

DOSE OF DISTRACTION



SARAH HODGES STALLS / Enterprise & Weekly Herald

Sarah Hodges Stalls took one last road trip before the Stay at Home Order went into place and was able to catch this amazing sunset over the Chowan River from the shores of the Arrowhead Beach Community.

In times like these

When we turned the page on 2019 and moved into a new year, who could have imagined the global concerns that have come to dominate our lives in recent weeks? Certainly not me.

As we live, work and recreate in Northeastern North Carolina, it can be easy to feel disconnected from the larger world.

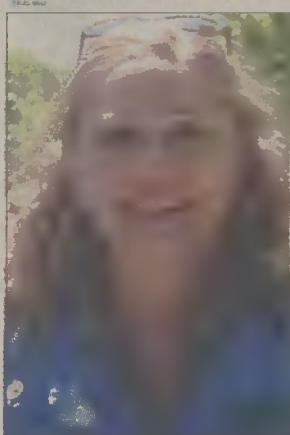
Actually, that's one of the reasons some of our visitors report that they come here – to disconnect and get away from the bustle and the noise in their world.

It often seems that what happens here couldn't possibly be important in the grander scheme the rest of the world follows.

And yet, in times like this – we realize decisions that each of us makes every day – are intimately connected to our neighbors, our families and even to those far away from our little corner of the world.

For the past 23 years – this month, Roanoke River Partners (RRP) has been developing relationships throughout our region that ban us together to weather just such “storms” of life.

Roanoke Buzz



Carol Shields

In fact, RRP was born in response to the economic storm of the mid-90s.

There were some who thought there was new economic promise to be derived from our natural and cultural assets.

As it turned out, they were right.

Their vision paved the way for the development of our now nationally-recognized Roanoke River Paddle Trail.

A decade later, amidst the economic downturn in 2008, a group of mayors representing small towns throughout our region reached out to lend a new surge of support for the regional development that RRP

had been cultivating.

The new investment these small towns brought in provided important support to both sustain and grow this network of partners and our regional paddle trail.

Closer working relationships with participating towns proved to be mutually beneficial for RRP and for the small towns throughout our region.

And now, just a little over 10 years later, our region is facing a new challenge – one brought on by a virus that has made its way all around the world to reach us.

It's hard to believe something we can't even see can pose such an overwhelming threat to life as we know it – but of course, it has.

It is my hope that, like during the “storms” that have come before, we will ban together to meet this new challenge.

Once again we will think about creative solutions to our challenges.

And as in the past, we will work together for the greater good – not just of our own town or county, but for the larger region that connects us.

Together, we can realize new possibilities. Together, we can encourage and inspire each other.

Together, we are so much more formidable. Naturally, with the current disruption of travel and movement, we will experience lower numbers of paddlers in the coming weeks.

But once the dust settles and we get to the other side of this, we will be ready to receive visitors from near and far here along the Roanoke.

We will be ready to showcase the unique sights and sounds that our region has to offer.

Our eating venues will be ready to serve tasty local meals.

And our communities will be ready to share our stories and our rich history.

In times like these, we have always pulled together – and so, of course, we will again.

Carol Jones Shields is the Executive Director of Roanoke River Partners, Inc. You can contact her at (252) 798-3920 or director@roanokeriverpartners.org. You can learn more about Roanoke River Partners at www.roanokeriverpartners.org.

Out&About

Out and About lists current events sponsored by nonprofit groups in Martin County. Please send listings to The Enterprise at P.O. Box 387, Williamston, NC 27892, bring them by the office on Main Street, fax them to 252-792-1921 or email shstalls@ncweeklies.com. All events must be submitted by noon two days before publication.

New Virtual Career Fair

In these challenging times of social distancing, the Rivers East Workforce Development Board is taking a new approach to connect job seekers and employers by hosting its first-ever Virtual Career Fair. The event will focus on the healthcare industry and begin at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7 with some of the top healthcare and supporting industries from across the state. Participating employers will be available to live chat with interested job seekers from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The fair will remain open for job seekers through 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8. Pre-registration is required by going to <https://riverseastwdb.esayvirtualfair.com/>. All job seekers must upload their resumes to participate in the event. For more information, email Pat Harris at pharris@mideastcom.org.

