



2017 Insight | We are Sampson...Business/Community

February 2017

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The power of Precision

Family atmosphere, hard work at heart of Clinton-based company

By **Chris Berendt**
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Over the years, Precision Tool & Stamping Inc. in Clinton has manufactured some of the key parts to items and appliances used every day by people across the globe, from dishwasher panels to lighting components, backpack frames to lawnmower parts. Housed on an expanse off Warsaw Road, the locally-owned and operated business was founded over three decades ago and has offered down-home quality customer service on a large scale ever since.

Tart and Sue Lee own the business, Tart working mostly on the production side and Sue handling the finances — a fitting partnership. Tart is a “brilliant mind,” Sue noted.

“That is his expertise and this is mine,” she said of the roles. “We eat breakfast together, we eat lunch together, we eat dinner together —if we didn’t have a little separation we would probably be killing each other by now.”

Tart worked years ago

with Hamilton Beach. Sue was an accountant with the hospital now known as Sampson Regional Medical Center.

“Tart and his boss decided they wanted to start a business,” Sue said of Tart and Joe Barrickman, who partnered with the Lees on the new venture. “They started in Joe’s garage. Joe was a good guy, a transplant from Ohio.”

After a short time in the garage, the operation moved into a property on Lisbon Street. In 1988, Precision then moved to its current Warsaw Road location, where it has expanded several times. They also own property across Warsaw Road for potential future expansion. The Lees reflected on those times, which actually began back on April 1, 1980, when both still held their full-time jobs and grew their own business at night.

“I was terrified,” Sue recalled with a chuckle. “I said ‘Tart, are we ever going to eat again? We both have pretty good salaries. We will never eat again if we do this.’”



Sue and Tart Lee stand in front of the business they started well over three decades ago. It has been located on Warsaw Road in 1988.



Customers send Precision a part print and a die is then designed so the part, whether a piece around a lawnmower gas tank or a panel for a dishwasher, can be stamped out in mass production and shipped.



Precision customers include General Electric, Husqvarna and BSH Home Appliances Group to name a few.

Tart would serve as a supervisor at Hamilton Beach from 5 a.m. until 2 p.m. and then work at Precision at night. Sue did the same with her hospital shifts. They did that for about a year, putting everything they had back into the business before ultimately diving head-first into the venture.

“We have done so much with so little for so long we think we can do

anything with nothing,” Sue said, smiling. The two were married when Sue was just 19 years old. That was 45 years ago. “We didn’t have children for seven years. We enjoyed each other, did what we wanted to do, got a home and we’ve always taken risks. Sometimes Tart has dragged me there, kicking and screaming.”

One of the biggest risks was Precision

itself. Barrickman was in his 60s when Precision began, a gruff man who smoked a cigar and wore a loaded .22 pistol in his belt buckle at all times, even at Hamilton Beach. They were different times. Some people warned against the partnership with him. But the bond worked, and the business’ foundation was solid. Barrickman loved the Lees and they loved

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Gary Mac Herring poses in front of his company logo at MaryMacks.

Herring leaving mark in Newton Grove

By Daron Barefoot
dbarefoot@civitasmedia.com



Herring

Nestled in northern Sampson County lies "The Circle of Opportunity." Or, perhaps you've heard it called "Circle City." Of course we're talking about the town of Newton Grove.

Established in 1879, the small town of roughly 600 people serves as a major thoroughfare where highways from all over eastern North Carolina converge. With the recent expansion of N.C. Highway 24 and the outer reaches of Fayetteville and Raleigh slowly trickling this direction, not to mention the amount of traffic that already pours into the area, there is no doubt Newton Grove is a town of opportunities.

A snippet taken directly from the official Newton Grove website echoes those thoughts.

"Nestled strategically amid the major and developing eastern North Carolina urban centers of Raleigh/Research Triangle, Fayetteville, Wilmington, and Goldsboro, Newton Grove represents an excellent base area for selling, servicing and distributing to eastern North Carolina and the Research Triangle area, only an hour away by interstate highway," it reads.

That's where Gary Mac Herring comes in.

Herring is a longtime resident of Newton Grove, where he currently serves on the Board of Commissioners. In addition, he is also the vice chairman of the Sampson County Planning Board, a member the Sampson County United Way Board of Directors, the Sampson Community College Foundation, the CommWell Health Board of Directors and the Newton Grove Fire Department board.

Herring has quite the resume, but what is equally impressive is his love and dedication to the town of Newton Grove.

"I was born and raised here in Newton Grove," he said. "I graduated from Hobbton in 1993."

Between managing his time with all of the organizations in which he is associated, Gary Mac also has a large – and

highly successful – business that he owns and operates in town.

MaryMacks, Inc. is Herring's shaved ice business.

Situated on U.S. Highway 13 in Newton Grove, the well-kept and cleanly-managed warehouse and operations center stands out to anyone passing through town.

"I was in college and having worked at Two Dogs Pizza here in town, it gave me a background in food and restaurant, Herring reflected, recalling his inspiration to get into an industry that ultimately led to MaryMacks. "Being in college I needed some extra money, but I wanted to stay around Newton Grove, stay around Sampson County."

"To do that, I wanted to do something on my own, start my own business. During college I started looking at ways to make money during the summertime and that led to me selling shaved ice."

Before the business was located in Newton Grove under the name MaryMacks, the business was actually established in Clinton.

"I opened up in 1994 in Clinton and it used to be called Tropical Shavers. My father and I built the stand and the Sampson Independent did a story on us, which really helped business and it was really a family effort," Herring continued.

So what started as a summer shaved ice stand quickly began to transition into ideas of a supply company.

"People used to buy our syrup out of our window in the summertime. So I thought if they're buying syrup out of our window, what if there is someone in Texas that wants syrup? Or someone in Florida? I needed something to do in the wintertime and with the internet starting to come along with online ordering, we launched our website. It launched on Feb. 12, 2000 and on Feb. 14 we had our first order."

Now, MaryMack's employs 14 employees year-round and Herring attributes a lot of the success to his associates.

"I couldn't do it without them. They're the key — people who have been with me a long

time and work hard every day. I couldn't do this by myself."

MaryMack's now operates using four basic websites.

"One of the websites focuses on the business aspect. If you're wanting to open up your own stand or take a job at the fair or something like that, then we sell the kits, the carts, the machines — everything you need to get started," Herring noted. "Another website sells smaller packages if you want to have shaved ice like a birthday party."

"We also have a cotton candy website," Herring continued. "And finally

we have a completely different company called Sticky Life that does decals and stickers."

MaryMacks now sells and distributes shaved ice materials all over the United States. Business in California, Texas, Florida and North Carolina keep the company the busiest.

Given the success of the company, there is one thing that Herring keeps near and dear — the community.

He wants to see Newton Grove grow and be successful and one way to help make that happen is to give back to the community. Using the platform he's been given,

Herring said that he tries to give back to the community every way possible through time and service, as well as financially.

Herring lives by the old saying "be the change you want to be." He admits that he may not be able to change the world, but he can change the community and help his fellow citizens.

In discussing the future of the town, Herring reaffirms that he'd like to see Newton Grove grow and attributes the town's proximity to Raleigh and Wilmington, as well as being along-

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Parker offers more than dance lessons

By Kristy D. Carter
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Quisan Parker has traveled across the country, dancing and receiving instruction from some of the best in the industry. Her prestigious training and dance abilities could easily have her working in a dance studio in one of the larger cities, but the Sampson County native would rather bring what she loves home.

As the owner and artistic director at Quisan's Dance Academy, Parker shares her passion of the art with more than 100 students. In 2004, Parker opened Gotta Dance with just 19 students and a one-room studio. In 2009, she entered into a joint business venture, but decided to split for artistic and business differences just two years later. For the last six years, Parker has worked to grow a dance empire under the QDA name.

"Now, I have so many different levels of kids that we work with," Parker said.

Approximately 40 of Parker's students are a member of one of the 14 company teams. The young girls travel around North Carolina and neighboring states to compete in top-level competitions. At each event, there are about 50 entries, including groups, solos, duos and trios. Company girls range in age from the mini category to the senior category.

Parker grew up in Sampson County and took dance under several local dance instructors like Nancy Heath and Marsha Husky. As she grew in her dancing ability, she received private instruction from a studio in Fayetteville and eventually traveled across North Carolina and New York for pre-professional training.

For the last 25 years, Parker has been sharing her passion for dance and has worked to train many of her students to share their own passion with others. All the teacher assistants at the studio have been trained under Parker, and now work with younger students on the craft and technique.

While Parker did not receive formal education in the dance field, she doesn't believe that hinders her ability to share her love of dancing with others.

"Some of my best teachers didn't have formal dance training," Parker said. "In the end, it's about what you produce, and they all produced good quality dancers."

In her years teaching, Parker has trained many students who have gone on to become professional dancers who work on dance teams or instructing others how to dance.

"I want my dancers to be able to go anywhere and audition and they can make it," Parker shared.

Instructing dance isn't Parker's only job. Yes, she is at the studio nearly seven days a week, more than eight hours a day, but says her job doesn't stop on the studio floor.

"I want my students to grow into unentitled

adults that understand that you get what you work for," Parker explained.

Parker's psychology training in college often comes in handy, when any of her students come to class bothered by an experience they have had earlier in the day. Forming great dancers is important, but Parker says it's more important to make her dancers great people.

As a young dancer, Parker says she remembers thinking she was one of the best, but quickly realized at a competition that she wasn't and had a long ways to go before she could be the best.

"I was seeing things I had never seen," Parker said about the skill level of the other dancers. "I felt embarrassed because I wasn't up to par. I wanted to make sure that no kid every felt the way I did."

Even though Parker began with just herself, she now employs six other teachers and has an office staff. Ensuring her students get the best dance education and experience possible, she also brings in advanced teachers from Raleigh and New York to work with her students.

"There isn't much opportunity around here for a young artist to grow," Parker said. "My parents sacrificed to allow me to get the exposure I needed to be a better dancer, so it's definitely worth me bringing in guests teachers for my students."

The students and parents at QDA are very much like a family. Parker said she teaches her students that their behavior has an impact on other students and that if one student fails, everyone fails.

"When you aren't working hard, it not only impacts you, but those around you," Parker shared. "I want my students to learn that life isn't all about them."

For that reason, when Parker takes her students to competitions, she teaches them to leave their egos at home.

Company members are part of the "Big Sister, Little Sister" program. Carefully placed together, the older students mentor the younger students. Not only are they there to offer words of encouragement on the dance floor, but to encourage the girls through life situations.

"This just reinforces the studio's philosophy that life isn't all about you," Parker said.

Parker says she is also a strong believer in instilling good self-esteem in her students.

"I find the good in everyone and I teach my students to do the same," Parker said. "I don't want them putting limitations on themselves or others. It's important that they learn that beauty is as beauty does. It's the inside that matters."

When problems arise, Parker has also instilled in her students how to handle situations that may be negative, in a positive manner.

Parker says she doesn't like to hear her students say "I can't," because she believes everyone can.

"I see my students at a certain level and I will continue to believe in them until they start believing in themselves," she said. "I try to emphasize the 'aha moments' and encourage them to keep pushing until they achieve their goals."

QDA, Parker shared, isn't just a dance studio, but a ministry disguised as a dance studio. Her goal for each of her students is to grow as a person, and if that means a life on the dance floor, that's what she wishes and dreams for each student.

Additionally, students are given many opportunities when they are part of the Quisan's Dance Academy. Each year, students are part of community events, like the Downtown Street Fair, Roseboro Christmas parade and Clinton Christmas parade. Parker also takes her students to local nursing homes as a way of giving back to the community.

