

# INSIGHT

# 2019

## AGRICULTURE

FEB 2019

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## Colorful patchwork of Sampson

Each a story unto its own, barn quilt trail continues to expand

By Chris Berendt

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A barn quilt trail that began with just a dash of color at a handful of locations in Sampson County back in 2014 has expanded into a full-blown canvas sharing the history of the county, its heritage and the people who populate it.

There are now well over 100 majestic barn quilts scattered across the county's 962 square miles, some as large as 8-by-8 feet. They can be seen from the many rural roadways that traverse the countryside, each markedly different from the next and each with a story all its own.

The Sampson project came about in early 2014 as a partnership between the Sampson County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), Sampson Arts Council, Sampson County History Museum and the Sampson County Cooperative Extension.



File photo|Sampson Independent

**Kay Raynor, president of the Sampson County History Museum's Board, shows visitors one of many barn quilts in Sampson County, this one on the museum's grounds designed by Raynor herself.**

There were seven installed as part of the initial wave and the project pushed forward in earnest in 2015, gaining even more steam in recent years.

At the time of the quilt trail's infancy, local officials said the project would have "economic, social and cultural value for Sampson County."

Fueled by creativity and public interest, the trail has grown exponentially ever since.

"It originally started on barns to showcase Sampson County's rich agricultural heritage — that's what we were looking for," said Sheila Barefoot, executive director of the Sampson Convention and Visitors Bureau. "But it really caught on."

While barn quilts pay tribute to the cultural identity and agricultural foundation of Sampson's rural community, they are not just limited to barns. The designs are on homes and other structures. Patterns can reflect family or something special to the owner, displaying a

See COLORFUL 3E



Graphic courtesy of Sampson CVB

The signature quilt pattern by designer Ruth Holland. The design incorporates a millstone, a nod to the "Milling Around" art piece in downtown Clinton. Four barns surround the millstone represent Sampson's farming heritage, as well as the barns located at the History Museum. Earth tones are included for agricultural heritage, and the colors and overall design are a tribute to local Native American culture.



File photo|Sampson Independent

**Sheila Barefoot, director of the Sampson County Convention & Visitors Bureau, reviews designs of local barn quilts included in the Barn Quilts of Sampson County project.**



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logo and colors incorporating the identity or emblem of a civic group, town, business or school.

"They try to name it according to their personal preference," Barefoot said. "It means something to them. It's just really neat how people make it their own."

A brochure was issued by the CVB in 2017 with locations of the original 78 barn quilts, what they look like and their location. The trail is broken down into geographic segments across the county such as "Autryville Avenue," "Clinton Junction," "Salemberg Trail" and "Roseboro Field." In all, there are now more than 140 quilts across the county and its various towns and communities, which also encompasses Garland, Godwin, Harrells, Magnolia, Newton Grove, Rose Hill, Turkey and Dunn.

Kay Raynor, a Newton Grove native and president of History Museum board, was credited with suggesting the idea for Sampson's barn quilt trail back in 2013. The partnerships among many locally made that vision a reality.

The local committee first decided upon 28 traditional patterns. Working together, they spread the



File photo|Sampson Independent

**During BloomFest, Sheila Barefoot, director of the Sampson CVB, left, donates a barn quilt to the Town of Roseboro, to Chair Allie Strickland, and Mayor Alice Butler.**

word looking for barn owners who might be interested in having a barn quilt.

The project was seen as a way to involve a wide array of people, promote culture and the arts and encourage local residents and visitors alike to stray off the main roads and soak in the sights of Sampson from a different perspective.

Agri-tourism was also the aim.

Ray Jordan, executive director of the Agri-Exposition Center and founding member of the CVB, has touted the quilt trail as being on par with the bureau's mission to develop opportunities, events, sights and projects "that people want to

come and see."

He said the barn quilt project was identified as one of those kind of projects.

"This is really one of the first projects where we are working to create a destination, something that folks will want to travel to see, and then while they're here, visit other things like the history museum, shops and restaurants," Jordan said early on.

"It gives people a reason to linger longer," former CVB executive director Vickie Crane said at the time, citing the impact barn quilt trails can have in attracting visitors from across the state and nation.

