



Cape Fear

# VOICES

Providing an Outlet for Creativity in the Cape Fear Region

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

### Unpredicted Gifts

by Patricia Dischino,  
Brunswick Forest



"Christmas, what a joke it was. We had to spend time with people who are doing it for the money, only." Ten-year-old Lily, a forever shelter resident, opened the visitor home's solitary gift to her.

The sweater was just another disappointment. Its scratchy low-end material was not the shirt's worst offense. Sized much too small, the loathsome offering was useless.

Lily's defiance reached the ears of Saren, standing near by. She was close to Lily's age, but tiny and a mere skin and bones compared to Lily's tall, willowy shape.

"Oh Lily, you are smart, talented, and beautiful. Don't be unhappy. Maybe my New Year's resolution will come true."

Lily scoffed at Saren's remarks. But deep down, the kind words smoothed a bit of the sharp edges of life's disappointments. 'I know Saren's holiday was as much of a disaster as mine.'

The children were parceled out to foster homes on Christmas Eve so the staff could spend a warm and loving holiday with family. Places, hard to come by on Christmas, resulted in bottom of the barrel results. Watching families unwrap gifts while Morgan House children received the barest, if anything, was more than depressing.

Abandoned at birth, Lily's care was merely custodial. A child, who never receives the fondness of a smile, never of-

fers one.

Saren, removed from years in relatives' abusive homes was assigned to the Morgan House. The shelter, although cold and restrictive, was a safe haven for her.

Lily tossed the useless gift to Saren. "See if it fits you?"

As the much thinner little one, pulled the Charlie Brown top over her head, squeals of delight vocalized. "Thank you so much. I love it. You are so good to me."

'I can't believe that stupid shirt would make anyone happy.'

"What was your New Year's Resolution, Saren?"

"Well, it was really not a resolution but a wish. I hoped that someday soon you and I would visit a home where we would be surprised with presents and yummy food."

Lily looked at Saren's optimism, not with anger but with deep sadness. "That's certainly not going to happen." A puzzling reaction caused a larger crack in Lily's negative shield.

'Saren is worth much more. She's warmhearted but so naive. Why can't I make her wish come true? Shouldn't I at least try?'

Her talent with words compelled residents and staff to make the effort. At first many were dubious but as ideas flowed, so did the enthusiasm.

Paul, at ten, was recognized for his sorrowful bully reputation. What a surprise it was to everyone, especially Paul, himself, when he offered a perfect plan. Both he and Lily composed and printed a

brief note along with a request. The cook contributed her chocolate chip recipe along with samples. The manager, Mrs. Lawrence bought decorative gift bags,

Residents went from house to house recounting the compelling story about Saren, noting the young girl never experienced a party.

The neighborhood responded with magnanimity beyond belief. Everything an eight year old would ever want was gathered. Clothes and toys filled two red wagons. Neighbors offered to drive the magnificent bounty to the home where the girls would spend the night, getting in touch with the manager for the address, to surprise Saren.

Mrs. Lawrence, after hearing the kindness of the neighborhood, called a first time foster offer to have Saren and Lily spend the night. The lady sounded kind although there was a twinge of sorrow in her voice.

"My husband and I lost our only daughter last year to leukemia. We would like to hear a child's laughter this year "

"Would you be willing to take two?"  
"That sounds wonderful. We would love to have them. It will help us."

What joy prevailed! Saren, surprised and overwhelmed with the totality of gifts, insisted the presents be shared with the other shelter children.

The next morning, the two were asked if they would like this house to be their permanent home. Both were astounded but overjoyed. They were going to be a family and best of all be loved.

Lily reflected; 'A home with a family is the best gift of all.'

### Tapping My Way to a More Plastic Brain

by Janet Steigler, Brunswick Forest



As you contemplate your New Year's Resolutions, make sure one includes learning a new skill. Every time you learn something new, your brain forms new neural pathways while strengthening its existing ones. New challenges also increase the density of your myelin or the white matter in your brain. Experts say these changes improve the "plasticity" of your brain, helping improve performance on many tasks. Some say it can help you learn and remember better, perhaps even forestall dementia.

With this in mind, I took up tap dancing last spring at the Leland Cultural Art Center. I had taken one year of tap in 5th grade and figured it would not be difficult to resume. After all, I jog, bike, and swim, so endurance would not be an issue. Easy-peasy, right? NOT!

For one, jogging, biking, and swimming do not require much concentration. That is why I gravitate to these types of aerobic activities—I can daydream while exercising. Second, each requires moving my feet or arms in the same direction—left, right, left, right. Dancing, however, requires balance, rhythm, and mental flexibility to learn and memorize various steps.

Luckily, our teacher, Nancy Smith of Movement Works, was used to dealing with newcomers and made the sessions fun. She started us off with some relatively easy toe taps and heel drops, slowly increasing the pace. Then we moved on to ball-changes, flaps, and shuffles. As we started to combine the steps and move across the dance floor, I noticed that my left foot was not cooperating as well as my right. Obviously, the neurons oper-

ating that side of my body needed more stimulation!

Two other women in the class quickly picked up the dance moves. I watched as they incorporated jazz squares and quarter turns, grapevining across the floor with style and grace. It turns out both danced in their youth and were taking Nancy's jazz class as well. It's all muscle memory, they say, which is why I mustn't quit. For them, it is like riding a bike again—it comes back quickly since they spent years laying a solid foundation. For this 5th grade quitter, however, that foundation has sagged with age and has some serious cracks to fill first.

To my husband's chagrin, I purchase a 7'x7' dance floor kit that we assemble in the upstairs lounge. "I need to practice," I tell him, and in the beginning, I do, using several YouTube videos for instruction. But it's not as much fun dancing alone, so I sign up for Nancy's advanced tap class later in the week. She pushes us a bit harder there but still gears it to the skill level of those in the class. I often find myself off-balance or turning in the wrong direction, but by tapping two times a week, my competence and confidence are slowly increasing.

So maybe, just maybe, those electrical impulses are leaping across my neurons, or I've re-awoken some neural pathways that had taken a snooze. At a minimum, I feel more coordinated and stand a bit taller. And some new friends may join me on that make-shift dance floor taking up space in our upstairs lounge. But besides the dance form's physical and mental benefits, you can't wear tap shoes without a smile. There's something emotionally uplifting when you walk in a room with a snappy clickity-click.

**Teen Scene and Cape Fear Voices**

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**Cape Fear Voices Submission Requirements**

**Cape Fear Voices** intends to showcase the works of the area’s many talented local writers, poets, and craftspeople as well as the work of local non-profit organizations.

- We are looking for contributors to submit their poems, stories, pictures, or articles for publication.
- We will not publish any political or religious material and will censor profanity, no matter how good the work submitted might otherwise be.
- All submissions must be in Times New Roman 12, single spaced, and include the title and author’s name. Please limit your submissions to **500-600 words**.
- We will print excessively larger works in serial form, but it is the author’s responsibility to determine proper cutoff for each piece, keeping in mind the 500-600 word limitation per each submission.
- Any photos intended to accompany a submission must be sent as JPG files.
- All written works must be sent to [editorcfv@gmail.com](mailto:editorcfv@gmail.com) and received by the 15th of each month for publication in the following month’s issue.

**How to Subscribe**

Individual subscriptions to Cape Fear Voices are available on an annual basis at a cost of \$25, including the cost of postage. If you want to make sure that you never miss a copy of Cape Fear Voices, please send a check payable to:

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Teen Scene and Cape Fear Voices started publication in North Carolina in June 2020. Readership has grown from 600 in June 2020 to 5,600 in Sept. 2021. That does not include our email list of nearly 3,000 per month or readership from our website. Although we have subscribers and followers in other states, our readers are predominantly in the greater Cape Fear region. Visit us at [cfvts.org](http://cfvts.org).

**CAPE FEAR VOICES AND TEEN SCENE 2ND ANNUAL WRITING AWARDS BANQUET**

Sponsored by Deb Pickett, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones  
 Leland Doo Wop Group, *Shades of Grey* to Headline

We wouldn’t have a Cape Fear Voices or Teen Scene without the talent and creative expression of our writers. Last year, we had our first Writer’s Award Dinner and it was so well received we decided to make it an annual celebration and fundraising event.

The 2nd annual Writer’s Award Banquet is only about 11 weeks away. The banquet will be on March 12, 2022, at the Leland Cultural Event Center, located at 1212 Magnolia Village Way.

This is a night out you won’t want to miss. Local artists, *Shades of Grey*, will be performing, so put on your dancing shoes and enjoy the music. We’re having an auction and many items for sale. Dinner, drinks and dessert will be served by Coastal Catering and Events. Come before dinner, walk around, bid on some auction items and relax and enjoy yourself.

Tickets are on sale this month and seating is limited to 80 people. Response to this event has been very positive and we only have 40 tickets left. The price is \$50.00 per ticket, so don’t delay. Send your check to Cape Fear Voices/Teen Scene, P.O. Box 495, Leland, NC. 28451. Or, go online at [www.capefearvoices.org](http://www.capefearvoices.org), go to the top of the page and click on the box on the right-hand side to make your reservation and select your dinner choice.

We’ve been planning for months and we’re sure that you will enjoy the event.

We thank our sponsors and friends for their support and hope to see you there. Event sponsors for the program include, **ATMC and the Brunswick Forest Farm Bureau Insurance group (Mark Ellenburg, Adam Clark, Ryan Huffman, Jared Speight and Blake Hundley.) Josh London, State Farm Agent**, located in Brunswick Forest and **The Brunswick Arts Council**.

Local artist, Evonne Phillips, has donated one of her award-winning acrylic paintings for our auction. **Terri and Jim Delfino**, owners of Delfina Vineyards, in Roseburg, Oregon, have donated a case of their award-winning wines for the auction ([www.delfinovineyards.com](http://www.delfinovineyards.com)). **Susan and Doug Zucker**, owners of Bridgewater Wines in Leland, are also donating wine for the auction event ([www.bridgewaterwines.com](http://www.bridgewaterwines.com)).

**The Brunswick County Branch of the NAACP** and the Brunswick Arts Council have offered to fund a scholarship to be awarded to select Teen Scene writers.

The Brunswick Arts Council is creating a new annual BAC Young Writers Award that will be awarded to two selected Teen Scene writers.

The Brunswick Arts Council supports Cape Fear Voices & Teen Scene in a variety of ways, and is encouraging local artists to donate artwork for the event’s silent auction. For more information, please contact Jan Morgan-Swegle at edi-

**Special Thanks for our Event’s Sponsors**



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**Pat Batleman Joins Teen Scene, Inc.  
 Board of Directors**

Teen Scene, Inc. is happy to announce our new Board Member, Pat Batleman. Pat recently stepped down after twelve years of service as Mayor Pro Temp of the Town of Leland. (Copied from Facebook)

On accepting the offer to serve on our Board, Pat said, “I am excited about becoming a new member of this outstanding group of professionals with a worthy goal of bringing the world of journalism to our young people through Teen Scene and to allow adults to creatively share their love of writing through Cape Fear Voices. I think there will be some exciting times ahead for us and am happy to be a part of the future.”

We are so very proud to have her working with our all-volunteer staff to promote the art of writing in the Cape Fear area.



# Anthem for the Common Man

## Robert Burns: A Homage

by Sherrod Sturrock, Wilmington



"O wad some pow'r the giftie gie us-  
to see oursels as ithers see us,  
it wad frae monie a blunder free us  
an foolish notion;  
what airs in dress and gait wad leave us and ev'n devo-  
tion....."

