



BUSINESS UPDATE



Business news and information brought to you by the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce

www.kinstonchamber.com

» CHAMBER VOLUNTEER

NL FFA OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD



Kayla Davis, a senior and Future Farmers of America (FFA) member at North Lenoir High School, was recently awarded the 'NL FFA Outstanding Volunteer Award' from and by the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce at the annual FFA Awards Banquet held recently at King's Restaurant. For four years, Davis has volunteered her outstanding assistance to the Chamber of Commerce with activities, including clerical work, ghost walk set-up and acting, Living the Good Life and the BBQ Festival on the Neuse. David Mooring, administrative assistant, directs all the North Lenoir High School FFA volunteer efforts. Laura Lee Sylvester, right, presented the award on behalf of the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce to Davis.

» CHAMBER AMBASSADORS

Taylor has dedicated life to her community

By Laura Lee Sylvester
Special to The Free Press

The Featured Chamber Ambassador this week is Molly Taylor. She has been a dedicated participant in the Chamber for a number of years.

Few members are as active as Molly. She is or has been: Chamber Ambassador, Leadership Lenoir graduate, Chamber of Commerce Marketing Committee and Board of Directors, and Chair for Young Professionals of Lenoir County (in 2011).



Taylor

As Chair of the Young Professionals, Molly and her advisory committee wrote and implemented the hugely successful "Junior Leadership Lenoir" program. Molly has remarked this is one of her most proud achievements during her professional career thus far.

Molly moved back to her hometown of Kinston in 2003 after working in Raleigh for a couple of years. She grew up in a family of educators — both parents are retired teachers of Lenoir County Public Schools. She really kicked off her career with an eight-year tenure at The Free Press, working dually in advertising and directing the Newspapers In Education program before joining the Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties as their Community Outreach Coordinator in 2010.

Her passion for education and children is evident in her work and many accolades — she was a 2010 "20 under 40" and the 2012 Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year. Molly is also active in a number of other local groups including RYLA Chair — Rotary Clubs of Kinston, Kinston Noon Rotary Board of Directors, Friends of the Library Board of Directors, Community Outreach Committee, Promote Kinston-Lenoir County Founder and Chair.

Molly graduated from North Lenoir High School and received her B.A. from East Carolina University in Public Relations with a Multidisciplinary Minor in Human Communication. She has been married to her husband, Jimmy for nine years and they have an adorable 5-year-old son, Jonas. She loves spending quality time with her family, friends and church.

Molly has spent the last decade supporting the growth of our community and looks forward to being a part of Kinston-Lenoir County's successful future.

» EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWS

JEANS Day a success

By Laura Lee Sylvester
Special to The Free Press

The Lenoir County Education Foundation again thanks all businesses, agencies and institutions across the county that participated in the JEANS Day to dress down in order to build up the fund that finances a grant program for local teachers.

Fittingly, JEANS stands for Joint Effort for the Advancement of New ideas in Schools.

We now have our grand total of all donations. Your participation contributed

nearly \$3,000 to funding mini-grants for teachers in Lenoir County.

Friday, March 28, was JEANS Day — when employees paid \$5 to be able to wear jeans to work for the day.

For years, the Education Foundation has awarded mini-grants to educators throughout Lenoir County as a way of improving education and encouraging new ideas in the classroom.

Last year, 24 mini-grants worth \$10,305 went to teachers at nine different schools.

and crafts. All produce sold at the Lenoir County Farmers Market must be raised within a 50-mile radius of Lenoir County and 75 percent must be raised by the farmer himself.

The Farmers Market is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8 am-3 pm. For more information on the Farmers Market please contact the NC Cooperative Extension on Highway 11/55 in Kinston.

Please note this event differs from our regular Thursday evening business after hours as this one is on Tuesday, June 17.

» SAVE THE DATE

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS — FARMERS MARKET

Tuesday, June 17 5:30 pm
100 North Heritage Ave
Fresh produce, homemade treats, crafts and art — all of these and more are available right here in Kinston at the Farmers Market. Please join the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce for a Business After Hours at the Farmers Market. **The Farmers Market is located at Heritage Landing in downtown Kinston.** It features some of the region's best produce

» CHAMBER BENEFITS

Become a member and ...

Become a member of the Kinston-Lenoir Chamber of Commerce and not only will you receive great networking opportunities, but you will also receive many other benefits. Here are just a few of those benefits:

BUSINESS ADVOCATE — The Chamber works as your voice at local, regional and state agencies on emerging critical issues that pertain to your business, organization or industry.

BUSINESS BEFORE AND AFTER HOURS — Our monthly Business Be-

fore Hours and Business After Hours aren't just food and refreshments. Many social and business contacts take place at each mixer, and the contacts will benefit your business and staff. Only members may sponsor these events. The Chamber provides plenty of publicity before and after the event through its newsletter, website and email blasts.

For more benefit information or if you would like to join, contact Kay Johnson at 252-527-1131 or kjohnson@kinstonchamber.com.

» CHAMBER AT WORK

Each year, the Chamber publishes a Membership Business Directory that is circulated throughout its membership and our community. Members, residents and visitors regularly use this directory to choose vendors for supplies and various businesses for their services. Kinston-Lenoir County Livability, a pictorial print and digital program promotes the area to newcomers, visitors and relocating businesses. Content highlights Kinston-Lenoir County's quality of life, business climate, attractions, restaurants and must-do activities. If you would like one or multiple copies of these publications please let us know. We encourage chamber members to use both magazines for office use. You can also promote our business community by placing copies in your lobby at your office or work site. Contact us at 252-527-1131 to request copies. Ask for Kay Johnson if you would like to become a chamber member and have your business or organization listed as a chamber member.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

GOLD MEMBERS:

COPY PRO INC. — HARVEY FERTILIZER & GAS — LENOIR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

SILVER MEMBERS:

**BB&T — CENTURY LINK — CHARLES HUGHES CONSTRUCTION — CHERRY ENERGY
COASTAL CONNECTIONS MARKETING — CORPORATE RESOURCES — DOWN EAST PROTECTION SYSTEMS
DUKE ENERGY — HERRITAGE ELITE ESTATES — INFINITY NETWORK SERVICES
KINSTON PUBLIC SERVICES/ELECTRICITIES — LIB GRAPHICS SOLUTIONS/LIONS INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND
MINGES BOTTLING GROUP, INC. — PERRY MANAGEMENT, INC. — SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS — WELLS FARGO
WEST PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES INC. — WOODMEN OF THE WORLD (JOHN WALTERS, AREA MANAGER)**

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