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BOOK

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the Armchair Traveler Series at the library.

"The series is a six-week program held every Monday night with speakers of local interest. The theme this year is Edenton Bay Highlights," said Daniels. "We also were presented a statewide award-winning Harry Potter Extravaganza for three years. There are many great children and teen programs we sponsor and promote."

And while Daniels' splits her time between Bertie and Chowan counties, her love of Bertie County is most apparent.

"I grew up on the Cashie River on a farm. I only left Bertie County long enough to get an education. I have lived within sight, and then actually on, the river since 1976. I adore the Chowan River," said Daniels, adding, "It, along with my Christian faith, family and friends feeds my soul."

"I went to nursing school when I was 17 and have loved it ever since. I am an RN with CEN [board certified Emergency Dept. Nurse].



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lucy Daniels with her late husband, Don Upchurch.

I spent my career in acute care nursing, supervising and teaching my cardiac care Heart Smart class I developed," said Daniels.

She also served as a nurse liaison for EMS as a Mobile Intensive Care Nurse and as an EMT for four counties for 25 years which involved teaching, quality assurance and active ride alongs.

And while these vocations and avocations have in ways melded together — each supporting the other, the milestone Daniels is most proud of is the book she co-authored with her late husband, local radio broadcast icon

Donald Upchurch.

"In Pursuit of Dorothea, The Lost Colony Ship' propels the reader along riverbeds flowing into the Sound and through the waves of challenges the Colonists faced in order to survive.

And while it highlights a history of struggles, the book outlines decades of research completed by Upchurch.

"Don truly spent 20 years researching and interviewing persons who knew about the 40 foot ship in Bennetts Creek. He read a vast collection of English history as told by the sailors, explorers

and navigators. He gave many presentations, both locally and to historians and scientists in Raleigh," said Daniels. "One historian told Don, the copper bottomed ship was not invented in the 1500's. Don said, 'yes it was, because Sir Walter Raleigh invented it and his ships were used to come to America."

Upchurch's penchant for research and his numerous audio recordings and handwritten penciled notes enabled Daniels to write the book and fulfill her late husband's mission of having the book published.

Today, the book proudly graces the book rack in a small gallery room at the Bertie Arts Council Gallery in Windsor. And just as the art on the walls of the gallery transcend visitors to other places, the pages of 'Dorothea' guide the reader on a journey of historic lore.

The 98-page read is "a compelling narrative where the reader is drawn into the mystery and held through the final paragraph, where the author expresses gratitude to the reader," wrote librarian Sarah Davis, adding, "The gratitude should come from the reader to the authors, Daniels and

Upchurch."

Daniels had penned short stories before, but had never faced a project of this magnitude. Deciphering 20 years of audio notes was a monumental task in itself. Add the pencil notes and magnitude becomes daunting.

"I spent three years adding my own research and arranging the story in chronological order, eliminating about 30,000 of his words to tell a straight history-based story without radio proper repetitive conversation," explained Daniels, who explains it best in the book's dedication page.

"Don and I met as private pilots and members of the Civil Air Patrol," she continued. "We shared a love of flying, history and eastern North Carolina's amazing waterways and geography. It is with the utmost joy that I dedicate this epic story of adventure to my husband, Don."

'In Pursuit of Dorothea, The Lost Colony Ship' is available at the Bertie County Arts Council at 124 South King St. in Windsor and from amazon.com.

John Foley can be reached via email at jfoley@apgenc.com.

TEST

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of seven schools met or exceeded their academic growth standards; our graduation rate increased over nine points to 92.3 percent; and grade level proficiency increased over 12 points."

Currently, the state uses a letter grading system that passed the Legislature in 2014. School Districts are required to use the 80/20 accountability model.

And while this is the state standard, school administrators, state officials and educators have been voicing a need for updating and changing the current system.

