

Tabor-Loris Tribune

"SERVING THE TWIN CITIES & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES"

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Councilman walks out over dog complaint

By DEUCE NIVEN
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A neighbor's complaints about dogs she described as dangerous prompted Councilman Nelson Lee to abruptly walk out of Tuesday's Tabor City Council meeting, accusing local attorney Sherry Dew Prince of lying in her presentation.

"I'm glad I took pictures," Prince said after the confrontation that resulted in no immediate action from council, but a declaration from Mayor Royce Harper.

"I feel like you've been through too much already, something has to be done," Harper said.

Prince did not initially name Lee as she outlined more than two years of problems in her Wildlife Club Road neighborhood. She had praise for police, whom she said responded quickly to her calls when her animals were attacked, often by dogs who tore into her screened in porch in pursuit of her cats.

"These dogs have broken into my porch on numerous occasions," Prince said. "For more than two years it's been well documented that

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Sherry Prince shares photos with, from left, Mayor Royce Harper, councilmen Lamont Grace and Sam Rogers. (Deuce Niven, TLT)

Retired bond debt may bring lower utility rates in Loris

By DEUCE NIVEN
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A recently retired bond debt could mean lower water and sewer bills for Loris residents and an opportunity for the city to build new savings to fund future maintenance or improvements to utility lines, acting public utilities director Brandon Harrelson said this week.

Harrelson said he had hoped to present his proposed rate plan to

City Council last week, in time for a first reading on the proposal that would have coincided with first reading of a proposed city budget for the year that begins July 1.

"It just wasn't ready yet, I had work to do on it," Harrelson said.

Still a work in progress, Harrelson said he expects to have the proposal ready for council review during second reading of the proposed budget, likely next week. He said he hopes council will schedule a second special meeting

before the end of the month, for second reading on the water and sewer fee plan. That would allow city staff to make adjustments to billing software just once, with the new rate structure for water, sewer and garbage bills complete for July billing.

Garbage offset

Council's new contract for garbage collection and disposal will mean higher costs for most city residents and businesses, Har-

relson said, but those increases in most cases will be more than offset by water and sewer rate reductions.

The city recently made the last of its \$200,000 per year bond payments, paying off a loan made decades ago for improvements to the city's utility system, Harrelson said.

Water and sewer bills that for decades have reflected the cost of those bond payments won't in the new fiscal year, Harrelson said.

Services today for business, civic leader

By DEUCE NIVEN
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Jimmy Woodard Garrett, a Tabor City business leader known and beloved as JimmyG, the face of the TimeSaver and Cash & Dash convenience store chain, passed away Sunday June 10, at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach. He was 82.

"Give a smile away... every day" was both an advertising slogan for his business and a living representation of the spirit he shared throughout the community.

"A voice that loved Tabor City has been silenced," local attorney Richard Wright said. "We almost have to call him Mr. Tabor City, he boosted it wherever he went."

A son of the late B. Alton and Doris Woodard Garrett, and husband of the former Martha Jo Hayes of Green Sea, Garrett grew up in Tabor City, was a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and was among its most devoted alumni.

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Jimmy Woodard Garrett
1935 - 2018

Obituary

Jimmy Woodard Garrett of Tabor City died Sunday, June 10, in Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, Myrtle Beach. He was 82.

Born July 21, 1935 in Marion County, he was the son of the late Brightly Alton Garrett and Doris Woodard Garrett.

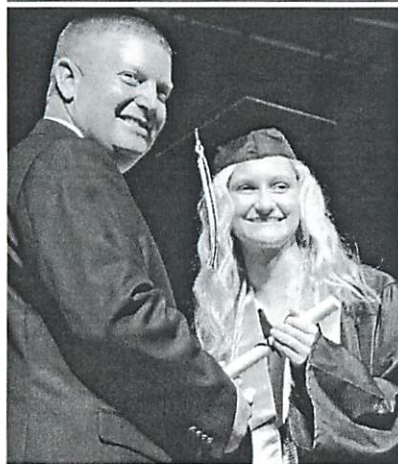
He is survived by his wife Martha Jo Hayes Garrett of Tabor City; one son Ray Lupo-Garrett and wife Vickie of Green Sea; one grandson Justin Ray Lupo-Garrett of Florence.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Joe Cephus Garrett.

