



# Hivemind

## FALLING INTO AUTUMN

Like most summers, this summer has flown by and it is now time for temperatures to cool and leaves to fall. We started off Fall with a bang, with the return of our Scrabble Scramble fundraiser (see pg. 2-3). As the days grow shorter, Rowan Public Library's Headquarters in Salisbury will now be open later (pg. 2). Youth tutoring has begun for the 2022-2023 school year, and we are excited to see what this year has in store (pg. 4). As the days grow colder, it's important to stay up to date on any weather-related closings. To get alerts about library closings, download and sign up for our new app available on Google Play and the Apple App Store (pg. 5). If you are looking for some tips and tricks about working with your student, check out the new webinars from ProLiteracy and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation (pg. 5).

## MILESTONES

**Improved employment:** Thomas Long's student and Vanessa Sampson-Schneider's student.

**Completed a Workbook level:** One of Don Doering's students and one of Jenny Hubbard's students.

**Improved Comprehension:** Toni Teeter's student, Jay Whipple's student, and one of Jennifer Welch's students.

**Voted:** Diane Labovitz's student.



**Completed a workbook level:** Jenny Hubbard's student, Florelay Ramirez, is working her way through the GED prep material and is looking forward to taking the test soon!



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## SCRABBLE SCRAMBLE SPELLS V-I-C-T-O-R-Y FOR TRINITY OAKS

During 2020 and 2021, the Rowan County Literacy Council's signature fundraiser, Scrabble Scramble, was put on hold due to the pandemic. On September 29, the event—now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year—returned to an enthusiastic reception from old and new players. Nine teams competed to build the highest-scoring Scrabble boards during three rounds of fast-paced play.

Presenting partner Trinity Oaks Senior Living Community hosted the event, and Wallace & Graham Gives, the philanthropic arm of the law firm Wallace & Graham, P.A., was the event's marquee sponsor.

During the pause, the Literacy Council freshened up the format and rules to make the event even more competitive and challenging. North Hills Christian School, Rowan Public Library, Wallace & Graham, and several other groups fielded teams, but the preparation and experience of the Trinity Oaks team enabled them to claim victory in the end.

Executive Director Laurel Harry noted, "It feels great to be able to hold our beloved Scrabble Scramble again. We had a packed room, with many familiar faces as well as tons of newcomers. We are so appreciative of Trinity Oaks for hosting us and of Wallace & Graham for sponsoring the event."

Other sponsors for the event included Cindy Stellute, South Rowan Y Service Club, Liesa Montag-Siegel, Vance & Betty Meek, and prize donors Bangkok Downtown, Caniche, Ed Tezlafe Avalon Rose Craftworks, Mean Mug, Pottery 101, South Main Book Company, Stitchin' Post Gifts, Texas Roadhouse, The Spice and Tea Exchange of Salisbury, Shuckin' Shack, and Dr. Nan Lund.



*"I like good strong words that mean something."*

*—Louisa May Alcott*

### LIBRARY HQ HOURS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Closed

*\*\*Effective October 1, 2022, RPL HQ is now open until 6:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays.*

### UPCOMING RPL HOLIDAYS/CLOSURES

November 24 & 25	Closed—Thanksgiving
December 2	Closed- RPL Staff Development
December 23 — 27	Closed—Christmas
January 2	Closed—New Years' Day

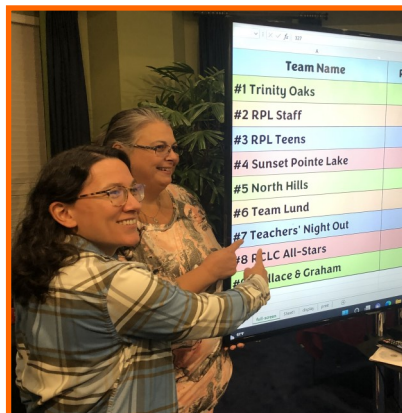
## SCRABBLE SCRAMBLE 2022



**Brazenly Question:** RPL Teen Team pulled off a close second-place performance.



**A Defended Title:** For the 7th year in a row, Trinity Oaks placed first in the wordsmithing competition.



**Teacher's Night Out:** With their Scrabble debut, Christina Coley and Summer Sterling made a strong 3rd place showing.



**Teamwork:** North Hills team was on fire during the competition!



**In the Zone:** The Wallace and Graham team carefully mapping out their board.



**Team Lund** making their game plan.



RCLC tutors Debbie and Joel Scott building their words while judge Don Doering observes.



## HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH A HEART

Don't forget that using AmazonSmile during your holiday shopping is an easy way to help out your favorite charitable organizations. AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible purchases made via AmazonSmile to whatever charitable organization you specify.

To designate a non-profit, go to [www.Smile.Amazon.com](http://www.Smile.Amazon.com) and click "Get Started." After entering your email address to connect with your existing Amazon account, you will be prompted to type in the name of your chosen non-profit organization. To designate RCLC, type in "Rowan County Literacy Council." Your Amazon shopping cart, registries, and other account settings will automatically connect. If you're an Amazon Prime member, those benefits will transfer as well.

