

**Tuesday**  
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# Union County News

Union County's only locally owned and operated newspaper

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## County fair opens Tuesday

By ANNA BROWN

Sea Lion Splash, Puppy Pals, Doc Magic and Agrigolf are among the ground acts that are part of this year's Union County Fair.

The fair opens Tuesday and runs through Saturday and along with amusement rides from Prime Amusements, It includes music, food vendors, the Miss Union County Fair Pageant, livestock shows and an art show.

Advance tickets, which offer discounts, will be sold through Tuesday. They are available online on the fair's website - [itsmyfair.com](http://itsmyfair.com) - and are also available at Dairi-O, Fat Sam's, Dollar General Distribution, the City of Union, WBCU, T&L Diner, Town of Carlisle, Sonoco, Buffalo Pawn, Robert's Accounting, Embroidery by Karen on Kelly Road and the Clemson Extension Office.

Advance tickets offer values, Union County Fair Executive Director Paul Winters said.

"We are offering advance tickets online and gate admission tickets on line," he said. "The code will be on their phone, or they can print it out. When they get to the fair gate we will scan that code and give them the actual physical ticket to get in."

Winters said he thinks the fun the fair offers will be a

welcome relief for a county and area that suffered damage and lengthy power outages caused by Hurricane Helene. He said he thinks the public will especially enjoy the ground acts. Sea Lions will perform in swimming pools set up on the fairgrounds. Puppy Pals was featured on America's Got Talent.

"Arigolf is a putt-putt golf set up that will be in the industrial building," he said. "And for the kids, we will have Doc Magic." (Doc Magic is a Fun Time Variety Show.)

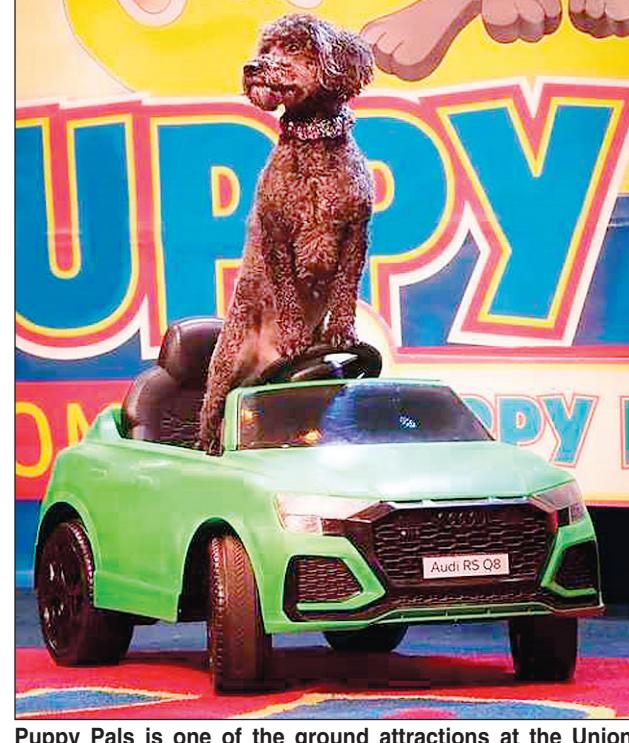
Church Night will be highlighted by a performance from Chosen Road. Local talent includes Jerry Gossett Ministries and Serenity with Rossi Hames.

Other local talent will perform the rest of the week. On Fun Day Friday, Cecil Gray Band, which performs Rhythm and Blues, will perform and Quest will perform on Saturday.