Company students are given the opportunity to travel across the state and even other states. In October, students traveled to Orlando, Fla. to a three-day dance convention. Students were given the opportunity to take classes from and dance with advanced teachers from So You Think You Can Dance, as well as other dance organizations.

In February, students traveled to a dance convention and competition in Myrtle Beach, S.C., competing at the pre-professional level and placing in the top 10 of overall scores. Company students will continue to travel and compete over the next few months, participating in different competitions and conventions.

Reach Kristy D. Carter at 910-592-8137, ext. 2588. Follow us on Twitter at @SampsonInd. Like us on Facebook.



Kristy D. Carter/Sampson Independent
Quisan's Dance Academy artistic director Quisan Parker works with ballet student Laynie Brock.

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Photos from Quisan's Dance Academy



Photos By Kristy D. Carter|Sampson Independent
 Ballet 1 and Ballet 2 students, who are part of the dance company team, take ballet hours a week to prepare them for competitions.



Ballet student Lilly Williams receives instruction of Quisan Parker, artistic director.



Quisan Parker works with ballet students during class.



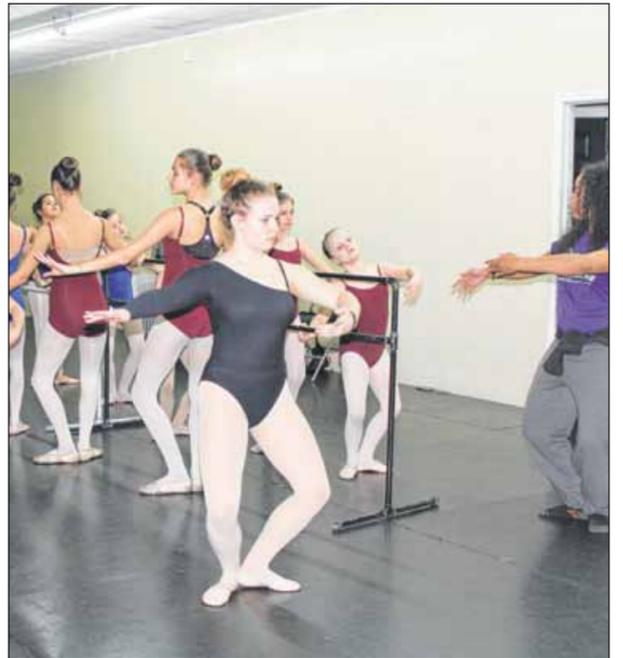
Lexi Sawvel works to stretch during ballet class.



Students work at the barre during ballet class at Quisan's Dance Academy.



Ballet 1 and Ballet 2 students at Quisan's Dance Academy in a weekly class.



Teacher's assistant Karley Thornton demonstrates during a ballet class.



Gary Mac Herring helps a customer over the phone.

Herring

From page 2

side Interstate 40, as one way that could happen.

"Hopefully in the next 10 years or so, as Raleigh and Wilmington maybe expand, we can see some benefits from that and see some growth. I'd like to see more quality jobs come to town."

As for MaryMacks, the company is planning an expansion of its own. Herring said 2016 was the company's best year ever and expanding the product line is key to matching that success. MaryMacks has some upcoming projects and is exploring their options for acquiring a new and bigger space.

Herring said his love of Sampson County and his hometown of Newton Grove runs deep, and he looks forward to continuing his work there.

Reach Daron Barefoot at dbarefoot@civitasmedia.com.

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City recreation director Jonathan Allen, left, and Hugh Caison, owner/operator of local McDonald's franchises in Clinton, stand next to the new large scale scoreboard at the multipurpose field at Royal Lane Park, provided through a partnership between the city and McDonald's, which sponsors the scoreboard.

File photo/Sampson Independent

Partnerships key to recreation success

By Jonathan Allen
City recreation director

The year 2016 has been a busy year for the Clinton Recreation & Parks Department. The following is just a snapshot of our year in review.

Programs

Our year began with hosting the Daddy/Daughter and Mother/Son dances. Couples danced the night away while enjoying music and food. Also, we partnered with the Sampson County Arts Council to host our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Royal Lane Park, which was a huge success. We continued hosting the Mid-Carolina Senior Games Horse-shoes and Shuffleboard events at

Royal Lane Park. We also hosted the annual July 4th event. Despite some rain storms in the area, it went pretty well. This year, we partnered with the Clinton High School boys and girls varsity basketball teams to provide an instructional league for boys ages 5-6 and girls ages 5-9. This program showed how vital it is for partner-ships.

Facility Improvements

This year brought about new partner-ships. One of those were with McDonald's of Clinton and Mr. Hugh Caison to provide a new large scale scoreboard at the multipurpose field. In addition, we added one new outdoor basketball court (at Royal Lane Park) and extended one at

Newkirk Park. Both courts have seen increased usage from the public. The Halloween on the Square event was another fun packed event with our staff providing the costume contest. We were very fortunate that Hurricane Matthew spared us for the most part. We had a few trees down and minimal damage from the storm. Our maintenance staff did a tremendous job of cleaning up after the storm and throughout the year. We have begun the pre-construction phase of the Royal Lane Park Phase 1A project and anticipate beginning construction/revamp in March 2017. So, as you can see, our department and city are on the move. So, what are you waiting for? Come see why Clinton is "the perfect place to play and live."

"This year brought about new partnerships. One of those was with McDonald's of Clinton and Mr. Hugh Caison to provide a new large scale scoreboard at the multipurpose field."

— Johnathan Allen,
City Recreation Director



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All in a day's work for Sampson surgeons

By Amber Cava
SRMC Marketing

It's 9:30 a.m. on a Tuesday morning when I sit down with Dr. Andres Fleury of Sampson Surgical Services. An ultra-marathon runner, his day started as I would have guessed. He was out at 6 a.m. for a run — one I imagine covered more miles than I run in a week of exercise. His morning cardio session ended in time to make his 7 a.m. rounds at the hospital. He spent the early part of the morning on the Medical-Surgical Unit seeing patients who are recovering from surgery and the three scheduled for a trip to the Operating Room later in the day.



Fleury



Mendible

At 9 a.m., Fleury headed to the hospital's diagnostics department to perform a Stereotactic Breast Biopsy. Only 19 minutes later, he's back in his office to spare a few moments with me before seeing his scheduled patients. Stereotactic Breast Biopsy is one of several advanced procedures performed at Sampson Regional Medical Center. Fleury and his wife, Mendible, were advocates for bringing this procedure to Clinton so that the standard of care in breast cancer diagnostics is locally available.

My mind is racing with questions for Fleury as he sits across from me at his desk, patiently and effortlessly relaying his knowledge as fast as my pen will move. The opening of Sampson Surgical Services in February 2015 has introduced new procedures to the Operating Room and elevated the standard to meet best practices. In a matter of minutes, I learn more about Stereotactic Breast Biopsy and how this minimally-invasive procedure and advanced technique is used in the detection of breast cancer.

When an abnormality is detected by a mammogram, the next step is a biopsy to determine whether the mass is cancerous or benign. During a Stereotactic Breast Biopsy, the trained physician uses an X-ray image of the breast and a coordinate system to locate the mass, which is not visible or felt under the skin. Using the coordinate, much like a latitude and longitude point on a map, the physician can precisely guide a needle to the mass for tissue sampling. With this level of accuracy, only the smallest amount of tissue is taken. This means no alteration to the breast's appearance, as compared with open biopsy procedures, because less tissue is removed and scarring is minimal. The incision itself is only about 3 millimeters — imagine the width of two pennies side by side. There are fewer risks for the patient, who can have the procedure under local anesthesia and return the same day to normal activities with no restriction. The tissue sample is analyzed, and the findings help guide the physician in diagnosing and recommending the best treatment plan.

Similar to Stereotactic Breast Biopsy, another minimally invasive procedure is for the biopsy of thyroid nodules, masses

or lumps in the neck, and other abnormal swellings or lumps located just under the skin. Fine Needle Aspiration is the name for the procedure. With local anesthesia for the patient, an ultrasound image is used to guide a very thin needle into the area of abnormal tissue. A sample is collected that helps the doctor diagnose or rule out conditions, such as cancer. It sounds simple enough to me, but Fleury explains more.

"Without an ultrasound guiding the needle, the surgeon would be working blindly to draw tissue or fluid from a mass or lump that cannot be felt or seen," he explained.

With their 13 years of experience, this procedure is common place in the office for Fleury and Mendible for two reasons: 1) It offers a high diagnostic success rate, and 2) Patients do not experience pain and have fewer complications during or after the procedure, so their missed time away from work or activities is not compromised.

The phone rings, and Fleury answers without hesitation. His nurse is on the other end, and while they discuss follow up care for a patient, I move my focus to a tongue-twister — a procedure called Nissen Fundoplication. Say that three times, fast! Likely, you've probably never heard of this procedure, but I bet the words GERD, acid reflux, and hiatal hernia sound familiar.

Nissen Fundoplication is an anti-reflux surgical procedure. The minimally-invasive and laparoscopic technique involves wrapping the upper part of the stomach around the lower esophagus. This tightens the seal where the lower part of the esophagus meets the stomach to prevent stomach acid from moving up into the esophagus. This technique is one that Fleury and Mendible are highly skilled in, having completed hundreds of procedures for patients with chronic GERD or enlarged hiatal hernias.

Patients who suffer with extreme cases of GERD or have a large hiatal hernia are candidates for the procedure. In such cases, the primary care provider refers the patient to a surgeon. Patients with chronic or extreme cases usually fit one of three scenarios: 1) Their reflux has not been controlled after two or three months of medication; 2) Their reflux has been controlled with the help of medication for more than five years; or 3) They have other complications such as stricture esophageal or Barrett's disease, conditions that occur when overexposure to stomach acid has damaged the cells and caused a narrowing of the esophagus.

I'm closing in on my time with Fleury, but we take a few more minutes to discuss one more procedure. It's a procedure that is unavoidable for patients diagnosed with colon cancer. The question is, will they have an open or laparoscopic procedure. Nearly always, a Colon Resection (or colectomy) can be performed with minimally invasive techniques. In cases of high risk or emergency surgery, patients can expect an open procedure. The difference? An open colectomy requires a single, long incision (about the length of the average smartphone) horizontally across the abdomen. A laparoscopic procedure

requires three smaller incisions at different points across the abdomen, but those incisions are only about the size of a small coin. The size of the incision affects wound healing, recovery, pain control, and time spent in the hospital after the procedure. Because the laparoscopic technique allows for better anatomy exposure than an open procedure, it leads to better outcomes and higher cure rates for colon cancer and related diseases, such as severe diverticulitis — a condition in which inflammation or infection in the colon causes intense belly pain and sometimes other symptoms like fever and chills, bloating, diarrhea or constipation, loss of appetite, and nausea or vomiting.

With the American Cancer Society estimating more than 95,000 new cases of colon cancer in 2017, it's encouraging to know that advanced surgical options are available in Sampson County. As a matter of fact, by the time I've reviewed my interview notes and sat down to write, Fleury has finished his office visits and is off to the operating room where he'll be using advanced techniques to perform two laparoscopic gallbladder surgeries and one other OR procedure — all in a day's work to ensure patients receive today's standard of care conveniently close to home.

For more information about these and other general surgery procedures or to learn more about Fleury and Mendible, visit www.Sampson-RMC.org/sampsonsurgical. Surgery has changed at Sampson Regional Medical Center.