"School districts in North Carolina continue to be graded on an accountability system that places a high emphasis on proficiency (80 percent) and too low of an emphasis on school growth (20 percent). Like most schools and districts in the state, especially in eastern North Carolina, Bertie

County Schools is still recovering from learning loss due to the negative impact of Covid," said Smallwood.

National statistics show COVID has caused massive staff shortages, high levels of absenteeism, mental health issues and behavioral issues. And, while the halls of schools across the country appear to be back to normal, most are still in recovery mode.

"This was noted by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Statewide Learning Loss Impact Analysis that was conducted in Spring 2022. As superintendent, I disagree with the notion that our schools are low-performing, said Smallwood in response to the report. "That is a state designation and not one that we believe in or one will live up to at the local level. As I walk through the buildings and witness the great things that are happening in the classrooms, I have not witnessed a low-performing child."

Smallwood acknowledges there is work to be done, as does newly appointed Bertie High School Principal Jonathan Matthews, who took over the positions at the beginning of the school year.

While the letters on paper did not reflect the progress the district, staff and students have made over the past year, the statistics presented by Director of Testing Jacqueline Perry-Higgs, Ed.D. did.

"Within the Bertie School District the four Year graduation rate increased from 83.1 percent in 2021 to 92.3 percent in 2022. Grade Level Proficiency increased from 24 percent in 2021 to 36.1 percent in 2022," she said.

"No schools in the district received an F grade. Most schools are not far from the next level performance grade. Our growth indicates that we are on a trajectory to attain the next level. And we will do that," said Perry-Higgs.

"We recognize that there is much work to do so that our kids can continue to grow and experience positive academic outcomes," said Smallwood. "However, as the study from NCPI indicated, that will take time.

"So, benchmarks have been set, and we will work diligently towards meeting those benchmarks this year and subsequent years," he continued. "We are proud of the academic growth that students made during the 21-22 school year, having been the first full year students were in school to receive face to face instruction after the pandemic hit."

Currently, North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt is echoing the voices of educators saying the system needs to change. Truitt is preparing to present a new school accountability model this Legislative Session.

"Right now, an 80/20 model that spits out a letter grade

doesn't do the job. So, we will be bringing forward to the General Assembly and, hopefully, eventually to your desk, Governor, a new school accountability model this long session. So, stay tuned for more to come," said Truitt at a meeting last week.

"Hopefully, the state will soon recognize the importance of placing more emphasis on growth. I appreciate all the efforts that State Superintendent Truitt & her team at DPI are doing & for exploring a different accountability model with additional academic indicators that more fairly recognizes student achievement," said Smallwood.

"Meanwhile in Bertie, we always work on Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing to ensure our students have positive social, emotional, and academic outcomes," the Superintendent said in closing.

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ASKEWVILLE

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means a lot."

This year more than 150 people gathered at the Askeville Community Building with a chance to listen to the homegrown talents of Steadfast Quartet and R.T. Johnson. People gathered with lawn chairs, grabbed a hot dog and set back to enjoy the music.

Bryant said she was pleased with the day, which included vendors both inside the community building and outside the facility. Bounce houses and train rides were also available for those younger people in attendance.

"I was very pleased with how things went," Bryant said. "Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, which was our goal."

"One little girl told me I



THADD WHITE/GROUP EDITOR

Vonda's Beaded Treasures was among the vendors at Saturday's special day in Askeville.

love Askeville Day' and I hope everyone in the community feels the same way."

Bryant said she appreciated those who made the day possible.

"Thank you to everyone who participated in any way," she said. "Also, a very special thanks to Steadfast Quartet and R.T. Johnson for always providing us with

great entertainment."

The mayor also said plans are already under way for next year's event.

"We look forward to seeing everyone again next year on Sept. 16, 2023," she said.

Thadd White can be reached via email at twhite@apgenc.com.

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Windsor.

The theme of the event is Bertie County Past, Present and Future.

• The committee is inviting

vendors, food truck operators, crafters and artisans to participate in this once in a lifetime celebration.