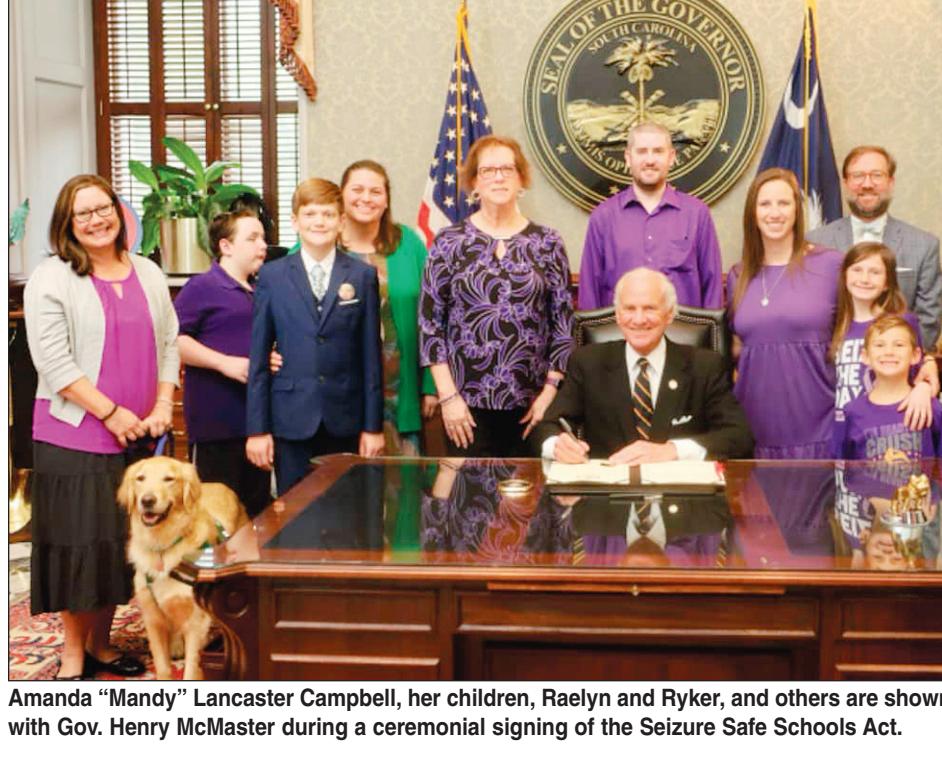
The Miss Union County Fair Contest will be held Saturday from 2-5 p.m.

Tuesday is \$2 Buck Tuesday. All rides are \$2 and admission is \$2 with a canned food donation. A one-price

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Puppy Pals is one of the ground attractions at the Union County Fair.



Amanda "Mandy" Lancaster Campbell, her children, Raelyn and Ryker, and others are shown with Gov. Henry McMaster during a ceremonial signing of the Seizure Safe Schools Act.

## Local woman helps get Seizure Safe Act passed

By ANNA BROWN

Thanks in part to the efforts of a Union County woman, parents of children with epilepsy in South Carolina can now expect their child's school to train all employees on responding to seizures.

Gov. Henry McMaster held a ceremonial bill signing for the Seizure Safe Schools Act on Sept. 12. Amanda Lancaster Campbell and her children, Raelyn and Ryker, were present. Raelyn was diagnosed with epilepsy when she was 4. She experienced her first seizure at school.

"When Raelyn had her first seizure, they didn't know what to do; I wouldn't have known what to do," Campbell said. "I had never seen it, never been around it. It does not run in our family. They called 911, which was the right thing to do. There are some things you can do before EMS gets there. After she was diagnosed with epile-

sy I went through training and I went to the school on what to do and what to look for next. The next time she had one, I could not have asked for anything better - it is just having the knowledge of what to do, and it can be potentially life-saving knowledge."

The law requires all school personnel be trained in seizure recognition and how to respond. Under the new law, all school districts are required to set up their own seizure training programs. The program will teach basic knowledge about epilepsy and its impact on student learning. Someone qualified and trained in seizure first aid must teach the class.

Campbell said she first asked State Rep. Doug Gilliam about the possibilities of passing such a bill in 2019. It was pre-filed

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## Newspaper's editor calls it a career after 47 years

By ANNA BROWN

People choose to celebrate their birthdays in different ways.

Union County News Editor Graham Williams chose his - Oct. 15 - as his retirement day. Graham, who turned 70, is trading his pen and pad to pursue traveling and other interests. In his 47 years as a journalist, he has covered everything from sports - including NASCAR racing - to tragic accidents, fires and governmental meetings.

For the past 15 years of his career, he has greeted customers at the newspaper office from his desk near the front window. He said are these are some of the folks that he will miss the most.