Jimmy Woodard Garrett has lived in the rural Columbus County town of Tabor City, in the southeast corner of the state his entire life. When thinking about where he might attend college, it didn't take him long to decide he wouldn't consider going anywhere else but The University of North Carolina. He liked its diverse student body, the atmosphere on campus and the reputation of its School of Commerce. He graduated from UNC in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and then went into the family produce and canning business. Sometime thereafter he got involved in convenience stores and the oil and propane business starting Yam City Oil and Gas Co.

While growing up, H.G. "Doc" Dameron, Jimmy's neighbor, began taking him to UNC football games. His loyalty thus began at an early age and after graduating from Carolina, Jimmy joined the Educational Foundation and has been a member now for more than 50 years. Jimmy and his wife of near 43 years, Martha Jo, established an endowed scholarship in 1986 and named it the Tabor City Basketball Scholarship. Asked why, Jimmy replied, "Small town

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Valedictorian Mary Grayson Koonce receives her diploma from Principal Adam Thompson, above; seniors await commencement.

Top Stallion grads UNC bound

Story & Photos
By DEUCE NIVEN
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Mary Grayson Koonce was revealed as South Columbus High School's Class of 2018 Valedictorian during commencement on campus Saturday. Amber Rose Friel the Salutatorian before 161 classmates and hundreds of family and friends.

Principal Adam Thompson made the presentations, announcing Friel's selection first, then Koonce.

Friel excelled both academically and musically during high school, Thompson said, serving as clarinet section leader for the Stallion Band, earning placement and leadership roles in the National Honor Society, and named school finalists for two major scholarships.

Friel plans to seek a degree in medicine from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Koonce had the top grade point average in the class, was named the school's scholar athlete earlier this

year with plenty of success in both areas, was a North Carolina Scholar, a South Columbus Ambassador, Three Rivers Conference tennis champion, and earned placement in the school's National Honor Society and Beta Club.

A daughter of local pharmacists Sterling and Caroline Koonce, Mary Grayson Koonce plans to seek a degree in pharmacy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Speeches

Class President Will Sellers offered remarks for his classmates following in introduction by close friend and class Vice-President Griffin Hanna.

Sellers talked of the friends and faculty he and his classmates will miss, some of the situations they won't miss, and made reference to "an epic" senior prank.

Friel and Koonce each had commencement speeches. Koonce's Valedictorian's remarks follow.

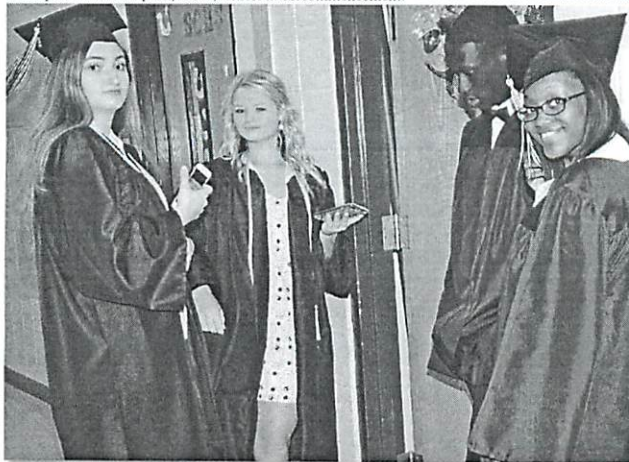
"I can't believe I actually made it up here. First, I would like to say I am so thankful for my parents, friends, family, teammates, and classmates, for enduring the past long four years together with me, which now seems so short.

"I would also like to thank my teachers, my coaches, the faculty and the administration for all the work they have done. I would not be who I am, or where I am today, without the love and support I have received from everyone.

"But most importantly, I would like to thank God, for without Him I wouldn't even be standing up here. But today is not about me, but about US, the class of 2018.

No matter how much our parents have been dreading (or praying for) this day, how many times we rolled in late (or didn't come at all), how many grades we weren't satisfied with, how much Tabor City McDonald's we've eaten, how many polos and khakis we now own, or how many times Mr. Thompson has given us "the look," we made it.

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OPINIONS, Too

Tabor Talk

Cynthia Nelson, Greater Tabor City Chamber of Commerce

I begin this week's column by sending my deepest sympathies to the family of Mr. Jimmy Garrell.

Mr. Jimmy loved Tabor City and her people. He was always supportive of any effort to improve upon the community we love and proudly call home. He was a longtime member of this Chamber of Commerce and offered to help anyone he was ever called upon. He will truly be missed and could never be replaced. We will treasure each memory.

