

# THE COMMUNICATOR

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## Fourth of July Celebrations

There will be several Fourth of July celebrations in our area this year, including parades and fireworks. Not all will be on Thursday, July 4, Independence Day. Also, as we write this in mid-June, more details are coming in, so stay tuned to 100.9 WIFM Radio for the latest info. Here's our roundup:

### ELKIN

WIFM Radio's home town at the intersection of Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties celebrates FreedomFest annually on the Friday before July 4. This year's festivities were set for June 28 "from 5 p.m. until fireworks" (usually about 9 p.m.) in Elkin Municipal Park, 399 Highway 268 West. Scheduled were live music by Big Daddy Mojo, kids' activities, craft vendors, food trucks and — of course — things that go bang, boom, and bright in the night sky.

### MOUNT AIRY

The annual Fourth of July parade through Mount Airy's central business district will get under way about 11 a.m. on July 4 when motorized units start leaving Veterans Memorial Park on Lebanon Street and head for Main Street to meet up with marchers assembled at Truist Bank on North Main Street.

The parade's grand marshal will be Nashville-based country-music singer/songwriter Erica Latza, whose hometown is Mount Airy. A video screen on the float she's riding will show Erica performing a song she wrote, "Like This Town," about her hometown.

Parade-goers can expect to see more than 100 colorful units including floats, classic cars, motorcycles, and marching groups. The Downtown Business Association sponsors the parade. For more information, visit [mountairydowntown.org](http://mountairydowntown.org).

Plans for fireworks in Mount Airy weren't known when The Communicator went to press. In past years, fireworks in Veterans Memorial Park started about 9 p.m.

### WILKESBORO & NORTH WILKESBORO

The Fourth of July celebration in two Wilkes County towns starts with the "Marketplace Melt-down" from 5 to 8 p.m. featuring the Silvio Martinat Band performing at Yadkin Valley Marketplace, 445

CBD Loop in North Wilkesboro.

The annual Great American Fire Truck Parade, which is open to all emergency services vehicles, will begin at 8 p.m. in North Wilkesboro and cross the Yadkin River to Wilkesboro where it will go down Main Street to end near the Tyson Foods Inc. complex at Curtis Bridge Road. Wilkes County Fire & Rescue Association sponsors the parade. Emergency services units who want more information about joining the parade may contact Johnny Mastin of the Broadway Fire Department or Chief Calvin Wyatt of the Knotville Fire Department.

Wilkes County's annual fireworks display at North Wilkesboro's Memorial Park will start about 9 p.m. Fireworks sponsors are Wilkes Law Enforcement Officers Association, Wilkes Journal-Patriot, and the governments of Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro, and Wilkes County.

### YADKINVILLE

On Saturday, July 6, the Independence Day celebration in Yadkinville will feature another Nashville-based singer/songwriter: Krystal King, a Hickory native, along with her band. A self-described "next-door redneck" who grew up listening to Loretta Lynn and Shania Twain, King delivers songs "with vivid, relatable, and humorous imagery."

Sponsored by the Town of Yadkinville and the Yadkinville Fire Department, the "Fourth of July Celebration" will get under way in downtown Yadkinville beginning about 5 p.m. when there will be a lineup of food trucks and vendors on Elm Street. The parade will start at 7 p.m. The fireworks show will begin about 9 p.m. at Yadkinville Elementary School.

### SPARTA/ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Fireworks in Sparta will go off at dusk on Thursday, July 4, but the 2024 Alleghany County Fourth of July Parade will be on Saturday, July 6, starting at 6 p.m. in downtown Sparta.

The parade will feature big trucks and emergency vehicles, floats, motorcycles, ATVs, antique cars, marchers, and horses. The route includes Main Street, Trojan Avenue, and Charles Street. The Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce sponsors the parade. For more details, visit [alleghanycounty-chamber.org](http://alleghanycounty-chamber.org).

## Elkin Rescue Squad Golf Tournament

The popular Elkin Rescue Squad Charity Golf Tournament will tee off in October at Cedarbrook Country Club, but the season for sponsorships is open now. Businesses and other organizations seeking to associate themselves with one of our region's most prestigious fundraising efforts can sign up by requesting a flyer with a full menu of advertising and publicity opportunities. Among the most visible — literally with a sponsor's logo in full view — are the sponsorships for hats, balls, the beverage cart, the luncheon, and individual holes.

