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# FOUR OAKS Journal

2016

# CONGRATS GRADS

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- Four Oaks man gets second chance
  - Business Profile: Lee's Produce
  - Community Calendar
- 

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## FROM THE PUBLISHER

# The not-so-big 4-0

I remember not looking forward to my 30th birthday back in 2006. The idea of leaving my 20s was terrifying, and 30 was an age I had always associated with being “old.”

It came and went, and I made my peace with it. I didn’t feel much older than I already did, thanks to the fact that my hairline had already begun its retreat from the top of my head.



Randy Capps  
[randy@fouroaksjournal.com](mailto:randy@fouroaksjournal.com)

The next few birthdays weren’t stressful. In fact, my 35th was fun. It’s not everyday when a guy becomes eligible for the presidency.

But from the time I turned 39 until last month, I dreaded the “Big 4-0.” While another decade’s worth of perspective has changed my views on what I’ll call “old,” it’s hard not to see 40 as middle aged.

A little research tells me that my average life expectancy is about 75 years and nine months, and even my rusty math skills suggest that, according to the statistics, more of my days are behind me than lie ahead.

So forgive me if I wasn’t cheerful about leaving my 30s.

Thankfully, I married well.

My wife threw me the best birthday party I’ve ever had, where friends old and new gathered to make a newly minted, middle-aged guy feel special.

And much like my 30th birthday, it passed without any lasting ill effects.

I didn’t feel much older, and thanks to being cast out by the newspaper industry, my life is actually far less stressful than it was a few years ago.

It occurred to me that, even though I thought I was supposed to be unhappy about turning 40, there’s really no reason to be.

You’re only as old as you feel or act, and if that’s true, I’m a pretty young guy most of the time.

After all, I haven’t even had a mid-life crisis yet.

## FEATURES



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### Volume 2, Number 2

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# CONGRAT



**Lily Allen**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 17

**Post-graduate plans:** Attend St. Andrews University to play volleyball.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** The great staff and athletics.

**Favorite subject/s:** Spanish

**Hobbies/interests:** Volleyball and soccer

**Favorite book:** "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Favorite TV show:** "Criminal Minds"



**Caleb Cox**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** Major in Computer Science at N.C. State.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** My friends and teachers.

**Favorite subject/s:** History

**Hobbies/interests:** Video games

**Favorite book:** "Eisenhorn" by Dan Abnett



**Felipe Bautista**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 17

**Post-graduate plans:** I'm going to work with my parents over the summer and look for scholarships. I will attend North Carolina State University and major in Accounting. I will keep reviewing my information that I have learned so it can stay in my memory. I hope to visit Mexico and celebrate with my whole family. Finally to rest a few days and relax!

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** I will miss the teachers and counselors because they did their best to motivate each student to succeed. Some teachers have moved, but they will remain in my heart because I know that they were teachers at South Johnston.

**Favorite subject/s:** Math and Science

**Hobbies/interests:** I like to play basketball, soccer and run with my friends.

**Favorite book:** "House of Dark Shadows" by Robert Liparulo

**Favorite TV show:** "Scorpion"



**Jatina Cradick**

**School:** South Johnston High School

**Age:** 18 years old

**Post-graduate plans:** Nursing at Campbell University in Buies Creek NC

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** I will miss all of my teachers the most. They all contributed to my success and I really do appreciate all that they have done for me. I will miss Mrs. Amanda Whaley the most. They all made my high school journey awesome.

**Favorite subject/s:** Math and Science

**Hobbies/interests:** Basketball and modeling in photo shoots

**Favorite book:** "A Child Called It" by Dave Pelzer

**Favorite TV show:** "Empire"



**Haley Danger**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 17

**Post-graduate plans:** Attend UNC Wilmington to study Marine Biology.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** The friends I have made through swimming and cheerleading.

**Favorite subject/s:** Science

**Hobbies/interests:** Singing, Marine Biology and modeling

**Favorite book:** "I Love You Forever" by Robert Munsch

**Favorite TV show:** "Criminal Minds"



**Nakia Davis**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** My post graduate plans are to go to college part-time while working part time as a CNA.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** The great staff and athletics.

