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# FOUR OAKS Journal



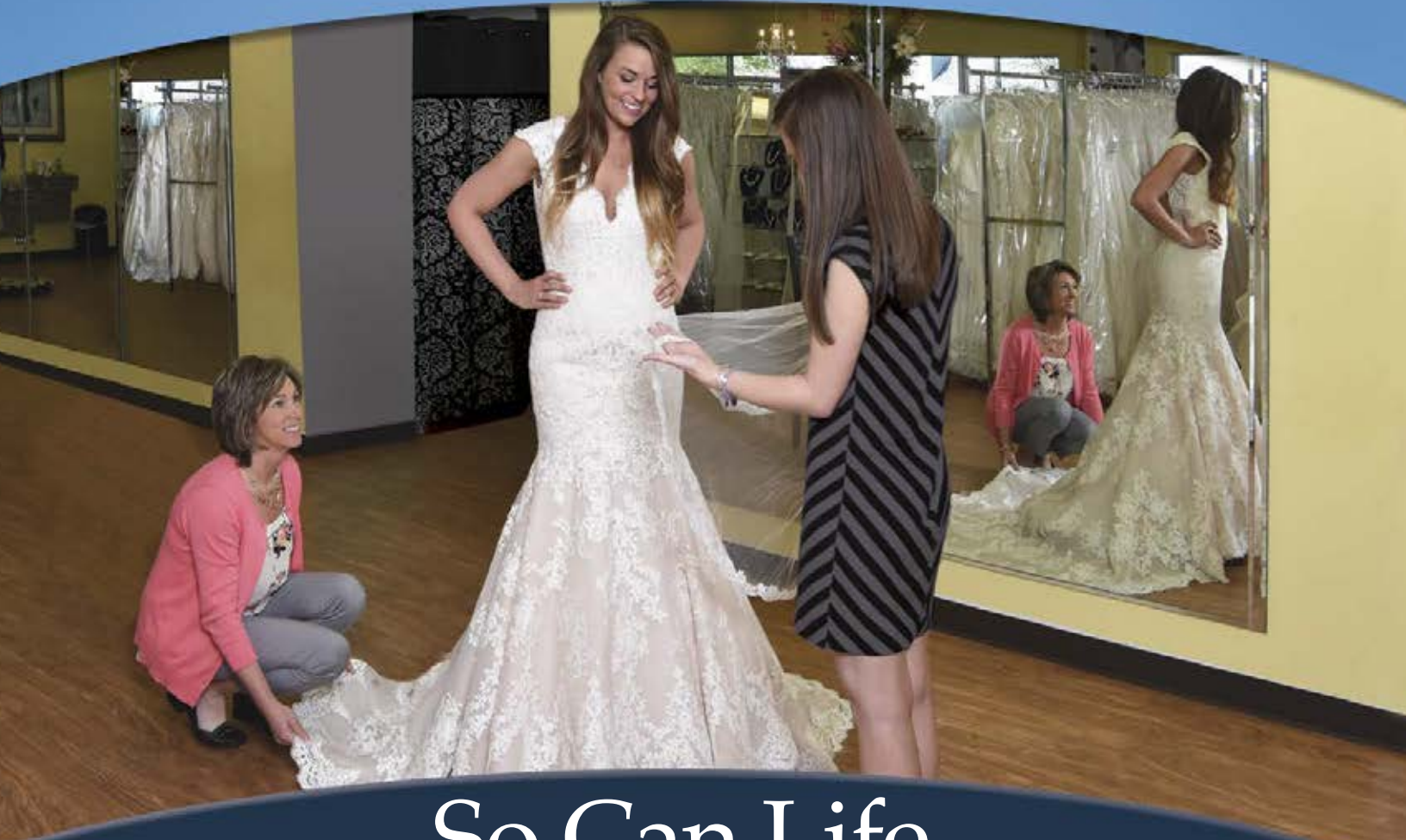
- Four Oaks students in Lego Movie competition
- Business Profile: Carly Fogleman Photography
- Community Calendar

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## FROM THE PUBLISHER

# EOG proctoring sharpens Math skills

North Carolina End of Grade testing, otherwise known as EOGs, is a stressful time of year for students all over the state.