The 17th annual ERS Charity Golf Tournament's flyer includes a signup sheet to register four-member teams. Players will receive highly prized "Goody Bags," individual and team photos, free range balls, a free breakfast from Bojangles of Jonesville, and a free lunch sponsored by Vitro.

For more information about the ERS Charity Golf Tournament sponsorship opportunities, please call Charlotte York at 336-374-9600; Joel Hooper at 336-835-2511; or Jerry Atkins, 336-374-9608; or write to WIFM Charity Golf, P.O. Box 1038, Elkin, NC 28621. Updates also appear on the website at wifmradio.com and on Facebook at facebook.com/100.9wifmradio.

## Love The Library

The community of Pilot Mountain gave an overwhelming response and show of support in May to the Charles H. Stone Memorial Library. Tickets were sold out for the Love the Library Tea and Silent Auction on Saturday afternoon, May 11, at the First United Methodist Church in Pilot Mountain.

The Love the Library Tea and Silent Auction raises crucial funds to maintain the library and supports its mission of "Advancing Knowledge, Strengthening Communities, And Inspiring People!" Ann Anderson chaired the organizing committee whose other members are Donna Alexander, Dwight Atkins, Nancy Carter, Rachel Collins, Anna Nichols, Sue Royster, Martha Shaw, Sallie Stone, and Charlotte York. Mary Planer was the caterer, "This & That" provided food, and Grove Teas & Botanical Gifts provided the tea blends. Seventeen individuals, businesses, and organizations sponsored tables at the tea.

A silent auction helped raise money for this most worthy cause. Proceeds will help support the library that has served the community for more than 65 years. To conduct the auction, Rogers Realty & Auction Company's website listed nearly 130 donated paintings and prints, art works, craft items, sports memorabilia, clothing, collectibles, jewelry, gift certificates, and antiques.

The tea netted more than \$48,000.

Mayor Evan Cockerham wrote, "This was a wonderful event. Days like this remind me of why Emily and I decided to make Pilot Mountain our home. It is about the people that make the community here. The ones that start the traditions and keep the flames burning so that everyone can enjoy this place we call home. Thank you!"

About one week after the Love the Library Tea, the Charles H. Stone Memorial Library unveiled its brand-new signs featuring an updated logo and slogan: "We're here for YOU! So much more than books!" On its Facebook page, the library shared, "Our new look reflects our commitment to serving our wonderful community with a wide range of resources, programs, and events. Whether you're here to find your next great read, attend a story-time session, or explore new skills and hobbies, the Charles H. Stone Memorial Library is here to support you. Come by and check out our new signs, and while you're here, discover all the amazing things we have to offer."

Charles H. Stone Memorial Library, 319 W. Main St., has served the Pilot Mountain community since 1959. For more information about its services, special events, and programming, visit the Northwestern Regional Library's website at [nwrl.org/pilot-mtn](http://nwrl.org/pilot-mtn).

## Rotarians Help Nonprofits

Rotary Club of Mount Airy awarded grants totaling \$7,000 to eight local nonprofit organizations. The grants were announced during the club's annual Grant Recipient Day when Rotary District #7690 invites representatives from the organizations to describe their activities and upcoming projects.

"We are overjoyed to celebrate our grant recipients for this year," the Rotarians announced. "We are so thankful for their continued work to make a positive, long-lasting impact in our community."

The grant recipients are:

- Helping Hands Foundation of Surry County
- The Shepherd's House
- Mayberry 4 Paws
- Surry Medical Ministries Clinic
- Surry Arts Council
- Mount Airy Museum of Regional History
- Sandy Level Community Council & The Historic Satterfield House
- BSA Old Hickory Council

Nicknamed "The Noon Rotary," Rotary Club of Mount Airy meets at 12 o'clock every Tuesday in Cross Creek Country Club. Michael Barnes is the 2023-24 President. Other officers are President-Elect Melissa Hiatt, Past President Phillip Brown, Secretary Cathy Stevens, Treasurer Lee Lawson, and Sergeant-At-Arms Tonda Phillips. The club is on Facebook at [/mtairyrotary](https://www.facebook.com/mtairyrotary) and on the web at [mtairyrotary.org](http://mtairyrotary.org).

## New Field Of Dreams

Many high school stadium fields and tracks in our area will undergo significant changes by this fall as part of a state-funded initiative. The N.C. General Assembly allocated \$62.8 million to improve athletic facilities in about 18 school districts. Wilkes County Schools will receive \$9.15 million, Surry County Schools \$3.75 million, and Yadkin County Schools \$5 million.