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- Bladder Cancer Screening and Treatment

Men's Health

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Harrells: Small Town, Big Heart

Harrells Town Board

The Town of Harrells was incorporated in 1943 as Harrells Store, but in 1952 changed the name to Harrells. The area is one of the earliest settlements in Sampson County. Harrells is located in the southeast area of Sampson County and is largely agriculture. Harrells is well known for the Harrells volunteer Fire Departments annual Harrells 300' Truck and Tractor Pull. In 2013 Our Fire Department had the honor of receiving the "Best non-profit pull" and the "Friendliest Pull". Fire Chief George McGill invites everyone to come and visit the newly renovated Fire Station, Gulf Station and Fire museum.

Harrells is home of Kyle's Farm, an agricultural Tourism Farm, Clear Run Farms Fresh Market and Harrells Christian Academy.

Harrells Community Center has been working diligently to upgrade the community building on Bland

"Harrells is well known for the Harrells volunteer Fire Departments annual Harrells 300' Truck and Tractor Pull. In 2013 Our Fire Department had the honor of receiving the "Best non-profit pull" and the "Friendliest Pull!"

— Harrells Town Board

School Road and to bring more activities for our senior citizens. They have had several fundraisers and will have a community yard sale on Feb. 8.

The Town has recently renovated the EMS building to house an apartment for the Sampson County EMS staff. The remainder of the building can now be rented out for functions. Thus far we have had a blood drive, conceal/carry handgun class and several business classes.

Our Town is participating in the Sampson County Tourism barn quilt tour. We chose the quilt design "Broken Dishes" and had it painted with the colors red, white and blue. Our board decided to hang it in memory of our longtime friend and Board member, Mr. Willie Johnson. The quilt can be seen hanging at 304 Tomahawk Hwy in Harrells.

Our Harrells Activity Center (formerly known as the EMS building) has been renovated and is now available for rent for \$100 a day. The Harrells Park can be reserved for \$50 a day.

In February, we will start using the new roll out recycle carts instead of the 18 gallon bins that have to be carried out to the curb. We are hoping that with the ease of the new recycle carts being on wheels will help encourage our residents to recycle more!

The Harrells Water Corporation has installed new radio read

meters. We are very excited that the new software can give us information like leaks, amount of water used, continuous use and time of use.

Harrells might be small in numbers but we are big in heart and community!

Community Events

National Day of Prayer Ceremony — May 4, 2017

Annual Memorial Day Ceremony — May 27, 2017

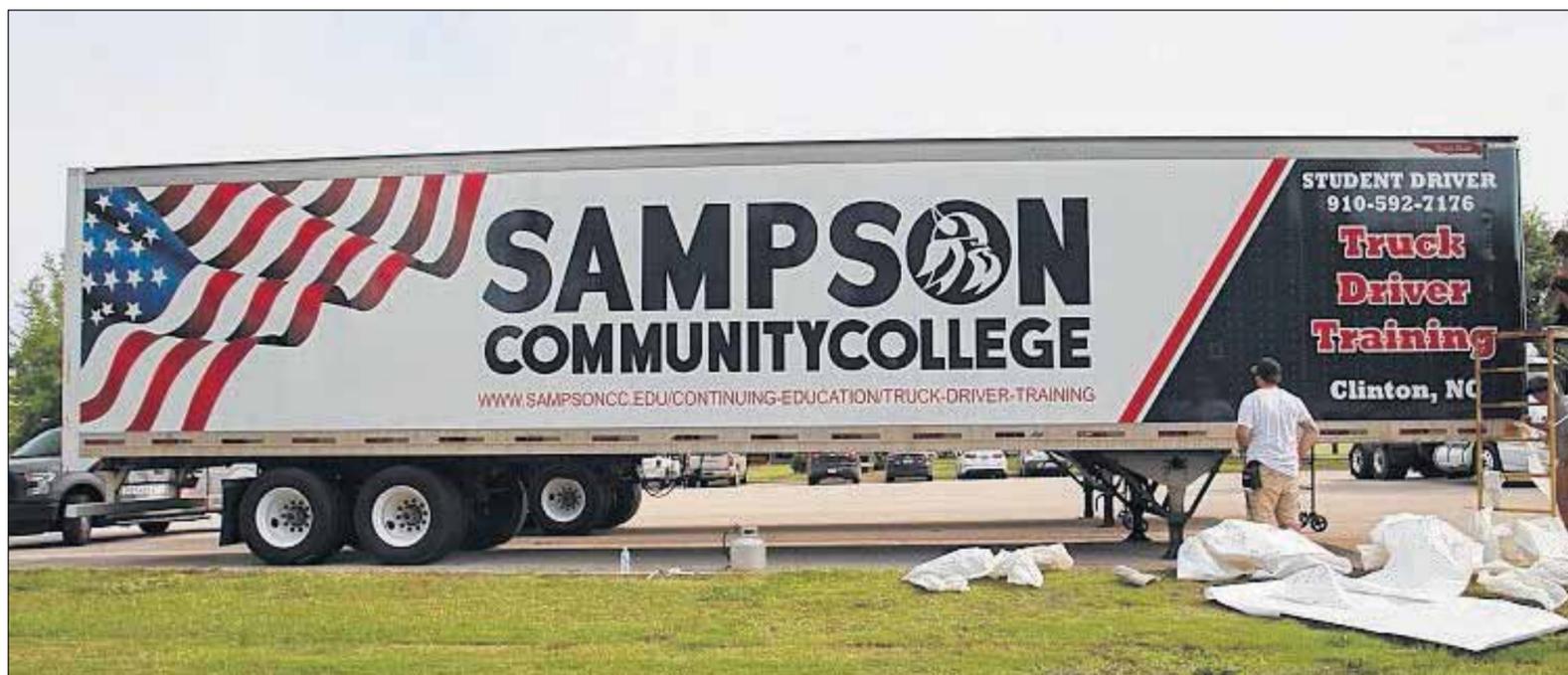
Harrells Unity in the Community Day — Aug. 26, 2017

Harrells Community Day — Oct. 28, 2017

Annual Sing Around the Tree — Dec. 19, 2017

The Harrells Town Board invites you to join us in our celebrations. If you have questions about any event please call our Town Hall at 532-4040.

Article submitted by the commissioners on the Harrells Town Board — James Moore, Katie Greer, Charles Moore, Kim Johnson and Ray Powell.



Courtesy photos

The truck driving program at Sampson Community College continues to grow.

This is the face of Continuing Education Division

By Ann Butler

Dean of Continuing Education

As of Feb. 1, 2017, I will have enjoyed a total of 12 years of service with Sampson Community College and I can say with all honesty that I have seen more change in the past 12 months than I have witnessed throughout my 12 year tenure. The pace of change has been, and continues to be, so fast and furious that it makes one's head spin, feet throb and heart rate quicken. It's been truly amazing and I am excited by the evolution taking place.

Unlike the traditional vision of Continuing Education as a source for lifelong learning opportunities such as crocheting and pottery making, the face of Continuing Education today has shifted primarily to workforce development, meaning that employers look to the Continuing Education Division to help identify qualified job candidates and then provide the skills training unique to that business or industry. This can involve helping people prepare to enter the workforce for the first time, retraining people who have been displaced from their jobs, or teaching new skills so employees can meet emerging needs of their workplace. Training is intense and short-term so employees can quickly be work-ready.

For people who are entering the workforce for the first time, many aren't sure how to begin the process. For them, Human Resource Development (HRD) classes are the perfect place to start. If the individual is unemployed, underemployed or if a layoff is pending then the classes are fee-exempt. Students have the opportunity to take an interest inventory to determine

where their skills lie, then they learn to do on-line job searches to match those skills, learn how to create a resume, and ultimately polish up their interviewing skills. The intent is help the student become "job ready" and thus more marketable to a potential employer. A number of Sampson County industries currently require potential employees to take a workforce preparedness class through HRD before they are allowed to go through the application process thus improving workforce quality and reducing turnover.

In looking at Continuing Education programming, Truck Driver Training at SCC continues to enjoy explosive growth because of the affordability of the program, the quality of classroom, field, and open-road training, and job opportunities that abound locally, statewide and nationally. Recruiters visit each class and graduates who want to go to work are generally assured employment as soon as they have their CDL in hand. In 2016, our road units received a striking facelift making them immediately

"In looking at Continuing Education programming, Truck Driver Training at SCC continues to enjoy explosive growth because of the affordability of the program, the quality of classroom, field, and open-road training, and job opportunities that abound locally, statewide and nationally."

— Ann Butler,

Dean of Continuing Education



The Continuing Education Department at Sampson Community College strives to help students grow.

recognizable on the highway, an additional class was added to the annual training calendar, and the number of students per class was increased. We see interest in this program continue to increase as awareness as job opportunities expand and knowledge of the program spreads.

The training of Butterball industrial maintenance mechanics continues to be an important role of continuing education and a valuable partnership between the college and the Butterball industry. Intensive training is focused on ammonia safety, schematics, electronic components, temperature sensing equipment, soldering and other critical skills required of maintenance mechanics. During 2016, training was broadened to provide advanced hands-on experience with electrical and electronics systems.

In 2016, Basic Skills experienced the retirement of

"Unlike the traditional vision of Continuing Education as a source for lifelong learning opportunities such as crocheting and pottery making, the face of Continuing Education today has shifted primarily to workforce development, meaning that employers look to the Continuing Education Division to help identify qualified job candidates and then provide the skills training unique to that business or industry."

— Ann Butler,

Dean of Continuing Education

long-time director Candace Taylor and the appointment of LaVoice Faison-Stephens as the new director. Lavoice moves into the role with 10 years of instructional experience in Basic Skills and promises to bring energy, innovation and a passion for excellence to her role.

On an extremely sad note, in December we lost Academy of Continuing Excellence instructor Dale Johnson of the Roseboro Center due to unexpected death. Dale was an exceptional individual as well as a uniquely talented instructor

who created an exciting learning environment for his special needs students. Every effort is being made to secure an instructor for the Center who will follow in the high standards established during Dale's tenure.

During 2017, Continuing Education will undergo extensive training to enable on-line registration and payment to be introduced by the Fall Semester. Additionally, social media outreach will expand to more efficiently publicize program offerings on a timely, easily accessible manner.

Precision

From page 1

him back. Everything was split 50/50 and if there was ever an extra penny it went to Barrickman.

After five years, in 1985, Barrickman came to Tart and said he was ready to retire. He would consult every now and then, but he was out.

"We miss the old fella," said Sue of Barrickman, who passed away in the mid-1990s.

At Precision, there are now more than 30 employees who work to manufacture and prepare a variety of metal stampings for shipping to customers. The company offers a complete range of tool and die, metal stampings, CNC (computer numerical control) milling and wire EDM (electrical discharge machining) capabilities. The entire die building process is done in-house, starting at part development, if necessary, to tool completion and production parts.

"They send us a part print and we design a die to build that part, then stamp them out in mass production and ship them to them and they put them together," Tart explained.

Sue attended Sampson Community College, while Tart went to Fayetteville Technical Community College. Sue recalled going on a field trip to a tool and die department, and loving the process. Tart was the same way. Tart can make and fix anything, Sue said. She recalled one particular occasion when some of the crew

at Precision was attempting to fix something for 20 hours. Tart, who was out of town at the time, pinpointed the problem upon his return and had it repaired in five minutes.

Stamping capabilities range from 15 to 600 tons and expansions at Precision through the years have meant building around the massive machinery that makes that stamping possible. Customers include General Electric, Husqvarna and BSH Home Appliances Group to name a few.