[from the poem, *To A Louse*]

January 25th is celebrated the world over by the Scottish diaspora in celebratory Burns' Suppers, where the works of the poet are read, toasts abound, the dreaded haggis [once described as boiled butcher's dustbin] is devoured with large helpings of neeps and tatties, and Scots everywhere pause to remember, with equal parts maudlin and equal parts fondness,

their literary heritage.

Burns was, by all accounts, a Scottish 'man for all reasons'--a laborer, a farmer, an exciseman, and, latterly, a lyricist. He was also a fervent Mason, and numbered no less than 5 societies as his own. His poetic legacy lives on in the many aphorisms he bequeathed to the Scottish-speaking world:

[i] 'But pleasures are like poppies spread  
you seize the flow'r, the bloom is shed;  
or like the snowfall in the river-

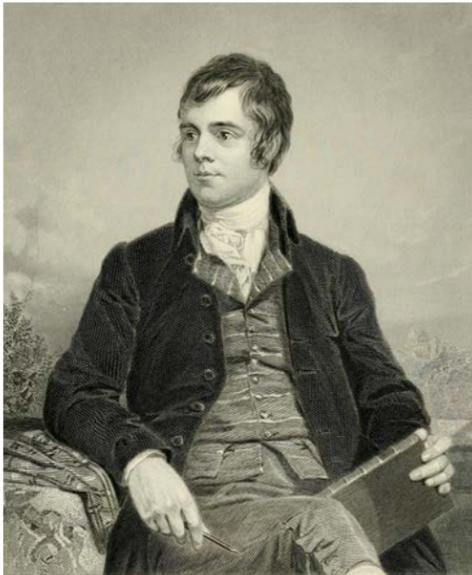
a moment white, then gone forever..' [*Tam O'Shanter*]

[ii] '..the best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley...' [*To A Mouse*]

[iii] 'Should auld acquaintance be forgot....' [*Auld Lang Syne*]

[iv] 'The rank is but the guinea's stamp,  
The man's the gow'd for a' that...' [*A Man's A Man*].

No doubt about it, the wit and wisdom are in the poetry. His unsettling truths [contained in the above lines from *To A Louse*], if thought about seriously, reduces man to staring at his image in the mirror, dusting off the lies, myths and metaphors that he prefers to call existence. All of us have mirrors of some kind or other--I wonder [myself included] how many us actually see?



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## An Acquired Taste

by Jan Morgan-Swagle, Compass Pointe



I never thought I was going to live to an old age. The thought was always in the back of my mind that I would not be married for very long, would never see grandchildren and, of course, never collect Social Security. And yet, in 2022, I will turn 70. I will have been married for 33 years, I have 9 grandchildren and, yes, I'm on Social Security. I guess it's a good thing I didn't pursue a career in fortune telling.

Since I have retired, I feel like I have been asleep. I seem to go through the day on auto pilot. I get up when our dog barks at people walking by, I stumble into the kitchen, I make a cup of coffee and head into the office where the television is and where the chair and I become one for the next few hours. I have a routine—a ritual, if you will. I have acquired a taste for the quote on my coffee cup, “nothing to do, nothing to do, oh happy day, nothing to do.” Looking back, I see that 2020 melted into 2021 and my routine became more rigid.

Now that I have reached this milestone, I'm going to try and do different things this year. First, I'm going to enjoy the life that my husband and I have built more than I have. I tend to focus on wanting bigger, newer and better instead of looking at what we have and saying, “this is good.”

I'm going to meet more people. I find solace in writing and exploring things on the computer for hours. I often miss opportunities to interact with others, preferring instead to hang around one or two people I know. Over the years I have said, “everyone loves my husband, Tony, but I am an acquired taste.” But that's because Tony is outgoing and looks for common interests among people he

doesn't know very well. I need to be more open to new friendships.

This year, I'm going to do a better job of reaching out to my grandchildren who live in the Northeast Ohio area. I can't let after school activities or sports get in the way of connecting with them. They have a grandmother who lives in the area and I want them to know me like they know her. I can send cards and letters; I can ask for one-on-one time when we visit Ohio and I can make a difference in their lives.

In 2022, I need to spend less time in front of the television. I used to tell people that when I retired, I was going to read all of the books I never had time to read while I was working. The stack is about 6 feet tall now and yet, I turn away from the page and tune into the noise. Give me back-to-back Dr. Phil episodes or a Criminal Mind marathon and I'm happy. I need to get back to my art history books and biographies and learn new things.

I'm going to do something I've never done before. I'm not talking about jumping out of an airplane or anything that dramatic, but I'd like to take a class at the Leland Cultural Arts Center. I love photography and have always had an interest in pottery. In 2022, I will do something creative and new.

So, I have identified my life plan, one year at a time—not New Year's resolutions, but small things I want to do that will change the way I am living.

I have been blessed to have made it this far in my life and I will use the time I have left to try and be a better version of who I am.

## Bringing it Back

by Stan Washington, Brunswick Forest, Coastal Carolina Writers Club



Here I am standing in line pushing my cart forward. I try to re-read the gift receipt return process for a gift. I still can't understand the fine print. I'm at the local sports equipment store. My wife got me an inflatable pontoon boat for Christmas. This thing is massive. She came in to talk to someone about what she should buy for me.

The person she talked to was someone on commission. He sold her the largest, most expensive boat available for pickup that day. I am next up and still not exactly sure what the return process is.

I move up to the returns counter and state my case. He looks at me and asks, “Where is the item?” I point to the gift laden cart. The boat is somewhat deflated and very bulky. I have the original box balanced precariously atop the deflated boat on the cart. The guy looks down at the cart and informs me, “The item has to be in its original container for any return.”

I begin explaining the problem of fully deflating the boat and I have been trying to repackage this monstrosity for hours. It just will not fit back in the box. He starts shaking his head. He looks at me with no emotion and says he cannot take the return back if it is out of the original package. I plead one more time to see if I could sway him. That brought the same blank expression.

I ask if there is someone who could help me put it back in the box. He points down the aisle at a door marked “Employees only.” He directs me to look in the back for a Sam. He says Sam can help me. I find Sam and he looks at the

cart and then at the box. All he does for 5 minutes is to shake his head. Finally, he seems to see how to do the repackaging. He leaves and comes back with an electric pump that is used to inflate things like basketballs and such. He fiddles with the pump and connects it to the partially deflated boat turning some valves to further deflate the boat with the pump.

The boat shrivels to all rubber and no air. Thirty minutes later, we have folded the boat into a shape that could possibly fit into the box. After wrestling the boat back into the box, we pick up the massive box and load it on the cart.

Swinging back out into the aisle to the returns desk, I get in a line which has thankfully fewer people than originally. I finally get up to the returns desk. Same guy is there but he shows no signs of remembering me from before. He fills out the paperwork and gets me to sign the return request. I ask him about my refund. He looks at me with that blank face. He says, “The merchandise will need to be inspected for any damage.” I turn around and there is none other than Sam standing there. My returns clerk must have summoned him.

I ask, “How do you inspect it?” Sam states with an equally blank face, “We take it out of the box and unfold it, blow it up and inspect it. Then you can put it back in the box.” It is important here to not be visibly upset despite my shaking in frustration. I am barely able to keep from jumping over the counter and shake the return guy silly. The returns guy turns to me and asks, “So how was your Christmas?”

## My COVID Story – Catherine Grinnell, RN (Part 2 of 2)

by Ken Formalarie, Magnolia Greens



In late March 2020, part of the ICU in the hospital where my niece Catherine Grinnell (Cathie) worked was turned over to treat adult COVID patients who were starting to fill hospitals and nursing homes in the Boston area. Cathie tended to these patients never having had prior experience with this type of severe illness.

Exhausted from her time as a front-line worker treating COVID patients, she was given her first shot of the Moderna vaccine in December 2020. Her second shot (pictured right) shows her faith, pride, and jubilation at getting vaccinated. Our family is proud of the work Cathie has done and her great upbeat spirit amid constant difficulties.

Cathie has four children, who like others, sheltered at home during the pandemic. Coming home from working in a COVID unit meant she had to exercise extraordinary precautions to ensure her family was shielded from COVID. Despite all her precautions, she still could not prevent her only daughter, also named Catherine, and her oldest son Shaun, from contracting the virus. Thankfully, it was not caught at home. Young Catherine became quite ill but quarantined at home under her mother and father's watch and has since recovered.

The rewards any front line worker received during the Pandemic were few and far between but when they did come, they made Cathie's day!



(Left) Boston Medical Center (L-R) - Catherine Grinnell RN, Anna McDonough RN, Patti Marciano RN, and Lindsay Kilpatrick RN. These PICU nurses were reassigned to the SICU and this was our first day on April 3, 2020. All wore caps because COVID is a lipid which can stick to hair. The Tupperware was used to carry N-95 masks.



(Right) Spring 2020, entrance Boston Medical Center. Flowers handed by a mother and her three children to nurses as they exited work.



(Left) One day in May 2020 upon arriving home from work Cathie found this poster on her front lawn gifted from sister Colleen.

## Each Day is New

by Joan Leotta, Wilmington

Published in Jan 2019 in *Senior Buzz Brunswick County*

January is a traditional time for “starting fresh”. We make resolutions to help us transform the coming year into a better, happier one, than the year we just finished. Usually, those resolutions, are to lose weight, work smarter, and maybe to give up smoking. It is our hope that making these improvements will bring us happiness—at least that's true for me. However, happiness originates on the inside, not from any of these externals. The true key to changing our lives so we will be happier, is to make changes in our inner selves, develop habits that will bring joy.

Strengthening our inner selves also prepares us to deal better with problems and challenges that may arise during the year. We cannot control our future, but we can make ourselves stronger, more resilient, and able to react to whatever comes in a positive manner.

Happiness and spiritual calm as goals are not as easily quantified as a weight loss goal. For this reason, I advocate a “daily” approach, instead of setting a benchmark for a year-end (ego lose ten pounds) that requires daily adherence over a long period of time. Think

about each day as a separate unit. Try to implement the three suggestions below, each day. One of the advantages of daily goal setting is that every morning you start all over again. There is no mid-March slow down. If you miss a day, a week, a month, you simply start again.

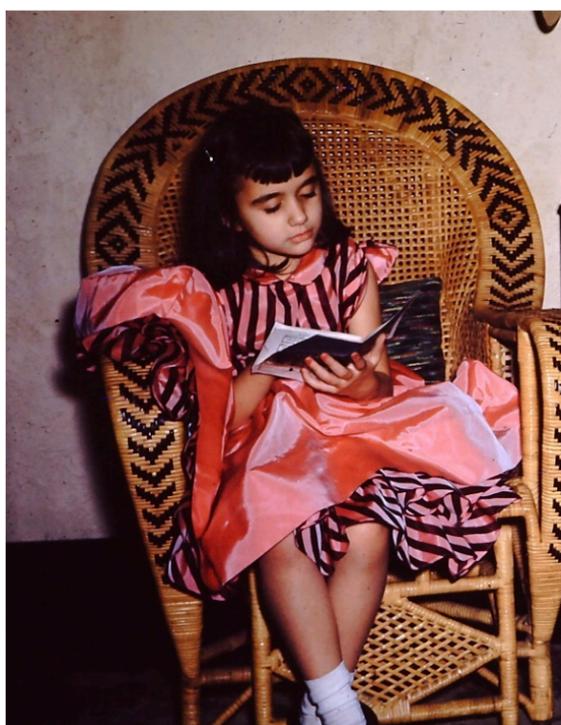
*What are we doing once a day?*

1. Start each day with gratitude. Say a word of thanks. I try to thank God for each New Day—for having a roof over my head, for being able to make breakfast. This year, I will try to write one thing daily in a gratitude journal. Research has shown what the Bible, other religions, and even secular literature have determined to be true—gratitude is a great re-maker of the human spirit. Keeping a gratitude journal is a good thing to remind us, when we feel low, how much good there is in our lives. If we do nothing, else, we should do this step.