**Favorite subject/s:** Nursing Fundamentals and English

**Hobbies/interests:** Reading, volunteering, music

**Favorite book:** "Everything, Everything" by Nicola Yoon

**Favorite TV show:** "Pretty Little Liars"



**Johnna Marie Dodd**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 17

**Post-graduate plans:** Major in Fashion and Textile Merchandising at the College of Textiles at N.C. State University.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** Teachers and staff

**Favorite subject/s:** Calculus & Science  
**Hobbies/interests:** Dance, volunteering and shopping

**Favorite book:** "The Fault in our Stars" by John Green

**Favorite TV show:** "Gossip Girl"



# TS GRADS



**Elizabeth Evans**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** Attend Meredith College, where I will double major in Communications and Fashion Merchandising with a minor in Marketing.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** I will miss the close-knit community feel that always welcomed me every day.

**Favorite subject/s:** English

**Hobbies/interests:** Swimming, listening to music and painting

**Favorite book:** "Palace of Mirrors" by Margaret Peterson Haddix

**Favorite TV show:** "Modern Family"



**Katlyn Gainey**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** I plan to go to JCC and study Medical/Cardiac Sonography.

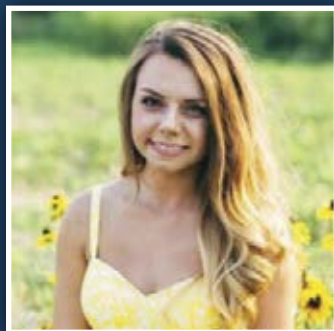
**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** I will miss knowing everyone and being a senior.

**Favorite subject/s:** Ensemble/Chorus

**Hobbies/interests:** I play softball for the Coastal Breeze showcase team. I also sing.

**Favorite book:** "Faith" by Larry Swaim

**Favorite TV show:** "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit"



**Gracie Lee Hatch**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** I am enrolled to attend East Carolina University to major in Business and Marketing.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** Standing on the sidelines and cheering on the football team under the Friday night lights.

**Favorite subject/s:** History

**Hobbies/interests:** Cheerleading, dance, paddle boarding, playing with my dogs, Babe and Polly, and taking pictures of flowers.

**Favorite book:** "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett

**Favorite TV show:** "Say Yes to the Dress"



**Emily Morgan**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** Attend Johnston Community College, and transfer to UNC Wilmington.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** No matter what, and despite all of the cliques, SJ is one big family. We always come together to support one another.

**Favorite subject/s:** English, History

**Hobbies/interests:** Swimming, reading

**Favorite book:** "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Favorite TV show:** "Prison Break"



**Katelyn Futrell**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 17

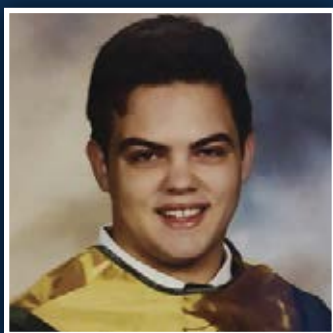
**Post-graduate plans:** Attend Barton College to get a double major in Elementary Education and Special Education

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** How inviting the teachers are

**Favorite subject/s:** Math

**Hobbies/interests:** Cheerleading, drawing and running

**Favorite TV show:** "Awkward"



**Donovan Guignard**

**School:** South Johnston High School

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** Attend Campbell and pursuing a career in engineering

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** Sharing and creating fantastic memories with the students and staff at my high school

**Favorite subject/s:** English, math, and Science

**Favorite book:** "Ready Player One" by Ernest Cline

**Favorite TV show:** "An Idiot Abroad"



**Kelsey Lawrence**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** Military and college

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** The staff

**Favorite subject/s:** History

**Hobbies/interests:** Horses and martial arts

**Favorite book:** The Harry Potter series

**Favorite TV show:** "30 Rock" and "Futurama"



**Kayla Peacock**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** Attend East Carolina for four years and receive my Bachelor's degree in Nursing. Then, go back to get my Masters to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** I will miss football season and being around friends.