The legislature earmarked the grants for capital improvements related to sports while giving each school district flexibility in the money's use, pending a state review. Wilkes County Schools, for instance, plans to allocate \$6 million to install synthetic turf at East Wilkes, North Wilkes, West Wilkes, and Wilkes Central high schools. The district also will upgrade tracks, game clocks, and facilities like field-houses, restrooms, and tennis courts.

Yadkin County Schools will use its \$5 million to upgrade facilities at Forbush High School and Star-mountain High School including new bleachers, tracks, and artificial turf.

Surry County Schools will use its \$3.75 million to replace grass with synthetic turf at East Surry, North Surry, and Surry Central high schools. Surry Central's track will receive a urethane coating, North Surry and East Surry tracks will have new asphalt paving. North Surry will receive hard-wired game clocks and other improvements in its athletics facilities.

The three county school boards collaborated to acquire long-lasting, low-maintenance synthetic turf for nine high school fields. Through an interlocal agreement they obtained a discount from GeoSurfaces Southeast Inc. of Mooresville. Surry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Travis Reeves said the school districts chose GeoSurfaces in part because it guaranteed the work will be finished before the football season starts. "It is essential for us to be able to have football in August," Dr. Reeves said, "so, quality of the product, timeline and cost — those are the three main factors the counties evaluated."

In 2023, state budget makers consolidated individual legislators' requests for athletic facility funding, resulting in the \$62.8 million allocation spread across 18 school districts. Rep. Jeffrey Elmore and Sen. Eddie Settle announced the appropriations for Surry County Schools, Wilkes County Schools, and Yadkin County Schools. Settle noted that while Mount Airy High School and Elkin High School were not included, their school districts and cities will benefit from other budget allocations.

Overall, this initiative represents a concerted effort to enhance high school athletic facilities across the region, ensuring improved infrastructure and experiences for students, families, and fans alike. We congratulate all involved in these efforts.

## Alleghany Health Names CAO

Alleghany Health has announced that Paula Mason is its new Chief Administrative Officer. She brings 25 years' experience in hospital leadership. She most recently served as chief clinical officer for Alliant Management Services where she managed several hospitals in the southeast U.S. Moore is a past vice president of clinical operations at Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital.

Alleghany Health in Sparta is a critical access hospital operated through a partnership between Hugh Chatham Health and Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist. It provides regional emergency care, inpatient treatment, and rapid transfers as needed to tertiary medical centers.

Moore succeeds Kathryn Doby who retired effective May 31. Doby's accomplishments since becoming CAO in 2022 include opening a new medical office building, adding health-care providers and services, and overseeing the introduction of the EPIC electronic health records reporting system.

## Word Match Game

*Match the word on the left with one on the right.*

- |                  |       |                   |
|------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 1. Indy          | _____ | A. benefactor     |
| 2. Dr. J         | _____ | B. exuberant      |
| 3. pneumonia     | _____ | C. ground steak   |
| 4. Pink Lady     | _____ | D. Erving         |
| 5. donor         | _____ | E. idealistic     |
| 6. squire        | _____ | F. unrestrained   |
| 7. miser         | _____ | G. disease        |
| 8. spendthrift   | _____ | H. apple          |
| 9. flamboyant    | _____ | I. equal          |
| 10. Popeye       | _____ | J. Pyle           |
| 11. Gomer        | _____ | K. Pan            |
| 12. fiddler      | _____ | L. 500            |
| 13. extravagant  | _____ | M. wasteful       |
| 14. peer         | _____ | N. hoarder        |
| 15. quixotic     | _____ | O. bowman         |
| 16. Peter        | _____ | P. gather         |
| 17. structure    | _____ | Q. weapon         |
| 18. squealer     | _____ | R. receiver       |
| 19. huddle       | _____ | S. assistant      |
| 20. flanker      | _____ | T. fool           |
| 21. Snapshot     | _____ | U. tattletail     |
| 22. slingshot    | _____ | V. weed killer    |
| 23. doofus       | _____ | W. skyscraper     |
| 24. Dairy Center | _____ | X. The Sailor Man |

*(See answers on Page 7)*

## Mount Airy's Garden Clubs

Mount Airy's three garden clubs — Garden Gate, Modern Gardeners and Mountain View — joined together six years ago to present the first garden tour the city had seen in many years. The fourth biennial Mount Airy Blooms Garden Tour on June 8 offered six home gardens and two additional locations that ticket holders could visit in and near Mount Airy and Ararat, N.C.