2. Do good. Check out local volunteer opportunities to be sure but fulfilling this can be as simple as smiling at someone, letting someone go ahead of us in line, saying something nice to another person even on Facebook, or simply refraining from being mean when someone disagrees with us.

3. Make things less important in our lives. Throw out or give away something that is not needed any more. One item per day will help declutter our houses and our hearts. Think before we spend. Do I really need that?

Make “Each day is new.” your mantra. Do not be discouraged, if you miss one or more of these daily transformation exercises. Missing whichever of these you have chosen to do daily does not mean failure. Just start over again. After all, every day offers the opportunity for a fresh start. That's 365 fresh starts in 2019. Happy New Year!



## My Heavenly Addiction

by Sheryl Kepler, Brunswick Forest



“208. Your cholesterol is 208,” the doctor said.

I sat there on the examination table fully dressed in shock.

“208.” I responded. “It used to be 166,” I said.

I had always prided myself on giving up eating red meat and smoking cigarettes all in the same week back in the early 1990's. People, at that time, made bets on how many pounds I would gain as I had always been slender.

I gained no weight – zero pounds! I was proud of that accomplishment.

So fast forward to yesterday approximately thirty years later and the new cholesterol numbers. I was having trouble digesting this new information.

“What have you been eating?” The doctor asked.

“A little ice cream and cheese and crackers for night snacks,” I responded.

“Well, I think you really need to give them up,” my primary doc said.

Now, I was beginning to sink into a quagmire. The irony was that my arthritis doctor said to eat cheese and dairy products to keep my calcium levels good.

I had previously received good news on the calcium bone level lab work the month before this cholesterol diagnosis.

My chocolate chip mint nightly ice cream would have to cease and desist.

The past year, after ironically giving up my daily glass of red wine due to a new high liver enzymes diagnosis, I had substituted the bowl of chocolate chip mint ice cream.

At first, I rationalized the substitution as I kept thinking of those Italians (and I'm 50 percent Italian) on the island of Sardinia, who have incredible longevity success, eating pasta, drinking red wine, sitting in the Mediterranean sunshine. Of course, I had forgotten to factor in the hilly terrain of Sardinia, which these Italians walked every day keeping their hearts and souls and minds healthy. They were part of the “blue zone” of the world population that achieves longevity; they even have murals of seniors over 100 years of age on their street walls and buildings.

I had ventured out last week to explore the local varieties of my obsession-chocolate chip mint ice cream. Aldi's Belmont brand was good and cheap, Lowe's Food's was passable, Blue Bunny was just OK, and even Walmart's Great Value brand was acceptable.

That's when I realized I might have an addiction.

At least I didn't get my ice cream in a sugar cone with toppings galore, I was still rationalizing.

“OK,” I said to primary doctor. “I will cut down the amount of ice cream I consume but I still have to keep a piece of cheese in my refrigerator.”

“Done,” said the doc. “See you in six months and re check your blood labs.”

I tried to focus on the positive as I left the doctor's office.

My liver enzymes were finally normal after over a year of no red wine and no bone density meds. I had even had a liver biopsy in the hospital, just to confirm my new regenerated liver.

So, off now to tackle high AIC, hypertension, and rapid heart beat as I recalled the famous actor Betty Davies, chain smoking away, delivering her classic line “Getting old isn't for sissies.”

As I headed out to my car in the bright sunshine, life didn't seem so gloomy.

I opened my purse, searching for my car keys. Oh no, where were they??? Did I leave them at doc's office? At least, I thought, I didn't have to draw that dumb clock and remember the three words the nurse said in the intake exam... or should I have done that

med test again??

I vowed to age gracefully as I headed back into the doc office to search for my lost keys. At least I still had my dignity....

## The Japanese Midget Subs of Pearl Harbor

by Frank T. Stritter, Holden Beach, NC



Much has been written about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, but little about one aspect of the attack -- **the midget submarines**.

In the pre-dawn of 7 December, five Japanese submarines, called "mothers" in that they carried top-secret "midget submarines" named the Special Attack Unit surfaced and deployed midgets that were attached to their decks.

Each midget had a crew of two and was powered by batteries that had an endurance of 12 hours before being recharged by its "mother." The armament included two torpedoes, and each also had a scuttling charge as a self-destruct device. The midgets' mission was to follow inbound ships into the harbor, surface and fire their torpedoes at US ships during the aerial attack. They would then escape the harbor and rendezvous with their "mothers."

At 0342 on 7 December a US minesweeper spotted the periscope of midget HA-20 and alerted a nearby destroyer. Ninety minutes before the air attack began, the destroyer fired the first shots of World War II, putting a hole through the midget's conning tower. The midget submerged and the destroyer dropped depth charges. The destroyer immediately reported the sinking, but the report wasn't delivered until too late to provide an advance warning. In 2002, the Undersea Research Laboratory discovered the midget intact with both torpedoes still in their tubes. The remains of her crew are most likely still on board.

HA-22 may have been the only midget to make it into Pearl Harbor successfully. It fired both torpedoes, hitting nothing. Shortly thereafter a destroyer spotted HA-22's conning tower, headed for the midget and rammed it at 0843. The destroyer dropped depth charges and the midget sank. HA-22's wreck was recovered shortly after the attack and was used as fill during a Harbor expansion. It was uncovered again in 1952 but was badly damaged and reburied at the same location. The remains of the crew likely remain aboard.

HA-19's steering malfunctioned with the midget hitting two reefs. It washed ashore on 8 December with both torpedoes unfired. The captain swam ashore, fell unconscious on the beach and was captured at 0540. Hours earlier he had been pi-

loting a midget on a mission to attack Pearl Harbor, but had now become the US's first prisoner of World War II. He spent the rest of the war in a POW camp. HA-19 is now on permanent display at the American National Museum of the Pacific War.

HA-18 was discovered in 1960 near the entrance to Pearl Harbor. It had been damaged by a depth charge and apparently abandoned by its crew before it could fire its torpedoes. It was raised with its hatch opened from the inside and its torpedoes still in place. The Japanese government requested that it be returned in 1962, it was restored and is on permanent display there now.

A-16 is a mystery. One possibility is that it was spotted by a destroyer, fired at by the destroyer's gunners and fired a torpedo at the destroyer. It then fired a torpedo at a cruiser. The cruiser fired at what its captain believed was its conning tower. None of this was confirmed, but HA-16 was not seen again. Another possibility comes from a Japanese photo suggesting that a midget may have successfully fired torpedoes at two battleships during the air attack. The crew might then have exited the Harbor and scuttled the midget before perishing. HA-16 sent a message at 2241 on 7 December indicating "successful attack" and then a second message at 0111 on 8 December claiming "unable to navigate."

The Undersea Lab found HA-16's stern section in 1992, its midsection in 2000 and its bow in 2001. It had been partially destroyed by an internal explosion, probably the scuttling charge. Both its torpedoes had been fired, but it could not be determined if the hatch had been opened from the inside. If not, the remains of the crew are still inside.

In summary, five midget submarines carrying ten torpedoes were part of the Japanese attack against Pearl Harbor. Four were sunk and one was captured. Six torpedoes were never fired, two were fired hitting nothing and, two remain unaccounted for. Nine submariners died and one was captured. The three midgets still on the bottom are considered historic sites and war graves. The other two are on permanent display.



(above) Japanese Type A Midget Submarine recovered in 1960 off Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (cited Wikipedia)

## Pay It Forward In The New Year

by Ray Burkart, Wilmington

On a recent Sunday morning, I woke my wife, Betty, to get ready for church. She said she was very tired and needed to sleep in. I made her breakfast and put it on the table with her morning pills. It was still pretty early, so I decided to stop at McDonald's for a quick breakfast. When I was ready to leave, I noticed another family was gathering their trash and I asked if I could dispose of it for them. They acted a little surprised, but accepted and expressed their appreciation.

A simple gesture, no big deal.

We needed a few groceries, so on the way home, I planned to stop at Walmart. On my way in, I gathered and pushed a couple of carts into the store. One for me and one to add to the pile there for others. I try to do that wherever there are carts.

A simple gesture, no big deal.

While in the store, I saw a packaged kitchen knife laying on the floor, picked it up and hung it back where it belonged. I often find things that people have removed from their carts and placed where they do not belong. Sometimes, even frozen foods. It is just easy to put them back where they belong or give them to the cashier when checking out.

A simple gesture, no big deal.

Betty's son, Chip, stopped by our Villa about noontime to chat. He is good about visiting his mom on most Sunday's. By the time he left, it was too late to go to our, always great, Plantation Village Sunday brunch. I hoped I was not missing one of those special prime rib Sunday's ! We talked about where to go eat and, in spite of my meager efforts to lose a little weight, we chose the Italian Bistro. We each has a glass of wine, fresh bread with olive oil/garlic dip and a big bowl of ravioli, mine with spicy Italian sausage and Betty's with meat sauce. It was excellent, as usual, and way too much, but "we ate the whole thing" ! I got the credit card out of my wallet and motioned for the waitress to bring the bill. She came over to our table and quietly said "your bill has been taken care of" !! We, of course, were shocked and I asked if she would tell us who our benefactor was. She said she would ask if he was willing to reveal that information and returned to the kitchen. When she returned, she said the person wanted to remain anonymous. Remembering that Chip had heard us discuss where we might eat, I asked her if it might be Chip Patton. She said she couldn't say yes and she couldn't say no. I then asked if the person had also left a sufficient tip. After confirming he did, she then confided that the person had "paid for the dinner and tip for everyone in the restaurant at the time !!! Wow, we sat there stunned for a bit. There must have been close to 30 people in there. Nope, it was not Chip !!

Now, that's NOT a simple gesture and is a BIG DEAL !!

Talk about "pay it forward". That was a pretty big one !! I have done a few small deeds like paying for a few groceries for someone in front of or behind me in a checkout line, but nothing approaching this !

This incident makes me want to be more aware of future opportunities to PAY IT FORWARD for someone and do in it in an anonymous way. Care to join me?

## Musings of a Retired Hobby Farmer

by Nan York, Magnolia Greens



Part III ... Goats

It takes a while to get used to goats. At first glance, they look funny. Their eyes do not have round pupils. They are rectangular. Once you get beyond that very first glance, they are great creatures that do their very best to outsmart you.

We started off with three goats, Alice, Billy, and Cookie. And I have to say that Billy was very, very good at his job. During the dozen years that we homed goats, Billy fathered 30 kids with Alice and Cookie. We named them alphabetically.

Delta was his first-born and after about 6 months, we re-homed him to Blue Bird Gap Farm in Hampton VA. The staff there promptly re-named him "Donny" because they kept singing "Delta Dawn" all day long! Donny lives with the sheep and twice a year, he vacations with the all-female goat herd. He is also very good at his job!

We created a small birthing nursery in the barn where Alice and/or Cookie could bond with their kids before introducing them to the other goats and Luke & Lillie, the two donkeys. Goats usually birth twins and one December 24th, Joey and Mary were born.

Donkeys provide protection for the herd and were very gentle with the goats. They are not afraid of dogs or wild creatures that decide to enter the pasture. Just

ask my son's dog who, after an encounter with Luke, would not leave the front porch the entire time my son was visiting. Neighbors were warned not to allow their dogs to come near the pastures. We trained our dogs to stay a safe distance from the donkeys.