"The people - the interaction with folks who come in to pay for their subscription or pay for an ad, as well as those who just stop by to chat (as long as I'm not too busy)," he said. "I will miss seeing my friends at city council, county council and school board meetings on a regular basis. I will also miss looking out the front door from my desk and seeing the different people walk past our office on the way to someplace else on Main Street. I will also miss my friends here in the office - Rick and Wanda Drain, Brenda Dillard, and the carriers who come in on Monday afternoons to pick up their papers - especially Roger Harris, who I've known for at least 40 years. I will miss talking about sports with Richard Brown, the only true Chicago Cubs fan in Union. Finally, I will miss Anna and Robert Brown, who threw me a lifeline when my life was at its lowest point."

Graham's newspaper career began in



Graham Williams (right) is pictured with his children - Sean, Denise and Caroline.

high school where he was sports editor of his high school newspaper in Winston-Salem, N.C. He was also a correspondent for the Twin City Sentinel's Saturday feature page, "Today's Teen-Agers," where high school students were assigned stories and, when needed, they would schedule one of the paper's photographers to accompany them.

In 1977 he graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor's degree in journalism. His first newspaper job after college was as a staff reporter for The Tribune, a tri-weekly publication in Elkin, N.C. During his seven years there he was also sports editor and then senior reporter.

"Four months after I started working at

The Tribune, five children fell through the ice on a frozen pond and drowned," he said. "Three children were from one family and two children were from another family. I attended the funerals. It was one of the saddest experiences I can remember. Every time I drove to Elkin on the back roads of Yadkin County I would pass by the cemetery where three of the children were buried."

Another memorable event was when he was taking photos at the Shrine Bowl in Charlotte and Elkin High School kicker Jeff Hayes was named MVP.

"After the game he signed with UNC," Graham said. "Hayes was later drafted by the NFL's Washington Redskins and eventually won a Super Bowl."

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## Community Treasures

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"At one time, three Elkin High graduates played for the Tar Heels - tight end Mike Chatham once held the school receiving record.

"That year UNC played Michigan in the Gator Bowl and I was on the sidelines, taking photos. The Tar Heels won, 17-15, and I got some great pictures, including one of Chatham staring down a Michigan player after he scored a touchdown. I was also on the sidelines when UNC beat Arkansas in the Gator Bowl, also known as the 'Fog Bowl.' The fog was so thick people in the stands couldn't see the field."

Elkin is about 30 minutes away from North Wilkesboro. Twice a year Graham got pit passes for the NASCAR Winston Cup races held there in the spring and fall.

"I'll never forget standing between turns 3 and 4 when Dale Earnhardt was involved in an accident and the flywheel from his engine rolled past my leg," he said. "One spring it was snowing on the Sunday morning of the race. I drove to the track anyway; the snow stopped and

Favorite Food: Spaghetti

Favorite Quote: Suck It Up Butter Cup !

Favorite Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Place you would most like to visit: Assateague Island



AMBER MINCEY

## PUBLIC SERVANT SPOTLIGHT

Fun fact about you: I love going camping!

Favorite TV Show: Law And Order Special Victims Unit

Favorite Movie: Homeward Bound

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# Editor

Continued from Page 1

the race took place."

Junior Johnson's race shop was located just up the road, in Ingle Hollow, a small community in Wilkes County. Graham interviewed him for a story soon after he switched from Chevrolets to Oldsmobiles.

"He was a very soft-spoken man; he dressed in bib overalls and a white T-shirt," Graham said. "Right behind his house was his race shop. Inside were several cars on jacks in various stages of construction, along with multiple racing engines sitting on the floor, waiting to be tested in the dyno room. Behind the shop was a pasture with cows."

Another memorable occasion was when Surry Central High School in Dobson, N.C., won a contest by collecting the most gum wrappers with first prize being a concert by the Atlanta Rhythm Section.

"The concert was held in the school gym," he said. "I went backstage and found the band members sharing a bottle of Jack Daniels before the show. The students sat on the gym floor; as I recall it was a good show."

Graham met his wife, Margaret, when they were members of a community theater group. They were married in 1983. Margaret and Graham had three children - Denise, Caroline and Sean. Margaret passed away in 2002.

The Williams moved to Union in May of 1984 when he became editor at The Union Daily Times.