The clubs use funds raised from the garden tours to undertake and support community projects.

Garden Gate takes care of the rose garden at the Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home, cutting some of the roses when they are in bloom and taking them to patient's rooms.

Modern Gardeners maintains the exquisite garden and fountain at the junction of North Main and Renfro streets and the pollinator garden on Main Street south of the U.S. Post Office and across the street from the Municipal Building.

Modern Gardeners and Garden Gate both offer special programming for Tharrington Elementary and Mount Airy High School Exceptional Children's classes where the children always get something to take home and something to eat.

Mountain View will use its portion of the garden tour funds for the restoration of the gardens at the historic Moore house.

Mountain View Garden Club helped create the Modern Gardeners Garden Club nearly 70 years ago. As the story goes — recounted at a meeting of the Mount Airy Board of Commissioners in January 2022 — the club was founded in 1956 by two young friends, Eleanor Powell-Hines and Katherine Parries. They wanted to join a garden club, but were told by three local clubs that there were no vacancies. Fanny Jones, the President of Mountain View Garden Club, suggested they start a new club and Mountain View would sponsor them.

The city council's minutes continue, "Eleanor and Katherine gathered together a group of women in Mount Airy who had an interest in flowers and gardening, thus began the Modern Gardeners Garden Club. Over the past 66 years [now 68], the club has continued with a group of 24 diverse women, young at heart, who love gardening, preserving the environment, contributing to the education of children and adults, as well as beautifying our community.

"The Modern Gardeners meet monthly, September through May, to enjoy a great meal, fellowship, discuss ongoing projects, and have an educational program or take a field trip to an area garden. The club contains former Garden Club District Directors, a former State President, five Master Gardeners, and [in January 2022] 13 active Garden Club of North Carolina Life Members as well as two inac-

tive members who have life memberships and one charter member, the late Eleanor Powell-Hines, who received a National Garden Club Life Membership."

Among the Modern Gardeners Garden Club's original members are Susan Ashby, Shirley Cox, Inez Cox, Lyda Hennis, Butch Marion, Chardean Gwyn, Marie Moorefield, Anne Smith; Sarah Lee McGee, Katherine Parries, Eleanor Powell, Sarah Greenwood, Cassie Mackie, Lou Carson, Lib Boyles, Edna Allran, Betty Barnhardt, Majorie Holcomb, and Jane King.

## Mount Airy High Baseball Has Its Best Season In Years

The Mount Airy High School Granite Bears baseball team completed an historic season this year, finishing second in the NCHSAA 1A West Regional Championship. The team set a new school record for single-season wins: 26-3. The previous record was 21 in both 1931 and 1939.

The team also tied a decades-old team record of 25 consecutive victories, according to Mount Airy sports historian Doug McDaniel.

The Granite Bears swept the Northwest 1A Conference regular season and tournament championships. The regular season title was the team's first since 1968.

Mount Airy also set a school record for single-season shutouts with 11, punctuated by a 10-0, five-inning no-hitter to win the conference tournament. That game's pitchers, Kamden Hawks and Rylan Venable, later were named by the N.C. Baseball Coaches Association to the 1A All-State Team.

Eight seniors led Mount Airy's Granite Bears — Brison George, Rylan Venable, Cameryn Wilson, Daniel Smith, Ian Gallimore, Kamden Hawks, Landon Cox, and Brayden Durham. Most of them as sophomores and starters helped the 2022 team clinch the then-near-record 19-9 season. Coach Josh Wilson has said, "I knew when I took the job here that this group would be special. There was never any doubt that if we could stay healthy, we'd have a chance to compete for a state championship.... I'm going to miss this group of seniors dearly. They made me a better coach and a better person. I just hope I impacted their lives as much as they have mine."

After the regional championship finalé, Coach Wilson also shared, "What an amazing ride this season was. I will forever be indebted to the players, my assistants, my administrators and the community for this season. The success we had this year would not have been possible without each and every one of you."

We are proud to salute the MAHS Granite Bears Baseball Team's players, families, coaches, and supporters for their outstanding, historic season.



## N.C. Principal of the Year

Beckie Spears, Principal at Wilkesboro Elementary School, is the 2024 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year. A ceremony in Raleigh honored her and eight other finalists from across the state.