The same is true close to home, where parents, teachers and students alike fret over the results of a series of standardized tests.

One of the quirks of this testing is the need for volunteer proctors — or folks to sit and watch as teachers administer the test and children take it.

Sounds easy, right?

Well, it is. If you don't mind counting.

Proctors aren't allowed to talk (obviously), touch test materials, pencils, pens, highlighters or paper. They also can't read, eat, drink, use a cell phone or tablet, draw, write or doodle.

So, for the reading and Math EOGs, it's six solid hours over two days listening of the whine of overhead lights, the silent ticking of a clock projected on the smart board and 28 students hammering away at green and blue bubble sheets.

I didn't mention it earlier, but sleeping isn't allowed either. So, how did I pass the time?

By counting.

Having spent six hours in Mr. Winters' room at Four Oaks Middle, I counted everything I could see. Drawers, cabinets, posters, ceiling tiles, floor tiles and bricks in the wall got me through the first hour or so. It's hard to count them all from one corner, so while doing assigned proctor duties (walking around and looking sympathetic), I counted the ones I couldn't see well from my chair.

I've apparently blocked out the exact figures, but there were roughly 900 floor tiles, 280 or so ceiling tiles and about 1,200 bricks in the wall.

I would have written the numbers down, but that would have been against the rules.

The students worked diligently, and far more quietly than I remember from my seventh grade days. If they were worried, they hid it well.

Hopefully, teachers and students are enjoying a summer away from the rigors of state-mandated tests. As for me, it's been weeks since I've counted anything...



Randy Capps  
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## COVER STORY

The Dwelling Place, on Wellons Street in Four Oaks, is our feature story this month.

Photo by Ron Sloan, Sloan Communications



## FEATURES

Students participate in LEGO Movie-Making Competition



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**PAGE 4**  
**FOUR OAKS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN LEGO MOVIE COMPETITION**

**PAGE 5**  
**GROCERY STORE GIVEAWAYS ARE NOTHING NEW**

**PAGE 6**  
**A BEAUTIFUL DWELLING PLACE**

**PAGE 12**  
**BUSINESS PROFILE**

**PAGE 14**  
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

### Volume 2, Number 3

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# FOUR OAKS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN **LEGO MOVIE** COMPETITION

*Submitted by Johnston County Schools*

Four Oaks Elementary School students used a unique lesson in their technology elective classes to participate in a LEGO Movie-Making Competition.

Third, fourth and fifth-grade students in Kelly Nolan's technology elective classes brainstormed ideas and worked with partners to choose characters and a story line.

Students used those story lines and characters to further develop their stories. They then created a storyboard that detailed character development, dialogue and settings. Each character's movements and prop placement were sketched out by the students on the storyboard, so that they would be ready to "film" their movie.

To create their scenery and backgrounds, students used LEGOs and any materials they could find such as rocks and dirt.

Students created their movies using iPads and the free LEGO Movie Maker App. The process is done like old cartoons, using stop-motion animation.

To complete their movies each group took hundreds of pictures to make their cartoon come to life. As the pictures were played together at a higher speed it gave the illusion of movement.

Each group then edited their movies and added narration, sounds and sometimes music.

Once completed, the movies were voted on by the school.

"I'm extremely proud of these students," Nolan said. "They committed to completing their projects even after our elective ended. They gave their own time to follow through on their commitment. Each team's accomplishments show their hard work and dedication."

Third graders Jack Rowland and Elijah Hudson won the competition with nearly 40 percent of the vote. They were awarded personalized LEGO trophies for their movie creation, "Washed Away," which is about a group of people trying to escape a city from a tsunami.

The four remaining competitors were recognized for their hard work and perseverance in their projects as well.