**Favorite subject/s:** English and Science

**Hobbies/interests:** Hanging with friends

**Favorite book:** "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee

**Favorite TV show:** "Empire"

# CONGRATS GRADS



**David Earl Norris II**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 17

**Post-graduate plans:** I plan to take courses at Johnston Community College to obtain my Associate's Degree in Electrical Engineering and then transfer to N.C. State to obtain my Bachelor's. Also, I plan to attend Carolina Bible Institute to achieve my Associate's in Ministry.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** One thing I will miss the most is all of my teachers and friends because they helped make me who I am. I will also miss competitive high school swimming.

**Favorite subject/s:** My favorite subjects have been Math and Science, which is why I plan to become an engineer.

**Hobbies/interests:** I swam on the varsity swim team at SJHS and have swam competitively at both regional and state levels.

**Favorite book:** My favorite book of all is the Holy Bible!!

**Favorite TV show:** "Chicago Med"



**Sophia Okigweh**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 17

**Post-graduate plans:** Attend East Carolina for four years and pursue the Nursing program for two years.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** I will miss cheering my team and I will miss some of the teachers and administrators.

**Favorite subject/s:** Math and English

**Hobbies/interests:** Cheering, participating in church events, going shopping and getting nails done.

**Favorite book:** "Their Eyes were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston

**Favorite TV show:** "Love and Hip-Hop"



**Sergio Ramirez**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** Work to pay off my car, attend JCC for a year and transfer after for a Business Administration degree.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** Free college classes.

**Favorite subject/s:** English, Public Speaking and Sociology

**Hobbies/interests:** Playing Clash of Clans

**Favorite TV show:** "Modern Family" and "The Family"



**Sarah Pierce**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** I will be attending UNC Wilmington to pursue a degree in Nursing.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** Some of the things I will miss about SJHS are all the friendships I have made, all the sports I have played and being a part of Skills USA.

**Favorite subject/s:** Math and Health Science courses

**Hobbies/interests:** My favorite hobbies and interests include volleyball, basketball and softball. I have enjoyed and have an interest in parliamentary procedure and being on the Chapter Business team with Skills USA.

**Favorite book:** "Love Does" by Bob Goff

**Favorite TV show:** "Grey's Anatomy" and "One Tree Hill"



**Adrianna Roberts**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** Attend Methodist University in Fayetteville, majoring in Health Care Administration.

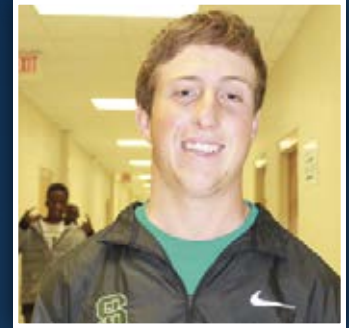
**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** Friends

**Favorite subject/s:** Psychology and Health Science courses

**Hobbies/interests:** Traveling

**Favorite book:** The Hunger Games series

**Favorite TV show:** "NCIS"



**Patrick Stephenson**

**School:** South Johnston

**Age:** 18

**Post-graduate plans:** Attend East Carolina University to study Business and play on the golf team.

**What (if anything) will you miss most about school?:** I will miss the guys on the golf team, some of my friends and the teachers.

**Favorite subject/s:** Math, Health and Fitness

**Hobbies/interests:** Golf and piano.

**Favorite book:** "Every Shot Counts" by Mark Broadie and "Every Shot Must Have a Purpose" by Pia Nelson

**Favorite TV show:** "Blindspot"

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CONGRATS  
TO ALL THE  
GRADS!

WE'RE VERY  
PROUD OF YOU!

The  
Four Oaks  
Journal

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# Matthew Riggsbee to lead South Johnston football program

*Submitted by Johnston County Schools*

South Johnston High School has named Matthew Riggsbee as its new head football coach.

Riggsbee has served as the head football coach at West Craven since 2012. He made the playoffs in each of his three seasons there, finishing 9-2 last fall.