"Healthy is Happy" is the slogan of the Columbus County Summer Food Service Program. This Free Summer Meals Program is for all children ages 18 and under. Columbus County residents may call Donna Bartley at the office of Columbus County Schools by calling 910-642-5168 for detailed information.

We'd like to share an exciting event we have planned for next month... Christmas in July. Our Christmas in July event will feature an Elf on the Shelf Scavenger Hunt in Tabor City.

If you would like to participate, please give us a call. It's a wonderful and fun way to get people inside your business. The Chairperson of this event is Kandi Dill. Kandi has been working hard on this promotion so expect to hear from her very soon.

GTC Chamber of Commerce will be working on our town and county map project the week of June 25. We will stop by to see you soon to discuss the amazing ad options. Thank you for the past support and we look forward to another successful project.

Please join us as we celebrate the Fourth on the Third, July 3rd that is, Plans continue for the 31st Annual Columbus County Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration. We look forward to enjoying the various talents of some local entertainers. Local veterans will be recognized and honored before the fireworks fly.

This patriotic event will again be held on the THIRD of July. Food and beverages will be sold. No alcoholic beverages or coolers are allowed. Thanks

to the event sponsors, there will be no admission fee at the gate. For more information, just give us a call at the number listed at the end of this column. Allow us to help you get the word out about your at-home business. Ask us about Chamber Membership for your Direct Sales business.

Should you want to become a member of the Greater Tabor City Chamber of Commerce, please give us a call and we will take you a membership application package or have one ready for you to stop by and pick up. If you want information on the benefits of becoming a member, please call us. We offer memberships in various categories.

Our Chamber is your Chamber. Call us at 910-377-3012 should you have any questions or suggestions. Remember, working together makes us all better. Together, we can achieve more.

Greater Tabor City Chamber of Commerce hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Monday through Thursday.



Words from the Mayor

Royce Harper, Mayor, Town of Tabor City

On behalf of the Town Council and

all of our municipal employees, I would like to extend very heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Jimmy Garrell who passed away this week.

"Jimmy G" was a Tabor City icon who played a major role in the business and civic affairs of our town for many decades. Many people in the Tabor City area still remember the days of the produce cannery along the railroad tracks here in Tabor City and that was an industry headed by the Garrell family.

More recently, Jimmy owned a chain of convenience stores and also the Yam City Oil and Gas Company. His trademark "Give a smile away everyday" was a logo that most citizens in our region are very familiar with.

Jimmy was the chairman of the Tabor City Committee of 100 for more than 25 years. That group is made up of local citizens who pay a membership each year to promote the local economy.

The Committee of 100 has had a strong board of directors, but it was Jimmy G who channeled their energy into productive projects for the past quarter century. Under Jimmy's leadership, the Tabor City Committee of 100 built two industrial shell buildings, developed an industrial park, bought land for

the state prison, and funded countless business development projects.

I have always thought that it was important to note that Jimmy G was a true and loyal supporter of his home town. He could have called his company anything he wanted, but he chose to call it "Yam City." He could have lived anywhere in the world, but he chose to reside in Tabor City.

Jimmy Garrell was a citizen who grew up in his hometown, accomplished a lot, and felt it was important to give back. He supported the local schools, the local recreation programs, and his church. With his passing, Tabor City loses a strong voice that we have grown accustomed to calling on when our town had a project that needed a spark and a voice.

Not many people in the history of our town have accomplished as much as Jimmy G did, nor did they contribute as much civically as he did. Jimmy G—he will certainly be missed.

In closing, let me remind all citizens that the Market on Live Oak is still in operation every Friday evening. This enterprise has attracted a lot of vendors and shoppers in the few months that they have been operating.

If you are looking for an enjoyable Friday evening, I urge you to stop by the Market on Live Oak this and every week.

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Census

influence on student achievement. Research finds that high rates of turnover harm student achievement. The institute brief says turnover rates are 50 percent higher in schools with large-enrollment of low-income students—and fully 70 percent higher in schools "serving the largest concentrations of students of color."

In today's fractious, polarized public square, it seems inevitable that a galvanizing event such as the issue here merits our live-on-TV stations, would set loose a bit of political posturing. Still, democratic politics is energized both by citizens exercising their right to petition their government and by data-informed policymaking. —*Ferris Gaultier, Director of the Program on Education, Professor of the Practice at the UNC School of Media and Journalism, and Vice Chairman of EducationNC*

McLeod Health Hints

Treating endometriosis with robotic-assisted surgery

Many women—especially young women—suffer from a pelvic health problem related to the lining of the uterus, the endometrium, called endometriosis.