"Our biggest customer is BSH dishwashers," Sue noted of the partnership that began back in 2000. "We do more for them than anybody else."

The first "big job" was a backpack for the government, in which they partnered with Brian Demay's father. The Lees made the metal frame, while Demay did the canvas part. A huge hundred-year-old company initially won the contract, but went out of business during a down economy. The Lees and their modest Precision stepped in. Maintaining that contract meant trips to New York to get parts anodized. One day, after a full workday at their respective jobs, Sue and Tart loaded their 2-year-old son Brandon into the car and they drove to New York.

"Whatever it took, we did it," said Sue.

After starting Precision on April Fool's Day 1980, Tart went full time into the business in July 1981. Sue left the hospital in February 1982.

"That was a fairly sure thing," Tart said of Hamilton Beach, addressing the prospect of leaving

an established job for something he started. "I was maybe not as doubtful as Sue was. It wasn't long before we were able to take money out of it."

"A year," finance officer Sue interjected. "He does nothing with the money. He has no earthly idea what his salary is."

Love for the job is what keeps Tart and Sue going — and it shows in the crew they have assembled and the work they do.

Last year, General Electric named Precision Tool & Stamping its Lighting Supplier of the Year. Supplying General Electric lighting since 2007, Precision provides brackets, electrical enclosures and other components for high bay lights, street lamps and stadium and parking fixture components.

Precision has worked with GE to transition their designs and manufacturing to accommodate the increasing demand for LED lighting as older lights are phased out. Precision has also been involved with General Electric Lighting's mission to return jobs from Asia to the United States by offering more competitive pricing and innovative design ideas.

Over the years, the company has manufactured cookie pans for Nestle, various parts for lawnmowers, dishwashers and copiers, as well as keys and other parts for Master Lock. There have been so many others parts big and small, many of which are displayed within the Precision plant. The plant keeps a low-profile, but the Lees would never consider being anywhere but in Sampson.

"I just love Clinton,"

said Sue. She and Tart are both Sampson natives, Tart attending Midway High, Sue going to Clinton High. The two met in Raleigh and were married at Plainview Church on U.S. 701. "We lived in Raleigh the first six months we were married and I cried every day."

The Lees' two sons Brandon and Justin returned home after graduating as mechanical engineers at N.C. State and are heavily involved in the truly family business, which goes beyond blood relatives. Everyone is family.

As Tart and Sue walk through the gargantuan warehouse that houses mechanical beasts that stamp out parts sent across the world, there is an employee or two working hard at every station. It is a mass production operation, an assembly line process, but the Lees know everyone and pleasantries are exchanged.

Sue said they aren't employees. That word isn't used. It is closer-knit than that. There is minimal turnover. There have been divorces, deaths in the family and a lot of times it is the Lees who are there to offer a shoulder or an ear. There is a devotion on Monday and Friday on company time, led by one of Precision's own, and the majority of the employees attend. There, prayers are offered.

"It's just a bonding time," Sue said. "They're not our employees. They are our equals. We don't say anyone works for us. We work together."

Reach Managing Editor Chris Berendt at 910-249-4616. Follow the paper on twitter @SampsonInc and like us on Facebook.



Sue Lee points out an old copier tray and backpack frame produced by Precision years ago. The backpack frame was one of the old



A bin full of keys and other parts for Master Lock, one of Precision's many customers.



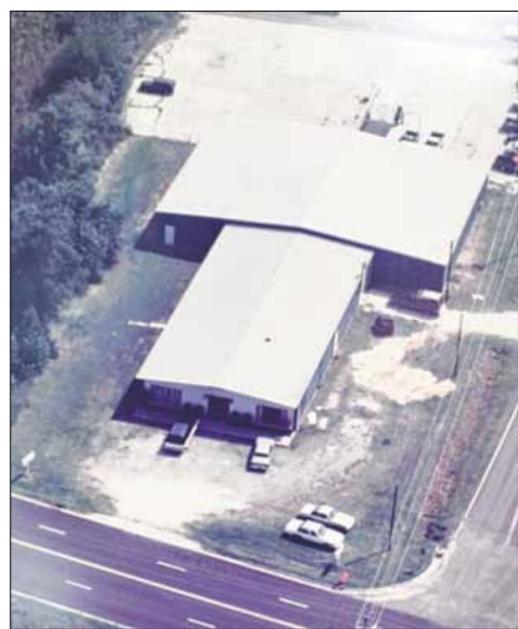
Parts produced at Precision are loaded straight into a box to be shipped. Gloves are used to prevent any fingerprints.



Various parts made by Precision over the years are on display at the warehouse.



Panels for Husqvarna await shipping following their manufacture.



Precision Tool & Stamping Inc.'s Warsaw Road location, where it moved to in 1988. (Courtesy photo)



Precision Tool upon its first expansion. It has expanded several times since moving to Warsaw Road nearly 30 years ago. (Courtesy photo)

Showing Care in Sampson County

By Pamela Gonzalez
U Care, Inc. Director

U Care, Inc. is a non-profit organization in Sampson County which provides assistance to domestic and sexual assault victims through their 24-hour emergency shelter, hotline, and crisis intervention services.



Gonzalez

U Care's 24-hour shelter is a vital part of this community and volunteers are a large part of their success. U Care welcomes volunteers to help at the office, shelter, and at either of their two Bee Hive Thrift Stores. The Bee Hive helps U Care by donating all of its proceeds to the shelter and provides clothing, supplies, and furniture for clients who are in need.

Last year, we served over 1,212 clients. Over 66 percent of the clients served came from rural Sampson County. Over 120 victims sought relief in our shelter bringing with them an average of at least two children. Over the past 21 years our services have been, and will continue to be provided free to everyone

regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, nationality, or education.

U Care's crisis line is operated through the use of onsite crisis workers 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. There is no answering service that pages our staff as someone is at the shelter at all times to provide safe shelter, crisis intervention or assistance for those who are seeking knowledge of our program, services we offer and what other resources may be available.

We work closely with all local agencies to provide a safe place for children and women to live while transitioning back in to the community. Resources we provide include but are not limited to assistance with safety planning, agency referrals, legal and victim's advocacy, as well as transitional resources. We provide emotional support for family and friends. The hotline also serves as a link to other agency services.

Basic needs met for clients in crisis may include shelter, clothing, food, toiletries. Shelter stay is up to 45 days but most transition within two weeks. Situations warranting extension of occupancy are allowed

at the discretion of the Executive Director. Shelter staff and advocates are tailored specific to the needs of the individual which also include case management, emotional support, individual counseling, support groups, children's groups, court and medical advocacy, and follow up services.

The objective of shelter services is to, assist victims in developing a individualized safety plan, provide an environment free from domestic violence, assist clients in gaining knowledge of domestic violence and its effects, assist clients in gaining knowledge about resources and how to obtain them, ensure that clients' safety needs are met by linking them with appropriate services, and facilitate provisions for expanded services such as job counseling, job training, placement, financial services, health education and educational services.

U Care and SCSART (Sampson County Sexual Assault Response Team) work together to provide training on domestic violence and sexual assault throughout the county. The Community Educator and Outreach Advocate coordinates training opportunities and pairs up the

appropriate Advocate trained in the groups interest. Particular focus is placed on the diversity of the group, location and gender specific needs. The primary focus of these educational events is to decrease isolation of victims, educate participants on the dynamics of domestic violence and give them ideas and ways that they may help in their community. These trained, knowledgeable staff and volunteers are prepared to not only educate and advocate on behalf of victims but can also provide crisis intervention if needed. U Care also provides training opportunities for professionals such as law enforcement, educators, human services, businesses, medical personnel, mental health, schools and religious practitioners. Community Education services are provided throughout the Sampson County service area free of charge.

We are the only state approved domestic violence and sexual assault agency available to assist victims in Sampson County that is supported by onsite staff 24/7, including holidays.

The 24-hour hotline is 910-596-0931.

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25th Anniversary



SRMC's Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center staff along with patient Daniel Holland. Pictured from left are: Crystal Tew, RN, Jennie Lanier, front office, Daniel Holland, Wound Care Center patient, Dr. John McPhail, Brad Sullivan, HBO Tech, and Stacey Feedback, RN. Not pictured is Temple Byrd, NP-C. Courtesy photos

SRMC offering state-of-the-art healing

By Kristy Bland
SRMC Marketing

Sampson Regional Medical Center's Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center brings state-of-the-art healing closer to home for many residents of Sampson County and surrounding areas. Opening its doors just over three years ago, the Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center has treated many local patients suffering from chronic wounds or wounds that fail to heal on their own.

The Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center, in partnership with Healogics, Inc., has healed more than 715 wounds of varying diagnoses, including venous, pressure, diabetic, and trauma wounds since opening in November 2013. "Many residents have visited the center and have experienced great success with their wound healing," stated Susan McUmbler, Program Director for the Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center.

Daniel Holland, a local to Clinton, recently completed his treatments at the Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center and was very pleased with his results. He was the recipient of both wound care and hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapies to heal his chronic ulcer. HBO is a process by which a patient enters a chamber filled with 100 percent pure oxygen at a pressure twice that of normal atmospheric pressure. Just as our bodies need oxygen to function, wounds require oxygen to heal. Oxygen, when released under elevated pressure, increases the body's oxygenation 10 to 25 times its normal levels, therefore speeding up the healing process.

Holland was not familiar with HBO therapy prior to visiting the center but was grateful that his surgeon referred him for follow-up for his wound care. "HBO became a daily routine," said Holland. Seeing the progress in his wound healing each week motivated him to continue with his treatments. He would highly recommend seeking this treatment to anyone suffering from a wound that will not heal. "If you want it

"Opening its doors just over three years ago, the Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center has treated many local patients suffering from chronic wounds or wounds that fail to heal on their own."

— Kristy Bland,
SRMC Marketing

to heal, adhere to staff recommendations," explained Holland. He felt very comfortable with the staff and their guidance throughout the process. "The staff are all wonderful people."

The Center works with primary care physicians as an extension of their office to help heal patients with complicated wounds. Chronic wounds affect approximately 6.7 million people in the United States, and these wounds cost more than \$50 billion annually. Without proper wound care, individuals can experience infection, amputation, or require other more invasive treatments.

Proper wound care techniques are imperative to successful healing. Debridement, offloading, negative pressure wound therapy and Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBO) are a few of the leading edge treatments offered locally at Sampson Regional's Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center.

You don't have to let a wound slow you down. If you are experiencing a wound that has not progressed in four weeks, seek the help of SampsonRMC's Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center to get you back to the active life you deserve.

Your physician may refer you to the Wound Center or you may call to schedule your own appointment if you have an open wound that will not heal. Contact SampsonRMC's Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center at 910-590-8710 for more information.

Sampson Regional Medical Center is a member of the Healogics, Inc. network, the nation's largest provider of advanced wound care services with a network of nearly 800 Wound Care Centers nation-wide, to locally provide premier wound care. Healogics is headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla.



Dr. John McPhail checks Daniel Holland's ears prior to receiving Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.



The Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center is led under the medical direction of Dr. John McPhail, along with Temple Byrd, NP-C.

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United Way continues to invest in community

By Nancy Carr
United Way Director

Who We Are

United Way of Sampson County (UWSC) is a non-profit organization that partners with local agencies and programs to improve the quality of life for residents living in our community. The organization raises funds and invests in community programs that provide a measurable, positive impact. When businesses and individuals give to United Way of Sampson County they can be confident that their donation stays here to directly help friends and neighbors in need. As a result of the generous donations given over the years, UWSC has directly invested approximately \$3 million dollars in Sampson County.