"I worked there for 25 years, directing a five-person staff," he said. "While there I received two awards for member cooperation from the Associated Press. The Union High School chapter of Quill and Scroll was named after me in 2003."

The Susan Smith story in 1994 was one of those once-in-a-lifetime events for any journalist, he said.

"I was editor of The Union Daily Times when it happened. I remember telling photographer Tim Kimzey that if he didn't get anything else I wanted a photo of those two boys when they were reunited with their mother. Unfortunately, that never happened. My daughter, Denise, worked at Conso, where Susan Smith worked. The morning after Susan confessed Denise and I stood on the lawn in front of the courthouse and we were interviewed on television. I never understood what could compel a mother to drown her children."

During the nine days Michael and Alex Smith were thought to be missing, and during Smith's month-long trial in 1995, The Union Daily Times office was the headquarters for many members of the print media and their photographers.

"Our darkroom stayed busy as multiple rolls of film were processed every day," Graham said. "I witnessed 'pack journalism' when law enforcement received a call that someone matching the description of the alleged kidnapper was spotted near Oakmont Nursing Home. Reporters and photographers rushed out the door of our office and raced down Times Boulevard as a SLED helicopter flew overhead. We covered that story from beginning to end, but I didn't feel like we got the credit we deserved - especially Tim Kimzey and Anna Brown - because our stories and photos were mostly seen by our local readers, while other newspapers reached many more people outside our circulation area."

He remembers the family-type atmosphere at the Union Daily Times.

"We used to celebrate employees' birthdays with a cake in the break room," he said. "We had a Christmas party every year, either at the Elks Lodge or the Union County Club, where gifts were exchanged."

Sometimes employees would pull pranks on each other.

"Oppy Barber would leave a note on a new employee's desk with a number to call. 'They have a box for you,' was the message on the note. The unsuspecting employee would call the number, only to find out it was a funeral home."

On Friday nights during football season the guys in the pressroom would sometimes cook hamburgers on a grill.

"One time Marion Harris brought some deer meat, marinated it and cooked 'deer kabobs,'" he said.

Graham joined the staff of the Union County News in 2009 when the paper was started. He covered Union City Council, Union County Council and the Union County Board of School Trustees. He also wrote feature stories

**Editor in S.C.**

## New post for Williams

The Tribune's senior reporter is leaving the staff to become editor of a South Carolina newspaper.

Graham Williams, 29, begins his new Tri-County job at the Union Daily Times on July 2.

He joined The Tribune in October 1997, as a staff reporter, was promoted to sports editor in 1999 and was named senior reporter in 1998.

Williams said he is leaving Elkin with mixed emotions.

"In the past 6½ years this area has been home to me," he said. "Most of my friends live here, I met my wife here, and my daughter was born

here. At the same time, I'm looking forward to the challenge of heading my own staff in a new community."

A Winston-Salem native, Williams graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May, 1997, with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

He and his wife Margaret have two children.

Editor David Wiggins praised Williams' work for The Tribune. "Graham has been an anchor for the paper through many transitions. He's a competent journalist who will doubtless improve the Union paper. We wish him all good fortune."



Graham Williams moved to Union in 1984 to become editor of The Union Daily Times.

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AND PHOTOGRAPHY EACH WEEK  
IN THE UNION COUNTY NEWS**



Graham Williams working at his computer when he was editor of The Union Daily Times.

and a weekly column.

Over the past 15 years he has won 24 awards from the S.C. Press Association, 23 for writing and one for photography.

He served for more than 10 years on the Union County Arts Council and was one of the first members of the Union County Tourism Commission. He served two terms as chairman of the tourism commission.

In 2015 he was named Volunteer of the Year by the Union County Chamber of Commerce.

Over the years, he has seen many changes in how newspapers are put together and published.

"When I started out in newspapers in October 1977 I typed my stories onto newsprint using a Royal manual typewriter," he said. "When I was finished, I ripped the newsprint off the typewriter and handed it to my editor, who proofread the story and made corrections using a red ballpoint pen. I would retype the paragraphs with the corrections and glue them onto the original newsprint with rubber cement. The copy was then taken to the typesetter's room to be retyped and eventually come out on strips of paper that were run through a hot wax machine. An X-acto knife and a metal ruler were used to cut the stories to the proper width. These were then placed on a layout sheet and held in place by the wax.