Nancy, a neighbor, had a flock of guinea hens. Guineas roam fields and treed areas eating bugs and insects, particularly ticks. So, they are quite beneficial. They would visit my pastures and one goat, Ivy, paid particular attention to the way the guineas entered and left the pastures. Seems the guineas circumvented the 'live' electric wire that was strung along the bottom of the fence boards. Somehow the guineas found a depression in the ground under the fence which allowed them to come and go without getting 'zapped.' Ivy found that depression and one day, all 20 goats were on the other side of the fenced pasture; the escape was watched by Luke and Lillie. Neighbors were concerned and did not know how to get them back into the pasture. We were in town at the time, and when we returned, we calmly walked into the barn, put some feed in metal coffee cans, shook the cans, and all the goats came running back into the barn and the pasture for the feed. We then scoured [with the help of the donkeys of course] the pasture perimeter for any depressions and filled them with cinder blocks and an extra 'wire' to deter further 'escapes.'

## A Walk in the Woods

by Nancy Bryans, Brunswick Forest



It is my custom to walk several miles outdoors every day, preferably in the early morning when the new day awakens. I need fresh air to stimulate my mind and energize my spirit. Sometimes my usual path around my neighborhood takes a different direction, this time through the woods. The aroma and beauty of woodlands soothes and calms, allowing me to focus on life without interruptions from greeting friendly neighbors and patting adorable dogs. As I cleared the last residential street, turning past a small pond, I viewed the expanse of hardwoods and firs lifting their limbs to touch the brightening blue sky. It was late summer and the trees were still lush green, sparkling with dew in the early morning light. Their reflection in the pond mirrored their grandeur as they seemed to beckon me forward. The sun began to warm my face. As I stepped into the woods, a cool breeze kissed my cheeks and the fragrance of the pines, fir and spruce trees delighted my

nose. Deciduous trees seemed to whisper “Quiet” as if I were entering a library. This is the mood I wished to capture to begin my time alone with my thoughts.

There is something special, almost magical, about an early morning walk in the woods. The sounds of the busy day have yet to drown the silence of the woodlands. The rising sun filters through the trees, spotlighting saplings, ferns and grasses or the occasional wildflower. As the dawn turns to daylight, I can see more detail of each leaf, needle and plant. A Great Horned Owl resting on a limb turns its head in greeting, squirrels scamper up and down tree trunks, and birds sing songs from their camouflaged hiding places in the forest canopy.

The gurgle of a small stream caught my attention, and I paused to see the ripples of water flow to some distant destination, where I had no idea. The slight splashing of water against nature’s detritus could lull me into a trance but not today. My walk needed to be non-stop, quick paced, purposeful, yet not too fast

to miss enjoyment of nature’s bountiful display of sights and sounds. I was drawn off a well-worn path others trod before me. A rustling of leaves caught my attention, then I spotted the cause. I had never seen this critter in the wild. It took me a few minutes to determine what it was—an opossum! My movement forward caused it to gaze at me with curiosity, or possibly alarm. After a good look at me, the opossum moved along a bent tree trunk, around the tree, and it peeked at me from its partly hidden pose. It became a game—which of us would move first. I continued my walk, wondering if the opossum would be there to greet me on my return, but it wasn’t.

As I quickened my step venturing deeper into the forest, I began to see how this walk in the woods was a metaphor for my journey through life. I was reminded of my chosen course, in need of constant guarding against its meandering along without a purpose. Today I experienced not only exercise, but appreciation of nature and the incredible blessings of life.

## The Worth of Water

by David Hume III, Wilmington



Growing up in the Rio Grande Valley, life’s rhythm was dictated by the weather. The school year ended, but the summer storm clouds didn’t appear. The sky became a dull, hazy color and the soft evening breezes abandoned us. Initially, most people said that it would just be a matter of time; the rain would arrive a little later in the year. It didn’t. Summer changed into autumn and still there was no rain. As children, we didn’t understand the causes of this phenomenon, but were aware of its effects.

At first, we saw this as a great adventure. Some of the ponds used to water cattle began to dry up. The mud was cool, soft and thick and fun to play in. We caught catfish and perch with our bare hands. Dust devils, swirling clouds of dust resembling mini-tornados, became more frequent. Some of the older people said this was a bad omen, but we were not impressed by their superstitions.

Soon, the soft mud became hard, caked dirt and the ponds changed from recreation areas to dry, warped puzzle pieces of cracked earth. Some school children became sick. Cattle, calves, pigs, lambs, goats and horses began to die. And the drought persisted. When Christmas arrived, so did the dust storms. We learned a few new words: brucellosis, bacteria and stagnant. Everyone began to detest the cloudless blue sky. The heat radiated daily from the parched land, creating mirages that made the village appear to be an island in the middle of a large lake. It was only a cruel joke. There was no lake, there was no water, and the people were losing hope. It seemed as if our situation could not get worse, but it did. The two wells, providing water for our village since the 1700s, dried up. The solution appeared a week later when two mobile petroleum exploration rigs arrived to drill for water, not oil.

By dusk, lengths of steel pipe were hoisted into the prefabricated tower after the first drill bit entered the ground. At night, the men used flood lights to illuminate the work area, and the villagers kept them fed with relays of sandwiches and hot coffee. Amidst all the excitement, no one could sleep. At a depth of almost 300 feet, the men stopped drilling and gathered around large seismic maps that showed something our shallow, hand dug well could not have reached: artesian water. It was a massive pool of pure water under positive pressure. As the men returned to the drilling tower, we heard shouts. A geyser of water shot into the air from the drilling platform. It was glorious and the village children ran to its source, frolicking in its coolness before the men capped it.

The sign appeared after the drilling rigs departed, written in flowing cursive letters: “When the well is dry, we’ll know the worth of water - Benjamin Franklin.” None of us ever forgot that phrase. Instead of running inside during the warm summer rains, we looked up to the heavens, smiling and remembering the worth of water.

## Inspirational Cancer Words

by Brenden Connelly, Brunswick Forest



For all those out there fighting cancer, those who have survived cancer and those who have lost someone due to cancer, here are parts of great inspirational poems and thoughts:

Taken in part from Robert L. Lynn’s “Cancer is so Limited.”

**WHAT CANCER CANNOT DO:**

*“It cannot invade the soul, suppress memories, kill friendships, destroy peace, conquer the spirit, shatter hope, cripple love, corrode faith, steal eternal life or silence courage.”*

From Richard Attenborough and quoted in part by Mother Teresa:

*“There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering and too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.”*

Cancer has hit so many people in this world and we have so many close friends and family members in our lives who either are battling cancer, have survived cancer, or have died from cancer. We have to fight on and hope it does not happen to us. Pray for all those people out there in the world suffering right now that they can find peace.



For anyone going through difficult times in your life, here is a great bible passage:

*“Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1.9)*

And, there is an old Irish blessing (author unknown) that inspires hope:

*“May God give you, for every storm, a rainbow. For every tear, a smile. For every care, a promise and a blessing in each trial. For every problem life sends, a faithful friendship to share. For every sigh, a sweet song and an answer for each prayer.”*

For anyone who has lost a loved one or a close friend in your life, here are some comforting words and poems. It is never easy to lose a loved one or close friend. It is part of human nature. It happens to all of us in our lifetime. We must remember the good times with our loved ones.

Taken from “The Angels Little Instruction Book,” by Eileen Elias Freeman

*“The angels are always near to those who are grieving, to whisper to them that their loved ones are safe in the hand of God.”*

Taken in part from Mary M. Green:

*“I’m gone now, but I’m still very near. Death can never separate us. Each time you feel a gentle breeze, it’s my hand caressing your face. Each time the wind blows, it carries my voice whispering your name. When the wind blows your hair ever so slightly, think of it as me pushing a few stray hairs back in place. When you feel a few raindrops fall on your face, it’s me, placing soft kisses. At night, look up into the sky and see the stars shining so brightly. I’m one of those stars and I’m winking at you and smiling with delight. For never forget, you’re the apple of my eye.”*

Finally, keep in mind that God is always with you and will help you get through any difficult times. Also remember you have family and friends who are always there for you in times of need.

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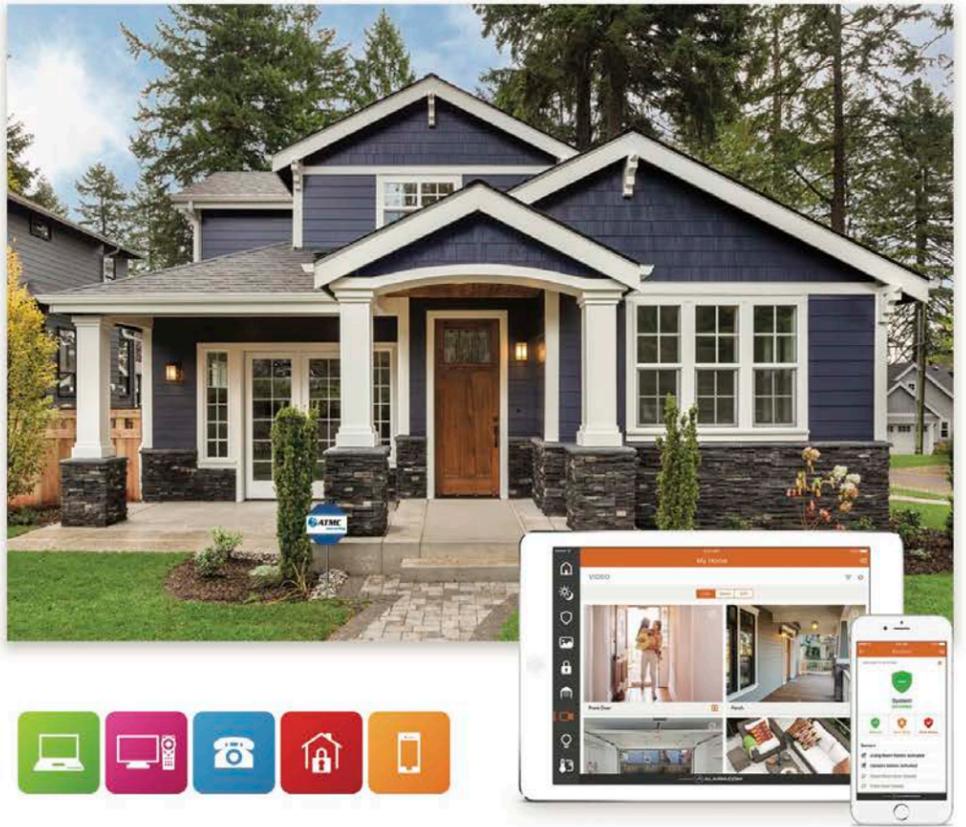
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## LAUGHING IN THE GOLDEN YEARS 2022 RESOLUTIONS

by Maryann Nunnally, Porters Neck



In the past I have generally made New Year's resolutions which lasted all of a week or less, and then forgot them all together. Every year I resolved to go on a diet immediately, and then immediately never seemed to come. I would promise that during the New Year I would not lose my temper regardless of what someone said to me, but before I knew it, I was raising my voice and turning red in the face just because someone disagreed with me. And every year I vowed to look out for others and give money to the needy or the rescue mission. However,

there never seemed to be a time when I had any extra cash to hand out. Thus, my New Year's resolutions went down the tank and were never fulfilled.