Fifth graders Christian Fiske and Raiden Simmons created the film "Old Pasco" while fourth graders Jaren Godwin and Katie Lee created "The Surfing Adventure."

Want to watch? You can see all three movies online. "Washed Away" is at [bit.ly/1TZcKpg](http://bit.ly/1TZcKpg), "Old Pasco" is at [bit.ly/1XaKVe4](http://bit.ly/1XaKVe4) and "The Surfing Adventure" is at [bit.ly/1UoL1ZB](http://bit.ly/1UoL1ZB).



Participants in the Four Oaks Elementary LEGO Movie-Making Competition. Front row, left to right, Jack Rowland and Elijah Hudson. Back row: Four Oaks Elementary Principal Kathy Parrish, Raiden Simmons, Christian Fiske, Jaren Godwin, Katie Lee and technology teacher Kelly Nolan.

## Grocery store giveaways are nothing new

Grocery stores enticing shoppers with prize drawings may seem like a fairly recent phenomenon, but the idea has been around for quite some time.

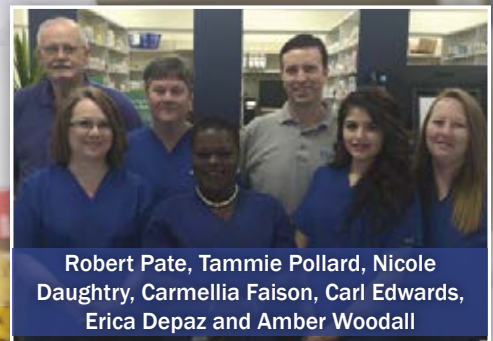
Jerry Beasley shared this coupon with us, which he faithfully preserves in his wallet, from 1939. Shoppers got a coupon for every \$5 they spent for a \$25 weekly drawing. The grand prize, which was given away right before Christmas in Four Oaks in 1939, was for \$200. That comes to \$3,442.60 in today's dollars, so one can imagine how nice that would have been to win that.



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# A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO DWELL

That's my youngest son, Jeffry, and his oldest son Jonathon."

Mrs. Rebecca Thornton handed me a photograph and I looked down into the faces of two grown men, beaming at the camera and wearing Confederate uniforms the color of cannon smoke.

"Are they reenactors?" I asked, returning the grin of the two soldiers as I handed the photo back to her.

"Just that one year," she said. "Jeffry was in the uniform tent before the reenactment and the merchant asked him if he'd be able to stand in for a friend of his who couldn't come at the last minute. Jeffry jumped at the chance and Jonathon joined him. They had a lot of fun."

She and I were sitting on the couch in a comfortable sitting room at the back corner of her home, one wall of which was mostly covered with bookshelves. Several lamps lit the corners of the room and a television sat dark and silent over to one side.

She told me upon entering that this was the "relax room," implying it's the room where she comes to chill out and read. She's a self-professed bookworm.

"I've got a stack I'm trying to work through now," she said. "And I've given away who knows how many."

I knew I had found a kindred spirit, owning more than seven bookcases full of books myself.

I had arrived at The Dwelling Place, Thornton's Four Oaks bed and breakfast just three hours earlier. She was unloading grocery bags of fresh produce from her car as I pulled in and parked. I jumped out to carry a watermelon and followed her into her kitchen.

As I walked in, I was immediately smitten.

Wood floors and a wooden table with ladder-back chairs coexisted harmoniously with beautiful granite countertops and a fireplace I wanted to light, despite the 80-degree temperatures outside.

This was a kitchen for biscuits and preserves, late-night talks, and early-morning breakfasts to fuel long days of work. I deeply inhaled one of my favorite smells: that of a house with history of family, food, and persistent, loving cleaning.

It's a smell I want my house to have one day.

"Just sit that right down there," she said, of the watermelon I held and the hearth of the fireplace. A painting of a white two-story farmhouse above the mantel had Psalm 90:1 written near the top: "Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations."

I followed her through the kitchen, into the dining room and across the hallway to the door of a spacious bedroom. "This is your room here," she said.