It was Crane who years ago began working with committee members, including Raynor and the Dan Holland family. Volunteers and painters produced more than 14 quilts which are now part of the trail. The Arts Council commissioned and funded six quilts.

Crane stepped down from the CVB post in 2015, but Barefoot picked up the ball and ran with it



File photo|Sampson Independent

**A 6-by-6 foot 'Corn & Beans' barn quilt adorns a barn at Hoover Farms in the Harrells area. It is one of the older quilts, having been installed back in 2015.**



File photo|Sampson Independent

**Kellie Tew looks at one of the first barn quilts designed at their home. Tew, along with Kay Raynor and others, have been at the heart of the effort to bring barn quilts to buildings in Sampson in the last few years.**

See COLORFUL 4E

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upon her hire at the end of that year. Barefoot began working with the project in 2016 and wanted to see it expand.

Town and city halls were awarded up to \$200 to have their own barn quilts. The towns of Autryville, Roseboro, Garland, Harrells, Clinton and Salemburg jumped at the chance, and all are featured on the cover of the barn quilt brochure.

The appeal of Sampson's barn quilts has brought visitors from far and wide to this community, local officials said.

Spurred by ongoing local interest and steady growth, the CVB recently adopted "Sampson County, the Barn Quilt Capital of North Carolina" as an official trademark.

"Being known for something and promoting Sampson County's unique attributes and 'making a claim' is a best practice in destination marketing. I immediately thought of our barn quilt project," said Barefoot. "We know the trade-

mark for this project will help to build our brand and promote visitation to Sampson County."

**The process**

Painting quilt patterns on barns can be traced to colonial America when farmers did it to spruce up their barn while celebrating their heritage. That is very much the underlying theme out of which the local idea was born — a promotion of the visual arts and the importance of agriculture.

Barn quilt trails began to pop up in the early 2000s, dotting the Midwest landscape, notably Ohio.

In Sampson, the majority of the signs have been created by two local residents: Raynor and Kellie Tew, of Tew Barn Quilts. Both fell in love with barn quilts during visits to the North Carolina mountains, where the signs are a common sight.

As word of the project grew in recent years, so did the number of



File photo|Sampson Independent

**Kellie Tew works on designing a barn quilt with her husband J.D.**

folks who requested a quilt.

Most of the barn quilts are either 4-by-4 feet or 8-by-8. To be included in the barn quilt trail, they need to be visible from the road, due to privacy concerns. Clients

choose their desired pattern and colors and volunteers, including Tew, Raynor and others, paint the signs.

Making the signs has turned from an trial-and-error method to an intricate process that combines drawing geometric designs, painting techniques, color balance and combination. The signs are painted on wood treated with several coats of base primer. Raynor first sketches her designs on graph paper. Tew's husband, J.D., draws designs on wood blanks.

Raynor has a traditional quilting background, having sewn fabric quilts for most of her life, a process by which she has honed the art of color selection, design and patience. Such patience is vital as each coat of each color used on the signs must dry for a minimum of 24 hours.

Tew uses four coats of base paint followed by three to six coats of paint for every color selected by the client in the design. As arduous and time-consuming as the design process is, it is time well spent as



File photo|Sampson Independent

Not just for barns, the quilts can also be seen displayed inside towns across the county, this set near the intersection of Wall and Elizabeth Street in Clinton.

See COLORFUL 6E

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# Mountains-to-Sea via Sampson

Trail leads hikers through portion of county

By Kristy D. Carter  
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The Mountains-to-Sea Trail is a 1,200 mile footpath that stretches across North Carolina from the Great Smoky Mountains to Jockey's Ridge in the Outer Banks.

The trail is made of 18 segments, one of those encompassing nearly 65 miles of land through Sampson County that allows hikers and bicyclists to explore one of the most beautiful and productive agricultural areas in North Carolina as well as historic sites, picturesque small towns and places of extraordinary natural diversity.

According to Bill Scott, board member with the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (FMST), the Coastal Crescent Trail is a portion of the main trail that serves as an

just opening the land to anyone."

The portion of the trail that comes through Sampson County encompasses secondary roads and approximately 56 miles of trail. The current trail does go through the downtown areas of both Newton Grove and Roseboro, bringing many

**"The trail brings tourism to the county. As people come through, they will spend money, and there is unlimited recreational potential with the trail."**

— Bill Scott, Friends of Mountains-to-Sea Trail

of the hikers right into the heart of Sampson County towns.