So, this year, 2022, my resolutions will be something that I can carry through. First of all, I resolve to really listen to what others have to say, and when I disagree with their views, I will simply say: "I guess we just think differently," or "Thank you for sharing." Will that take every bit of will power that I have? You can hang your hat on it. But losing my temper at my age is apt to give me a stroke or a heart attack, so I have a darn good reason to bite my tongue.

My next resolution will be to fill my plate with all the food that I like, but to take only half portions of what I want. No matter how much I am urged to eat more, I will have total discipline and try to remember that there are many others in the world who don't have the luxury to fill their plate at all. I will not consider dieting since I never carry it out, but I believe that if I can have half of what I want, it should be enough to cut my food down to what I actually need. Will I lose weight? I don't have any idea, but I think I should lose a little, or at least I'm hoping so.

And finally, I am going to try to give others joy so I will gain joy for myself. I am going to look for those who need visitors, those who are hungry and those who need warm clothing. I will do my best to take care of those needs. At the same time, I will definitely find time to read every day, to walk around the block, to sing or whistle when the mood hits me, and to find kids who need some tutoring or mentoring. I will tell people that I love them, and then bask in the smiles that I get in return. In short, I am resolving to get a positive attitude and to carry it out throughout the whole year. Wish me luck in 2022; I will need it.



## Snowbound

By Charles Bins, Wilmington

The speaker in the airport crackled: "Ladies and gentlemen, we now have a severe weather advisory in effect. There will be no flights in our out of Detroit Airport for at least the next two hours. We will update you as soon as possible."

"January: Trapped in Detroit again," Jack thought to himself. He was well acquainted with the Detroit airport. It was the waypoint between his home in White Plains, New York, and Grand Rapids, the headquarters of his biggest client. Undeterred, he headed to the bar and draped his overcoat over the barstool next to him. Tapping his Amex gold, he ordered a Manhattan and took a long sip, eyes over his glass.

The bar was open on two sides and people were shuffling in. He scanned the room, seeing what he could see and if anyone would catch his eye. A pretty redhead in a green dress sat alone at a table in the center of the bar playing with her phone. He swaggered over, drink in hand. "Mind if I join you?"

"That depends," she said, flashing him a sideways glance with an impish smile Jack found intriguing.

"Depends on what?" Jack beamed back.

She took him in for a moment. "On what you're about."

"Well, if you were planning to fly this evening, I'd about

say, we have something in common."

"Stuck in Detroit," she said. "Sure, have a seat."

"What would you like to drink?"

"Oh, just a Sprite," she said politely. She let Jack prattle on about his single life in New York for over an hour -- and gave him little information about herself. He was successful, entitled and conniving, just as she suspected.

The din in the bar was interrupted by another announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, I regret to inform you: The Detroit Airport will not open for flights again until at least mid-morning." Everyone groaned.

Jack figured there would be a mad scramble for taxis, so he'd better act fast: "Say, I'm going to try to book a room at the Marriott. I know the night manager. Would you care to join me?"

"What do I owe you for the drink?" she asked curtly.

"Why nothing," he said.

"Why nothing!" she scowled.

The young woman pushed back from the table, her chair squealing like a pig against the tile. Heads turned. She stood up, still glaring at Jack, and grabbed her coat with a flourish. Then her voice rang out so everyone within a half a mile could hear it: "Fifty dollars! --Fifty dollars!?"



# THE TEEN SCENE

FREE

Tomorrow's Voices Today

## Early College High School



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### A Look Back To 2021

Margie Steve, 11th Grade & Bella Wood, 9th grade



Students and teachers have come out of a school year full of changes, challenges, new opportunities, and online learning during a forever changeable pandemic last year. As 2021 has just ended and a new year has already approached us, why not look back at Brunswick Early College High School's favorite memory of 2021? Students and staff were interviewed, and their responses to their favorite memories were:

Karen Feaster, a teacher here at BECHS said that her favorite memory was "Finding out that I will have a grandson and granddaughter in April and May of 2022. I am also glad to see everyone's smiling face."

A freshman, Mary Said commented that her favorite memory was "Making new friends" and that her friends are Eryn Greeno and Bella Wood.

Alise White, the success teacher, said that her favorite memory was "finding out that I will be a grandma and her name is going to be Genesis Gian. She is my first grandbaby and is expected to be here on February 3, 2022."

Christopher Orrock, the assistant principal, said his favorite memory was "Taking my wife Ashleigh Orrock and my two daughters Sophia Orrock (7-year-old) and Adilyn Orrock (3 years old) to New York City for the first time in April of 2021 for a week.

Eleanor Keely, a student, said that her favorite memory was "going to the powerlifting team nationals this past summer in Colorado and finished 6th. The opportunity was cool. In July, I went to Disney World and cried when I walked into Galaxy Edge because I love Star Wars. I also built a light saber."

Denise Absher, the Principal, said that her favorite memory was, "Welcoming our students back to school and getting to see BECHS coming together because we are



better when we all work together. I got to experience what ECHS is really like. I got to move into a new house in Sunset Beach, NC, which has been a dream of mine. We wanted to get back to the coast and have been coming to sunset beach for over 30 years. We wanted to move here and eventually retire here."

Marijayne Jessup, the school counselor said that her favorite memory was "going to Panama with a bunch of my friends over the summer and seeing all of the students coming back after not being in school for a while."

Ajia Steve and Kayding Berry, ECHS graduates, said that their favorite memory was "putting pens on Khia to keep her from getting dress-coded."

Rachel Danfod, a freshman, said that her favorite memory was, "I have been a dancer for more than ten years! Unfortunately, due to an injury, I had to stop dancing temporarily. I was able to go back halfway through the competition season. This was extremely stressful as I was behind in every class I took. However, I still wanted to compete. My amazing dance teacher, Holly Cross, choreographed and taught me a ballet solo in TWO MONTHS! I ended up going to Nationals at Showstoppers and winning 1st Place in my category. Although the injury ruined my plans for the season, it led me to an awesome opportunity."

Students and staff have not only faced a pandemic with constant changes but they have tried something new, overcame challenges, made new memories, and made the best out of what they had. Students will encounter new opportunities and challenges as we begin the new year. Both students and staff are at their prime for accomplishing their goals, or anything they are faced with in this new year of 2022.

### Standardized Testing

by Arwen Lyonesse, 10th Grade

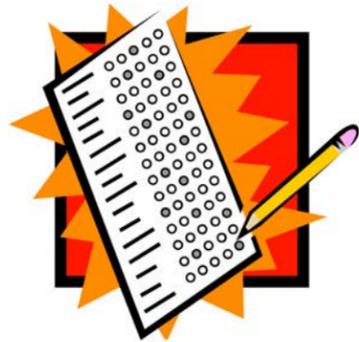


For years, standardized testing has been a debate had by many educators and students, but how do those at the Brunswick County Early College really feel about it?

Of course, as a teacher, some things cannot be avoided, standardized testing being one of those, especially in high school classes. When asked if this method of testing was an accurate portrayal of a student's abilities, a math teacher here at the Early College said, "I feel like it gives us a good idea of what they have learned. It also gives us a lot of data and feedback to know what we need to teach better. But I also know a lot of students have testing anxiety, so I know a lot of them don't perform as well as what they do in class and what they can do." These seem to be the general thoughts of teachers that were interviewed. Many teachers believe that while the testing provides good information for the state and helps make some choices moving forward, it is not accurate or fair to each student.

Our students, though, have far stronger opinions on the topic. Angel Deras says, "I feel that it [standardized testing] is unfair... what have we done to forsake this world- we should have more projects to enjoy life because stressing about things is not good." Many other students feel the same way, and they don't like sitting in the same room for hours at a time, completing a repetitive test that was made to trick them. Many students stress about the exams days or even weeks before. One student says they "get too overwhelmed, so the amount of time spent studying ends up less than it should be there's too much focus on the worry."

So, how do we make testing fair to all students? Another one of our English teachers says that "we should value equity over equality." Catering to each student, giving them what they need to succeed instead of giving everyone the same treatment regardless of circumstance. An example they used to show how we already do this was giving one student who has a learning disability 90 minutes to take their exam and a student without 60 minutes.



### One of A Kind

by Margie Steve, 11th Grade & Nathaniel Brown, 9th Grade



She is a teacher who every student and faculty here at Brunswick Early College High School knows that they can go to if needed. She is not only an American

History I and II teacher, but she truly is one to listen to students and her co-workers' voices. She deeply cares about everyone's mental health and is willing to sit and listen to students' needs.

Students and teachers agree that you don't have to be afraid to talk about something or a particular subject that some may feel uncomfortable. The openness to discuss feelings and thoughts within her classroom



allows students to use critical thinking and think outside of what is being taught. Many students enjoy being in her class because it is a class like no other. Her name is Sarah Osborne.

While Mrs. Osborne was being interviewed, she revealed why she chose to be a teacher and what inspired her. Mrs. Osborne said "My inspiration to work at an Early College was that it was the only school that would hire a brand new out of college teacher. HA, but I've fallen in love with the mission and vision of Early College and the particular demographic and type of students we serve. Early College kids are the BEST! My inspiration for becoming a teacher came in high school when I fell in love with

American History and wanted to foster that same love and curiosity in other high school students!"

Mrs. Osborne's goal "is to teach students how to hear, learn, and analyze multiple perspectives on any issues, be able to empathize with multiple sides, and use critical thinking to decide where they land on an issue. My goal and dream would be for them to develop their opinions on issues, and be able to share them with other people in a kind and respectful way." Ms. Megan Smith, a former student of Mrs. Osborne's and now English teacher at BCECHS, said, "Ms. Osborne is my role model as a teacher. I've had the pleasure of being her student and now her co-worker." (continued on next page)

### One of A Kind (continued)

by Margie Steve, 11th Grade & Nathaniel Brown, 9th Grade, ECHS

"She is passionate about her subject, well-organized, and incredibly compassionate. Brunswick Early College High School is lucky to have her."

Ms. Schrode, a former math teacher here at BECHS says, "Mrs. Osborne is a person you can always count on, a friend, and colleague. She is tough, but fair."

Mrs. Absher, the principal of BECHS says "She is very passionate about teaching. Students not only learn about History but how to be successful in life. She cares deeply about her students and holds very high expectations. I am so grateful to have her here. She is like the ultimate teaching professional and I love that about her."

Kaylin Stevenson, a junior, says "I like how honest and caring she is."

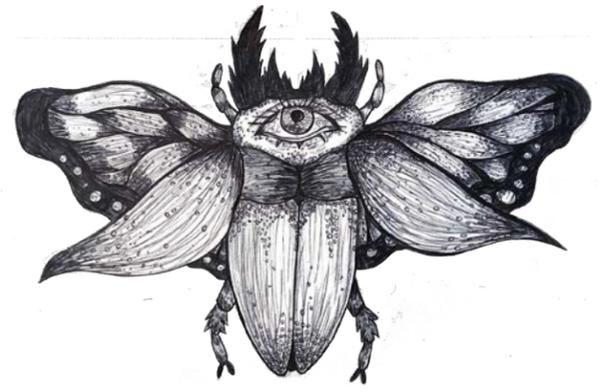
Ryan Cooley, a junior, says, "I like how she actual-

ly cares about the subject she is teaching and knows what she is talking about. Also, I like how she adds real emotion to each lesson."

Kaylan Horne, a junior, says, "she is very enthusiastic. I can not sit in class and be lectured; my ADHD can not tolerate it. The way she teaches allows us to elaborate together, and interactive activities help me learn better and understand History differently."

Alise White, a Success Teacher, said, "...history can be so boring, but she makes me want to take her class and learn about it."

Mrs. Osborne is an extraordinarily talented teacher that you don't always see. That is why she has been chosen to be the teacher of the month for January. The Firebird family hopes to have Mrs. Osborne and her rare gifts for a long time.