A four-poster queen-sized bed covered in a white bedspread with embroidered pillows and backed by lace curtains invited me to drop everything and relax. An antique chair sat next to a fireplace and mantel, over which hung a framed needlepoint sampler with antique sconces on either side.

Next to the chair was a marble-topped table and nearby, a mirrored wardrobe stood just outside the door of an adorable private bathroom. Striped wallpaper, sconces, a nightlight and fresh towels and toiletries awaited me.

Could I move in? I suppressed the desire to ask and instead took Mrs. Rebecca up on her invitation to join her on the Dwelling Place's spacious wrap-around porch. Rocking chairs with floral cushions lined the porch and a swing hung at one end.

We settled into wicker chairs on the opposite end of the porch, toward the garden.



Melissa Eakin



"This end of the porch is the coolest place here," she said. "There's a good breeze. This was my daddy's favorite place to sit."

I could easily understand why. If I closed my eyes, I could have been sitting on the porch of an eastern North Carolina beach house, enjoying the near-constant buffeting of a soft breeze. Mosquitoes didn't have much of a chance.

"I've had several people to say, 'If you see me out there on the porch with a sandwich, I'm taking my dinner break,'" she said. "I said 'that'd be fine.'"

She smiled and looked out toward the garden where six young chickens were pecking around an azalea bush. She had let them out of the coop not long after my arrival, tempting them away from the organic vegetable garden and into the main part of the yard with leftover watermelon rinds.

Their high-pitched peeping created a backdrop for our conversation that often made me smile and look around the back of my chair to see what they had found to get into. Amazingly, they never left the yard. But then again, who would want to?

Flowers bloomed everywhere. Three peach trees stood outside the vegetable garden, already full of yellow-green, golf ball-sized fruit.

"Those little peach trees came up from seed," she said when I remarked on the number of peaches dangling from the branches. "Every year, they make enough peaches we don't have to buy many."

Nearby stood a tree covered in stunning orange blooms. This was a pomegranate tree, she informed me, though it yielded no edible fruit. It didn't need to as far as I was concerned.

"Things in these flower beds all bloom at different times," she commented as I pointed out the variety of blossoms in the brick-edged beds. "There's usually something blooming out here all the time. And most of the time, I can find enough flowers out here to make a bouquet in several of the rooms."

I'd seen at least two of these flower arrangements inside. Their simple beauty added to the house's atmosphere of warmth and comfort.

The house itself is a two-story bungalow, built in 1936. There is one bedroom for rent downstairs (the room I currently occupied) and one upstairs, both with their own private bathrooms. There are gorgeous hardwood floors throughout and charming antique





décor.

"When did you and your husband buy this house?" I asked.

"We bought it from my parents in 1987," she replied. "They bought it, I think, from Elijah Strickland and lived here 25 years before we bought it."

"So when did you open as a B&B?" I asked.

"We opened in 1996. Four Oaks didn't have a lodging place in it, except this. Still doesn't." She looked thoughtfully out toward traffic passing on 301 in front of the house. "The people of Four Oaks don't use it much. It'll usually be somebody from somewhere else."

She and her husband, Ken, a well-loved Baptist preacher who passed away five years ago, had made the decision together to open their home as a bed and breakfast.

"We talked about it and we'd always loved people," she said. "We'd been to bed and breakfasts several times and we kind of thought we'd like to try it. We had the room." There was a slight pause before she continued. "I've had people even recently to say 'I didn't know we had a bed and breakfast in Four

Oaks.' I think more people know we're here since Caleb (her grandson) made the sign."

We looked out toward the handsome, cream-colored sign with black letters standing by the road in the front yard, next to a small lamppost.

"I had a little metal sign that hung on the lamppost when we first opened, but it got torn off several times by a storm and the last time, it was just ruined. So that's when I asked Caleb if he'd make me another one."

"How did you come up with the name?" I asked.

"My daughter Beebee and I were riding to Henderson one day and she said, 'Mama, you've got to hurry up and get a name for the place,' because she knows I usually name everything – lizards and frogs and everything else around here."