"The Coastal Crescent Trail allows through-hikers to complete their



File photo

Ralph Hamilton with the Friends of the Sampson County Waterways looks over the map outlining the portion of the trail through Sampson County.

Carolina. You get to experience the beauty of nature but you also get to meet people, and that's one of the things people really love."

It's not simply a wilderness trail. It is an experience that offers everything, said Dixon — an "extraordinary outdoor adventure" that takes people through the best of North Carolina, offering trees, mountains and the natural bodies of water, but also paths through small towns and on rural roads.

State Parks has worked with local governments and FMST to plan the MST route in areas where the trail has not been built and hikers are using back roads to complete the trek, including in Sampson. Eventually, the trail will link 33 of North Carolina's 100 counties and offer local access to 40 percent of the state's population.

"We see it as sort of the backbone of North Carolina's trail system, so

American Tribe which is still based in Sampson County today.

- The 2,100-acre Pondberry Bay



File photo

Former Salemburg mayor Bobby Strickland, and wife Pauline, look over the map of the portion of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail that goes through Sampson County.

Plant Conservation Preserve between Roseboro and Salemburg. The trail route follows roads around this preserve.

- The towns of Newton Grove and Roseboro. Newton Grove, first incorporated in 1879, grew up to serve the vibrant farming community in that area. Roseboro, incorporated in 1891, was built along the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad line from Fayetteville to Wilmington.
- The South River, a black water river, famed for paddling. Look for the bridge crossing over this beautiful river at the Sampson-Cumberland County line.
- Brushy Lake State Natural Area, managed by North Carolina State Parks. Hikers will pass a kiosk marking the entrance to a rudimentary trail system on Turnbull Road.
- Suggs Mill Pond Game Land, 11,000 acres managed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, forms the eastern end of this trail segment.

## Legislation supporting the trail

North Carolina Senator Brent Jackson showed his support of the natural tourist attraction in 2017 when he helped introduce a bill that made the Coastal Crescent Trail an official part of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Both the towns of Roseboro and Newton Grove expressed their commitment to improving the quality of life for its citizens with the distinction of having the Coastal Crescent Trail coming directly through the heart of each town.

North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail is a unit of the state parks system, created and maintained in partnership with local, state and federal governments and citizen groups. The NC Division of Parks and Recreation designates official sections of the MST, nothing along the Coastal Crescent route has been designated. Jackson's proposed legislation would make the change.

Copy editor Kristy D. Carter can be reached at 910-592-8137, ext. 2588.



File photo

Bill Scott presents information about the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

option in eastern North Carolina for hikers who have an interest in completing the trek. The portion that comes through Sampson County, known as the Agricultural Heartland Segment, is being used at this time by hikers seeking to complete the Mountains-to-Sea Trail across North Carolina.

"The trail brings tourism to the county," Scott noted. "As people come through, they will spend money, and there is unlimited recreational potential with the trail."

Scott has been diligently working with plant conservationist in the last couple of years on allowing people to hike in the Pondberry Bay Preserve, which is located near Lakewood Country Club. Those conservationist are in the process of completing inventory of the nearly 2,100 acres.

While many Sampson County residents may know the Pondberry Preserve as the White Woods, the property sits just north of Roseboro. Approximately six to seven miles of natural surface trails cover the property.

"There is limited access to the property now," Scott said. "We are hoping to have the property open so that anyone can hike those trails. But, there is a lot to consider before

trek across the state," said Dwayne Patterson, director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. "Without the FMST's help in creating public awareness and in maintaining the trail, the MST would not be the outstanding attraction that it is."

The Coastal Crescent Trail enters near the Bentonville Battleground area of Newton Grove, extending south toward Clinton before cut-



Courtesy photo

Jennifer Pharr Davis, a long-distance hiker, walked the entire Mountains-to-Sea Trail last year and enjoyed time in Roseboro and Sampson County.

ting to the west toward Salemburg and Roseboro, exiting at N.C. 242 at the Cumberland County line, progressing toward Suggs Mill Pond in Cumberland and onto Bladen Lakes in Bladen County.