Artwork by Samantha Becker

## Renovation of the Reaves Chapel in Navassa

by TeCora Galloway, Early College High School



Reaves Chapel in Navassa, NC is being restored after decades of weathering. The church was erected after the civil war by formerly enslaved people of the Cedar Hill rice plantation. It was relocated once in 1922, because of the boom in infrastructure during the rebuilding period after the war. This church was like home to members of community until about 1995 when the church Matriarch, Aurelia Gertrude Weston, passed away. The church has since been vulnerable to the elements and has suffered particularly from termite damage. Structural reinforcement is currently being put into place and the building is being braced.

The chapel will be a topic for conversation in the North Carolina Rice Festival, which will serve to educate people about the history of rice growing and the enslaved people that shaped the culture of African Americans and Gullah-Geechee people in the area today. Reaves Chapel will be important to the Rice Festival because it used to be on the Cedar Hill Rice Plantation, and it ties into the religious aspect of the Gullah-Geechee culture.

In 2019 the Coastal Land Trust and Cedar Hill/West Bank Heritage Foundation bought the church and has been supported by the community in continuing con-

struction. Specifically, the Historic Wilmington Foundation and the North Carolina Department of Culture Research, along with private donors in the community.

The community is hopeful that Reaves Chapel will be recognized as a state historic site of North Carolina and will be a part of the national registry. It is a rich part of African American history and it is a reminder of the post-civil war era which was a time full of hope and aspirations.

The president of the Cedar Hill/West Bank Heritage Foundation, Alfonso Beatty, comments that they are still accepting donations. If you are interested in donating to the restoration of the church you could donate through the website [www.coastallandtrust.org/reaves](http://www.coastallandtrust.org/reaves) or by sending a check addressed to Cedar Hill West Bank Heritage foundation to P.O. box 1735 Leland NC 28451.



### Coming in March 2022

THE NORTH CAROLINA RICE FESTIVAL will attract families, history enthusiasts, educators, tourists and residents alike to the Leland, North Carolina (Brunswick County), area to learn about and celebrate the region's rich and diverse cultural history of rice farming. The Board of Directors of the North Carolina Rice Festival, Inc. (NCRFI) is dedicated to supporting efforts to preserve and promote the history and culture of our area, both within and beyond the planned Festivals.

## Gravity

by Karleigh Quinn, 10th Grade



In this moment, we are apart.

From years of friendship

Shared secrets,

Glances across a room.

We are now in two separate universes.

Both orbiting the same center of gravity,

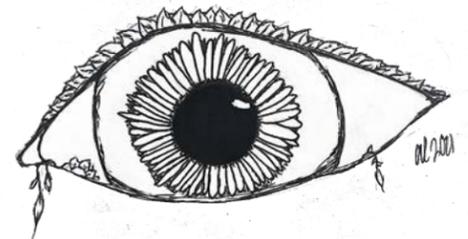
opposite directions.

You will always be a friendly face,

A place for small talk and sarcasm.

But we no longer share the looks we

used to.



"Beauty Within"

Artwork by Arwen Collins

# Leland Middle School



## New Book Vending Machine Installed

by Gabriel Duran, 8th Grade



(above) Principal Dr. Kim McDuffie and Brunswick Country School Board member Gerald Benton, Jr.

Leland middle school has just given students an amazing addition to the school. A book vending machine for all students to access. School staff will be giving out coins for good behavior. Students can use those coins to get a book from the vending machine. Giving students the opportunity to read without having to buy a book is great!

The book vending machine is located next to the gym so it's easy for students to find. The Battle of the Books Club donated the funds to make the purchase from their canceled trip to Broadway in 2020! They will be changing the book selection every now and then so students that don't like the selection will have another chance to get a book they enjoy.

A special thanks to the Battle of the Books Group and to all the school staff for making this possible!



(above) Students with their first books first books after using the coin given to them for doing a good deed at school.

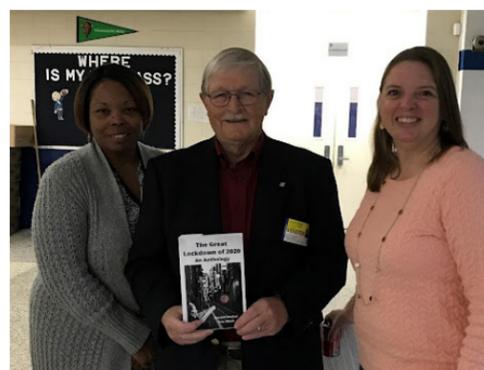
## A Fresh Start

by De'aundre Jones, 6th Grade



Woohoo! Hello 2022! 2021 is finally over... Well, that was painful, the covid pandemic, the new thread, all of this. But we can stick together and push through. We came in January, expecting to start a fresh new year, hopefully pandemic-free. But we were wrong. Even though we had a new covid strain, we pushed through. Even though vaccines aren't working, we pushed through. And here we are now. Still. Pushing. Through. Never give up, we can win this battle.

(right) Gerald Decker, Publisher of Cape Fear Voices/The Teen Scene donates a copy of the company's book, "The Great Lockdown of 202: An Anthology," to the Leland Middle School. Accepting the book on behalf of Leland Middle School is Principal Dr. Kim McDuffie and Librarian Allison Gale.



(below) Librarian Allison Gale introducing the program to students.



## Movie Reviews

by Grady Rice, 8th Grade



Spider-Man: Into the Spider Verse has been teased on Twitter to have it's own sequel on October, 7th 2022. While I do not have much information on it at the time, more about the movie is being leaked in the new Spider-Man: No Way Home. Sony also is showing off a 30-Minute Panel in Brazil's Comic-Con which could be the showing place for it's trailer. With how well the first SMITSV went with it's visuals and music, I have high standards for how it will turn out.



Halloween Ends is said to be the final installment of it's "Halloween" franchise. Scheduled to release on October, 14th 2022 with an exclusive theatrical release unlike Halloween Kill's debut date back in 2021. David Gordon Green says "There's not a lot of games in it, there's not a lot of wittiness and retro joy." Explaining how all 3 movies are different to each other with mood with Halloween Ends having a more intimate one.

Dragon Ball Super: SUPER HERO set in the future after the death of Majin Buu. The movie premiered in New York at Comic Con on Thursday, though it

### Alexander Hamilton

by Keiran Daniels, 8th Grade



Alexander Hamilton was born 266 years ago on January 11, 1755. one of the founding fathers Alexander Hamilton was born in the British West Indians; Mother I have two reasons why I wanted to write this article.

One, because my History teacher, Ron Watson, does not like the man and secondly, Alexander Hamilton was the one who created and helped in many ways but to me he led himself to his own death.

At age eleven his father left him and his mother due to debt and due to a hurricane, His mother passed; Moving in with a cousin until he committed suicide then he was alone. When he got to America and fought in the revolutionary war, Serving as Washington's advisor or



right hand man. Once they won and let George Washington become president he chose the Federalist, Alexander Hamilton as his secretary of Treasury.

During the revolutionary war he had met his wife, Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton; She was known for making the first private orphanage in New York city. Hamilton's first son, Philip Hamilton died in a duel after a well known article called the "The Reynolds Pamphlet" explaining how Alexander had an affair with Maria Reynolds. He died when the election of 1800 happened, Hamilton convincing his federalist party to vote for Thomas Jefferson instead of his well known Federalist, Aaron Burr challenged him to a duel that he lost too and died the next day.

### Whispers

by Lariyah Dansbury, 8th Grade

I was walking across the riverbank when the gentle breeze soothed my unsteadiness, and my breathing eased. I walked slowly until I reached the end of the riverbank until I stopped to listen to the whispers of the sea urging me to walk towards it. Yet the trees begged me to stay away. But as I drifted away from the trees and got ever so closer to the sea, I fell into inescapable darkness. I realized I was now in the hands of fate to decide whether life or death.



### Leland Middle School Wins County Championship in Volleyball

Coach Smith here with a volleyball announcement and a life lesson in resilience. First let me remind you that last year our volleyball team lost every single game. Every. Single. Game. This year it seemed as if we would suffer the same fate after losing our first game to South. But we bounced back. We remained resilient and we won every single game after that. Every. Single. Game. After our win on Monday November 29th we won, for the very first time, the county championship. I would love to take all the credit but I can't. Our success was due to the relentless effort from our team. If you know any of the following girls be sure to congratulate them on winning the (Co) championship.

#### Our volleyball team:

Abby Hicks, the team captain

Addie Inskeep, the MVP

**8th grade girls:** Ella Inskeep, Anna Smoker, Johanna Wisor, Darielle Young, Briseida Dominguez, Samantha Morgan, Hazel Johnson, Chelsea Saunders

**7th grade girls:** Anna Mcdermott, Amy Martinez, Sienna Smith, Kaylee McArdell, Jada Thomas

**Team manager:** Cameron Blodgett

Thank you all for a great season!

has not been released to the public. Hayashida promises a cinematic experience with what he thinks as fashionable, contemporary and modern. As it does not have a release date yet, it is for sure set in 2022. With the characters from a 2D to a 3D movie I'm excited to see how the fight scenes will look.

Sonic the Hedgehog 2 is a sequel to the adventure comedy of Sonic the Hedgehog (2019).

As seen at the end of the last movie, Tails will be teaming up with Sonic against Dr. Robotnik, who has teamed up with Knuckles in search of an emerald. It's release date is April 8, 2021.

Scream is a horror movie which is 2 hours long, and is set 25 years after the serial killings in Woodsboro, California. Release date for the movie is January 14th, 2022 As the teenagers figure out secrets about their town's past, A new killer

takes hold of the iconic Scream mask. This Scream movie is the fifth movie in the "Scream" series. Filming for the movie started in our own Wilmington, North Carolina.



### A Timeless Dream

by Charlie Sedbrook, 8th Grade

There was light beaming through my window and my curtains were swaying because of the wind. I got out of my bed and looked at my clock, 8:34 am. And that's when I realized it was the new year. I grabbed my calendar off my bedside table to switch the page into 2022, but when I flipped the page, it said 1822. For some reason, it went back 200 years?

I opened my curtains and looked out the window to see what was going on. There were people in weird hats and these long lace dresses of different faded colors, carrying baskets of goods down to the lake. I got out of my bed, put on my slippers, and ran downstairs to see my mother and grandmother, washing clothes and cleaning the kitchen. "Where are we," I asked. "Honey, I'm so glad you're up! Would you mind going to the market and grabbing us some bread, dear?" She said excitedly.

How is this happening right now? The last time I checked, I was in 2022, having fun sleepovers with my friends and playing on my iPad. I thought to myself, maybe if I go to the market, I may see someone I know. I mean, it is worth a shot. I nodded my head at mother, grabbed a basket on the floor near the door, and headed out.

As I was walking down the street, which used to be called Counter Street, I noticed the road was rough. I felt very awkward walking down the street while everyone around me was staring. I had my head down, staring at a basket, when I noticed I ran straight into the wall of the market. I fell to the rough rocks and hit my legs as soon as I fell down. I had my head down when I heard a deep voice coming my way. "Are you okay?" said a strange boy, "Yeah, I'm fine," I said as I looked up and saw him standing in front of me with his hand out. I put my hand out and grabbed his as he pulled me up off the ground, and we locked eyes. "What's your name?" he said, "Me? oh I'm Anna." I responded, still locking eyes. "Beautiful name, I'm James," he said. And at that moment, I felt empty, but in a good way.