We laughed and looked over at a large red hen named Little Red, currently pecking around at the foot of the porch steps, before she continued.

"And I said, 'I can't decide what I want it to be. I want it to be warm and inviting but

I don't want it to be silly.' So Beebee said, 'Whenever Grandma and Granddaddy would go somewhere, after Granddaddy had stayed as long as he thought they ought to stay and they were ready to go home, he would always say 'Lela, let's go to the dwelling house.' So she said, 'Why don't you name it the Dwelling Place?'"

"So that's how it got its name," she said. "And there's also the verse of scripture (Psalm 91:1) that says 'He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.'"

There was another thoughtful pause as we watched Little Red and listened to the younger chickens in the shrubs behind me.

"That's kind of been what I've trusted the whole time to keep us safe," she said. "That the Lord's presence would be here. I've had a lot of people say they've never stayed in a Christian bed and breakfast before. And even though we are a Christian establishment, we do not push our faith on people."

She smiled. "But we usually eat with our guests and we always have a blessing."

Earlier, I had flipped through the Dwelling



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Place's guest notebook where guests can leave their names and addresses and often left notes of gratitude for the Thorntons. I saw entries from people all over the country and was curious about how people find her. I had noticed in the weeks prior that she didn't have a website.

"Most people now find me by GPS," she explained. "They used to find me by telephone. That was in the days before the internet and I chose not to do the Internet — I know I'm behind the times."

She waved a hand dismissively.

"Do you stay pretty busy?" I asked.

"It's funny," she said. "Sometimes you'll have a whole lot of people and then you might go a long time and nobody'll come. But I know if I was on the Internet, I'd probably have somebody every night. At my age, I can't do all the things I used to do when we first opened up."

She could've fooled me. She seemed at least as active as me, probably more. Her cooking and cleaning schedule alone intimidated me, yet she managed to keep everything running in tip-top shape at all times with ease.

After all, you never could tell when an inspector would drop by, or what they'd check.

"I've had one fellow yank the covers off the beds to make sure they'd been changed," she remarked with a grin. "And pulled out the drawers to see if the linens inside had been cleaned. One man even got down on the floor with a flashlight to check the crevice between the counter and the refrigerator."

Yet she's only been graded below 100 once. The first inspector to visit her was on his first day on the job and the only thing he could find to criticize was the water temperature in the kitchen.

"He said it was too hot," she shook her head. "I told him we have to keep the water hot to wash the dishes, but he said it could scald a child."

She adjusted the water temperature accordingly and has had no criticism since.

Mrs. Thornton has guests who return to stay with her repeatedly, sometimes year after year.

"Some of them keep coming back over and over and over," she remarked. She went on to tell me of one guest who came to stay a week, then extended it to a month, then to six weeks. This woman, who came to be a dear friend, wound up staying at the Dwelling Place for six and a half years. Her name is Faye and she's due to visit from Germany this



summer.

"She calls this home," she said.

"Do you ever close or are you open year round?" I asked.

"I don't close, even at Christmas time, because people need a place to stay at Christmas," she said. "We just incorporate them in with our family."

Later that evening, after looking at photographs and talking in the book-filled sitting room, Mrs. Rebecca, as I came to call her, offered me a treat before bed.

We went into the kitchen where she sat a plate of strawberry shortcake with whipped cream on the table in front of me. She settled in with a plate of her own and we spent a while longer in comfortable chat before heading to bed.

I woke the next morning to the smell of bacon and coffee. Once up and dressed for the day, I wandered into the kitchen to find Sam, the second of Mrs. Rebecca's three sons, at the kitchen table, making a sign for the upcoming town-wide yard sale Father's Day weekend.

He greeted me cheerfully and told me how, at yard sales in years past, he'd spent time walking his son Caleb's basset hound, Samson, around to greet visitors.

Sam, Caleb, and Samson are all permanent residents at the Dwelling Place, contributing their gardening and maintenance skills. I had visited Samson the night before in the barn out back, his eyes meeting mine with a doleful gaze as I walked in.