Spears will spend the 2024-25 school year traveling North Carolina as an ambassador for the profession of leadership in public education, with financial support from Wells Fargo and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. She received a mobile device from Lenovo, an engraved award, a gift from the Carolina Hunger Initiative, and a custom-made NC Principal of the Year signet ring from Jostens. She will have the opportunity to participate in the Truist Leadership Institute and a seminar at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, as well as attend the International Society for Technology in Education conference.

In addition, Spears will compete nationally for the honor of the National Association of Elementary School Principals Distinguished Principal of the Year, representing the elementary and middle school levels through the North Carolina Association of School Administrators' professional organization.

N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt said, "Mrs. Spears does a beautiful job balancing instructional and organizational leadership alongside the student, staff, and community relationships needed to effectively lead her school. It is through her thoughtful guidance that students, staff, and the community of Wilkesboro Elementary are poised for success in their next steps."

Spears shared in her N.C. Principal of the Year portfolio that she strives to keep Wilkesboro Elementary focused on social and academic learning.

Spears says her "greatest joy from the past five years was seeing our teachers complete LETRS® [Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling], use their skills to improve outcomes for all kids, and celebrate exceeding growth in reading." By the end of their first year, 95% of Wilkesboro Elementary's kindergarteners and 83% of first graders were reading on grade level.

Spears has been principal of Wilkesboro Elementary School since 2019. She was a classroom teacher for 18 years, many of them at Wilkesboro Elementary. She has taught high school English, elementary, and AIG classes. She also served as an instructional specialist and data coach for two years and as an assistant principal for five years.

Spears has a bachelor's degree in English from Meredith College where she graduated summa cum laude. She was a North Carolina Teaching Fellow. Her master's from Appalachian State is in school administration. She's National Board certified.

North Carolina has recognized outstanding principals through its Principal of the Year program since the 1980s.

## Wilkes Teachers Of The Year

Wilkes County Schools honored its Teachers of the Year from each school in the district at the annual Teacher & Principal Of The Year Banquet.

The Wilkes County Schools' 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year is Breanna Wooten, a Social Studies teacher at Wilkes Central High School. Teacher of the Year finalists included Angelia Church, West Wilkes High School; Hayley Trivette, Central Wilkes Middle School; Brittany Simmons, East Wilkes High School; and Chelsea Davis, Mulberry Elementary School.

The 2024-2025 Principal of the Year is Dee Surgeon of North Wilkes High School. Other finalists were Carol Cleary at Traphill Elementary School and Dustin Webb at East Wilkes High School.

In addition to those named above, others chosen for Teacher of the Year recognition are:

- Ashley York, Mountain View Elementary
- Kaylene Burcham, Wilkes Early College High
- Jared Story, Traphill Elementary
- Beth Craft, C.B. Eller Elementary
- Lakyn Hutchison, C.C. Wright Elementary
- Amanda Gouge, North Wilkes Middle
- Erica Marion, North Wilkes High School
- Jennifer Bauguss, Wilkesboro Elementary
- Brandy Webb, North Wilkesboro Elementary
- Marissa Ward, Millers Creek Elementary
- Jessica Renzi, West Wilkes Middle
- Stephanie Russell, Moravian Falls Elementary
- Cynthia Colbert, Boomer-Ferguson Elementary
- Savannah Kilby, Mount Pleasant Elementary
- Sharon Speaks, Ronda-Clingman Elementary
- Mary Mounce, Roaring River Elementary
- Chuck Hudson, East Wilkes Middle School

## Jere Miles Of Wilkes CC Wins State Teaching Award

Jere Miles, Lead Instructor of Information Technology at Wilkes Community College, received the 2024 Excellence in Teaching Award from the N.C. State Board of Community Colleges. The honor recognizes a faculty member who exemplifies "the highest quality and standards of instruction throughout the N.C. community college system."

Miles has served Wilkes Community College in various roles for 15 years. He created a simulation gaming program from scratch and wrote a textbook to accompany it. He was the driving force behind raising funds and building a lab to accompany the program. He oversees the Network Management and System Security two-year degree pathways.

Miles is known on campus for his unconventional teaching style, passion for helping students succeed, and his humility. We salute Jere Mills and North Carolina's community colleges for their excellence in education.