As I was looking deep into his eyes, I opened my mouth and asked, "is this real??" And that's when I opened my eyes. I was staring at the ceiling of my bedroom. It was New Years, but this time it was 2022.



# West Brunswick High School

## Conversations with a Cosplayer

by Ashley Libreros Galarza

Cosplaying is the act of dressing up as a character or concept. When people do it regularly, they are called cosplayers. Sophomore Tiffany Guin got into cosplaying in August 2019. Inspired by the love for dressing up on Halloween and influencers on social media, Guin decided to give it a try and has been doing it ever since.

“I was just like...I’ll try it,” said Guin. “Then it just stuck with me.”

With a preference for cosplaying anime characters, Guin’s favorite is Toko Fukawa from “Danganronpa.”

“I get to do more makeup stuff with her,” said Guin. “Doing the makeup takes the longest.”

Guin says the makeup process probably takes

an hour or two, depending on the character, and the clothes take about 10 minutes to put on. Her most complicated cosplay was Nezuko from “Demon Slayer.” In the anime, Nezuko sports a pink kimono. Kimonos are an important part of Japanese culture, meaning they have to be worn properly.

“Whenever I first got it, it took about 20 minutes to figure it out,” said Guin. “Now, it doesn’t take that long.”

Clothing is one of the main parts of the character in cosplay, but it can get pretty expensive. If you’re on a

budget, get clothes from your closet that look similar to what the character would wear.

“Try to pick a character that has the same hair as you and with simple makeup,” said Guin. “You can build up from there.”

Overall, it’s not necessary to look exactly like a character. Make it into your own interpretation of characters, that’s the fun in cosplay.

“You don’t have to look exactly like the character,” said Guin. “Just have fun with it.”



(left) Tiffany Guin cosplaying as anime character Grelle Sutcliff, from the show “Black Butler”

## The Real Meaning Behind Songs

by Ashley Norfleet, 10th Grade, WBHS



Music can show many things: pain, love, depression, guilt, and an overall story. Though many songs have obvious meanings, some do not. My favorite kind of song is when I really have to dig for the meaning. Most of the music I listen to has a level of “pain” that you have to relate to in order to understand.

*Mansion* by NF

This song has a special place in my heart, as I know NF has helped a lot of teens through hard times. A very important lyric is: “Broken legs but I chase perfection, these walls are my blank expression.” It gives a clear image of someone wanting to be something they aren’t. Chasing perfection while your legs are broken holds the meaning of having a broken heart and mind but still actively changing yourself. NF tells his life story through every lyric he writes; he tries to give teens something to relate to so they know that they aren’t alone.

*Alien Blues* by Vundabar



Multiple meanings could be taken into consideration with this song, it all depends on the trauma and life experiences you have. Every word in the lyrics shows something. Bulimia: “I need to purge my urges...” It’s describing how some people feel the need to quite literally purge their urges. Religious Trauma:

“...teeth are yellow... would you like me better if they were white like yours?” The comparison between yellow and white teeth is there to show how some religions want you to be a perfect picture. This can cause a lot of trauma and lead to other things. Addiction: “I need an alibi to justify, somebody to blame.” People who are under the influence of drugs tend to blame things on how they feel. When you are addicted to something you spend all of your time with that thing and need alibis. It can mean more than those three things but it is all up to you and how you interpret it.

*Cigarette Daydreams* by Cage the Elephant

Cigarette Daydreams is an upbeat song with dark meaning. It’s pretty hard to truly figure out what it means but certain lyrics help. Matt Shultz, the lead vocalist of the band has talked about suicide and depression many times in interviews. This whole song is about the suicide of a teenage girl and how it can affect someone. “Looking for the answer. If you can find a reason, a reason to stay.” The specific part “reason to stay” of the lyric, is the most important. “Did you stand there all alone?” The words show the loneliness of the teenage girl and how he noticed but didn’t say anything.

*Apocalypse* by Cigarettes After Sex

The whole song is about lost love and how she got away. “You leapt from crumbling bridges,” is the first lyric of the song. It means that he jumped out of a destroyed relationship. “Sharing all your secrets with each other since you were kids,” shows that the two have known each other for a while and that the love isn’t new. One of my favorite lyrics is “Filming helicopters crashing in the ocean from way above,” filming helicopters is implying that people found out about the relationship and that’s when everything went to the gutters. There is a lot of imagery in the song and it is an overall 10/10.



(above) WBHS Journalism Club with Teen Scene’s editor, Gerald Decker

## Spotlight on Drill Team

by Courtney Weston, 10th Grade, WBHS



When people hear Drill Team, most people think of the performers that go on during halftime at football games at some schools, but here at West, it’s a different kind of team. Our Drill team is part of the ROTC program.

When joining the ROTC class, you are presented with three different options for teams; the Drill, Raiders, and Rifle teams. While each team does something that prepares you for a future in the military, Drill is usually the first and best choice because it teaches the different formations, skills, and anything else one might need for a future in the military.

“So, in Drill, basically what we do is we march around,” said sophomore Ariana McClure. “So, for girls, we have a girls’ expedition, and it’s like stepping and making sure you have rhythm. We also have a Color guard where we raise the flags.”

The Drill team is the biggest and most complex team between the three. It is split into men and women, focusing on different aspects. The men mainly focus on marching and staying together while carrying the rifles and flags, while the women concentrate more on choreographed stepping and concentrate on the arm movements that go along with their competition routine.



“It was the biggest out of all the teams,” said senior Jonathan Rodriguez. “It be one of the harder teams for sure.”

The team tries to compete in a competition at least once a month with a routine that highlights the different things that they practice. The team has won several of these competitions, sending them to Best of the best Drill and rifle in Hickory, NC, where they will compete against some of the best teams in North Carolina.

“Competitions are great,” said McClure. “They show who the most disciplined teams are.”

# Cedar Grove Middle School



We are happy to welcome Cedar Grove Middle School to our growing list of schools participating in our Journalism Club program. Thanks to Principal Justin Hayes and English Teacher Meridith Zell for making this happen. We look forward to working with them.

## Anime

by Alyssa Beaty, 8th Grade

Anime is a kind of cartoon-inspired by Japanese culture/animation. Anime is a style of animation made/inspired by Japanese culture. But to me, Anime is not some cartoon. To me, Anime is life because it taught me how to live. It made me realize that the world isn't all peace and love, nor hate and violence.

Anime showed me to express myself and be myself. Now it might seem like I'm exaggerating, but that's not the case. I've been watching Anime for about three years now and learned so much from it. If it weren't for Anime, I probably would not be where I am today.



'Kawaii' means 'cute' in Japanese!

I'm writing about Anime because I want to express my feelings about it. I want to get more and more people interested in Anime. The population of people watching/liking anime is going down so much they are even taking shows off of Netflix, Hulu, Crunchyroll, and Funimation!. I know many things are going on in people's lives that they don't have time to do anything. But I am suggesting you try it. I want to save the Japanese anime culture from dying on us. When I'm older with children, I want to show them the stuff I used to watch, like Anime, and maybe they would get interested and take after me. I won't push the situation anymore, but I just wanted to express how I felt about Anime.

(left) Anime often inspire and teach virtues to people around the world with their slice-of-life plots. Yui Hirasawa from the show "K-On!!" makes friends through her school's music club.



## Sports - It's Not for Everyone

by Delilah Miller, 8th Grade



Sports are something fun for all ages. There's a sport for everyone like soccer, basketball, wrestling, baseball, racing, tennis, etc. I know sports are not for everyone, and some do not enjoy them. Personally, I do not play or learn how to play many sports, but I do enjoy tennis, and maybe my friend doesn't because he prefers volleyball.

It's just all up to perspective and opinion, and some even dislike sports as a whole, but that's totally normal. It's just entirely an opinion. I see sports as another

way to express yourself and have fun, and you don't even have to be good at it. What makes a game of, say, basketball fun or a good game isn't because you're winning or you're good at the game. It makes it a good game if you're just having fun and trying your hardest. That's what I've always said and will continue to say.



## Harassment

by Delilah Miller, 8th Grade



I am so tired of women being harassed by being told they are "Sensitive." It happens too often; it occurs everywhere. And it happens just too much. And yes, it shouldn't happen at ALL.

My biggest issue is when women are being harassed, it's not just the men. Too often, the women are defending the person harassing the woman. That's so sad and unfair in so many ways; another big issue that I see a lot is when these men are being caught harassing women. They never get

a bit of punishment, much less than they deserve. I also understand it's not always men doing the harassment. It's not always the woman being harassed, but I see this more common, and I can't speak on behalf of the men.

The last thing I want to say is that people should speak up and not just sit and watch, laugh, or record it, which makes the situation worse. All I want from you is if a woman or ANY-ONE you see is being harassed, say something, confront them. Do what you need to do but don't ignore it. That makes it worse.



## Teen Scene Writing Academy

### Basic Writing Skills

We will work to build students' confidence, competence, and self-esteem in their ability to communicate in writing. Emphasis will be on punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, and creative writing.

The Writing Academy is unique because students will also have the opportunity to put their newfound skills to work by writing for The Teen Scene. Experience has shown that immediate positive feedback from newly learned skills is the best reinforcer for those new skills. We are excited about this new program and want this to be a fun experience for students as they take pride in their new accomplishments.

### Learn Study Skills

Every student at any level of learning could benefit from study skills. In sports, acting, singing, music there are sessions to teach the "how to." There are also courses to teach Study Skills. "It is vital that they learn how to learn along with what they learn." Students will become familiar with the techniques which have proven to help them learn:

- How to get organized,
- How to take notes,
- How to master memorization,
- How to set goals, and
- How to develop test-taking skills.

Study skills can help a student build great habits that can last a lifetime. We will strive to help them avoid procrastination and to take ownership of their learning. Call for appointments. Thanks to donations from the community, there is no cost to the students. These classes are being funded by the Brunswick Arts Council, Drawfire, LLC of Leland, and other local businesses and individuals.

For more information on the Writing Academy or The Teen Scene, email us at [editorteenscene@gmail.com](mailto:editorteenscene@gmail.com).

Website: [cfvts.org](http://cfvts.org)

As 2022 begins, Teen Scene is steadily working with some area schools to develop Journalism Clubs and promote basic writing skills. If you agree with our programs, I am asking for your support. As a nonprofit, we rely solely upon donations and grants to cover the costs of this effort. Please make your tax-deductible contribution today by visiting [cfvts.org](http://cfvts.org) or mail it to PO Box 495 Leland, NC 28451. No contribution is too small and none too large!

## Come Join the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UNCW

By Rich Cooper & Janet Stiegler

Are you new to the Cape Fear Region? Do you like learning and stimulating yourself intellectually? Are you concerned about keeping your mind active? If so, introduce yourself to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UNCW. It will enrich your retirement and help you connect with people who share your interests and curiosity.

OLLI at UNCW is a membership organization that seeks to foster lifelong learning opportunities and individual growth via a wide variety of program offerings. The Bernard Osher Foundation generously endowed 125 Colleges and Universities to enable educational programs aimed at older adults who want to continue learning “just for the joy of it.” We are lucky to have a robust Osher Institute at UNCW.

Our revenue comes from our membership and registration fees, sponsorships, and four endowments as well as support from UNCW, which additionally provides a building with classroom and office space. Membership in our local OLLI is only \$50 a year and \$30 a semester, with the cost of individual courses typically ranging between \$15 and \$60, depending on their length. You can become a member by following this link: <https://uncw.edu/olli/membership.html>.