Riggsbee is a graduate of Williams High School in Burlington, where he won a state championship in football as a player. He is a graduate of East Carolina and has served as defensive coordinator, head track coach, head football coach and a Physical Education teacher in his career.

He was named the 2015 New Bern Sun Journal "Coach of the Year" in 2015, and he also served as an assistant coach for the Shrine Bowl All Star Game in 2007.



Photo by New Bern Sun Journal

He is married to Tameka Riggsbee and has a daughter, Avery.

"My family and I are excited about joining the South Johnston community," he said. "I am ready to get into the building, meet the players and faculty, and get started with spring workouts. Our program is going

to be built on the foundation of hard work and being good student-athletes. I am looking forward to building upon the great traditions of South Johnston football."

"Matthew Riggsbee has consistently demanded excellence regarding the character of his players," Dr. David Pearce, South Johnston principal, said. "He has shown the ability to lead programs to the next level by building relationships with players, parents, staff and the community."

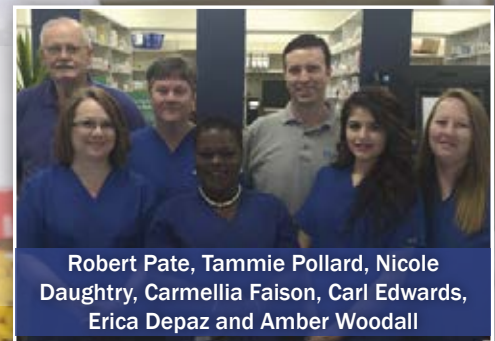
"He has been a part of several football programs with winning traditions; and he understands the balance between winning and education. I feel confident that he will continue the great tradition of Trojan football. We are excited to have Matthew Riggsbee serve as our new head football coach."

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## FREE LOCAL DELIVERY



# Four Oaks man gets second chance



*Editor's note: In the March edition, we told the story of PJ Smith, who was then in need of a liver transplant. He received one on March 20, and we sat down with him to see how he was doing.*

A man sits alone in his den with a guitar in his hands, trying to remember how to play “Hotel California.”

After nearly four decades of playing, the chords should come easily. But they don’t.

Normally, this would be upsetting. But for PJ Smith, just being around to pick up the instrument is victory enough.

Smith, who lives in Four Oaks with his wife, Ellen Ennis-Smith, and his step-son, Geoffrey, received a liver transplant on March 20.

He was suffering from hepatic encephalopathy, which medically speaking is defined as “the loss of brain function that occurs when the liver is unable to remove toxins from the blood.”

It made him forgetful and weak, and the disease was slowly killing him.

But that was then.

“Things are a lot better,” he said. “I’m a lot more coherent. I can walk around the mall or something, but when I come home, I’m puffing like a locomotive. That’s really the only discomfort I get.” Everything changed with a single phone call from Duke.

“As she was talking to them, you could hear her getting emotional,” he said of his wife. “She got off the phone and said, ‘it was Duke. They’ve got a liver and you’re the primary.’”

The family threw some things in a suitcase and bolted towards the hospital. But, for PJ, the nerves didn’t kick in right away.

“The whole time I was thinking about the mentors that I had,” he said. “He went through six dry runs (trips to the hospital that don’t result in a transplant). And I was thinking, ‘this is one of my dry

runs.’”

So, after arriving in Durham right after lunch and filling out some paperwork, PJ was ushered into an operating room.

“This wasn’t until like 5 or 6 o’clock, they start shaving him,” Ellen said. “My first thought was, ‘why are you shaving him on a dry run.’ Then someone comes in a little after that and said the biopsy was good. So I thought, ‘oh, there actually is a liver.’ We still didn’t know it was his.

“It wasn’t until about 7 or 8 o’clock that we knew that this liver would be his if (everything checked out).”

The dry run was about to get very, very real.

The transplant, if successful, would save his life. But there was no guarantee that it would be.

“That’s what a lot of people don’t realize,” she said. “You’re not healthy if you’re on the transplant list. If you’re on the transplant list, you’re dying. You have to be so sick before you’re even accepted. And the longer you’re on the list, the sicker you are.”