Scarborough is also inviting officials from neighboring towns and communities within the county to participate in the event.

For more information and participation guidelines contact Clerk to the County Board of Commissioners LaShonda Cartwright at 252-794-6110.

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OUT&ABOUT

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Everyone is invited to participate or come out and watch the parade.

Following the parade there will be food trucks, vendors, fellowship and a DJ at Livermon Park.

For more information or to register contact Jackie White at 919-452-1981.

Homecoming Parade will be located on Gravnille St. in Windsor.

Martin Community Players Presents WILLIAMSTON - The Martin Community Players Jr's. Present the children's performance of Disney's The Little Mermaid at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 1 at the Martin County Auditorium.

Tickets are \$5. For more information contact Andy Weaver at 252-661-0609.

The Martin County Auditorium is located at 1260 Godwin Ave. in Williamston.

Oct. 2 MCP Jr's. Presents WILLIAMSTON - The Martin Community Players Jr's. Present the children's performance of Disney's The Little Mermaid matinee at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 2 at the Martin County Auditorium. Tickets are \$5.

For more information contact Andy Weaver at 252-661-0609.

Oct. 7 Fundraiser planned GREENVILLE - NC Stop Human Trafficking will host BBQ, Bluegrass & Brew at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 7 at the Barn on Saint Andrews.

For more information about the event, to buy tickets, visit www.ncstophumantrafficking.org/2022-bbq-bluegrass-brew.

Chowan County Regional Fair

Tuesday, September 27 through Saturday, October 1, 2022

AMERICAN LEGION FAIRGROUNDS

US 17 Business (1317 West Queen Street), Edenton, North Carolina
Take exit 224 off US 17 and North about two miles to the Fairgrounds.

OPENING TIMES: TUES - FRI: 4PM, SAT: 11AM
CLOSING TIMES: TUES - FRI: 11 PM, SAT: MIDNIGHT

OLD FAVORITES	NEW FOR 2022	Junior Fair Board Program
Car Load Night	High Flying Pages	Chicken Day
Dreamland Amusements	Lew-E's Comedy Circus	Pig Day
Mechanical Bull (extra charge)	Woody's Barn Yard Racers	Agriculture Day
LED Railroad		Farm Day
Senior Citizen Fun Day		Rodeo Day
Gospel Night		Farmer For A Day
Wee & Little Miss Pageant		Fun Games & Activities
Miss Pageant		
Diaper Derby		
Market Hog Showmanship Show		

TUESDAY CAR LOAD NIGHT Gate & Ride passes for up to 6 people for \$60 per car	WEDNESDAY 8th grade School Students & Under admitted FREE with paying adult
THURSDAY SENIORS age 60 or older admitted FREE	SATURDAY MILITARY DISCOUNT - Active Duty Only 1/2 Price for all Family Members 36" and taller. \$10 armbands - must show ID

FRIDAY - No Discounts

AMERICAN FLAIR

76th Annual

Chowan County Regional Fair

Check out our web site at www.ChowanFair.com

E-Mail: info@chowanfair.com

Get Your TICKETS ONLINE

- Buy your tickets ONLINE at www.ChowanFair.com
- Safe and Secure
- Purchase Advance Tickets and Regular Priced Tickets
- Show your confirmation QR Code at the Fair Entrance
- Enjoy the EXPRESS LINE at the Entrance Gate!

For more information Phone - 252-482-4057

Purchase advance tickets at select Duck Thru stores (starting Aug 1).

ADVANCE TICKETS

2022 ADVANCE PRICE **\$6.00** for 36" and taller

(Advance price does not include midway rides)
Advance armband tickets for unlimited rides for \$17
Advance armband does not include entrance

GATE TICKET PRICES

2022 GATE PRICE **\$8.00** for 36" and taller

(Gate price does not include midway rides)
Gate price armband tickets for unlimited rides for \$20
Gate armband does not include entrance

The BEST entertainment value in Northeastern North Carolina!