McLeod Gynecologist Dr. Joycelyn Schindler, of McLeod OB/GYN Seacoast, explains the problem with its symptoms and treatments options, including robotic-assisted surgery.

"Endometriosis is the phenomenon where endometrial tissue grows outside the uterus," says Dr. Schindler. "Some of the symptoms of endometriosis includes pelvic pain, scarring and possible infertility."

Young women starting their menstrual cycles in their teens and early 20s are most likely to experience these symptoms. The nature of endometriosis (being inside the abdomen but outside of the uterus) can create a range of indications—from absolutely no symptoms to pain during physical activity and urination and changes in menstrual cycles. However, there's no association between the amount of scar tissue that grows to the amount of pain you can feel.

"Some theories say women with a family history of endometriosis are more likely to experience the problem," says Dr. Schindler. "Others believe that women with a prior history of

abnormal vaginal bleeding or irregular periods are more at risk."

Treatments for endometriosis can include hormones, but with robotic-assisted surgery, a surgeon can remove the adhesions and scar tissue, eliminating the cause of the pain.

"Given the complexity with endometriosis inside of the pelvis, robotic-assisted surgery allows us to remove the growths that we may not have been able to extract during a traditional laparoscopy," stated Dr. Schindler. Women who've had robotic-assisted surgery report being able to get up and move within two hours of the procedure. They also express relief and suddenly being free of symptoms such as excessive bleeding, pain during intercourse, and persistent fatigue—unbearable symptoms many of them have suffered from for most of their lives.

In addition, healing times are much faster. Patients have better pain control and improvement in their overall lifestyle. Robotic-assisted surgery also has lower complication rates and shorter hospitalization, along with less blood loss and minimal scarring.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Joycelyn Schindler, please call McLeod OB/GYN Seacoast at 910-766-7090.

TC leader recalled (Continued from Page 1)

His love for UNC came early, with his neighbor the late H.G. "Dog" Dameron taking him to UNC football games in his youth. He was a member of the UNC Educational Foundation for more than half a century, and with his wife established a scholarship in 1986 named the Tabor City Basketball Scholarship, a nod to his home town.

Garrell's appreciation for athletics wasn't just as a spectator. After graduating from Tabor City High School he enrolled at Staunton Military Academy in Virginia where he played football before transferring to UNC and making the freshman team there, a dream fulfilled though he never made it to the varsity squad.

He was named a Carolina Living Legend by UNC and in 2010 was recognized with the state's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Business leader

A newly minted UNC grad, Garrell returned to Tabor City and went into business with his father, five years later opening Tabor City Foods, Inc. in a warehouse where his father had once sold tobacco and stored sweat potatoes.

Flourishing for more than a decade, the cannery employed more than 300 people canning sweet potatoes, peaches, dried beans and more before closing in 1973.

Fire in the building hastened the demise of the cannery.

"We simply did not have enough money to go back into the cannery business and then, too, the era of Mom and Pop canneries was coming to a close," Garrell said in a 1991 interview. "Only the huge corporate national canners had the resources to survive. We didn't."

That business setback pushed Garrell into the oil and gas distribution company as he became president of Yam City Oil and Gas Company, an ongoing business headquartered in Tabor City.

Later came his chains of convenience stores in the Carolinas, and the branding of Jimmy G, his cowboy hat and passion for dancing the Carolina's shag synonymous with the brand.

Committee of 100

Garrell chaired the Tabor City Committee of 100 for more than three decades, following founding

chairman Mike Jones.

Former Greater Tabor City Chamber of Commerce executive secretary Henri Gordon, businessman Andy Lefler, and Jones came up with the committee concept following a chamber meeting, Jones said. "I remember writing it down on a napkin after a meeting at the old Blue's Seafood on Wall Street," Jones said. "Ray Wicker might have been there."

Jones stepped down as chairman a few years later, and said Garrell was a good fit for the job.

"Jimmy had the interest of Tabor City at heart," Jones said. "He was a promoter and an optimist. He was not going to ask anyone else to work harder than he worked. And he was willing to invest his own money in the area as well as trying to get other people to invest in the area."

"He's going to be sorely missed in our community, and in the Tabor City Committee of 100," current committee chair and Columbus County Commissioner Trent Burroughs said Monday. "He brought a lot of business expertise and organization to the committee."