UWSC is governed by a board of local volunteers consisting of civic leaders and community advocates. The 2017 Board of Directors include: President Shawn Purvis, Vice President Dr. Stuart Blount, Treasurer Dempsey Craig, Secretary Janet Sargent, Past President Sherrill Allen, Janna Bass, Sarah Bradshaw, Kenny Cabral, Patty Cherry, Enrique Coello, Catherine Ezzell, Jerry Heinzman, Gary Mac Herring, Summer Lanier, Sherry Matthews, Dottie McCullen and Susan Warren. UWSC's low overhead makes it one of the most efficient charitable organizations not only in our county, but across the nation.

Our 2016 partner agencies included: Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness Program



Sampson County's United Way is celebrating 25 years.

which provides mammograms for underinsured at-risk women; Boy Scouts of America Tuscarora Council Champion Program which focuses on children with special needs and a Cub Scout Outreach Program; Clinton Area Foundation for Education educational enrichment grants; Girl Scouts North Carolina Coastal Pines local outreach program; Sampson County Child Advocacy Center which assists victims of child sexual and physical abuse; Sampson County 4H Youth Development Program; Sampson County Fireman's

Association Fire Safety Education Program; Sampson County Friends of Education educational enrichment grants; Sampson County Special Olympics, Enlighten the World Ministries Community Assistance Program; and the Department of Aging Wheelchair Ramp Program. The 2017 partner agencies will be announced in late February.

Every year UWSC conducts a fall campaign and encourages individuals and businesses to invest in our community by giving to UWSC. We thank everyone for their support in reach-

ing 100% of our \$175,000 goal this year. The board serves as a steward of these funds by carefully reviewing each agency that applies for funding. Agencies must comply with our rigorous audit policies and other guidelines to ensure all donations are used wisely and judiciously.

Results That Matter- 2016

- Sponsored the Special Olympics Spring Games allowing more than 200 athletes to participate
- Funded forensic interviews and medical exams for 135 chil-

See UNITED | 15

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Our Vision

We will further transform Smithfield Foods into a world-class consumer packaged goods and protein company—one that consumers feel good about buying from—and a partner of choice for our customers.

Our Social Purpose

Smithfield Foods is committed to improving food security and ending hunger by donating high-quality, nutritious food. We created our Helping Hungry Homes initiative to alleviate hunger across the country.

Guiding Principles That Inform All We Do

Guided by principles of responsibility, operational excellence, and innovation, Smithfield Foods will become the best consumer packaged goods and protein company in the world.

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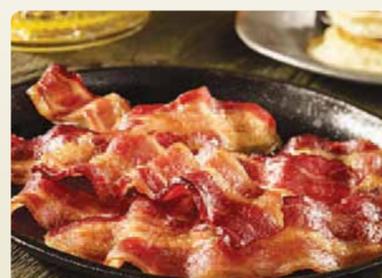
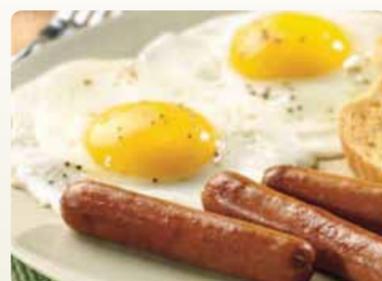
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 - »» Treating animals with respect.
 - »» Being leaders in sustainability.
- We will have an awesome responsibility for food safety.
- Together, we will deliver on the promise of *Good food. Responsibly.®*

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Our pursuit of operational excellence will be unrelenting.
- We will tirelessly seek out opportunities to improve the way we do business in such areas as customer service, on-time delivery, product quality, and product consistency.

INNOVATION

- Innovation will be part of our DNA.
- We will seek fresh ideas in all aspects of business, including ways to work smarter, serve customers better, and make Smithfield a better company.



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Celebrating 50 years of serving Sampson

By Dr. Paul Hutchins
Sampson Community College

Sampson Community College, one of the 58 institutions in the North Carolina Community College System, began as a unit of the Goldsboro Industrial Education Center (now Wayne Community College) back in 1965. The first location where classes were taught was the Sampson County Board of Education Building on Rowan Road. The institution moved from there in 1966 to an old elementary school located on Highway 421, six miles north of Clinton, and began the first curriculum programs in September of that same year. By an act of the 1967 North Carolina General Assembly, the College became an independent unit and was first called Sampson Technical Institute. The first Board of Trustees was appointed in February 1968. As the institution grew, the need for a new campus with modern facilities was realized. In April of 1972, a \$500,000 bond issue was approved by Sampson County voters. The first building on the Highway 24 West site of Clinton was occupied in July 1974. In January of 1976, the first main building of the campus, the North Building, was occupied. A year later, a new vocational shop building, the East Building, was occupied. In 1979, through enabling legislation in the General Assembly, the Board of Trustees approved the school's name change to Sampson Technical College. In 1982, the College added additional facilities with the con-



Hutchins

struction of a 6,000 sq. ft. vocational shop building on the main campus. In August 1987, construction of the West Building was completed which was followed in 1988 with the completion of a new Student Center/Adult Education Building, at that time called the South Building. In 1987, the College changed its name to Sampson Community College. In 1989, the Board of Trustees changed the name of the West Building to the W.W. Kitchin Hall and in 1997 renamed the South Building to the Robert D. Warren Student Center. In the fall of 1998, two new buildings, the Technology Center and the Activities Center, were occupied. The Occupational Building, along with renovations to the East Building, was completed in the fall of 2005 adding an additional 36,031 sq. ft. to the campus. In the fall of 2008, the Board of Trustees named the Occupational Building in honor of former president, Dr. William C. Aiken. In the summer of 2010, the College enrolled its first students in the Ammonia Refrigeration Training Center. This shop/classroom building added an additional 5,000 sq. ft. of instructional space for the campus. Five presidents have led the College; Dr. James E. Vann, 1967 – 1975; Dr. Bruce I. Powell, 1976 – 1980; Clifton W. Paderick, 1980 – 2000; Dr. William C. Aiken, 2000 – 2012; and I have been honored to serve since 2012. About a year ago, Dr. Mac Herring sent me correspondence that contained the recollec-

tions of the beginning of Sampson Community College by former Superintendent of Sampson County Schools, Mr. J. T. Denning, that were compiled by former SCC Development Officer, Ms. Ann Glover, in the late 1990's. Mr. Denning talked of the years of hard work and planning that were involved to make Sampson Community College happen. Mr. Denning stated that "one of the major catalysts for the beginning of the College was actually the G. I. Bill of Rights". One of the major rights granted in the Serviceman's Readjustment Act established in 1944 was up to four years of education and vocational training for veterans. More than 2.5 million veterans and their families benefited from the G.I. Bill following World War II. Those benefits were extended to Korean War veterans and in 1966 during the Vietnam War, the Act was permanently amended to provide educational benefits to all returning veterans who served in peace or war. Mr. Denning noted that in 1963 Sampson County did not have the means or facilities to meet this growing educational need. In 1965, through a partnership with Dr. H. B. Monroe, President of the Goldsboro Industrial Education Center, it was possible for Sampson County to operate an extension program supervised by the Sampson County Board of Education and its Superintendent. According to Mr. Denning, the County provided vocational G. I. programs and issued High School Equivalency Certificates so students could go on to college or get jobs that required a high school diploma.

The program grew so big that a full-time director was needed. Dr. Monroe asked Mr. Denning for a recommendation of a person to fill this position. According to Mr. Denning, he called Dr. James Earl Vann who was teaching English at the time at Midway High School and asked if he would be interested. Dr. Vann met with Dr. Monroe and accepted the job. Mr. Denning played a key role working with Dr. Vann to develop an application to create Sampson County Technical Institute which was approved in 1967. According to Mr. Denning "It was logical for the Trustees to ask Dr. Vann to be the first President". Dr. Vann accepted the position and served until 1975 when he resigned. Mr. Denning shared "I am very proud to be referred to as the Father of Sampson Community College". As this summary of the history of SCC indicates during the last 50 years, Sampson Community College has gone through name changes, location changes and has experienced growth and expansion of the services provided to the community. The one constant that has remained during the past 50 years is the mission of Sampson Community College to serve the citizens of Sampson County. Our current Mission Statement, which was adopted by our Board of Trustees in 2012, states that the mission of Sampson Community College is to provide accessible and affordable education, workforce training and lifelong enrichment. This mission is accomplished through effective teaching, student support, public outreach and partnering with others to

improve the quality of life for the people of Sampson County. Throughout 2017, the College will celebrate its 50th anniversary in different ways with a focus on the people and events that helped to build and develop the College and the student-centered culture that exists today. I am delighted to report to our community that with the Spring 2017 semester, which began on January 9th, the College experienced the third semester in a row with enrollment growth. Our outstanding Student Services Division, along with our faculty and faculty advisors, have worked extremely hard to recruit, support and retain students in our various programs across the College. As a College community, we are excited that planning is underway for the construction of a new Welding facility and an addition to our Activities Center that will provide a multi-purpose building for the College using Connect-NC Bond funds. We are also moving forward with plans to complete needed ADA renovations to several buildings, including adding an elevator to the Kitchin Building. The College has also begun discussions about developing our East Campus area with a walking trail and multi-purpose athletic field. The field would be used by the College for intramural sports, physical education classes and other student activities. Other entities could schedule games on the field when not in use by the College. The College's updated Master Plan also includes updating our science laboratories in the Kitchin Building and renovating

the College's courtyard. It is an honor and privilege to lead this wonderful institution. I extend my gratitude to our Board of Trustees for their commitment and devotion to the College. I also want to acknowledge the work and support of the College's Foundation Board of Directors and their efforts to raise funds for scholarships and program support. Finally, I wish to thank our many friends and partners for your continued support and for making the important work of this College possible.

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Clinton PD: Policing in the 21st Century

By Jay Tilley
Clinton Police Chief

Policing in the 21st century has many challenges and if you follow current events, it may even seem impossible. Maintaining national accreditation and adhering to best law enforcement practices has helped the Clinton Police Department effectively deal with many problems that our city has faced. In 2015, a task force on 21st century policing released a report providing guidance on ways to serve an ever-changing diverse community. By using these tools to craft police services, the Clinton Police Department has and will live up to its promise of providing a safe and secure community and enhancing the quality of life of its citizens.

A Police Department must build trust with the citizens it serves and that is the reason the CPD embraces a guardian role in protecting the city. We recognize the history of injustices that police have played a role in which has caused mistrust. That is why the CPD is committed to partnerships with citizens and organizations to deal with problems. The many community meetings that the CPD attends have been a great tool to understanding issues. During the Latino



Tilley

Community meetings, we learned of resentment with traffic enforcement. This open dialogue led to changes in enforcement policies and a better understanding by both groups on the importance of traffic safety.

Trust is also built through transparency of how the CPD conducts business. The Department publishes information on crime statistics, use of force incidents, race and gender information on traffic stops, and citizen complaint data. Citizens are notified when the CPD receives their complaint and when it is completed. All citizen complaints are taken even if they come from anonymous sources. Making this information public, giving notifications, and investigating complaints will instill citizen's faith in the work we do.

Clinton Police has created opportunities in schools and communities for positive nonenforcement contact with police. The school resource officers at Clinton High School and Sampson Middle School have a long history of counseling and mentoring children. CPD officers have participated in numerous after school programs, youth sport coaching, and programs for disadvantaged citizens. Despite negative encounters with the police, acts of decency and kindness

overcome that and allow police to still have a positive impact on a person.

