

The Granite Tablet



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A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

May - June 2021

HISTORY IN THE MAKING COVID-19

COVID-19 cases continued to decline in May and June, but so did the number of people being vaccinated. To give people an incentive to get the vaccine, Governor Cooper announced on June 11th that the names of vaccinated adults (18+ with at least one dose) would be entered in four drawings held over the summer. Each winner would receive a million dollars. Children ages 12-17 would have four opportunities to have \$125,000 placed in a NC 529 account to be used at any post-secondary institution. The drawings will be held every other week on Wednesday beginning on June 23rd and ending on August 4th. Persons who receive their first shot on June 10th and later will have their names entered twice. As of June 11th, approximately 54% of the adult population in North Carolina had had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and about 50% of the adult population had been fully vaccinated.

During the same press conference, Governor Cooper said he was extending the current emergency orders at least until Friday, July 30th at 5 p.m. Mask requirements for childcare, schools, transportation, detention centers, healthcare settings, homeless shelters, etc. remained in effect.

Schools - Summer Instruction: Caldwell County students who fell behind with their studies due to COVID-19 constraints began summer school on June 2nd and will continue through July 2nd. Classes will be held Monday

(COVID-19 continued on page 2)



Library Board of Trustees Chair Christine Helton cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the new facilities.

GRAND OPENING Caldwell County Public Library Southern Branch

The new Southern Branch of the Caldwell County Public Library opened on Friday, June 4, 2021 at 11 a.m. with a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce. Speakers were Leslie Griffin, Library Director; Christine Helton, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Mike LaBrose, Caldwell County Commissioner; and Bryan Moore, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Helton cut the ribbon, and the public entered the facility to tour it and to check out books.

The library is located at 63 N. Main Street, just up the road from its previous location downtown. The county opted to purchase the old Flick Video building instead of continuing to lease the old Belk/Western Auto Building. The hours are 10 a.m. until 6:45 p.m. on Monday and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The library is closed on the weekends.



Granite Falls Elementary School was one of the schools in Caldwell County that hosted special summer classes to help students who fell behind due to COVID-19.
(photo made 8/6/2020)

**Granite Falls
History and Transportation Museum
will be reopen on
Sundays from 2 - 4 p.m.
beginning July 11, 2021.**

through Friday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Students in grades K-8 received instruction in reading and math with time allowed for physical activity, art, and music. Beginning with the third grade, students also studied science incorporating STEM. High school students had classes that provided help with the core content and credit recovery required to obtain their high school diplomas. Local students attended Granite Falls Elementary School, Hudson Middle School, and South Caldwell High School.

Schools - Curbside Meals: With the help of the NC Summer Nutrition Programs and the U S Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department continued to provide meals for all children 18 years and younger throughout the summer. Families were able to pick up the meals on Wednesdays from 11 a. m. until 1 p.m. and from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at Hibriten, South Caldwell, and West Caldwell. The program provided food for one week (three meals per day, snacks, and a gallon of milk) for each child. Students attending summer school picked their meals up at school unless parents asked for an exception.



GRANITE FALLS GARDEN CLUB On the Square

On June 8th, the Granite Falls Garden Club planted pink petunias on the Town Square to promote cancer awareness.

Granite Falls Parks & Recreation News

Registration for Girls Volleyball began on Monday, June 7th and runs through Tuesday, July 6th. This is for girls ages 9-15. The age cutoff date is August 1st. The fee is \$40 for a resident of Granite Falls and \$60 for a non resident. All parents/guardians must come to the Recreation Center and fill out a registration form, a parent code of ethics, and pay the registration fee in order to register a participant.

2021 Pool Schedule: Wednesday, June 16th - Sunday, August 15th. The pool will be open to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and on Sundays from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. There will be no adult lap swim during the 2021 pool season. From June 21st through June 27th, the Granite Falls Recreation Department pool operated at a 120 person daily capacity due to not having enough lifeguards available.



Paul Bollinger is shown in front of his award winning vegetable garden.