Work on the trail continues. A trail-building workday at Bentonville Battleground was held mid February to smooth tread along a 100-yard section. Additionally, storm debris was removed from the path.

Kate Dixon, executive director of the FMST, said the Coastal Crescent route is "gorgeous," noting that several people have already traversed the path. The overall path shows everything that North Carolina has to offer, she said.

"When the route was set up, the idea was to connect together a lot of different special natural features," Dixon has said of the MST. "As you go along the trail, you really see a whole diversity of North

that when it all comes together, then all other trail systems will be linking into it," said Dixon. "This trail really has huge potential as an economic force in North Carolina."

The portion of the trail that meanders through Sampson County offers hikers a chance to experience some of the most beautiful and productive farmland in all of North Carolina. Farms in Johnston, Sampson and Cumberland counties along the route produce a diversity of products, including tobacco, cotton, sweet potatoes, hogs, turkeys, cattle, soybeans, and timber. Other highlights along the trail include:

- The 2,800-acre Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center in the vast Neuse floodplain sometimes called the Let' Lones.
- Bentonville Battlefield, now a North Carolina Historic Site, was the site of the largest Civil War battle in our state. The trail takes hikers past displays that explain how the battle unfolded in March 1865.
- Great Coharie Creek and Little Coharie Creek, named for the Native



Courtesy photo

Laura Gaylord explains to hikers the cooperative effort in creating and maintaining a directional sign during the Gathering of the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

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Midway Middle School's barn quilt is one of many being displayed across the county.

the signs can last up to a decade and some much longer.

Along with North Carolina, Tew has barn quilts in Texas, Kentucky, Missouri, Florida, Virginia and West Virginia.

"A lot of them mean something to the people," Tew said. "It's like a tattoo — you don't want the same person to have it."

And despite their name, the barn quilts are often put up on homes, outbuildings, dog houses and garages.

"I've had people who didn't have a place to put it, so they put it on their privacy fence, so you can see it from the road," Tew said. "There's all kinds of places you can hang them."

"It's really popular and it recognizes American folk art," Tew has said, explaining the role that the barn quilt trails play in attracting visitors. "People follow those trails. It's so pretty. It really brings beauty to these old barns."

That's the idea, and it's one that has served to brighten Sampson County and put it firmly on the barn-quilt map.

"Sampson County has carved out its own niche in agri-tourism," Barefoot attested.

Those interested can take an interactive barn quilt tour via visit-sampsonnc.com. Maps are available at the Sampson County CVB, located at 414 Warsaw Road, Clinton.

Information from the Sampson County Convention and Visitors Bureau was used in this story. Editor Chris Berendt can be reached at 910-592-8137 ext. 2587.



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# Local parks moving forward

## From Plain View to Garland, outdoor amenities abound

By Chase Jordan  
cjordan@clintonnc.com



Photo by Chase Jordan | Sampson Independent

### Playground equipment at Weeks Parks, Newton Grove.

Outside the Plain View Community Center, bulldozers are digging up dirt on land where a historic elementary school once stood.

For safety reasons, a fence with "No Trespassing" and "Private Property" signs are keeping people away. But with determination and a vision from a group of community members, their looking forward to watching children enjoy Northern Sampson County Park. It's one several park-based initiatives in the area.

"We feel like Plain View needs a park and we feel like the park will be a benefit to the community," said Jim Schmidlin, treasurer of the Plain View Community Coalition (PVCC). "We think it will help out all different generations of our community with things such as a safe walking trail and having a good physical place to start back with rec programs."

Plain View School was built in the 1920s with classrooms and an auditorium. Later, a cafeteria was added in 1953. The was completed in 1986. Many children in the community where educated in the building for many years, until a new school was built in 2001. The demolition of the abandoned schools was the first phase of the project. The next phase will include the construction of a Plain View Memorial Wall with original bricks from the building and donor names. Benches will also be installed. An effort to save the cupola from the original building are also included in the plans. Phase III is pursuing grants and fundraising

for the park.

"With our board of seven community members, we're extremely proud of the progress that we've been able to make over the past years," he said. "We've been able to do a lot with the property. The community has stepped up to support the removal of the old school."

More than \$120,000 was raised for the demolition project for the 501(c)(3) nonprofit. PVCC received a \$40,000 grant from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to hire consultants for a land use study.