I'm not sure basset hounds have any other way to look. He had risen to his feet with his tail wagging and we soon became friends.

Sam joined Mrs. Rebecca and I in the dining room for breakfast, the table for which was beautifully decorated with lace over a rose tablecloth, flowers and glass candle holders. It reminded me of a tearoom in Sanford I loved to visit.

Breakfast was Mrs. Rebecca's special baked oatmeal with fresh-cut fruit, bacon, coffee and orange juice. As someone who often gets breakfast through a drive-thru window, I was thrilled.

We all sat down at the table together and, after Sam returned thanks, began to eat. Everything was delicious.

Later that morning, back out on the front porch, Mrs. Rebecca and I talked about a children's book she'd written about the bed and breakfast.

"The name of it is Dorcas and Drucilla at the B&B," she said. I couldn't help but laugh.

"The first chickens we had were called Dorcas and Drucilla and it's their story," she continued. "Used to be, I'd read that story to everybody who stayed here. It's the story of those chickens coming here to live and of the dog we had at that particular time. She'd look at us feeding the chickens and she seemed to be thinking, 'Why aren't they giving me some of those old collard scraps?' So one day, we gave her a whole collard stalk, root and all."

She smiled at the memory.

"She tried to get that collard stalk in her house and it wouldn't fit. She pushed and turned, but couldn't get it to go in. It was the funniest thing I've ever seen."

We shared a laugh over this mental picture. I had no idea what kind of dog was in the story, but I was picturing the mournful face of Samson.

There was a moment of quiet in which we both sat comfortably, composing our own mental pictures and just enjoying each other's company. The breeze blew over us along the wide porch and birds sang peacefully in the nearby dogwood trees. I took a deep breath and watched a robin land on a nearby branch.

Mrs. Rebecca smiled once again and said, "The story goes on to say at the end that everything likes to be loved and that God has a special purpose for everything."

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## Sense of family launches Carly Fogleman Photography

Until last month, Carly Fogleman was a Social Studies teacher at Sampson County's Hobbton High — and a professional photographer in whatever spare time she could find.

Now, she's the owner of the newest business on Main Street in Four Oaks, Carly Fogleman Photography.

As it turns out, her decision to walk away from the classroom and get behind the lens

full-time was family-driven.

"Being a teacher and being a photographer are both joyful and delightful," she said. "But they can also both be extremely overwhelming and consuming. With a family, I had to make a choice. When it came down to it, my passion is photography. But, given the choice, I had to pick a career that allowed me to have flexibility and freedom with my family."

"Being a mom to two small children, toddlers, my son Nolan is one and my daughter, Emilia, is three and she has preschool and all these events — and I want to be as present as I can in their lives. This career choice allows me to have my cake and eat it too. I get to do what I love and I get to spend time with the ones that I love."

She's been doing professional photography for three years, but her love for the medium





dates back much farther.

"I had my first Fuji film camera growing up, it was actually my granddad's that he let me play with," she said. "I always loved it. I was the yearbook editor in school. It's an interest I've always had."

She moved to Four Oaks in 2010 with her husband Eric, and she's excited about serving the community through her business.

"My favorite services are wedding services as well as fine art portraiture, whether it's for families or children or whatever the event need is," she said. "I also do framing. A lot of people don't realize that."

It's the portraits, she says, that she enjoys the most.

"Having time to spend with a person one-on-one, and I get to see this part of a person that no one else does," she said. "There's something vulnerable about someone standing in front of a camera. It's raw, it's genuine and it really allows you to see who they are, and I love that."

"I get to see all of these milestones in people's lives. From the time they get married, to the time they bring their child home, watching that child grow up and taking their baby panel pictures — it's just really cool to watch that evolution."

With the rise of cell phone cameras, Fogleman believes that the personal touch of professional photography is more important than ever.