Postponed classes

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Division of Continuing Education at Martin Community College has announced the postponement of the following classes in March and April: Computer Basics starting on March 31; Concealed Carry Handgun on April 4, Digital Photography starting on April 7 in Windsor; Forklift Operator on April 11, and Effective Teacher Training starting April 21. New dates will be announced when available. If you would like to know more about any of these, or other Continuing Education classes at MCC, contact Leslie Bond at 252-789-0248 or via email at leslie.bond@martincc.edu.

Postponed seminars

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Martin Community College's Small Business Center had postponed the following April seminars: So You Want to Start Your Own Trucking Business on April 4, Landing Your Web Page on April 8, Building Your Website on April 9, Understanding Cash Flow for Your Business on April 14, Fundamentals of Microsoft Excel for Your Business on April 16, and Resources for Women Owned Businesses on April 21. New dates will be announced when available. If you have any questions about any of these classes or SBC services in general, visit the NC SBC website at <https://www.ncsbc.net> or contact Lena Jackson at 252-789-0201 or via email at lena.jackson@martincc.edu.

Postponed class

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Division of Continuing Education at Martin Community College has announced the postponement of the Nurse Aide II Refresher Course originally scheduled to start on April 23. For more information, contact Sue Gurley at 252-789-0261 or via email at sue.gurley@martincc.edu.

Cosmetology services

In keeping with all efforts to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, cosmetology services at Martin Community College in Williamston have been suspended until further notice.

KidsFest

The Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children is hosting its annual KidsFest from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. May 2 at Riverside High School in Williamston.

Music on the Corner

Music on the Corner is from noon-5 p.m. May 2 in Robersonville. For more information or to become a vendor, call Janet Sink at 252-795-4157 or Cherie Taylor at 252-795-4339. Assistance will be provided if needed.

Asheboro zoo trip

Travel with Martin County Adult and Aging Services Asheboro May 11 to see and learn about more than 1,800 animals that call the North Carolina Zoo home. The animals live in habitats representing two regions — Africa and North America, plus a global Desert and a tropical, free-flight Aviary. As the world's largest natural habitat zoo, the animals at the North Carolina Zoo have plenty of room to roam. It is home to a multitude of habitats, including those showcasing chimpanzees, giraffes, gorillas, zebras, elephants, polar bears, black bears, grizzly bears, red wolves and hundreds of other animals. More than 100 exotic birds, representing 36 species, and more than 3,000 gorgeous tropical plants live and thrive in the walk-through aviary. Cost is \$30. Registration deadline is May 1. To reserve a seat, call 252-792-1027.

Hamilton Book Cabinet

The Book Cabinet, 201 N. Front St., Hamilton, is a place for readers to borrow and return or keep a favorite or two. Books are available to all readers near and far, young and mature. For more information, call Mary Greene at 252-341-0108.

Asa Biggs Home

The 1831 Asa Biggs House, 100 E. Church St., Williamston, is open to the public from 1-3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Skill building sessions

Robersonville Public Library is offering 30-minute, one-on-one sessions with library staff providing customized help and skill building to members of the community, free of charge. Examples include learning to navigate the library, building computer skills, research and more. These sessions must be scheduled in advance by calling 252-508-0342.

Disabled American Veterans

The Disabled American Veterans meet at 6 p.m. the second Monday of every month. Come for dinner, and a meeting immediately following, at the Washington Housing Authority, 809 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, N.C.

NOTICE

Due to the mandate by the Governor of North Carolina on gatherings of greater than 10 people due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Town of Williamston Board of Commissioner's meetings will be available live through a GoToMeeting application. Citizens can access the live feed via a telephone or computer. Meeting times and instructions are listed on the Town's website, www.townofwilliamston.com. If you have questions, please call the Town Clerk (252) 792-5142.

Christina Craft, CMC
Town Clerk/Executive Assistant

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OBITUARY POLICY

For information on submitting obituaries or death notices Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 252-329-9505 or email obits@apgenc.com and specify that you are interested in obituary information for the Martin County Enterprise & Weekly Herald.

On weekends and holidays, email obits@apgenc.com.

We do not accept notices by fax.

Obituaries must be received, processed, approved and paid by 12:00 p.m. Monday for Tuesday and 10:00 a.m. Thursday for Friday to appear in print in the next edition.

Death Notices

Are \$25 and can include the name and age of the decedent; funeral and visitation or viewing information; and the name of the funeral home.