but Dennis advised me, "Commissioner York, you need to think about that." By meeting time I had decided to reappoint the existing Board Chair and I'm glad I did. Dennis, who had been in his position since 1985, served Surry County and its citizens as County Manager until 2003.

Dennis, 84, passed away peacefully Oct. 5 at Novant Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem. Among his loves were his family, friends, reading, opera, nature, and writing poetry. Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Miriam Amanda Thompson; grandsons Derek White and Logan Jessup; and a great-grandson, Leif White. In addition to his parents, Mr. Thompson was preceded in death by wife Mary Evelyn Thompson and a sister, Mattie Thompson Evans. In accordance with his wishes, Moody Funeral Services arranged a small, private graveside service for the family. Memorial donations may be made to the Pilot Mountain Rescue Squad and EMS Inc., PO Box 743, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041.

Dr. Frank Sells

Dr. Frank Sells honorably served as Stokes County Schools Superintendent and as President of Surry Community College from 1999 to 2008. We are grateful for his service and willingness to bring us great acclaim and eternal hope. We readily accepted his open-door policy as an opportunity to speak and to be heard. An active listener, each moment was his way to bring synergy and exponential advancement to our aspiration. At a recent gathering of accomplished icons, his ever-present smile, warm hand, and kind words bestowed unique blessings to each and all.

In essence, Dr. Sells' walk in life matters in countless ways and means. He exudes a nature of loyalty, reliability, and goodwill. In retirement, as an exemplary, consummate, and astute educator, his presence brings a touch that encourages us to live our words and help others aspire to love the simple values and principles of life.

He recently received this note of appreciation:

"Frank,

"To all your efforts have touched, each and all herald the mention of your good name and deeds. So vital few have reached your pinnacle of achievements and accomplishments.

"I so admire your kindness, humility, and selfless dedication to lifting the hopes of others!

"Respectfully, Gary York"

E&H Coach Bob Johnson

In the spring of 1995, I was at Emory & Henry College in Emory, Va., watching son Alan play baseball for Guilford College against the Wasps of E&H. Between double-header games on Saturday, a man with a cast from foot to hip was sitting on a golf cart driven by Dave Thomas, the nearby gymnasium custodian and facilities director. The man was Bob Johnson, head basketball coach and philosophy professor at E&H. He had attended West Point and his father, the late Gen. Harold Johnson, was U.S. Army Chief of Staff during the Vietnam years.

Coach Johnson, who is E&H's winningness basketball coach, and I hit it off quickly and became close, close friends. He and wife Sherry visited Charlotte and me several times at Pilot Mountain and I was invited to speak to his classes on leadership and success.

Bob's run-and-gun basketball offense resulted in many high-scoring games. His all-time best player was Justin Call from East Wilkes High School in Ronda, N.C., just west of Elkin. When Bob and I met, his first question was, "Do you know Justin Call?" I had not met him. Coach Johnson continued, "Justin is my best player ever. I call him 'The Assassin.' He was the best three-point shooter when

the game was down to the wire." Today, Justin is the Athletics Director at East Wilkes High School.

Bob passed in 2009 from liver cancer, and I attended his SRO-capacity funeral. His famous words of wisdom are: "When the game starts, it's too late to prepare. Games are won during practice before the game." Sure miss Coach Johnson.

Guilford College

Guilford College in Greensboro was founded by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) as the New Garden Boarding School in 1837 and in 1888 became a four-year liberal arts college under its current name, Guilford College. It is a private institution, coeducational, and is accredited to award both baccalaureate and master's degrees. It is a residential college and students under age 23 live on the 340-acre campus where Guilford operates both traditional residential halls and campus apartments. Guilford is close to Piedmont Triad International Airport (GSO) and Greensboro Executive Airport.

Guilford College's enrollment is 1,192. Its tuition and fees are \$41,400. It has an extensive Division III athletics program, competes in 20 varsity sports, and is a member of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. Three percent of its students are Quaker, and the college aspires to provide a deep sense of these values:

Stewardship	Community
Diversity	Equality
Excellence	Integrity
Justice	

With Sympathy

In 1993, the White Plains Friends Meeting tragically lost a member. Its corresponding secretary, the late Marian York, wrote the following sympathy note:

"Dear Brintle family,

"Our Meeting joins me in expressing our deepest sympathy to you and your family in the loss of your wife, mother, and grandmother. The shock was so unbelievable.