Policy and oversight are key components to a healthy law enforcement agency. Policy has to be clear and concise and police practices open to outside inspection. This department had the first officer involved shooting in almost 50 years. The investigation was conducted by an outside law enforcement agency and reviewed by the district attorney. Our policies, practices and past actions were all made available to these agencies. At the conclusion of the investigation, a detailed account of the facts that led to the decision was released to the public. The department made available to the news media and the general public in-car camera and body camera videos of the event.

Oversight from within is very important and does not always begin when a critical incident happens. CPD conducts yearly analysis of key events such as use of force, bias base traffic stops, and vehicle pursuits. These type reviews determine changes in policy and training to ensure citizen and officer safety. Our partnership with Eastpointe to train officers in de-escalation techniques came from such a review. This training has helped reduce the number of use of force incidents and officer/

citizen injuries.

Technology and social media has given the Clinton Police Department opportunities to educate the community and demonstrate transparency and accountability. The biggest jump for the department has been the use of cameras. Body cameras, in-car cameras, and cameras on the taser have made individual officers more accountable for their actions.

The department has invested in technology to enhance police services. Anonymous text messaging to report crimes, alert system, evidence barcoding, field fingerprint identification scanner, in-car computers, and multiple databases used in crime analysis are a number of systems used by the officers. Police officers can do reports, identify people by fingerprints, and access information from law enforcements agencies around the nation without ever leaving their vehicle. Police patrols no longer have to be random ride byes. Crime analysis of police reports show officers when and where crimes are frequently happening and giving them the best chance to arrest criminals.

Facebook and Twitter are important tools for the CPD. These social media websites allow the officers to educate and inform a great deal of our community about a wide range of issues. Recently an

Opioid abuse educational series posted on the CPD Facebook reached more citizens in one week than what officers giving lectures could do in a year. During Hurricane Mathew, over 50,000 people viewed the CPD Facebook posts about storm conditions and road closures.

All citizens are encouraged to view the Department's Facebook and Twitter pages to see posts on education series, news about the city, police community service, crime patterns, and traffic safety.

The 21st Century Policing Task Force reported that hiring officers who reflect the community they serve is important not only to external relations but also to increasing understanding within the agency. This may be the biggest challenge facing the CPD. Local pools of police applicants are shrinking forcing this department to look regionally for police officers. Innovative recruitment is needed to find applicants that reflect our community's culture. This year the department released a recruitment video in an effort to bring highly qualified officers that will embrace our small town culture. The video which will be posted on the city's website demonstrates the pride the CPD has for its community.

The Clinton Police Department recognizes that to be effective

in an ever-changing community, innovative training must be conducted by the department though out each officer's entire career. Initial basic law enforcement and state mandated in-service is not sufficient to serve a 21st Century community. The CPD has always taken full advantage of having the North Carolina Justice Academy in neighboring Salem. The department has expanded out in using mental health professionals to teach de-escalation and counseling techniques, providing computer generated simulations for "shoot/don't shoot" training, and requiring supervisory staff to attend college credited management schools.

The Clinton Police Department is very proud of the progress it has made and its accomplishments in serving Clinton and its citizens. In looking at the 21st Century Task Force report, there is more work and changes needed to deal with all the quality of life issues this city will face and it cannot be done by law enforcement alone. The Department's success depends on a cooperative effort with individual citizens, businesses, churches, and community groups. Teamwork will unite police and the community, sharing talents and expertise to truly make Clinton, a perfect place to call home.

United

From page 11

dren who were victims of sexual or severe physical abuse to assist in the arrest and prosecution of perpetrators

- Provided fire safety coloring books and other material to 6,000 elementary students who learned the lifesaving technique of "stop, drop, and roll."
- Invested over \$44,000 for teacher mini grants enriching student learning
- Invested \$52,500 for youth development and outreach programs focused on character development, self-esteem, anti-bullying, leadership, and life skills
- Provided utility and rent assistance to 50 families in our community who were in crisis situations
- Funded 13 wheelchair ramps for adults under age 60 and children with disabilities who otherwise would fall through the cracks
- Enabled uninsured/under-insured women to receive life-saving mammograms who otherwise would fall through the cracks
- Provided more than \$10,000 for Hurricane Matthew disaster relief efforts to assist flood victims in our county
- Distributed bed linens, kitchen and bath supplies to more than 20 families who were flood victims of Hurricane Matthew
- Positioned United Way to be active in future disasters through our "Community Assistance" mobile unit
- Leading a collaborative effort to form IMPACT Sampson - our county's first long term disaster recovery group consisting of volunteer, faith-based, and government organizations

Where to Go for Help

Please contact our office at 592-4263 or email us at uwaysampsonco@embarqmail.com.

Also, you may visit our website at www.unitedwaysampson.org.

In addition, the 2-1-1 Call Center for Sampson County provides all residents a tool to find human service programs and agencies available in our area. This service is free and operates 24 hours a day, every day. Calls are answered by experienced referral specialists who speak all languages. Simply dial 2-1-1 from any cell phone or landline, or access the information via our website www.sampsonunited-way.org or www.nc211.org.

How to Become a Partner Agency

In general, any county human service program or agency that is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization is eligible to apply for funding. Our funding cycle occurs once a year. Every October, the application is available on our website www.unitedwaysampson.org under "Agency Resources" for the following year's funding cycle. We host an annual Application Workshop as well to assist agencies in the application process. Typically applications are due the first week in January and then qualified agencies are invited to present at the board allocation meetings later that month. Final decisions regarding allocations for that year's funding cycle are made in late February.

Live United for a Better Tomorrow

We hope that the residents of Sampson County share our vision and will continue to be part of improving the quality of life in our community. Please remember to "Give Where You Live" and invest in Sampson County. Our motto is LIVE UNITED. If you would like to get involved or receive more information about United Way of Sampson County, please contact us by phone at 910-592-4263 or via email at uwaysampsonco@embarqmail.com. Together, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow. LiveUnited.



The goal for the 2016 campaign was \$175,000, which the organization met.

Is It Time to Expand Specialty School Options in Sampson County?

By Dr. Eric Bracy
Superintendent of Sampson County Schools



Bracy

We all make choices throughout our lives. A career, where we live, what we eat, and choose to do each day are among the decisions that we face. For most of us, the options for which school we attended was limited. In my hometown, where we lived determined the elementary school we attended. Fortunately, that school had caring teachers who knew their students and

lived in the community. In Sampson County Schools, we have wonderful teachers in schools that are focused on great instruction and providing robust extra-curricular activities for students. We also are fortunate to have the Sampson Early College High School as an option for students who wish to obtain an associate degree and/or two years of transferable college credit. The school requires an application for admission and is always one of our highest performing schools. Envision our community with more

"I would like to see Sampson County Schools offer more specialty school options for students and parents."
— Dr. Eric Bracy, Superintendent of Sampson County Schools

choices like the early college program. When I was a principal and a district administrator in Durham, that community supported many magnet elementary and middle schools and a number of specialty high schools. Wake County, Guilford, and other districts have had much success

with specialty schools that have a particular focus. Magnet or specialty schools tend to attract a wide range of students and have fewer discipline problems, greater parent and teacher satisfaction, and increased attendance by students. The schools teach the state curriculum but are able to make learning more hands-on within the theme of the school. I would like to see Sampson County Schools offer more specialty school options for students and parents. A Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics (STEM) school could prepare our students for careers of the future. In dual language immersion schools, students achieve proficiency in a second language while developing an appreciation for another culture. International baccalaureate schools are considered among the most rigorous academic courses of study and ensure that students are prepared for college. These and many others, including fine and performing arts, are among the options that are working in other districts and could be very effective in Sampson County.

I believe our students should have the same opportunities to attend innovative schools as those in other districts. I also believe our community is ready to embark on a study of specialty schools/programs that would be most effective for our students. I welcome your thoughts on these options and look forward to a community dialogue about expanding specialty schools while ensuring that all our schools are achieving at high levels. Thank you for your support of our schools and our wonderful, talented students.

Sheriff's Office: Using technology to expedite case investigations

By Jimmy Thornton
Sampson County Sheriff



Thornton

In 2016, the Sheriff's Office received a state-of-the-art latent print scan machine, which allows investigators to search the state and federal fingerprint database. The procurement of this machine has allowed investigators to process more latent comparisons than we've been able to in the past due to backlogs at the Crime Lab and limitations on submissions. The new system allows latent prints collected at crime scenes to be searched against the NC latent print database known as SAFIS (Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification Service) and the federal latent print database IAFIS

"The procurement of this machine has allowed investigators to process more latent comparisons than we've been able to in the past due to backlogs at the Crime Lab and limitations on submissions."

— Jimmy Thornton, Sampson County Sheriff

"The new system allows latent evidence to be completely processed in the shortest time possible."

— Jimmy Thornton, Sampson County Sheriff

(Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System). The system allows investigators the greatest probability of matching latent prints collected at crime scenes to an offender. Unidentified latent prints from crime scenes are automatically reversed searched against people that are arrested each day. The new system allows latent evidence to be completely processed in the shortest time possible.

The complete system was purchased through a combination of grant funding from the NC Governor's Crime Commission and Seized Drug Asset Forfeiture Funds, therefore no local tax dollars were used.

I'm happy that we have been able to enhance crime scene investigations with advanced technology. We will continue to identify new ways to constantly improve our services, while being thrifty. After all, the taxpayers deserve more bang for their buck.

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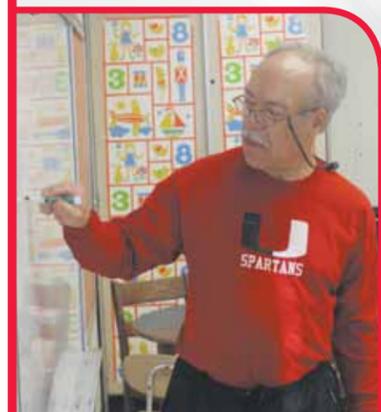
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SC2C-Spartan Commitment to Community is an after-school program offered at Union Intermediate School that provides tutoring, athletics, and motivational activities led by high school juniors and seniors to 4th through 6th graders in Union School district. Our primary goal is to give students something productive to do after school in a positive setting where relationships can be built and accountability established. Tutoring and increasing math and reading achievement is the focus, but students will be developed physically through athletics, and motivationally, emotionally, and relationally through various resources. Always in the forefront is the support and encouragement fostered through small group interaction, the key to unlocking many of today's doors for many youth. We believe these activities and relationships will promote individual accountability and create a next generation of Spartans who are inspired to set goals, and to dream. Additionally, these students will be better equipped to meet future challenges and make those goals and dreams a reality.



Program Goals – C 2 C desires to...

- Increase student motivation, self-esteem, achievement, and interpersonal relationships through the use of high school tutors.
- Provide tutoring in math and reading.
- Build relationships using academics and athletics to promote team building and work ethic skills.
- Promote a commitment to self and community.
- Engage in a collaborative effort 4th-6th grade students, high school juniors and seniors, school administration, staff, and parents in building productive efforts for broad student improvement.

Sc2c is a non-profit ministry of Ingold Baptist Church. Mentors are paid through donations. We need your assistance to keep this dream alive. Make your donation to SC2C c/o Ingold Baptist Church, PO Box 122 Garland, NC 28441.



Foundation continues to support college

By Lisa Turlington
SCC Foundation

The Sampson Community College (SCC) Foundation, established in 1986, has a proud history of supporting the mission of the College: to provide accessible and affordable education, workforce training, and lifelong enrichment. The first President of the Foundation, Dr. Walt Kitchin, for whom Kitchin Building is named, noted that he had a "road to Damascus" moment when he realized all the opportunities available at what was then called, Sampson Technical College. Our students often experience a similar conversion of thinking as well when they see how education and training can truly be a turning point in life. While community college is a bargain compared to other higher education options, cost can still be an obstacle for many students. The Foundation provides student scholarships, program support and campus improvements, all of which enhance the learning experience.