"We need to see the best way to lay the property out to maximize its use," Schmidlin said. "Once we have idea of how we're going to layout the property, then we'll build our memorial wall."

The goal is to build multi-purpose fields for sports such as football, soccer; a playground; a walking trail; and picnic shelters. A task force for the park is being developed and the PVCC is searching for volunteers to provide guidance. Anyone with interest in joining the committee may reach Schmidlin at 910-263-1275.

"They'll be writing grants and working with the community to find resources as we continue to develop the park," he said.

A benefactor donated equipment to use in the gymnasium moving forward. The space is still being used for basketball for about four days each week. Community members also rent the gym for birthday parties.

As a member of the community, Schmidlin stressed that the project is an essential need in the area.

"Plain View is still part of Sampson County, although we're closer to Dunn," he said. "We feel like we should be serviced by Sampson County for a community park."

He added that most of the communities in Sampson have a park supported by county officials. There was a time when Plain View had its own recreation unit, but it ended due to funding woes. It offered football, baseball, basketball and volleyball.

"Up until they closed the Plain View recreation department, we had a very active and very large park and rec program up here in Plain View."

Now, Sampson County residents are going to Harnett County to play, but this comes with the trouble of paying out of county fees and driving to Dunn to participate. When the soccer program collapsed, it went back to Clinton. This also displeased parents because of the driving hassle.

Inside the gymnasium, the PVCC hosted a spaghetti dinner and \$1,500 reverse raffle drawing. In 2018, it brought in \$7,000 for improvements. Another raffle is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30 with Sampson County Commissioner Clark Wooten. An update regarding progress will also be provided. Additional information regarding the project is available online at [www.plainviewcc.org](http://www.plainviewcc.org).

### Newton Grove

About 15 miles way from the Plain View Center, officials are continuing progress on the established Weeks Park, which features amenities such as a playground, basketball court and tennis courts, which are currently being repaired with help from the Sampson County Parks and Recreation Department.

In the early 1970s, JB Henderson, Billy Herring, and Lloyd Jackson, members of the Lions Club in Newton Grove informed local officials about funds being available to build and maintain a park, but only a political subdivision of the state could apply. The group began working in 1975 and by 1976, the dream blossomed. Commissioner Teresa Wilson is now helping with efforts to keep the momentum going. In 2018, Newton Grove Commissioners approved a new playground project. Some of the features are a triple side, loop ladder, climbing wall and crawl tube. Another is a rail ride, which allows children to swing between two platforms.

"The Park holds a lot of memories to the people in Newton Grove," Wilson said. "When my boys were young, I remember taking them to the park. That's the reason, as Park Commissioner in Newton Grove, I wanted to add newly designed equipment and new ideas that would attract our children's children for years to come. We are not through."

The commission received outside assistance as well. Eagle Scout Luke Williams installed a batting cage, with help from fellow Boy Scouts. It's a major benefit for community

See PARKS 8E



Photo by Chase Jordan | Sampson Independent

Brad Richardson, maintenance superintendent for Sampson County Parks and Recreation, works to repair cracks on a Tennis Court at Weeks Park.

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**PARKS from 7E**

members and local student athletes. Baseball games for all ages are held at the park through the Sampson County recreation department.

In the summer, the July Fourth celebration in the park is one of many major events in Sampson County. It includes activities for children, games, inflatable bouncy houses, vendors and music. The Little Miss July 4th Pageant is also a popular attraction.

Throughout the area, Town Clerk Amanda Turner also enjoys providing rental space in the picnic area. She can be reached at 910-594-0827.

"We are growing and still have lots of ideas we want to incorporate in our park," Wilson said. "Our Staging Area for events will be our next focus with many over sized trees being cut down soon. "Thank you to the community and surrounding areas for patronizing our park. If you have any ideas that you would like to share with our town, please message Teresa Wilson on Facebook or call Amanda Turner at the Town Hall."

**Clinton**

Clinton officials are making many strides at Royal Lane Park, one of four maintained by the city. The others are the Sampson Center, Fisher Drive Park, and Newkirk Park. Clinton's park system includes two community centers with meeting space, basketball courts, volleyball space, playgrounds, picnic areas, fields, outdoor courts, walking tracks and trails.