"There seems to be no words to express our sorrow. We do know the beautiful, full life Rachel lived — one of faith and a loving concern for the Lord and for others. In her quiet, simple way, she did all she could for the church and for everyone that needed her. She was a very dear friend.

"May God's richest blessings be upon you, and may beautiful memories give you strength in the weeks ahead. The Meeting is most grateful in loving memory of Rachel.

"In Christian love, Marian York"

Surviving family members are husband Sam and son David Brintle.

Prime Time

- Sometimes we get fortunate. Choosing to attend a Manufacturers Review Day at Surry Community College's Shelton Viticulture Center, I met Frankie Vernon, Nester Hosier's Human Resources Director. He spent 30 years with the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department. He and wife Arlene have six children and 20 grandchildren.
- Preparing a Bible Study lesson, I ran across 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. It states rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, "for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- Across from Brenda and Brent McKinney's home is lush green pasture with a white fence and a herd of Angus heifers. At the end of summer Brent spends a day deworming his cattle. He said, "I'll give them some sweet feed and pour a portion of Ivermectin on each cow's back. The portion depends on the size of each calf. Been doing this for 20 years. I buy it at Southern States. It will kill horn flies, lice, roundworms, and grubworms. When the grass is low, cows need worming. It saves having to get help to give them shots."
- Dr. David Shockley is an excellent public speaker. In a recent speech at Surry Community College, he shared partnering with Surry's public schools in helping students evolve leverage and seed planting to grow their skills. I'll send pictures and a summary to his sons Tristan and Braedan at Brigham Young University in Rexburg, Idaho.

Mount Airy Chick-fil-A

The Mount Airy Chick-fil-A is a wonderful leader and teacher of great values. Monthly it fills the parking lot with guests playing bingo. It provided lunch for 25 guests at White Plains and delivered exactly enough boxes and salads to feed our families. I've grown to enjoy its unsweetened tea. We especially thank Catering Director Melissa White for her experience and expertise.

Start Here And Now

A significant legacy of being an American is the opportunity to advance, and we can start now and here. It's all up to each of us to deliver our future.

Many of us from our earliest recollections were encouraged to work on earning educational experience and a degree. Many of us went from high school to the U.S. military service and received G.I. Bill assistance to pursue college degrees. Many of us lived at home, worked, and attended one of North Carolina's 58 community colleges that are never more than 30 miles from any N.C. home. In a matter of moments one can start the road to a high-school diploma by enrolling in a GED program. Online opportunities abound. Degrees are attainable

while staying at home for all degree years. We can start here and now if we:

- Decide to leave work daily by leaving our "in box" empty.
- Attend a local Early College and graduate with a high school diploma and a college Associate Degree simultaneously.
- Develop a habit of doing what we say. I made the commitment in October 1986.
- Vow to always send same-day thank-yous to others for favors and gifts.
- Come in early and stay late. Be the first to volunteer when the need arises.
- Never miss going to a funeral.
- Know more people than any peer.
- Be recognized as a great name rememberer.
- Keep a clean reputation.

Robert And Doug

We are close friends and we meet at 5:30 most mornings with a cheerful, "I'm great today. How are you?" One recent day, Doug said, "I'm taking my late wife's fall jackets to the thrift shop with one instruction: they must be given away and not sold." Phillip is the overseer of several siblings and a sister in an assisted-living facility loves to sing. Every Wednesday, he takes his sister to their church for scheduled choir practice. That and Sunday choir are her weekly highlights.

Friendship

By Carrie Hewlett, from "The Friendship Book"

Thank you for being there for me,
To lend a listening ear;
For helping me to understand,
And helping fog to clear.
Thank you for your kindness;
It means so much to me,
Knowing I can lean on you
For advice and honesty.
Thanks for all the little things
You've done without a care.
I'm not sure what I would have done
If you had not been there.
Thank you doesn't seem enough,
But at least it's a start,
And know, these words of gratitude,
They come straight from my heart.

Word Match Game answers

(from Page 3)

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Your support of our Elkin Rescue Squad in 2023 is a resounding blessing. The selfless dedication to our most worthy cause reflects the generosity of countless servant hearts.

Pictured: Jimmy Anderson, Mike Bovender & Chuck Holcomb