Note that AmazonSmile specifies "eligible" purchases because not every item on the site qualifies for donations. Most items are eligible, but some items, such as recurring subscribe-and-save purchases, are not. Thanks and happy holidays!



# The Buzz

## IN MEMORIAM: CATHY RYERSON

Tutor **Cathy Ryerson** passed away in October 2022. Cathy joined the Literacy Council as a volunteer in 2020, and served most recently as a tutor with the Gator Reading Club at Isenberg Elementary School. We are grateful for her support of RCLC and extend out heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones.

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## YOUTH TUTORING KICKS OFF

Youth tutoring kicked off this month with the start of the Gator Reading Club at Isenberg Elementary and a new reading group at North Rowan Middle. Volunteers in these programs meet with their student(s) at least once a week for 45 minutes.

This will also be the third year that we are providing tutors to North Rowan High School. Tutors are needed to work with students in the following core subjects: American History, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, English, Civics, Math, and World History. Tutoring may take place during the school day or during Cavs After Hours, which runs Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 4:00pm until 5:30pm. If you have an hour or two per week to help a struggling student and keep them on track for graduation, please contact our office.

We are also looking for volunteers to participate in an after school tutoring program at Essie Academy. Tutoring will take place between 3:00pm and 4:00pm for elementary students.

If you are looking for an opportunity to tutor a child, but can't meet during the school day, we also have students available in our after school program. Students in our after school program meet with their tutor at the library either during the week after school or on Saturdays.

Volunteers in our Youth Literacy program go through initial training and background checks before being paired with students. The schools evaluate test scores to identify students who are at risk for falling behind. Volunteers work with students at least once a week to build literacy skills.

Need for youth tutoring is growing rapidly. If you have an hour a week to help a child struggling with reading, please give us a call at 704-216-8266.

## PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER

As the weather cools and snow comes to Rowan County, make sure you stay up to date on any library closings.

In early December, the current Rowan County Literacy Council App will be deactivated. To get alerts about library closings, submit your tutoring hours, and receive other Literacy Council related notifications, you will need to download and sign up on a new app, Spaces by Wix. You can sign up in just a few steps:

1. Go to our website ([www.rcliteracy.org](http://www.rcliteracy.org)) on your mobile device. When the homepage opens up, a banner will display on the top of the screen. Tap the "Go to App" button.
2. The next screen will invite you to join us on the Spaces by Wix app. Tap the "Download and Join" button.
3. The button will redirect you to the app store. Download the Spaces app. Once the app has finished downloading, tap "Open".
4. When you open the app, you will see our logo and "Request to Join RC Literacy Council." Tap the "Join" button. After you tap "Join," you will need to set up an account. The app and account are free.
5. After you set up an account, you will be directed to a home page. You will get a pop up asking if you would like to receive notifications. Tap "Allow."
6. Your request to join RCLC will be pending approval. We will approve your request shortly. Once your request is approved, you will be able to access the app!

If you have any trouble with downloading and joining us on the new app, please come by our office and we will be happy to help!



To get the latest RCLC updates and library closing alerts, download and follow us on the Spaces by Wix app.

## WEBINAR SERIES

Now through early next year, ProLiteracy is offering free webinars to all tutors in literacy organizations.

Funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the webinar series focuses on four main areas: Basic Literacy Instruction, English Language Learning, High School Equivalency Instruction, and Using Published Materials.

Upcoming Webinars include:

- Effective Strategies for Teaching Writing to Basic Literacy Adult Learners
- Pick Your Battles: Best Practices for Helping Students with Pronunciation
- "What did I just read?" Improving Reading Comprehension by Connecting to the Text and Each Other

We will be sending out information regarding these webinars as they come out. If you would like to participate in a session but the time does not work for you, the webinar will be available to watch on ProLiteracy's YouTube channel after a few days.



Thank you to the **Dollar General Literacy Foundation** for this and other contributions to ending illiteracy!

## RCLC WHO'S WHO

### 2022 Board of Directors:

Don Doering-President

Nan Lund-Vice-President

Macon Stewart-Secretary

KC Scott-Treasurer

Scott Maddox

Davian Ellison

Kelly Freeze-RCCC Rep

Allison Doby

Bonnie Harrell

Ana Avila Araniba

Al Heggins

### Staff:

Laurel Harry-Executive Director

Samantha Jones-Program Coordinator

Miguel Bustos-Adult Programs

## BY THE NUMBERS...

4

There were **4** unexpected weather-related closings last winter. Don't be caught unaware; download the new RCLC app today!

66%

**66.1%** of all 3rd through 8th graders in Rowan-Salisbury Schools were Not Proficient on their Reading EOG in 2021-2022.

23

**Number of students currently on RCLC's adult waiting list.** We have new students signing up daily for our adult ABE and ESL programs. If you have 90 minutes a week to help one of these students, please let us know.

### Rowan County Literacy Council

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