Still, when the call came for surgery, it wasn’t an overly emotional scene.

“I thought it was fairly calm,” she said. “At that point, there were only one or two options. He was going to go, and he wouldn’t make it. But he couldn’t live like he was. He wasn’t happy. Or he would survive. ... We prayed about it. I kissed him and let him go. I’m



Randy Capps  
[randy@fouroaksjournal.com](mailto:randy@fouroaksjournal.com)





more emotional now than I was then.”

What was supposed to be a 12-hour surgery ended up taking about eight. Every two hours or so, Ellen would receive an update. At around 2 a.m. — nearly four hours into the procedure — she was told that the old liver was out, and they were putting the new one in.

“When (the doctor) put it in, she told me the vessels lined up perfectly,” she said. “She didn’t have to do a lot of moving. It just fit.”

At around 6 a.m., Ellen was allowed back to see her husband.

“The next thing I knew, I woke up and saw my wife’s face,” he said. “And I thought, ‘I don’t see a beard. Must not be Jesus. I must have made it through this thing.’”

“When he looked at me for the first time, he had light in his eyes,” she said. “He had his coloring. He wasn’t gray and yellow. He didn’t have that pale ‘Walking Dead’ look. There was a sparkle. He wanted a kiss, and he got that.



# EXPLORE!



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“An hour after surgery, he was more coherent than he had been in a year.”

As it turns out, the timing for the surgery could not have been better.

When the doctor removed his liver, they found three different tumors inside.

He was a month away from his next cancer screening. If those tumors had been found, he would have most likely been taken off the transplant list.

“The Lord has perfect timing,” he told the doctor after hearing the news. “God is good.”

After the surgery, and around a month in an extended stay hotel near the hospital, the Smiths came home.

PJ still has to have regular blood work, and he’ll be on rejection medicine for the rest of his life.

There are a few other changes he’ll have to make as well. He can’t eat rare meat or runny eggs anymore. He has to be careful about potential exposure to germs, which means liberal use of hand sanitizer and wearing surgical masks in crowded public areas.

For that reason, the family will need to stop using well water. All of these things are small prices to pay for a second chance.

A second chance to be a husband and a father, and to do the things that had been taken from him — like driving his truck.

“He’s normal,” Ellen said. “And normal’s a good thing.”

That means there will be more afternoons in that den with the guitar, enjoying the music once again.





# See 'A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier' at Bentonville

*Submitted by Bentonville Battlefield*

Discover camp life and the role of the Civil War enlisted man in battle at Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site on Sat., June 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

From cooking to cannon firing, the free program will illuminate some aspects of the Civil War while historians in period dress will demonstrate how Union and Confederate soldiers made meals, maintained weapons and uniforms and trained for battle.

Artillery fire is a popular highlight of Civil War events, and visitors will get to speak with members of Andrew's Battery about typical artillery practices during the war. Demonstrations will be held three times during the program.

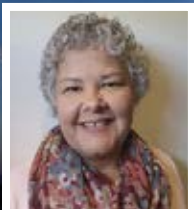
The Battle of Bentonville on March 19-21, 1865, involved 80,000 troops and was the last Confederate offensive against Union Gen. William T. Sherman. Bentonville Battlefield interprets the battle and field hospital, where many Confederates were left in the aftermath.

For information please call 910-594-0789 or visit [www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm).

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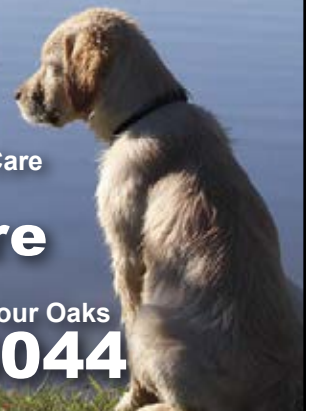
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### From the family-owned and operated farm, to your table

For most people, buying a head of lettuce or some strawberries from the produce section at the grocery store is the only time they ever think about fruit and vegetables.

Luckily, places like Lee's Produce spend plenty of time making sure that those things are readily available.