The improvements at Royal Lane Park came from a master plan with feedback from the community for requests. It includes a new playground, swings, a tot lot, a paved walking trail, a 400 meter walking and running track around the multipurpose field, an expansion of the multipurpose field with updated irrigation, a new parking lot between the pool and multipurpose field, a new park sign, and an entrance to the new parking lot off Ellen Street.

Jonathan Allen, recreation and parks director for Clinton, said the plan was completed in 2014 when the department received a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant for \$250,000.

"We began the project in 2016 and finished in 2017," Allen said. "As you can see, this was a long process that produced great results for our community."

Allen also appreciated the involvement from citizens, the recreation advisory board, staff members, the city's Public Works Department, and construction contractors. He added that the staff worked through weather elements.

"That shows their dedication and care for our community and it shines through in the finished product," Allen said. "They did an amazing job."

There's other scheduled phases for the project planned for Royal Lane. Some of them involve baseball and softball fields, parking, sidewalks, trails and other improvements at the Bellamy Center.

"We do have different phases for Royal Lane Park planned," Allen said. "However, at this time we have no funding available. We do have some small improvements, updates at each of our parks that we plan to do over time. So, stay tuned."

Like many other officials, Allen believes it's important to have parks for many reasons.

"First, statistics show that those that live closer to parks are healthier than those that do not," Allen said. "Also, parks are an investment in our people and communities. Research shows that property values increase for those homes in and around parks. Finally, this helps preserve our land while providing healthy benefits.

"So, as you can see, parks offer a wide variety of benefits," he said. "The final piece of this is that re-

search shows that having parks and updated parks, increase economic development as these companies look for things for potential employees and their families to do. This is why Clinton is the perfect place to play."

**Roseboro**

In western Sampson County, Roseboro offers a couple of parks for children to enjoy and play at as well. Two parks are located in the town.

The Western District Park was completed in 2009 and includes a walking trail, fields with lights, restrooms, a concession stand, picnic shelters, grills, and parking. Many athletic games for youths are held throughout the season. It's one of many school and community parks maintained by the Sampson County Parks and Recreation.

Located in downtown, Roseboro Town Park is the second largest park in the area. The amenities include playground equipment, basketball goals, a baseball field, shelters for picnics and grills.

"We're very fortunate to have both parks," Mayor Alice Butler said. "I think it's very important. Everybody needs an outlet."

During a warm winter day, Butler said it was wonderful to see people all over town walking through the park, children on the playground and basketballs bouncing on the court.

"I just think it's very important that we continue to support the parks and what they mean to to the people," Butler said. "A lot of people have small backyards or no backyards. To give them a place for children to play and for adults to enjoy, it's very important to the whole environment of the town."

A beach volleyball court is being constructed for residents as well. Members of the Lakewood High School Volleyball are leading the effort as service project for the community.

"I'm hoping that we're going to have some beach volleyball going on at BloomFest," Butler said.

During the the second annual event in April, town leaders are also dedicating the basketball court to Chasity Melvin, former WNBA player and book author. Butler hopes it inspires youth to follow their dreams.

"We have many people from our town who have gone on and done great things in this world," Butler said about the small town in western Sampson County. "Sometimes it's inspiring to come where people know you and who are always encouraging you to do your best."

**Garland**

In Garland, the ballpark and the Curtis D. Cain Memorial Park, a fairly new project, offers a variety of services for residents living in the southern end of the county.

Former Commissioner Judy C. Smith was a major leader in seeing the project come alive.

The 1.39-acre project on South Bladen Avenue was donated by Connie Cain Rackley in honor of her father Curtis D. Cain, a former commissioner and business entrepreneur. To develop the park, an agreement was made to refurbish abandoned playground equipment left by the town's former Head Start program.

A grand opening for the park was held in June 2017.

A basketball court was recently installed and some of the other future plans include picnic tables, a shelter and a walking track.

Reach Chase Jordan at 910-249-4617. Follow us on Twitter at @SampsonInd and like us on Facebook.



