

Kernersville News

The heartbeat of Kernersville for 74 years

District Court Judge

Victoria Roemer is seeking reelection to the Forsyth County judge's seat she has held since 1996. See story below.



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WEEKEND EDITION

Thumbs up



(Left to right) Niko Boahon Graylen and Kirby Ashley Scuppers give a thumbs up after a skateboard competition at Fourth of July skate park on Saturday, October 13. (Kevin Hartley Photography)

A task force to be reckoned with

DWI task force receives national attention for its ongoing efforts in Forsyth County

By WENDY FREEMAN DAVIS
Features & News Editor

The Forsyth County DWI Task Force, which was established two years ago, contin-

ues to receive accolades for its efforts in removing impaired drivers from the roads.

Last month, representatives from the National Highway Transportation Safety Admin-

istration (NHTSA) praised the task force during a visit to Winston-Salem to review the program's progress.

See "DWI Task Force" Page 4

Food and companionship

Meals on Wheels is in need of more volunteers in Kernersville

By JENNIFER OWENSBY
Lifestyles Reporter

Working to end senior hunger is the mission of Meals on Wheels and the Forsyth County organization needs more volunteers to do so.

Volunteer Coordinator Les-

lie Smith explained that Meals on Wheels offers much more to their clients than just a warm meal.

"If we are delivering meals and a client is not home, we start calling their emergency contacts to make sure they are okay," said Smith in a previous interview. "A volunteer ran

into this once. They knocked on the door and no one answered, so they contacted the granddaughter. When the granddaughter went to the house to check on her grandmother she found that she had a stroke. If it

See "Meals on Wheels" Page 6

Unique shipping adventures

Jarrett Joyce finds success on A&E's 'Shipping Wars'

By LINDA PAYNE
Governmental Affairs Reporter

Jarrett Joyce has never been one to seek out the ordinary, so it should come as no surprise to learn that the Kernersville native delivers some of

the most unique items to people all around the country. But the fun doesn't stop there.

Since Joyce is one of five cast members on A&E's Shipping Wars, friends and family never miss a moment of his wild adventures

"It's pretty crazy when you really sit down and think about it," Joyce said. "I was sitting at home last January looking for employment and now I own my own courier service

See "Shipping" Page 6

A visit from Moldova

Moldovan officials visit Kernersville and share stories

By LINDA PAYNE
Governmental Affairs Reporter

It's not every day that a group of governmental officials from a small country in Europe stop by Kernersville

just to say "Hello," but that is exactly what happened a few weeks ago at the Kernersville Masonic Lodge.

Through the Stafford Insti-

See "Moldova visit" Page 5

On the campaign trail

Roemer campaign stokeyper district court judge's seat

By WENDY FREEMAN DAVIS
Features & News Editor

District Court Judge Victoria Roemer has served on the bench since 1996 and believes her experience is a valuable asset to the

people of Forsyth County.

"I've been in District Court for 16 years. Experience counts for a lot," said Roemer as she talked about the qualities a judge

See "Roemer" Page 5

Living the dream



Kernersville native Jerry Joyce stars in A&E's 'Shipping Wars' as he bids on jobs to haul around the country. See story above. (Photo courtesy of A&E)

Moldova visit

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tute, five members of the U.S. Congressional Open World Delegation in Moldova visited the Piedmont Triad to learn more about how local governments use technology and the Internet to enhance their agency. They toured a number of facilities in the community and shared stories about the progress their nation has made in its 20 year history.

Lilia Rata, Calarsi City Hall investment procurer said the country has a lot of Romanian and Ukrainian influences, but is trying to establish its own identity. She said citizens elect members of the parliament who then appoint a president. She explained that at the local

level, cities and towns have their own mayor and council, which is who she often works with. "My focus is on transparency at the local level," Rata said with assistance from an interpreter. "We use a Web page to show the public what decisions are being made and other photographs, but we are always looking to improve our communication."

Rata said that was one of the main reasons for their visit to the US. She said they are in the process of rolling out a new initiative that will allow people to request criminal background checks through the Town of Calarsi's website, but they wanted to know what

other programs would be acceptable.

Rata said she spends a significant amount of time pursuing grants to improve the quality of life for Moldovan residents. She said many older citizens have dual citizenship with Romania and Moldova since the Romanian government supports Moldova, but she said they are trying to join the European Union.