## MACS Honors Its "Of The Years"

Mount Airy City Schools has announced its Teacher Of the Year and Employee of the Year. Abby Gallimore is the Teacher of the Year and also the district's EC Teacher of the Year and Mount Airy High School Teacher of the Year. Jamie Martin at Mount Airy Middle School is Employee of the Year.

Mount Airy City Schools previously announced its other "Of The Years" honorees. They are:

- Beginning Teacher (BT) of the Year: Dawson Shropshire, science, Mount Airy High School.
- Bus Driver of the Year: Dean Combs.
- Central Office Employee of the Year: Social Worker Antonia Cawley.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teacher of the Year: Garrett Howlett, Aerospace Engineering, MAHS.
- Exceptional Children's (EC) Teacher of the Year: Abby Gallimore, MAHS.
- School Nutrition Employee of the Year: School Nutrition Supervisor Melissa A. Martin, Central Office.
- School Nutrition Manager of the Year: Robin Semones, JJ Jones Intermediate School.
- Mount Airy High School Employee of the Year, Chris Mack, custodian
- Jones Intermediate Employee of the Year: Finance Officer Diana Hiatt.
- Jones Intermediate Teacher of the Year: Michele Wertman, fourth grade.
- Mount Airy Middle School Employee of the Year: Jamie Martin, Career Café.
- Mount Airy Middle Teacher of the Year: Anne Hardy, EC teacher.
- B.H. Tharrington Primary School Teacher of the Year: Tara Hill, first grade.
- B.H. Tharrington Employee of the Year: Kate Snow, EC teaching assistant.

## Principal of The Year

Jason Dorsett is the Mount Airy City Schools 2023-2024 Principal of the Year. As Mount Airy High School's principal since 2018, he led a talented and hard-working staff through the pandemic and post-pandemic learning loss of students. Last year, MAHS met N.C. Department of Public Instruction growth requirements and placed first in the state for Math 3, 10th in the state for English 2, and seventh in the state for overall proficiency on high school end-of-course exams. Mount Airy High School also received the 2024 Lighthouse School Award from the N.C. Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Dorsett is a Mount Airy High School graduate. His career in education began in 1999 as a fourth-grade teacher in Surry County Schools. He joined Mount Airy City Schools in 2007.

## Kim Morrison Receives Order of the Long Leaf Pine

For her longtime dedication to public education, Dr. Kim Morrison, who retired earlier this year as Superintendent of Mount Airy City Schools, has received North Carolina's highest civilian honor: The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Bestowed by the governor, the award recognizes citizens for exemplary service that is considered above and beyond the call of duty, for making a significant impact, and for strengthening the state as a whole.

After graduating from Appalachian State University, Morrison served for 30 years in public education — eight in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and 22 years in Mount Airy City Schools. She was a band director, magnet school lead teacher, magnet school director, strategic planning director, and chief officer for academics and innovation. At University of North Carolina-Greensboro, she completed PhD requirements in curriculum and instruction. In 2016 she became Superintendent of Mount Airy City Schools, the first woman to hold the position. After retiring from the public schools in March, Morrison became senior project director for The Innovation Project, an organization that promotes and implements best practices in school districts across the state.

Morrison has served on the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Surry County Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors and in other organizations.

## Harvey Arrington

Harvey Arrington, now retired, was president of L.C. Transportation Services LLC in Mount Airy. He has been our valued friend and treasured mentor.

Always community-minded, Harvey was a significant fundraiser for the Armfield Recreation Center in 2001. He and wife Jean have been longtime members at Friendly Chapel Church founded in 1965.

His sister, Barbara Edmiston, and her late husband Jim were regulars at our Mount Airy Friends Meeting. We weekly mailed a few of our photographs to Mrs. Edmiston. Harvey saw one of the Smith's Diesel team pictures — David, Teshia, Dallas and Dakota — and said, "David Smith has the cleanest shop ever. One could easily eat off the floor." Harvey believed that being clean is a valuable company asset. It says the quality of work is high. Clean floors, clean oil, and clean engines all contribute to customer satisfaction.

Harvey has seen it all in his nearly nine decades. God willing, he will turn 90 on Oct. 3. We're grateful for his service to family, friends, his communities, God, church, and worthy causes.

## Things You Need To Know About Stroke

Many people fear cancer as the worst threat to human health. Not as many people know that stroke is a leading cause of disability and the fifth-highest cause of death in the U.S. We are fortunate to have excellent stroke treatment centers both in Surry County and Winston-Salem.