Lee's Produce, located near Meadow on the Johnston/Sampson county line, has been around for more than 25 years. In that time, the operation has grown from just the Lee family on about two acres to around 30

people working on 120 acres of produce.

Despite the growth over the last quarter-century, including wholesale deals with Whole Foods and Walmart, it's still very much a family affair.

The farm is owned by brothers Marshall and Ronald Lee, while Marshall's daughter, Shelly Johnson, serves as the sales manager.

It was Marshall's desire to pass along a little farming work ethic to his daughter that helped get the business off the ground.

"When she was eight or nine, I decided that she wasn't going to grow up not knowing what work is, so that started it off," he said. "I was raised on a farm. Tobacco mainly.

"It's rewarding. And it's also very discouraging sometimes. You have a lot to deal with, like the weather and so forth. ... If you didn't enjoy doing it, you couldn't do it. It's that simple."

Shelly started, with the help of her Grandma Becky, by planting, harvesting and selling a couple of rows of cucumbers as a little girl,





went on to earn a Psychology degree at N.C. State, but — thanks to her grandmother's lessons — found herself drawn back to farming.

She's working at the farm full-time now, and she's a walking catalog of what Lee's Produce has to offer the public.

"We sell a large variety of produce, fruits and vegetables," sales manager Shelly Johnson said. "We sell at farmer's markets, we do home deliveries and a lot of wholesale sales as well."

The home delivery service, now in its fifth year serves customers in Johnston, Wake, Durham, Cumberland, Harnett and Wayne counties. It's a chance for people to skip the supermarket all together and get fresh fruits and vegetables directly from the source.

"Our delivery service differs from a lot of other ones in that we grow 90 to 95 percent of what we put in the boxes," Johnson said. "We're not a middle man. We are the farmer. We grow it, we pick it and we deliver it straight to your door."

Lee's Produce operates from around mid-April to mid October, depending on the weather. Riding around on a golf-cart tour of the fields with Marshall's father, John Ellis Lee, a visitor gets a sense of just how many fruits and vegetables are grown there.

He knows every inch of the land, telling his passenger about how all of the crops are irrigated by well water, which parts of the field were too wet this spring to plant and just how often one has to pick cucumbers to make sure they don't grow too large.

Stories about one of his grandchildren hunting deer, or to the visitor's surprise, bears, add to the charm and beauty of a late-spring day.

All of those children will grow up with an appreciation of farm life, but the folks at Lee's Produce want to make sure that message reaches an even wider audience.

"We do a farm visit through our home deliveries every year," Johnson said. "We can take (kids) out to the fields and let them actually dig a potato, pick a strawberry or whatever is in season at the time. Just giving kids an opportunity to know where (their fruits and vegetables) are coming from."

For more information on Lee's Produce, visit their website at [www.leesproducenc.com](http://www.leesproducenc.com).

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# SAVE THE DATE

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## Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon

### Smithfield Tadpoles

Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center  
Bring your little "tadpoles" to SRAC Splash Park. The cost is \$3 for adult Smithfield residents, and \$2 for residents ages 3-12. The non-resident fee is \$5.50 for adults, and \$4 per child. Each additional child is \$3. For more information, call Tiffany Pearson at 919-934-2148, ext 107.

## Every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

### N.C. Pesticide License Certification Preparation

Johnston Community College Arboretum  
This series of classes is intended for landscaping professionals seeking pesticide licensing in North Carolina. Upon completion of this series, participants will be prepared to register for the N.C. Pesticide License Exam. Instruction will focus on the Core Exam and Ornamental and Turf classifications. To register, call Brenda Harris at (919) 209-2522 or email [bkharris1@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:bkharris1@johnstoncc.edu). The cost is \$70.