Rata noted that the average salary in Moldova is \$350 a month and higher paying jobs are often hard to find. She said it is also part of her mission as an investment procurer to bring wealthier jobs to the community.

"We have a plant that employs nearly 4,000 people over three shifts," said Alexandra Sian, Moldovan Peace Corps program manager for rural development. "They get paid about \$350 a week, which is a lot for those who never finished school."

She said Moldova has some of the most beautiful scenery and highest quality wines in Europe.

"Our wines are a hidden gem," said Sian, who noted that the country hosts its own wine festival each October. "Not many people know about our wines so we can keep our prices lower, but they are very high quality."

As a token of their appreciation, Rata and the other delegates presented Chad Delp, Kernersville Mason pastmaster, with an authentic wine glass at the end of the ceremony. They also passed around Moldovan currency and taught those in



Members of the Moldovan delegation presented Chad Delp, past master of the Masonic Lodge, with a gift from their country. Pictured left to right are; Lilia Rata, investment procurer for Calarsi City Hall; Marceliu Cirimpei, museographer for the Museum of Natural Arts of Moldova; Delp, Galina Voleanschi, Soroca field director for the Moldovan State Chancellery; Vladimir Cazimir, chief consultant for the Moldovan Ministry of Education; and Anatolie Postolachi, Hinceti field director for the Moldova State Chancellery. (Photo by Linda Payne)



Chad Delp, past master of the Kernersville Masonic Lodge, peruses the details of traditional Moldovan currency during a recent presentation by the Moldovan delegation. (Photo by Linda Payne)

attendance a traditional Moldovan dance.

"It was great to see the passion the delegates have for their country," said Delp, who taught them all about the Masonic organization. "It is obvious that they really want to use all resources available to them to improve their system and spur economic growth."

"It was a proud moment as a Mason when I realized they were extremely interested in learning more about the Masonic Order. Masonry, being an international order, has touched the lives of so many people. I could tell the Moldovan delegates were impressed to hear how North Carolina

Masons maintain and support our own orphanage. I feel that when they return to Moldova and tell the story of what the Masonic organization does for children and how we support each other, it will not only be great publicity for Masonry but also for the United States."

This is not the first time business professionals from Moldova have visited Kernersville. A group of journalists came several years ago and a group of winemakers before that.

The visits are possible thanks to the Stafford Institute – an organization dedicated to providing immediate and low-cost development train-

ing to the Eurasian Corridor and the former Republics of Russia. The organization addresses issues of economic development, management, volunteerism, teamwork and free enterprise through a variety of techniques. They also address Town Hall issues and share the benefits of using today's technology.

"This trip has been an eye-opening experience," said Vladimir Cazimir, chief consultant for the Moldovan Ministry of Education. "My hope is that I will be able to take the information I have learned here and share it with those in my country."

Roemer

Continued from Page 1

in her position must possess and why she believes voters should return her to the District Court seat she currently holds.

Roemer is running against attorney Andrew Keever for the District 21 seat up for election in the November general election. It is Roemer's longtime ties to the community and reputation as a fair-minded judge, which make her the better choice, Roemer said.

"You learn where the truth can lie and who to best call when a defendant needs help. You know who those contacts are," Roemer said. "You also learn from the mistakes you made and get better as you go."

Roemer said she has served in all the District Court venues in Forsyth County, including

traffic, criminal, domestic, civil 50B, juvenile, child support and custody courts. She's also one of only three sitting judges who have experience with equitable distribution, Roemer pointed out.

Over the course of her career in District Court, Roemer estimated that she has heard about 60,000 cases, but the hardest are always those involving children. They are also the cases that stick most in her memory.

Roemer recalled one case where a woman was staying in her mother's basement with her child. She said that while the woman's living arrangements weren't in question, what was at issue was the fact that she was using marijuana there and bringing various men around the child. In

the end, Roemer granted custody to the grandmother and over time watched as the child blossomed.

"Judges can take children out of bad situations and place them where they can thrive," said Roemer.

Even so, terminating the rights of a parent is one of the hardest decisions a judge can make, said Roemer. Then there are the cases where both parents are equipped and capable of having custody. None are taken lightly by Roemer.

"My rulings have an impact on lives," said Roemer.