For 30 years, gifts to the Foundation have helped students obtain the skills needed to better their lives. The cornerstone of the Foundation was built by the SCC faculty and staff who recognize the importance of providing scholarships and program support through the annual Campus Drive. SCC is the only institution in the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) with a 30-year track record of giving at one hundred percent by all employees. What is more impressive is that nine of the people who initially supported the first Campus Drive campaign in 1986 have now given consistently for three decades: Dr. Bill Starling, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Administration; Ms. Virginia Lucas, Vice President of Finance and Auxiliary Services; Ms. Edith Rogers, Division Secretary for Business Programs; Mr. Paul Wolf, Psychology Instructor; Ms. Candy Taylor, retired Director of

Basic Skills; Ms. Mary Brown, retired Director of Nursing; Ms. Shelby Kidd, retired Printing Coordinator; Ms. Sue Miller, retired Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Dr. Janice Thompson, retired English Instructor. These current and former employees are genuine stalwarts of the College through their charitable gifts as well as their volunteer service.

Modeling the example of the generous faculty and staff, the following Sampson County businesses have also supported the Foundation for 30 consecutive years: Dubose Strapping, First Citizens Bank, Prestage Farms, Sampson-Bladen Oil Company and Star Communications. Additionally, there are families and individuals who have been donors since the beginning of the Foundation: Mr. and Mrs. Rod Green, Dr. and Mrs. Henry J. Carr, Dr. and Mrs. John Surratt, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Horne, Mr. and Mrs. Buck Taylor, the Mossette Butler Family, the Bill and Ida Johnson Family, the Albert and Ann Thornton Family, and the Gurley Family. The Lundy-Fetterman Family Foundation has the distinction of being the top donor over the history of the Foundation. These charitable benefactors have been joined by many others to allow the Foundation to assist students in the pursuit of a better life by giving over five million dollars since 1986.

The growth of the Foundation can be tracked through the scholarship awards that totaled \$4,200 in 1987; over \$100,000 have been awarded annually in recent years. Families and friends of the College have established 44 endowed scholarship funds, and local businesses and foundations support over 50 annual awards. Besides student scholarships, the Foundation supports staff development, campus improvements and academic programs. While \$2,700 was awarded for grants in 1987, almost \$18,000 funded these projects last year. The steadfast commitment of the supporters



"For 30 years, gifts to the Foundation have helped students obtain the skills needed to better their lives."

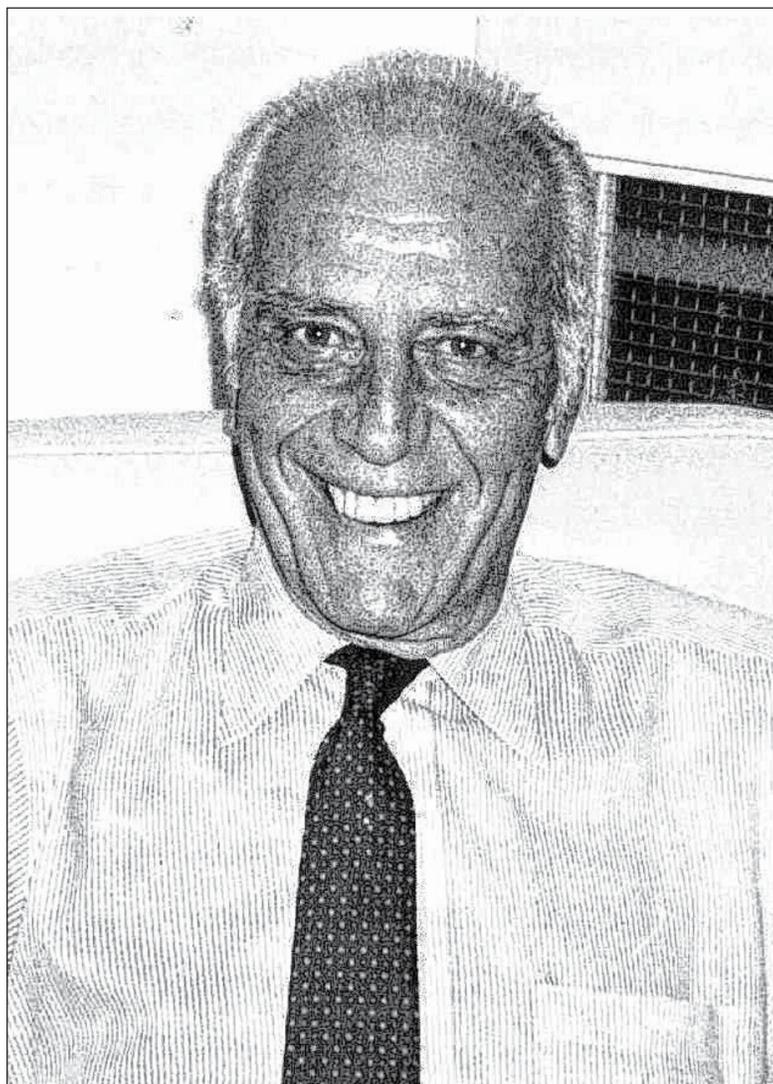
— Lisa Turlington
SCC Foundation

of the Foundation has impacted the lives of many students and staff over the past 30 years. As the College celebrates its 50th Anniversary, the Foundation will continue to support efforts to educate and train people in Sampson County.

While Dr. Kitchin had that moment of epiphany when he realized the broad scope of SCC, the current Foundation President, Dr. Paul Viser, has known for years the impact of the College in Sampson County. He reflects, "When my family moved here 26 years ago, I found out quickly that SCC was important to the quality of life in Sampson County. The large centrally-located campus and the steady buzz of people in and out served as a daily reminder of the College's key role. Even more so in recent years, though, my appreciation has become deep and personal. Knowing many of the hard-working students and dedicated faculty one-on-one, I am now absolutely convinced that SCC is a critical institution that we depend upon. It makes our home a place that still draws in young families from elsewhere. All of us — students, citizens, and volunteers like me — have an interest in nourishing this evolving resource into an ever-stronger dynamo for our region." Viser joins a long list of dedicated community leaders who have promoted the College while serving at the helm of the Foundation. As an advocate of the College, he implores all to, "Please join us as we pool our energies and make plans for the years ahead."

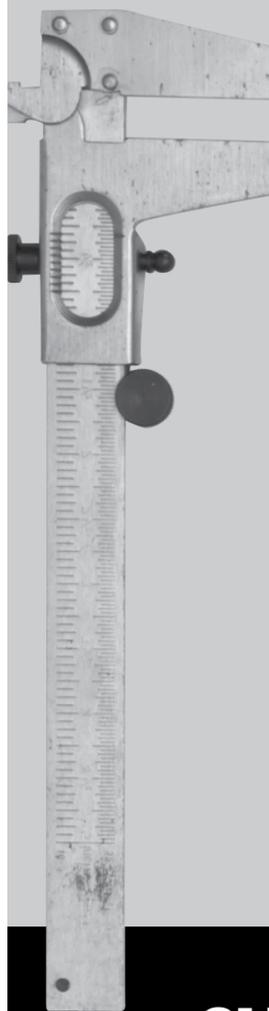


The first recipients of Foundation faculty grants.



Dr. Walton Kitchin, first President of the Sampson Community College Foundation.

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Business profile: Southeastern Outdoor Products

Southeastern Outdoor Products is honored to serve the Sampson County community's need for roofing, home improvement, metal buildings/storage and animal containment. We have grown a lot since opening in 1997 and now offer a variety of new products and services as well as installation in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina.

If you need a new roof, looking for a garage, shelter for your RV, a place to store your livestock or a fence to contain your dogs/keep out unwanted critters, or you are a contractor who needs roofing supplies come by and check out our inside and outside showrooms. We are your one-stop source for all of the above and more!

Roofing, whether it be for your home or business, is an important part of protecting any building investment and structure. The two most popular roofing types are metal roofing and shingles. Metal roofs have long durability and longevity with painted metal roofing having 20 year to 40 year warranties. They also are better on the environment, allow your home or business to be more energy efficient and are maintenance free compared to a shingled roof where you might have to replace singles after a storm. If you have a shingled roof now and want to switch to a metal roof you do not even have to remove your shingles! Just apply underlayment on to of the shingles and before the metal is installed and you are good to go.

We carry 21 plus colors of metal roofing in 20 year and 40 year warranties. If you walk into our indoor showroom here in Clinton you will see all examples of colors of metal roofing hanging on our wall to better see how it will look. Check our website at www.seop-usa.com for our latest metal roofing sales as we always have different colors on sale depending on the month!

If you are not ready for a metal roof just yet, that is not a problem! We carry three different levels of shingles in a variety of colors. Want a more classic shingled look? We have Onyx Black colored shingles. Looking for something differ-

ent than the norm, we also carry Desert Tan Shingles and various shades of brown and other colors! Come by and check out our in-store samples for a hands on look.

Carports, Garages, Shelters, Barns and lean-tos are also our specialty. No matter what vision you have for your metal building, Southeastern has you covered. We fabricate and install custom metal buildings in a variety of shapes, sizes and types. All of our metal buildings and structures have lots of different add-ons that you can choose from such as walk-in doors, canister garage doors, panel garage doors, vents, windows, shutters, insulation and more! You also can choose different colors for your trim, roof and sides/ends. To preview different color combinations on some of our building types, download our Android App "Southeastern Metal Visualizer" from the Google Play App Store or visit our website on your laptop or computer.

We offer three types of metal building series: Signature (Agriculture/Non-Certified, good), Premier (Certified, better) and Titan (Certified, best). The two certified series are built to city and county codes, require that you get a permit and come with engineer drawings.

Are you skilled with construction knowledge and have access to the right tools? Our buildings also are sold as kits where you get all of the parts to build the metal building yourself. If you are not wanting to install yourself we do offer installation on-site at your property. We have a general contractor on-site that oversees the various construction projects.

If you are looking to contain dogs or other animals we carry a variety of dog kennel kits as well as fabricate custom dog kennels. All of our fabrication is done on-site here in Clinton where we string the chain link wire, weld the tubing and build the panels and gates. Our kennels and fencing are built to be strong and our welded at every joint. We carry 9 gauge (for big aggressive dogs) and 12.5 gauge (for smaller dogs).

We also understand that con-

tractors need quality material and the right tools to complete their jobs which is why Southeastern fabricates our own metal roofing to insure the best quality.

Southeastern offers a 10 percent discount on non-sales items to contractors who present their contractor business card for us to keep on file. Since we fabricate our metal roofing here in Clinton by roll forming it from big metal coils, we can make custom length metal roofing. We also offer 40 plus options for trim and custom lengths.

Need Hawaiian Blue screws to go with your Hawaiian Blue metal roofing? What about a chimney boot or sealant? We carry all of the components that you need to get your job done right such as: screws, pipe boots, sealant, nails, shingle shovels, tape measures, insulation, tubing, windows, garage doors, underlayment, rebar, anchor bolts, augers and more!

Placing your order is easy! You can order over the phone at 910-590-3513, in-store or online at our new website www.seop-usa.com. We are honored to be a part of this Sampson County community for the past 20 years and look forward to the next 20 years. Our store loves being a part of the community. We are a part of 14 different Chamber of Commerces and are involved in a lot of local events such as Alive After Five, 4-H, Cycle NC and more.