Photo by Chase Jordan | Sampson Independent

**A batting cage is one of several amenities available at Weeks Park in Newton Grove.**



Photo by Chase Jordan | Sampson Independent

**Basketball courts at Weeks Park.**



Photo by Chase Jordan | Sampson Independent

**A rail ride is one of the newest addition at Weeks Park.**



Photo by Chase Jordan | Sampson Independent

**Construction is underway for a new park in the northern region of Sampson County.**



Photo by Chase Jordan | Sampson Independent

**Members of the Plain View Community Center are raising fund for a new park.**

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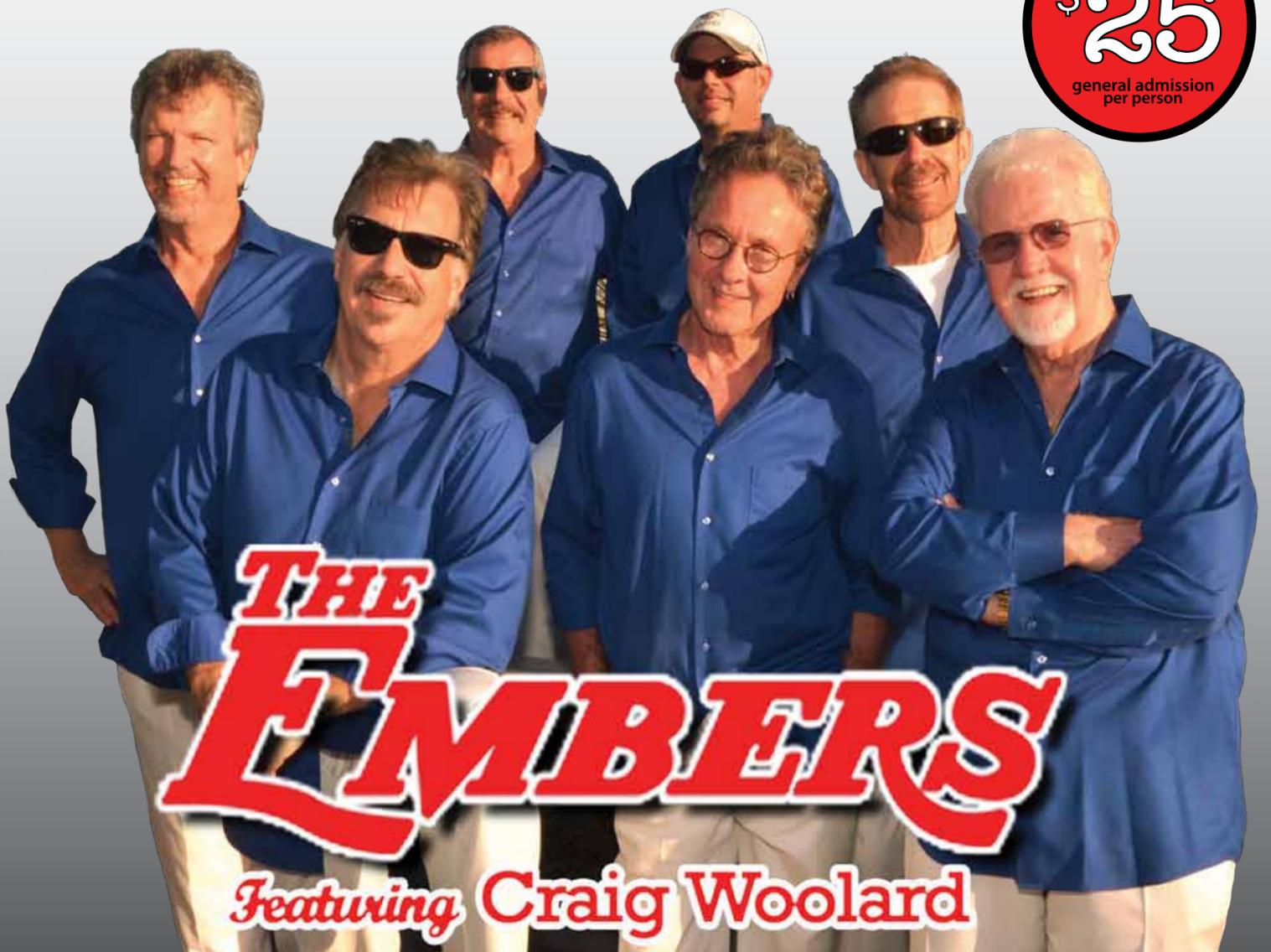


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