The OLLI at UNCW offers an array of in-person as well as distance learning opportunities using the Zoom platform, so that our members can “Never Stop Learning” and also stay socially connected. There are also outdoor learning, wellness classes and exercise opportunities. It’s your chance to go back to college without having to take tests, and with the exception of the writing courses, no homework!

Academic Courses are generally led by UNCW professors, other expert professionals, OLLI members and community partners. They cover a wide range of liberal arts subjects: Environmental Science, Geography, Health, History, Literature, Science, Public and International Affairs, and more. For example, some of the course titles recently offered were:

- CBD: The Science behind the Hype (science)
- Controversial Presidents (history and politics)
- Baseball and the American Dream (sports)
- Emergent Technologies like Digital Currency & Virtual Reality (technology)
- Blue Zone Lifestyle; Yoga (health and wellness)
- Leonardo’s Universe (art history)
- Wondrous European Waterways (travel)
- Short Story and Memoir Classes (writing)
- Spanish, French, and Italian for Travelers (foreign language)
- Birding Excursions, Garden Tours, and Kayak Trips (outdoor adventures)

We also have Forums, Shared Interest Groups, and Societies covering specific concentrated topics that meet weekly or biweekly over the course of either half or a full semester. For example, the Science and Environmental Academy (SEA) and Coffee covers a diverse set of topics in the fields of science and the environment; the Language Forum addresses a wide variety of topics related to the development, evolution, and use of language; Women on Wednesday is an all-women’s forum with an ongoing eclectic menu of offerings. The Wine Society learns about wines in different regions of the world with food pairings. And this is just a sampling!

To see a complete listing of what is offered each semester, follow a link to our present catalog, available on-line at the OLLI home page. <https://uncw.edu/olli/catalog.html>.

You can write or call for more information ([rcooper4@ec.rr.com](mailto:rcooper4@ec.rr.com), (910) 383-2113) or explore the programs on your own. It’ll be well worth your time! You may also contact Shelley Morse, OLLI Director at [morses@uncw.edu](mailto:morses@uncw.edu) or call her (910) 962-4034.



### Cynthia Bryant Named Mayor’s Citizen of the Year 2021

*(story and picture copied from the town of Leland’s website)*

Mayor Brenda Bozeman announced Cynthia Bryant as Citizen of the Year 2021 at the Dec. 16 Town Council meeting. Bryant was chosen for serving her community in varying capacities for many years.

Bryant’s community involvement is wide-ranging. She has been a long-standing member of the North Brunswick Kiwanis Club; very involved in an opportunity to recognize local teachers, students, and staff during the pandemic; served with the Meals on Wheels program and other opportunities to offer food, book, and clothing drives; volunteered at the Town’s annual Founders Day and Trunk or Treat events; and supported the Boys and Girls Home of North Carolina at Lake Waccamaw and the Kiwanis Girls Cottage. Bryant was also one of the principal organizers of the Shelmore Stitches, a group of residents who made and donated more than 800 cloth masks to local charitable organizations and businesses.

Bryant and her husband, Eric Mens, have been Leland residents since 2012. Mens is a Vietnam veteran who, along with his wife, have been strong supporters of veterans’ organizations such as the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

### 4-H Enrollment/Re-Enrollment Day 2022

by Jamie Lester, 4-H Program Assistant

Brunswick County, N.C. – Youth have been learning about the 4 Hs of head, heart, hands, and health for over a century, and 4-H is still making an impact in our community, state, and world today. The Brunswick County 4-H Youth Development Program is an educational program of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service for youth ages 5-19. We provide research-based, hands-on curriculum that teaches youth valuable life skills. In addition to providing excellent opportunities to young people, the 4-H program is also structured to allow adults an opportunity to share leadership skills and to learn and develop additional skills. Studies have shown that 4-H’ers are:

- 4X more likely to give back to their community
- 2X more likely to make healthier choices
- 2X more likely to participate in STEM activities

On Friday, January 21, 2022, 11am - 2pm, and Saturday, January 22, 2022, 9am -1pm we are hosting a 4-H Enrollment/Re-Enrollment Day. While you can register free online anytime at [go.ncsu.edu/4h-online](http://go.ncsu.edu/4h-online), we are dedicating this time to provide one on one support through the registration process. From 9 am to 1 pm we will be available at the NC Cooperative Extension Office in the Government Center to help register new members and help current members complete their annual re-enrollment.

We will be able to answer any questions and guide you through the process while you complete your registration. Here are a few documents you will need to have on hand to complete the process:

- Medical Insurance Card
- Contact information for your Doctor’s Office

We’ll have snacks and every new and re-enrolling 4-Her will receive a small prize. Plus, registrations and renewals completed this day will be entered into a drawing for our grand prize of 4-H swag including a book-bag, water bottle, fidget popper, and more!

To learn more about Brunswick County 4-H and how you can get involved, contact Jamie Lester, 4-H Program Assistant, at [jfox4@ncsu.edu](mailto:jfox4@ncsu.edu) or 910.253.2610.



#### ABOUT N.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

N.C. Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership of NC State University, N.C. A&T State University, USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and local governments statewide. Extension professionals in all 100 counties, and with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, connect millions of North Carolinians with research-based information and technology from the universities. Educational programs specialize in agriculture, food and nutrition, 4-H youth development, community development and the environment. Find your local center at [www.ces.ncsu.edu/local-county-center](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/local-county-center).

## 4-H Registration Drop-In

**When: Friday, Jan. 21, 2022**  
11am - 2pm

**Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022**  
9am - 1pm

**Where: N.C. Cooperative Extension**  
25 Referendum Dr Bldg N  
Bolivia, NC 28422

**Who: Anyone ages 5 -18**

**Snacks will be available!**

To learn more, contact Jamie Lester, 4-H Program Assistant, at [jfox4@ncsu.edu](mailto:jfox4@ncsu.edu) or 910.253.2610.

\*NC State University provides equal opportunity and affirmative action efforts, and prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon a person’s age, color, disability, family and marital status, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status.\*

Read more at: <https://intranet.ces.ncsu.edu/brand/nc-state-extension-brand/referencing-extension/REOS>



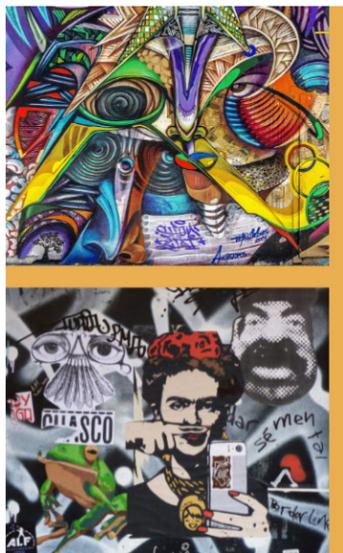
**BRUNSWICK**  
ARTS COUNCIL  
*Celebrate, Cultivate, Community Outreach*

**The Mission of the Brunswick Arts Council is to support, sustain, enhance and cultivate the arts in Brunswick County by making cultural events, arts education and appreciation the arts available to the diverse range of county residents.**

We are a community nonprofit working in partnership with NC Arts Council, Brunswick County, Park & Recreation and other businesses and artists to help provide funding for programming, plays, concerts, shows, workshops, festivals, school events and other art activities. Operating "without walls", we hold our own activities in different spaces through the county.

### Waterway Art Association 3-Day Workshop

Todd Carignan, Instructor: 3-day workshop — Animals, landscape, still-life. To register, go to [www.waterwayart.org](http://www.waterwayart.org) for materials list and fill out the 2-step form; payment will automatically be completed by PayPal. Waterway members pay \$225; non-members pay \$275. Students can also pay by check on Wednesday mornings at the Bellingier Artworks Studio, 293 B Koolabrew Drive, NW, Calabash 28467.  
Date And Time: 02-09-22 @ 09:30 AM to 02-11-22 @ 03:30 PM



## Ekphrastic Art Workshop



**Saturday**  
Feb 19  
1-5pm

Location TBA

\$40 per person  
Register at [www.brunswickartscouncil.org](http://www.brunswickartscouncil.org)  
Contact Mary Beth Livers  
[execdir.brunswickartscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:execdir.brunswickartscouncil@gmail.com)

Nancy Turner  
Artist



Phillip Shabazz  
Poetry



## Military News



### An Invitation to a National Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony

Leland VFW Post 12196 will host a National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29, 2022, at Founders Park in Leland at 5 pm. The commemoration recognizes all who served on active duty in the U. S. Armed Forces at any time from November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975. As part of that ceremony, veterans will receive the Vietnam Veterans Lapel Pin shown (below) as a lasting memento of the nation's gratitude. Surviving spouses of those who served will also be recognized. This commemoration includes veterans classified as "Vietnam Era Veterans." Everyone who served during that time played a role, thus the saying: "All gave some, some gave all." Veterans and their family members **MUST** pre-register to receive the pin. If you would like to be a part of this event, please complete the registration form below. Details of time and location will be announced soon.



### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Leland VFW Post 12196 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Blossom's in Magnolia Greens. Dinner at 5:30, Meeting starts at 7pm. For more information, contact us at [vfwpost12196@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost12196@gmail.com) or call at 910-408-1934

### Leland VFW Post 12196 Pin Registration National Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration

An event on March 29, 2022  
Please fill out this registration form and return to us via email to Nate Pringle at [vfwpost12196@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost12196@gmail.com) or mail to:  
P.O. Box 488, Leland, NC 28451  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_



*Evonne Phillips*  
Artist  
1(910) 617-7046  
evonphillips23@gmail.com  
Leland, NC

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See about our ad rates on page 2 and contact us at editorteenscene@gmail.com*

# Birthdays!!!

- Larry Walbourne Jan. 2
- David William Sink, Jr. Jan. 4
- TeCora Galloway Jan. 7
- Pat Decker Jan. 8
- Elvis Presley Jan. 9
- Patty Decker Jan. 10
- Godfrey Channell Jan. 10
- Jeff Decker Jan. 11
- Kaylee Allred Jan 16
- Martha Hamilton Jan. 17
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Jan. 17
- Roc Decker Jan. 18
- Maura Walbourne Jan. 21
- Gary Hurnblad Jan. 22
- De'aundre Jones Jan. 23
- Makayla Dawkins Jan. 23
- Keiran Daniels Jan 27



*Does someone in the community have a birthday coming up in February? Let us know at editorteenscene@gmail.com so we can include our next issue's announcements!*

HAPPY NEW YEAR  
**2022**

## A Very Happy New Years from Cape Fear Voices and The Teen Scene!

I'm a little bit older, a little bit wiser, a little bit rounder, but still none the wiser.  
*-Robert Paul*

Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits.  
*Unknown*

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.  
*Unknown*

New Year's is just a holiday created by calendar companies who don't want you reusing last year's calendar.  
*Unknown*

## Funny New Year's Resolutions

*"Not even midnight and I've already broken 3 of my New Year Resolutions, and 2 of the 10 Commandments. I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST!"*

*"My New Year's resolution is to help all my friends gain ten pounds so I look skinnier."*

*"May all your troubles last as long as your New Years' resolutions?"*

*"Dear Luck, .....can we be friends in 2022 Please?"*

## Top Ten New Year's resolutions *that fail*:

- Lose Weight and Get Fit*
- Quit Smoking*
- Learn Something New*
- Eat Healthier and Diet*
- Get Out of Debt and Save Money*
- Spend More Time with Family*
- Travel to New Places*
- Be Less Stressed*
- Volunteer*
- Drink Less*



*What are yours?  
We are rooting for you to keep all year!*

## Thanks to Our Sponsors in the Issue

**When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.**

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, contact us for a complimentary review.



edwardjones.com  
Member SIPC



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910-383-3797

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