"I think it's important that people understand preservation of memories," she said. "That is the job of the photographer, to preserve those moments. To be able to look back on your child at three years old and see an expression on their face that makes you say, 'I remember when they did that.'"

"A lot of people get lost in that translation because today in a digital world we all feel like we can pick up our phones and take a picture. ... I just think it's important sometimes to outsource that to a professional, to entrust them with the utmost care of the most important people in our lives."

Ironically, by providing those services, Fogleman can help other moms get in that family picture.

**For more information on Carly Fogleman Photography, visit her website at [www.carlyfoglemanphotography.com](http://www.carlyfoglemanphotography.com), email her at [carlyfogleman@gmail.com](mailto:carlyfogleman@gmail.com) or call 910-990-2205.**

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**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.

**Sat, July 9, July 16 and July 23, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Christmas in July**

Smithfield Recreation and Aquatic Center

The SRAC will be celebrating all things Christmas with crafting and food decorating on these three Saturdays. Participants will be making ornaments and holiday treats. Cost: \$10 per session for Smithfield residents and \$15 for others. For more information, call 919-934-1408

**Wednesday, July 6, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.**

**The Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics**

James Bryan Creech Public Library

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

**Thursday, July 7, 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 [jtastoke@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:jtastoke@johnstoncc.edu) or calling the Learning Center 919-938-0115.

**Tuesday, July 12, 1-3 p.m.**

**Capture, Store, and Release**

Howell Woods

Understand the importance of wetlands and the incredible work they do with water. In this program, you'll learn that ground water, surface water and precipitation can contribute water to wetlands, and describe how wetlands capture store and release water through a hands-on activity. Cost is \$10. For more information, call the Howell Woods Learning Center at 919-938-0115.

**Tuesday, July 12, 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.

**Wednesday, July 13, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.**

**The Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics**

James Bryan Creech Public Library

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

**Wednesday, July 13, 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, July 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.

**Saturday, July 16, 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 [jtastoke@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:jtastoke@johnstoncc.edu) or calling the Learning Center 919-938-0115.

**Tuesday, July 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

**Night Safari**

Howell Woods

Learn about the native nocturnal species commonly found in this part of the state. Discuss habitat, diet, and how these species have evolved to thrive in darkness. Using a safari vehicle, we will ride out on the property to search for night animals. Cost is \$15. For more information, call the Howell Woods Learning Center at 919-938-0115.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Wednesday, July 20, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.**  
**The Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics**

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

**Thursday, July 21, 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 [jstoske@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:jstoske@johnstoncc.edu) or calling the Learning Center 919-938-0115.

**Saturday, July 23, 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 [jstoske@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:jstoske@johnstoncc.edu) or calling the Learning Center 919-938-0115.

**July 25-29**  
**Young Rembrandts Summer Drawing Camp**

Smithfield Recreation and Aquatic Center  
 This camp is set for the last week in July, and the theme will be Creatures of the Rain Forest. Ages 5-7 will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. while ages 8-13 will meet from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The cost is \$75 for the week. Register online at [www.youngrembrandts.com/raleigh](http://www.youngrembrandts.com/raleigh). For more information, call 919-934-2148.

**Wednesday, July 27, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.**  
**The Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics**

James Bryan Creech Public Library  
 Don't miss the Bean Bag Shot Put event at the Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics. Call (919) 963-6013 for more information.

**Wednesday, July 27, 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.

**Friday, July 29, 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.

**Wednesday, August 3, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.**  
**The Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics**

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

**August 9, 9-11 a.m.**  
**Living with N.C. Snakes**

Howell Woods  
 Discover the beauty behind our slithering friends and their importance in our ecosystems. Discuss diet, habitat, snake safety and learn how to distinguish between venomous and non-venomous species. You will also journey through the museum of snakes to get a closer look at common North Carolina species. Cost is \$10. For more information, call the Howell Woods Learning Center at 919-938-0115.

**Wednesday, August 10, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.**  
**The Four Oaks Summer Reading Olympics**

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

**August 10, 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.

**August 11, 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.

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