Garrell passed the Committee of 100 gavel over to Burroughs in 2016.

Civic leader

A past president of the Tabor City Rotary Club and Deacon at Tabor City Baptist Church, Garrell revealed in boosting his home town, and his beloved UNC-Chapel Hill, wherever he went.

Weight recalled seeing the Lady Tabor brand sweet potatoes on the Lenoir Hall cafeteria shelves at UNC when he was a student there.

"Jimmy made sure the name Tabor was shared," Wright said.

Garrell was likely the biggest booster of the "All Tabor" Tabor City High School reunion held each year during the North Carolina Yam Festival at Tabor City, making sure his graduating class from 1953 had the biggest representation each year.

That record held until last year, when Rusty Carter's campaign brought a record Class of 1967 crowd for its 50 year reunion.

Garrell and his brother Joe Cephus Garrell, who died on April 1, were instrumental in making Tabor City's centennial celebration memorable in 2005, funding the Town Clock downtown, Joe's children spearheading the town's Flag Trail-



A shagging Jimmy Garrell on the 2012 Taste of Tabor dance floor on U.S. 701 at Lake Tabor.

Leadership like that Garrell exhibited is needed today, Wright said. "We've lost so many of the great leaders of Tabor City," Wright said.

"Horace Carter, Doc Dameron, J.P. Jones, now Jimmy Garrell. We are going to miss those legends who pushed Tabor City to make it such a thriving place."

Parental influence

Garrell gave credit for much of his life's success to his parents.

"My parents gave me much more than I deserved," he said in 1994. "They left shoes too big for me to fill. I call it 'Grace on Earth.' I learned from them not to drink. I never have and it makes me recall an era when I was the social chairman in my fraternity in Chapel Hill. It was my job to get the booze and the band that most students enjoyed. I got the booze and the band, but I didn't do anything but dance."

His leadership extended well beyond fraternity life. Garrell was eventually a member, often chair or president, of organizations including the Waccamaw Rams Club, UNC Educational Foundation, Columbus County Committee of 100, the Columbus County Economic Development Commission, the National Canners Association, Southeastern Community College, the North Carolina Petroleum Marketing Association, Tabor City Rotary Club, and the N.C. Sweet Potato Association.

Garrell service

(Continued from Page 1)

pride." Tabor City has a population of roughly 2,500. Beyond the scholarship, Jimmy and Martha Jo have supported just about every other project with which The Educational Foundation has been involved from Kenan Stadium to Boshamer, the Williamson Athletics Center and everything in between. As the saying goes, Jimmy noted, "My blood runs Carolina Blue." Jimmy added, "I have been fortunate to be able to assist and want to help the overall program due to its leadership and top notch staff. It is a program run with great integrity."

Not only has Jimmy supported Carolina Athletics and The Educational Foundation financially, he has also served on the Foundation's Executive Committee from 1996-2001 and its Board of Directors from 1993-1996. He also supports South Columbus High School, Southeastern Community College, the Guilford Foundation, the Child Evangelism Fellowship and Cape Fear Hospice among many other charities. Additionally, he established the Kenan-Flagler Award for Excellence in Business Communications at UNC. Jimmy just seems to want to help wherever he can.

To add to his list of honors, Jimmy is a Carolina Living Legend, a title given to those University of North Carolina alumni whose graduating classes had its 50th year reunion. Jimmy also received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the state of North Carolina's highest civilian honor earlier this year. When asked what the award meant, Jimmy, in his usual unassuming way, said, "It was an extreme honor, especially to be mentioned with people like Michael Jordan and Bill Clinton. Given all he has done for the University, Jimmy could certainly be considered one of Carolina's priceless gems."

A Side Note: Jimmy can be heard on the award-winning beach music radio station 94.9 The Surf in North Myrtle Beach, doing Jimmy G commercials. His tagline is "Give a smile away every day."

Funeral services were planned for 3 p.m. today (Wednesday June 13) in Tabor City Baptist Church, burial following in Green Sea Cemetery.

Visitation was planned beginning at 1 p.m. until the time of the service in the church.

Memorials may be made to Tabor City Baptist Church, P.O. Box 126, Tabor City, NC 28463 or Green Sea Cemetery, 16806 Swamp Fox Hwy. East, Tabor City, NC 28463.

A guest register is available at inmanwardfuneralhome.com.

Continuation of ORIT

Continuation of Jimmy G.