

The Granite Tablet



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A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

June 2022

HISTORY IN THE MAKING *Mitchell's Mayors - Dr. Caryl Burns*

Mitchell Whitley, a native of Greensboro, spends his spare time crossing the State of North Carolina on a mission to interview all 552 mayors in order to raise awareness of local issues. On June 12, 2022, he interviewed Mayor Caryl Burns at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. She told him that the town is a full service provider - police/fire/rescue, electricity, water, sewer, and recreation. In addition to supplying these services, the town supports the museum, sponsors community activities (such as Festival on the Square/Tree Lighting), and works to draw businesses to town. Mitchell was also interested in learning about her life and about famous people who used

(MITCHELL'S MAYORS *continued on page 2*)



Mitchell Whitley (left) with Mayor Caryl Burns (right)

HISTORY IN THE MAKING *Art in the Park Returns*

Art in the Park returned to Granite Falls on Monday, June 20, 2022 after being cancelled due to COVID in 2020 and 2021. Instead of downtown, the concert took place on ball field # 2 at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center. The Doesn't Madder Band, "the Carolina's Hottest Party Band," played a variety of classic rock, southern rock, and country. The four-piece band features Lee "Big Daddy" Hodge as the lead singer, Alvis Anthony as the guitarist, Brian Ekard as the drummer, and Danny "BassMan" Reid as the bass guitar player.

(ART IN THE PARK *continued on page 2*)



HISTORY IN THE MAKING *COVID-19, "I'm Baaaack!"*

Just when most people thought COVID was finally walking out the door, it turned around, sat down, and put its feet up. After consistently being in the low level category, the report on June 16, 2022 showed as medium, but returned to low on the following week (June 23). However, on that day, a church in a nearby town cancelled all services until further notice due to numerous COVID cases. Although they were mild cases, they helped raise the community level to medium on June 30th.

Vaccines: On May 5, 2022, the U. S. Food and Drug Administration limited the use of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine to persons ages 18 and up who can't or won't take any other vaccine. Studies have shown this vaccine can cause blood clots, but, if it's the only vaccine someone can or will take, the FDA believes the benefits taking it outweigh the risk.

On June 17, 2022, the FDA gave emergency authorization for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine for individuals ages 6 months through 17 years of age. On the same day, Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine received emergency use authorization for individuals ages 6 months through 4 years. The company had already received emergency authorization for ages 5 and up.

(COVID-19 *continued on page 2*)

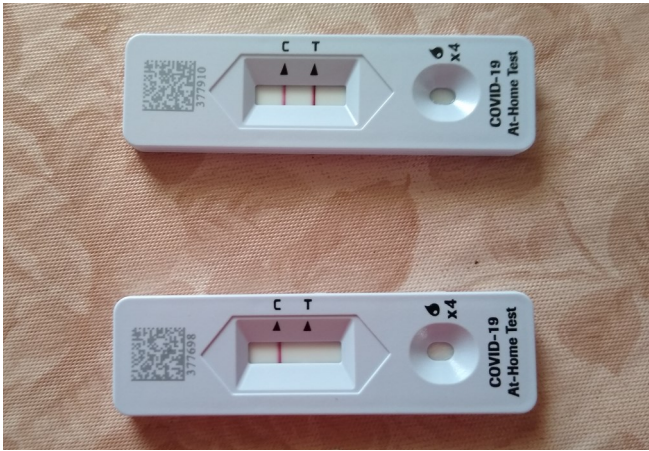


Photo above: Taking the home COVID test is a reminder of Eric Church's "sitting around waiting on two pink lines." In this case, one line does not mean you are home free. The next day, both persons test positive at urgent care.

(COVID-19 continued from page 1)

Treatment for COVID: On December 22, 2021, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for Paxlovid made by Pfizer. On June 30th, Pfizer applied for full approval. Each dose of Paxlovid consists of two nirmatrelvir tablets and one ritonavir. They are taken as a combo by mouth twice a day for five days. The drug is for persons who are at risk for hospitalization or death. They must begin taking the drug within five days of experiencing symptoms.

Free Lunches While They Last: When the COVID lockdowns began in 2020, Caldwell County Schools stepped up to assist families by providing meals. The need for assistance remained long after the COVID lockdowns ended due to food shortages and inflation, and Caldwell County Schools continued to provide free meals for children from birth to 18 years old. In June 2022, meal boxes consisting of five breakfast and lunch meals with a gallon of milk were available at two (2) locations - Gamewell Elementary School and Hudson Middle School. Distribution times were 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Students who were enrolled in programs that provided meals (Summer Bridge, Read to Achieve, and WrapAround) could not receive extra meals.

There will be no distribution of meals during the week of July 4th – 8th. Beginning July 11th and lasting through August 19th, lunches will be served onsite to children/teens Monday - Friday at Martin Luther King Center (11:30 a.m. to 12 noon), Mulberry Recreation Center (11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.), and Redwood Park (11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.).