Granite Falls Garden Club Garden and Yard of the Month

The Granite Falls Garden Club presented the Garden Of the Month and Yard Of the Month Awards to the home of Paul and Gaynell Bollinger on South Main Street in Granite Falls. Paul starts his tomato plants in the early spring in five gallon buckets. He leaves the plants in the buckets with the bottoms cut out. As they grow he adds cages to each. His technique makes a very neat garden. Gaynell and Paul both work in the vegetable garden and take care of a rose garden to which they have added ferns, petunias, and other annuals to give a variety of textures and colors.

Gaynell Bollinger is shown below in front of her award winning rose garden.



The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum needs more volunteers in order to reopen on Saturdays. If you are interested, please call the town office at 396-3131.

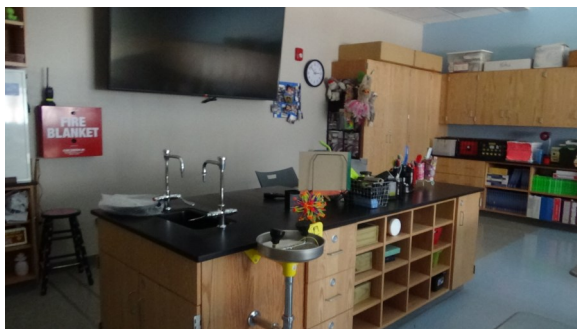
HISTORY IN THE MAKING

A Peek at the Interior of the New GFMS on June 24, 2021

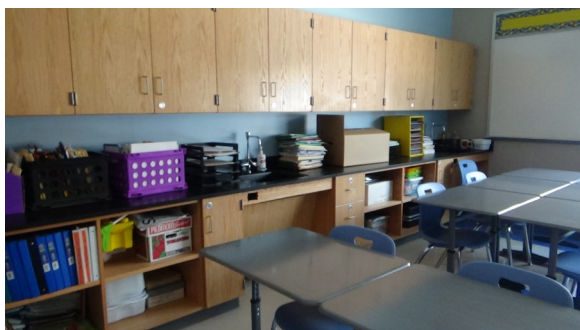


Left: Most students don't want to be seen in the principal's office. In the new GFMS, students and other visitors can wait in relative privacy away from the main hallway.

Right: Safety is a major component of the design along with modern technology to aid learning experiences.



Left: Classrooms have ample storage and flexible seating. Teachers began moving at the end of the school year and will complete the setup of their new rooms when they return in August.



Right: This photo taken from the new building on June 24th shows the demolition of the office area that connected the 1935 building with the 1950 building.



Left: The historic gym is being completely renovated and will be ADA compliant with an elevator to connect the dressing rooms in the basement with the main floor.



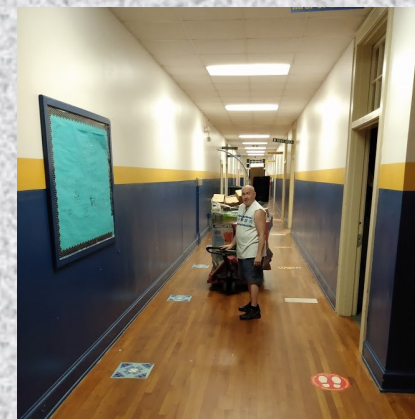
DOWN MEMORY LANE

By Linda Richards Crowder

Every time I hear that we shouldn't tear down the

old buildings on Schoolhouse Hill because someone has special memories, I think back to the original two story wooden structure that housed grades 1 through 10 from 1902 until 1922. What if past school officials had insisted that we keep using this building forever and ever? We would not have the memories from the 1922 Falls Avenue School, the 1935 high school building, the 1948 gym, the 1950 Junior High Building, the 1950 shop, the 1963 elementary school, and the additions made over the years. After talking with the architects and school officials, seeing what they have done, and hearing what they plan to do, I am confident they will preserve our heritage and provide a learning environment that best meets the needs of today's youth as well as future generations so they can make their own special memories.

If you have special memories or photos of school in Granite Falls, please share them with me. I would love to publish them in one of my newsletters and perhaps use them in the update to *Etched in Granite*. My phone number is 828-396-1066, and my email address is lrdrcrowder@gmail.com.



Above: Jody Price made a photo of Neal Haas helping him move items out of the 1935 building.

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 6, 2021.



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.

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