## Saturday, June 4

### Overnight Neuse River Camping Trip

Howell Woods  
Looking for a summer adventure to remember? If so, this overnight river paddle is for you! The trip begins at the Smithfield Town Commons Park, where you will paddle 14 miles to Howell Woods to camp on our river overlook platform. The following day will consist of a 12-mile paddle to Richardson Bridge Wildlife boat landing. Participants will meet at Howell Woods on Saturday morning for orientation and camping supply drop off. Transportation to Smithfield and back from Richardson Bridge will be provided. All meals are included except for Saturday's lunch. This event is for ages 18 and up unless accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$50 and you can email [jtastoske@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:jtastoske@johnstoncc.edu) or call the Learning Center for more information and registration at 919-938-0115.

## Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.

### Cornhole Tournament

Relief Masonic Lodge #431, 315 South Lee Street, Benson  
The Relief Masonic Lodge #431 in Benson is hosting a Cornhole tournament fundraiser. Registration fee is \$50 per pair. To register, contact Edward Olive at 919-902-0490 or [Olive.Edward@gmail.com](mailto:Olive.Edward@gmail.com). Prizes will be awarded to the top four teams, and concessions will be sold at the event.

## Thursday, June 9, 10 a.m.

### Beginner Kayak & Canoe Lessons

Howell Woods  
If you've always wanted to kayak or canoe, but were not sure where to start, this program is for you! Participants will be taught paddling techniques and paddler safety while on the calm waters of Swan Pond, located here on the Howell Woods property. To better understand the differences in vessels, participants will start the day paired in a canoe, and finish individually in a kayak. Seats are limited, so sign up early! Ages 13+. Cost is \$15, and you can register by emailing [jtastoske@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:jtastoske@johnstoncc.edu) or calling the Learning Center 919-938-0115.

## Monday, June 13, 5 p.m.

### Elder Abuse Awareness Walk

Neuse River Amphitheatre, Front Street, Smithfield  
The Johnston County Department of Social Services is hosting its second-annual Elder Abuse Awareness Walk as part of World Elder Abuse Awareness Month. The event is designed to raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation in our community. In fact, there were more than 350 report of abuse, neglect or exploitation last year in Johnston County. Registration begins at 5 p.m., and the kick-off ceremony will start at 5:30 p.m. After that, participants will begin a mile-long silent walk to remember victims of elder abuse. Along the greenway there will be statistics and facts to heighten awareness of this growing epidemic. For more information, call (919) 989-5300 or email [jcoaduitservices@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:jcoaduitservices@johnstoncc.edu).

## Tuesday, June 14, 10 a.m. to noon

### Basic Tree ID

Howell Woods  
Have you ever stopped to take in the beauty of trees? Trees are unique and provide many ecological benefits. Participants in this program will learn how to identify many of the trees in our area by growth habit, form, bark, and leaf shapes. Cost is \$10. For more information, call the Howell Woods Learning Center at 919-938-0115.

## Wednesday, June 15, 10:30 a.m.

### The Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics

James Bryan Creech Public Library  
Don't miss the opening ceremony for the Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics. Call (919) 963-6013 for more information.

## Wednesday, June 15, 10 a.m. to noon

### Back to the Basics of Fishing

Howell Woods  
Take advantage of this opportunity to introduce a child to a relaxing, yet exciting, outdoor activity. Join experienced staff as they cover all the basics needed to be a successful fisherman. Learn to tie knots, set up a fishing pole and how to cast and reel in the big one. While you are here check out the 400-gallon aquarium to learn about your catch. Cost is \$10. For more information, call the Howell Woods Learning Center at 919-938-0115.

## Thursday, June 16, 10 a.m. to noon

### Map and Compass Navigation

Howell Woods  
Discover a valuable tool that will increase your confidence in any outdoor exploration activity. Participants will learn to use a map and compass together as tools to navigate through the wilderness. Cost is \$10. For more information, call the Howell Woods Learning Center at 919-938-0115.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.**

## **Beginner Kayak & Canoe Lessons**

Howell Woods

If you've always wanted to kayak or canoe, but were not sure where to start, this program is for you! Participants will be taught paddling techniques and paddler safety while on the calm waters of Swan Pond, located here on the Howell Woods property. To better understand the differences in vessels, participants will start the day paired in a canoe, and finish individually in a kayak. Seats are limited, so sign up early! Ages 13+. Cost is \$15, and you can register by emailing [jtastoske@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:jtastoske@johnstoncc.edu) or calling the Learning Center 919-938-0115.