Changes Coming: The United States Department of Agriculture funds the National School Lunch Program, and the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department prepares the meals. The free meals were made possible by options allowed by the USDA after COVID hit. Those options ended July 1, 2022.

The school system recently announced that it would have to begin charging for school lunches when school reopens in August. In addition, to meet the federal adjusted rate, the school board had to increase prices. Breakfast will cost \$.25 more. Children in K-5 will pay \$.45 more for lunch while students in grades 6 through 12 will pay \$.35 more. There will still be free or reduced pricing for families who are income eligible.

More Bad News: The increase in school lunches reflects the economy in general - continued shortages and rising prices. A grocery store might have an item one week, but not the next. Inflation has hit hard, increasing demands at local churches and charities. To make matters worse, the shortages included baby formula. In February, the FDA closed Abbott Laboratories in Michigan after two infants died. Just as Abbott received clearance to reopen in early June, they had to stop production for two weeks due to flooding caused by bad weather.

Gas prices also skyrocketed. On May 27, 2020, gas was \$1.759 per gallon. On June 12, 2022, it was \$4.659. On June 28th, the price went down slightly to \$4.399 per gallon. Nationally, prices topped \$5.00 per gallon. In some areas of the country, gas station owners installed pumps that would allow pricing beyond \$9.999. Higher prices are attributed to government regulations, global demand, and sanctions on Russia for invading Ukraine.

(MITCHELL'S MAYORS continued from page 1)

to live here such as Dr. Vaughn Starnes and Eric Church. Linda Crowder made a video of the interview, and it is available on DVD at the museum.

For more information about Mitchell's Mayors, check out mitchellsmayors.com.

(ART IN THE PARK continued from page 1)

The Anywhere'z Fine LLC food truck was also on site to provide delicious food and drink.

This project received support from the Caldwell Arts Council and the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources.



Mayor Caryl Burns welcomes the Doesn't Madder Band to Granite Falls

Invitation to the Public

*In honor of Andrew Baird's 260th birthday,
the Granite Falls History Committee will serve refreshments
to people who visit his former home, the Baird House,
(aka the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum)
on Sunday, July 17, 2022
from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.*

*In addition to the museum's usual exhibits,
there will be a special display of antique and vintage clothing
plus some interesting items found beneath the ground.*

Everyone is welcome.



Mrs. O. J. (Alice) Corpening once owned this brown suit.



Jeanne Whisnant created this suit for her son to celebrate the country's bicentennial in 1976.

GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Update

Association members held a work session on June 21st to talk about their current projects. They have finished clearing Baird Cemetery, but they have not worked out the details for long term maintenance. In the meantime, they will keep a check for new growth and take care of it as needed.

The Pinecrest Mapping Project is on hold again as members consider the best format for the final product.

Members continue to collect supplies and materials needed for a practice tea party.

The date and time of the next Board Meeting has not been determined as of the date this newsletter is being published. The Association president will send a notice via email when one has been set. It will likely be held in the evening so more members can attend. The topics will include the Pinecrest Mapping Project and planning the Annual Meeting in October.

GRANITE FALLS PARKS & RECREATION
News

Registration for volleyball began Monday, June 6th and will continue through Tuesday, July 5th. Residents pay \$40, and non-residents pay \$60.00.

Registration for indoor soccer began Monday, June 6th and will continue through Tuesday, July 5th. Residents pay \$40, and non-residents pay \$60.00.

Registration for outdoor soccer begins on Monday, June 25th and will continue through Tuesday, August 29th, Residents pay \$40, and non-residents pay \$60.00.

Parks & Recreation also offers baton, gymnastics, and art classes for children along with a variety of activities for adults such as exercise classes, weight rooms, pickleball, walking trails, etc. For more information, call the William B. Shuford Recreation Center at (828) 396-1221.



Antique Clothing at the museum

OH MOTHER OF OUR LEARNING
Long May Thy Presence Be - We'll Pray to Keep Thy Portals Wide for All Posterity
 Work continues at Granite Falls Middle School. These photos were made on Sunday, June 5, 2022.



The Granite Tablet is a publication of the Granite Falls History Committee, which manages the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. The museum is located in the historic home of Andrew Baird, an early settler. The building is the second oldest residence in Caldwell County. The Baird House was built around 1795 with additions made over the next hundred years. The house remained a residence until 2001 when the owner sought permission to have it burned down due to the high cost of maintenance. Recognizing the historical significance of the building, the Town of Granite Falls purchased the home with the intentions of turning it into a museum. With the help of a grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation and hours of hard work by dedicated people, the vision became a reality. The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum held its grand opening and ribbon cutting on January 18, 2007. Visit us on Facebook under "Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum." Our website is www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org.

Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum - 107 Falls Avenue, Granite Falls, North Carolina 28630 - Phone: 828-396-2792

Newsletter Editor: Linda Richards Crowder [email: lrdrcrowder@gmail.com - phone: (828) 396-1066 - text: (828) 496-2835]