"We took photos using 35 mm cameras and black and white film that was developed in a darkroom. The finished prints were sized and cropped using a 'cropping wheel,' which was used to determine how large or small the photo should be. The completed layout sheets and prints were sent to the litho room, where a large camera took pictures of them. Ultraviolet light was used to burn the images from those negatives to an aluminum plate that was put onto the offset printing press.

Everything is now done by computer.

"The newspaper pages are created on an Apple computer," he said. "The photos are taken with a cell phone. PDFs of the completed pages are emailed to the printer, where the plates are burned for the press. Digital cameras and computers made it much easier for newspapers to use color."

Graham said his immediate plans include removing the trees from his yard that fell during Hurricane Helene and cleaning up the rest of his yard where some large branches fell.

After that he plans to focus on the inside of his house - de-cluttering four bedrooms, closets and his garage.

He is a Tar Heel, born and bred.

"Next month I'm going to

Maui for 10 days," he said. "UNC is playing in the Maui Invitational basketball tournament. I wanted to go four years ago, but COVID intervened. This time the timing is just right - one month after my retirement."

Union County Schools Superintendent Joey Haney said it has been a pleasure working with Graham and having his support of promoting district events.

"Graham has covered many school board meetings in the paper and has also attended a number of events such as Opening Session and our Employee of the Year banquet to share our district highlights with the community. We are very appreciative of Graham and his willingness to support us."

Kim Petty, assistant to the superintendent and the school board, agrees.

"I am truly going to miss Graham," she said. "I've gotten to know him over the years as he has been covering our school board meetings and many other school events and consider him a dear friend. He always gives me movie suggestions to watch, and I still expect that even after his retirement. He is one of the kindest and most hard-working people you will ever meet. He makes the world a brighter place. I wish him all the health and happiness as he enters the next chapter in his life."

Union County Supervisor Phillip Russell said Graham would be missed.

"It has been a pleasure to work with Graham through his time at the County News, especially over the last two years (since Russell became supervisor)," he said. "He has been a huge supporter of Union and his news coverage and editorials have always been professional. I am going to miss his quick wit, but we all wish him the very best in his retirement and his next chapter."

Union County News Publisher Anna Brown, who co-owns the newspaper with her husband, Robert, said Graham has been a co-worker and a friend for 33 years.

"Graham was part of the hiring process when I went to work for The Union Daily Times in 1991," she said. "He taught me so much about writing and photography. But most importantly, Graham as a boss treated us like human beings who had family responsibilities. When I needed to leave work every morning for 18 straight days and take my mother for radiation treatments, he never said a word. Through the last four years of her life as her health declined he never said no when I needed time off to help care for her."

When Robert and I started the Union County News in the middle of an economic recession, we wouldn't have thought about launching such a venture without Graham. His knowledge and wit will certainly be missed, but we wish him a long and healthy retirement."

## Re-Elect Doug Gilliam



On November 5  
S.C. House District 42

PAID FOR BY THE CANDIDATE

## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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3	Free-for-all	32	Prefers, with "for"	51	Deprive of courage
4	Arch's outer curve	33	Online dialogue	52	Michelle and Cass
5	Use a surgical beam	34	Bodoni and Bookman, e.g.	53	Finish second
6	Lose momentum	38	One of Hitchcock's 39	54	Iranian money
7	Iconic hairspray brand	40	Cold storage	55	Years back
8	Do a voice-over	43	Spirit of Salzburg	56	Farmer's place, in a kids' song
9	Knights	46	Proofers finds	58	Goddess of fertility
10	Certain bigot	47	Deceptive schemes	60	Overly
11	Most ill-mannered				
12	Skye of "Say Anything"				
13	They're often loaded				
19	Stalemates				
21	Hardly surprising				
25	Missile in '90s news				
28	Paradise Lost", e.g.				
29	Repeating				
30	Catch or latch follower				
31	Capone's nemesis				

Answers to Previous Crossword:

G	E	L	D	S	H	E	A	R	C	A	B	S		
O	L	I	O	L	E	A	V	E	A	Q	U	A		
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D	E	T	R	A	C	T	R</td							