A stroke occurs in the brain. The brain needs a constant supply of oxygen and nutrients carried in blood. Arteries deliver that blood from the heart to the brain. A stroke occurs when an artery is either blocked or bursts. When part of the brain does not get the blood it needs, brain cells start to die. Without the brain's directions, parts of the body can't function properly. Rapid stroke treatment is essential to reduce disability and/or possible death.

Please recognize these stroke symptoms:

- Numbness or weakness of the arm, leg, or face (especially on one side of the body).
- Trouble seeing from one or both eyes.
- Difficulty walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Onset of a severe headache with no known cause.
- Confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech.

Symptoms sometimes last for only a short time and then disappear. Don't ignore them! A "transient" attack may be a warning that a person is having or soon will have a serious stroke. Call 911 immediately. Time is of the essence.

Hugh Chatham Health in Elkin and Northern Regional Hospital in Mount Airy both operate certified Advanced Primary Stroke Centers. This means both proved to The Joint Commission's accreditation experts that the hospitals have and maintain the critical elements to achieve long-term success in improving outcomes for stroke patients.

In Forsyth County, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist and Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem both operate Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Centers accredited by The Joint Commission. These hospitals have proven and maintain specific abilities to receive and treat complex stroke cases

In addition, Novant Health Rehabilitation Hospital, an affiliate of Encompass Health, is an accredited inpatient facility at Winston-Salem that serves stroke patients' needs with innovative therapies and technologies and an expert team of compassionate caregivers.

For more information about strokes and how people can make lifestyle changes to reduce their chances of having a stroke, visit the American Heart Association at [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org) or the American Stroke Association at [www.stroke.org](http://www.stroke.org).

## Old Fiddlers Convention

The 52nd annual Mount Airy Blue Grass & Old-Time Fiddlers Convention on June 8-9 in Veterans Memorial Park celebrated the traditional music of North Carolina's mountains and the foothills. Campers and tents started arriving Monday and Tuesday and packed the grounds. Visitors and competitors came from as far as Maryland, New York, and Indiana. On Friday and Saturday, more than 175 musicians competed in the individual instrument categories, and 18 old-time groups and 16 bluegrass groups participated in the band competitions. The judges awarded ribbons, trophies, and a total of \$5,260 in cash prizes.

Among this year's individual winners were Richard Bowman of Mount Airy in Adult Old-Time Fiddle, Marsha Todd of Mount Airy in Adult Old-Time Banjo, and Coley Palmer of Dobson in Youth Bass Fiddle. New Floyd Country Ramblers won the Adult Old-Time Band Award. Foggy Window Ramblers was the top Adult Bluegrass Band.

The 53rd annual Old Fiddler's Convention already is scheduled for June 6-7 in 2025.

## Surry County Farmers Markets

Surry County's four Farmers Markets now are in full swing selling fruits and vegetables, cut flowers, honey, meats, crafts, prepared foods, and other local products from local people for local people.

Here are the markets' schedules, locations, managers, and contact information:

**Dobson Farmers Market.** Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 903 E. Atkins St. Manager Lisa Slawter, [slawter.marklisa@gmail.com](mailto:slawter.marklisa@gmail.com), 336-366-3111.

**Mount Airy Farmers Market.** Fridays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (extended hours for Mayberry Days and Autumn Leaves Festival) at 111 S. Main St. Manager Joe Zalescik, [zales60@yahoo.com](mailto:zales60@yahoo.com), 336-934-2791.

**Elkin Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon at 226 N. Bridge St. next to the Elkin Town Hall. Manager Kevin Campbell, [campbellfamilynursery@gmail.com](mailto:campbellfamilynursery@gmail.com), 704-775-2425.

**Pilot Mountain Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 3-6 p.m. at 210 W. Marion St. Manager David Shirley, [info@hollyoaksfarm.com](mailto:info@hollyoaksfarm.com), 336-401-6795.

For more information, visit the website [SurryCountyFarmersMarket.com](http://SurryCountyFarmersMarket.com) and individual market-affiliated pages on Facebook and Instagram.

## Word Match Game answers

(from Page 3)

1. L	6. S	11. J	16. K	21. V
2. D	7. N	12. O	17. W	22. Q
3. G	8. M	13. F	18. U	23. T
4. H	9. B	14. I	19. P	24. C
5. A	10. X	15. E	20. R	

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