One of the things Roemer can't abide in her court is dishonesty. She expects the truth when making her decisions.

"I can't stand dishonesty," said

Roemer. "I am making big decisions on people's lives based on the truth."

Roemer believes those who have worked with her in District Court would say she is a fair-minded judge.

"I think I am very fair. No one gets any favors in my court," said Roemer. "I listen to the facts and try to find the truth and make a judgment. Everyone gets an honest shot and I always try to do the right thing. Fairness is one of my biggest strengths. I go in with an open mind and deal with cases based on facts and evidence."

Roemer is a lifelong resident of Forsyth County, having grown up in Winston-Salem. Her father, Henry "Jack" C. Roemer, worked at R.J. Reynolds where he served as general counsel, vice president

and member of the board of directors. Roemer said her father has had the biggest impact on her life.

"He was always interested in the community. He was a tremendous influence. Dad was a fault fair and always gave people the benefit of the doubt," said Roemer of her father, who will be 88 in December. Her mother, Lane H. Roemer, is 86. "Dad always believes the best in people."

Roemer graduated from Reynolds High School and then attended Wake Forest University where she received both her undergraduate and law degrees. She worked as an assistant district attorney for five years and as a magistrate for two years before being elected to the bench.

"All of us try to the right thing

in any situation," said Roemer of the job a judge must do day-in and day-out. "To get to the truth, you have to do the best you can, but over time you get a feel for it. If you listen enough, you get a good feel for what has happened."

Roemer believes her strong and long held ties to the community will make a difference with voters.

"I have developed some wisdom during my time on the bench," Roemer said. "I don't owe anyone anything; that's what I come with. I became a judge because I wanted to help people and you can certainly help people in this position. You can see directly how they benefit."

Early voting is underway at the Forsyth County Board of Elections

Early voting begins October 23 in Kernersville

By WENDY FREEMAN DAVIS
Features & News Editor

One stop early voting for residents began, Thursday, Oct. 18 and ends Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Forsyth County Board of Elections (FCBE) main office located in the Forsyth County Government Center at 201 N. Chestnut Street in Winston-Salem.

Early voting begins at satellite offices throughout the county on Tuesday, Oct. 23 until Saturday, Nov. 3.

Voters in Kernersville will be able to cast their ballots early be-

ginning Oct. 23 at the Kernersville Senior Center, located in the basement of the Paddison Memorial Library at 130 East Mountain Street.

Other satellite locations in the area include the Sedge Garden Recreation Center at 401 Robbins Road in Winston-Salem and the Walkertown Library at 2969 Main Street in Walkertown.

If a Forsyth County resident misses the 25-day deadline for voter registration (October 12, 2012) and has lived at their current address for at least 30 days, he/she may register and vote dur-

ing One Stop Early Voting.

Early voting dates and times are as follows:

Main Office Location
Oct. 22-26 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Oct. 27 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Oct. 28 - 1 to 5 p.m.
Oct. 29 - Nov. 2 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Nov. 3 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Satellite Locations
Oct. 23-24 - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Oct. 25-27 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Oct. 29-31 - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Nov. 1-3 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Crisis Control flu clinic to be held Tuesday

Kernersville Crisis Control and Walgreens Pharmacy in Walkertown have teamed up to provide up to 150 free flu shots for individuals 14 years and older without insurance.

Those who qualify must sign up at KCC location at 431 W. Bodenhamer Street prior to the clinic to verify qualifications, receive the vaccine administration form and reserve a spot.

The clinic will be held from 12 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 23 at the KCC's Kernersville location.

Contact KCC or Walgreens for more information.

Pitt should not get back money, say federal prosecutors

Federal prosecutors have told Ernie Pitt he should not get back \$90,000 in fines and restitution he paid before his conviction on mail fraud charges was overturned in June, reported the Winston-Salem Journal earlier this week.

Pitt, the publisher of the Winston-Salem Chronicle, was convicted of mail fraud charges which were filed in connection

with a land deal involving Pitt, Tom Trolliner and Reid Lawrence, the former executive of the housing authority. Prosecutors alleged Pitt broke the law when he failed to disclose a conflict of interest in the land deal, reported the Journal.

According to a Journal article, Pitt's attorneys filed a motion in U.S. District Court, asking that federal prosecutors return the money to Pitt since his 2009 conviction was overturned.

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