**June 20-23, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

## **Howell Woods Summer Camp**

In this four-day camp, campers will be active in structured, informal learning for eight hours each day. Activities will incorporate team building, environmental studies and outdoor survival skills using hands-on techniques. Because of limited staff and equipment, we have a maximum of 12 available spaces. This restriction allows staff to work one-on-one with campers. To secure your spot, please return payment and registration ASAP! Registration forms can be picked up at the learning center or emailed to anyone interested. Cost is \$100. For more information, call the Howell Woods Learning Center at 919-938-0115.

**June 20-23, 9 a.m. to noon**

## **South Johnston Baseball Camp**

The South Johnston Trojan Baseball Camp is designed to teach players ages 6-14 the fundamentals of the game. This includes hitting, fielding, base running, proper practice techniques and game situations. Trojan head coach Aaron Parnell will direct the camp staff. Registration forms are available in the South Johnston High School main office. Cost: \$80. For more information, call 919-894-3146.

**Wednesday, June 22, 10:30 a.m.**

## **The Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics**

James Bryan Creech Public Library

Don't miss the Crafts Meet Science (straw and paper airplanes) event at the Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics. Call (919) 963-6013 for more information.

**Thursday, June 23, 10 a.m.**

## **Beginner Kayak & Canoe Lessons**

Howell Woods

If you've always wanted to kayak or canoe, but were not sure where to start, this program is for you! Participants will be taught paddling techniques and paddler safety while on the calm waters of Swan Pond, located here on the Howell Woods property. To better understand the differences in vessels, participants will start the day paired in a canoe, and finish individually in a kayak. Seats are limited, so sign up early! Ages 13+. Cost is \$15, and you can register by emailing [jtastoske@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:jtastoske@johnstoncc.edu) or calling the Learning Center 919-938-0115.

**Friday, June 24, 11 a.m.**

## **Clothing Closet and Food Pantry**

Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, Hwy. 210, Four Oaks

For details, contact John Jernigan of Lighthouse Christian Fellowship at 919-320-7387.

**Saturday, June 25, 7 a.m.**

## **Neuse River Kayak Trip**

Howell Woods

The Neuse River runs right along the back of the Howell Woods property and makes for the perfect paddling route for more experienced kayakers. The course of this trip stretches through 12 miles of Johnston County, ending at the Richardson Bridge boat landing. Our guides will provide history of the Neuse, as well as identify wildlife along the way. Cost is \$35, and you can register by emailing [jtastoske@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:jtastoske@johnstoncc.edu) or calling the Learning Center 919-938-0115.

**Sunday, June 26, 3 p.m.**

## **Youth Explosion 2016**

Small Chapel Ministries, Hwy 701, Newton Grove

The theme for this youth celebration is "The Generation with the Oil." There will be singing, praise dancing, mime and comedy. A dynamic word will be delivered by our anointed guest speaker, youth minister Nicc Russell of Raleigh. For more information, call 919-894-1085.

**June 27 to July 1, 9 a.m. to noon**

## **Pottery Camp**

Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center

Come play in the clay! Students ages 8-15 will learn the techniques for building with clay as well as basic wheel throwing. Projects will be made that can go home. A 25-pound bag of clay (\$20) must be purchased separately at the front desk. The fee is \$85 for Smithfield resident and \$110 for everyone else. For more information, call 919-934-1408.

**Tuesday, June 28, 10 a.m. to noon**

## **Nature Discovery Hike**

Howell Woods

Become a natural resource scientist for the day by joining Howell Woods staff members as they explore the many natural communities on the property. During the hike, you'll search for and discuss wildlife species and habitats and identify many of the unique plants found. Dress appropriately for a hike through the woods. Cost is \$10. For more information, call the Howell Woods Learning Center at 919-938-0115.

**Wednesday, June 29, 10 a.m.**

## **The Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics**

James Bryan Creech Public Library

Don't miss the Hopscotch event at the Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics. Call (919) 963-6013 for more information.

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