Come by and visit us at 714 Warsaw Road in Clinton. We have two showrooms: an outdoor showroom with 24 different metal building demos to walk through and look at as well as an indoor showroom with examples of our trim, metal roofing as well as tools and parts. Be our facebook friend and follow us at: www.facebook.com/SoutheasternOutdoorProducts/ for the latest sales and news.

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff can answer any questions you might have. We look forward to continuing to provide excellent customer service and quality product for the next 20 years and beyond! Let us help you visualize your dreams!

CCS continues preparing students for future

By **Stuart Blount**
Clinton City Schools



Blount

We are thrilled to have this opportunity to accentuate the accomplishments of our students, staff, and school district. This school year we chose "Preparing the Future, Together!" to become our year's theme or mantra, but it has proven to be much more than just a mantra for Clinton City Schools. Every day there are examples of how our employees and community are working together to improve student learning.

The beginning of Clinton City Schools mission is, "to educate all students to their highest level of academic performance", through various methods such as: Google Classrooms, Flipped Classrooms, DAILY 3 and 5, and Instructional Teams we strive to provide our students with the latest instructional resources. Through Google Classrooms teachers virtually assign tasks, resources and discussions and students are able to get real-time feedback through the Google app. Through Flipped Classrooms, lessons are recorded, our students watch the lessons as homework and when they come to class the next day they are contributing to rich conversations about the content. DAILY 5 for English Language Arts allows students to work in learning centers to

gain practice on various skills that are differentiated to the student's need. DAILY 3 for Math gives students a chance to work with manipulatives through mathematical concepts.

Recent Accomplishments:

- Clinton High School - Advanced Placement District Honor Roll
- Community Eligibility Program - All students receive a free breakfast and lunch each day
- Digital Devices - Student to Device Ratio is 1:2
- Blazing Stars - After School Program is a free After School Program serving 250 at risk students
- Class of 2016 earned over 4.2 million dollars in scholarships
- Grants Awarded to Teachers and Staff totaled over \$150,000
- Dropout rate 1.05 percent
- Graduation rate 89.1 percent

Going Forward:

In the fall of 2016, we revised our Strategic Priorities and District Goals which will drive instructional decisions for the next three years. A short video with the new priorities and goals may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/sDMFe9>. We acknowledge that there is always going to be work to do in improving and moving forward; however, we also acknowledge that Together we are best at Preparing the Future! We are thrilled to be part of a community that is committed to public education in North Carolina.

Sampson thriving to enhance rec programs

As the director of Sampson County Parks and Recreation, it is my goal to provide sustainable quality programming for the citizens of Sampson County, introducing all ages to the valuable contribution that recreation plays in an individual's life.

I look forward to strengthening relationships between the communities within Sampson County to meet the needs of the citizens. I am a firm believer that hard work pays off and am excited for the task ahead for our department.

In my first few weeks, our staff have been working hard to get me up to speed with our programs and we are looking forward to the great things to come in the future of our recreation department.

We will be hosting the SWAC winter basketball tournament for girls ages 14 and under, March 9-12

and 16-19.

Also in the coming year we are looking forward to hosting the 12U girls and 16U boys SWAC Basketball tournament. We are striving to enhance our programs. We have an upcoming meeting to discuss plans for our baseball/softball season and have been working with other local recreation departments to develop working relationships with them. During the month of April our staff will provide support staff to serve as officials for Senior Games in Shuffleboard and Horseshoes. Also we will host the Senior Games Bocce tournament at our Western District Park facility.

We are also excited to continue our summer adult volleyball league and to begin a summer soccer program.

It will be a busy year, but we are very excited to get to work.



Sampson resident Dana Bullard Hall was announced at the beginning of 2017 as the county's new full-time Parks and Recreation director. She started in that capacity in January.

File photo/Sampson Independent



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Community



Thank you for your support over the last 17 years. We really appreciate your business, and look forward to serving all of your home furnishing needs for many years to come!!



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HELLO NEIGHBOR,

On behalf of our entire "McFamily" at the new Southeast Boulevard McDonald's, we wanted to say how proud we are to be part of the Clinton community. We look forward to serving you, as well as being a true community partner. Thank you for allowing us to serve good food, delivered by good people, and to support you as a good neighbor. We know you have many choices. Thank you for choosing our local, family-owned McDonald's.





SOUTHEASTERN

Outdoor Products

YOUR METAL SUPERSTORE





COMPONENTS







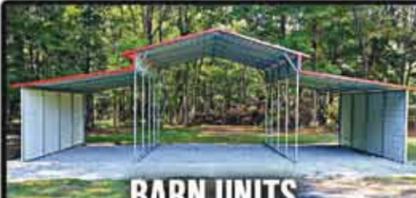


AND MORE!

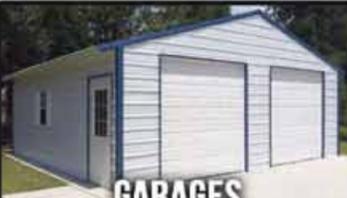
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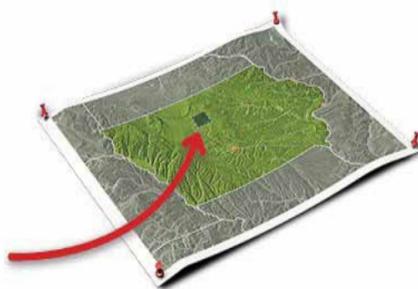
Prestage Begins New Fresh Pork Venture in Wright County Iowa



In early 2016, Prestage announced the formation of its newest division, Prestage Foods of Iowa, and its intentions to build a \$250 million fresh pork processing facility. While nearly twenty communities across eight states expressed interest in being considered for the location of the facility, Eagle Grove in Wright County, IA moved to the front of the pack. Not only does Prestage already have substantial ties in that community including 15 farm locations within the county as well as a long-term relationship with Gold-Eagle Co-op, but the county is the epicenter of hog production in Iowa.

Prestage announced its intentions to pursue building the new processing plant in Wright County, IA in early July. After a very positive campaign, we received unanimous approval from the Wright County Board of Supervi-

sors. "We realize now that smaller towns in Iowa are more familiar with agriculture," said Ron Prestage. Pending all necessary permitting, the facility will be built on a 150+ acre tract located 5 miles southwest of Eagle Grove, IA on Hwy 17. Initially, the plant will



be one shift, processing 10,000 hogs per day with over 1,000 employees with the possibility of a second shift to be added at a later date. Groundbreaking is expected in March of 2017 with first operations anticipated in late 2018.

While hog processing is a new arena for us, we are confident that with the continued help and support of our employees and contract growers, we will be successful. Through hard work and perseverance, we have found our turkey processing niche, and now the Prestage Foods turkey processing plant is very competitive nationally in cost and profitability.

Prestage has always believed that vertical integration is a vital part of being a least-cost producer and being competitive in the meat production business. We are convinced that pork processing is the next phase for us in our complete vertical integration quest.

Pork Plant Features

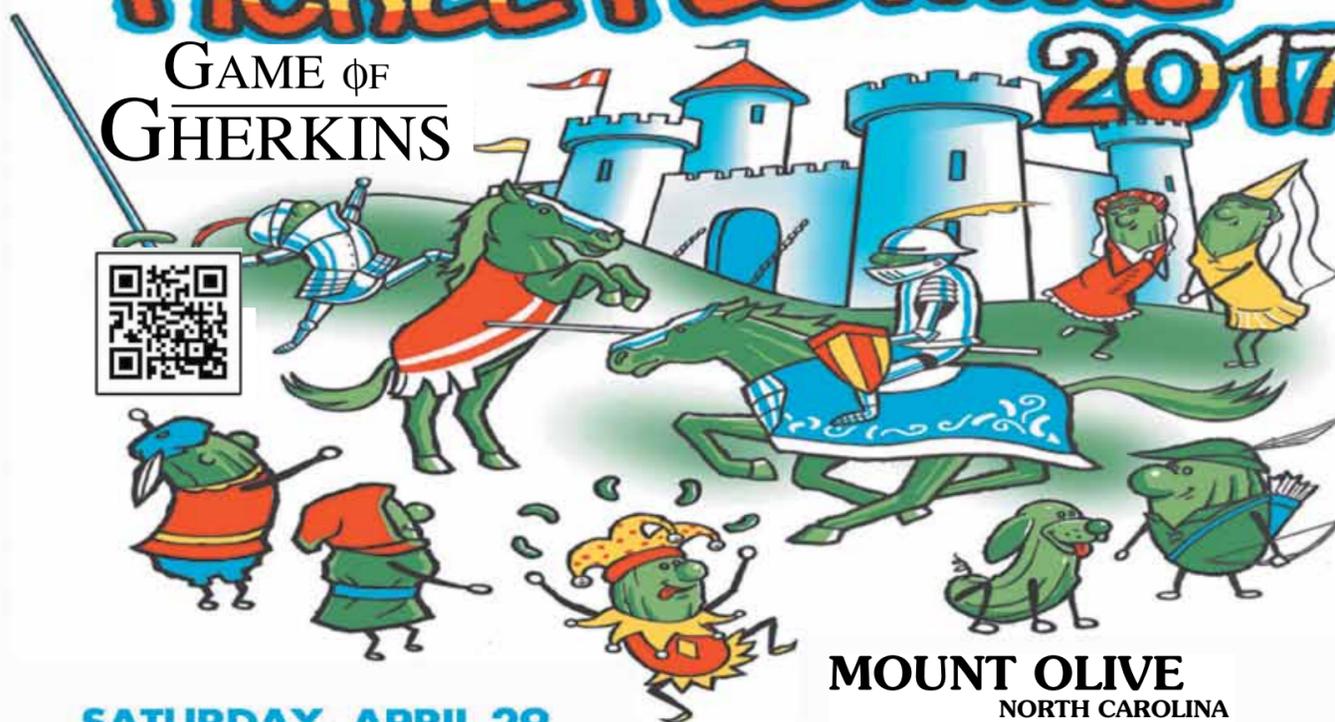
- \$250 Million Investment
- 160 Acre Site
- 650,000 Square Foot Facility
- 10,000 Hogs Processed Per Shift
- 922 Employees Per Shift
- Estimated Payroll in Excess of \$45 Million Annually
- Additional Benefits of \$13 Million Annually
- Expected to be Operational in Late 2018

Prestage Farms, Inc.

31st Annual

NORTH CAROLINA PICKLE FESTIVAL 2017

GAME OF GHERKINS



MOUNT OLIVE
NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
9AM TO 6PM
DOWNTOWN MOUNT OLIVE, NC

University of Mount Olive Artisan Village Classic Car Show, Antique Tractors, three stages of live entertainment, Pickles, Hwy 55 BIG A Challenge, International Chili Society Cookoff, Naturalization Ceremony, Helicopter Rides, Circus Stella, Mascot Race, Pickles, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Carnival Rides, Friends of the Library Book Sale, Pickles, Food Vendors, Arts & Crafts, Student Pickle Art Exhibit, and much more!

Tour de Pickle

Bike Ride (25, 50 and 75-mile routes) 8 am registration, 9:30 am ride starting from the Mt. Olive Pickle Distribution Center.

www.ncpicklefest.org

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
5PM TO 9PM
FRIDAY NIGHT FUN DOWNTOWN

Live concert presented by Ribeyes Steakhouse
Cuke Patch 5k Glow Run
Pay One Price Carnival Rides



Park at University of Mount Olive's Kornegay Arena and catch the shuttle to downtown!