

Reception held for former mayor

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

The Town of Drakes Branch held a reception recently to honor former Mayor Denise Pridgen for her years of service.

For 36 years, Denise Pridgen served the town in the capacity of council member, vice mayor, and, lastly, as mayor.

As Mayor, Pridgen served from 2002 to 2022.

As part of honoring Pridgen, the town adopted a resolution. "She proved to be a dedicated servant of the people and a productive member of the council, as Vice-Mayor and then Mayor" the resolution read.

In early 2022 Pridgen decided not to seek re-election as mayor, and Drakes Branch Vice Mayor Phillip Jackson ran and won the seat.

"She was part of a lot of the improvements that as taken place in the town over the years," said



Drakes Branch Mayor Phillip Jackson presents Pridgen with a plaque during the reception in her honor.

Jackson."Under her tenure, several new businesses were opened in the town."

Jackson said Pridgen always had the best interest of the town at heart.

RELAY: Event to be held at SVCC

FROM PAGE ONE

during the survivor lap and cheer on our survivors.

"After the Survivor Lap, caregivers will be invited to join the survivors," Newberry said. "A caregiver is a friend or family member that helped

a person with cancer, regardless if they are still with us. It may even be a healthcare worker."

At the end of the event when it gets dark a Luminaria Ceremony will be held to remember those lost to cancer and reflect on the journey of those

who have survived.

Relay For Life is the world's largest volunteer-based fundraising event.

For more than 36 years, communities across the world have come together to honor and remember loved ones and take action for lifesaving change.

TEAM: Iowa, here we come

FROM PAGE ONE

an extra year of eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NCAA granted all players in college at the time an additional year.

During his time at the school, Jackson

has been part of three consecutive school record-setting seasons, when it comes to wins. This year, Lynchburg recorded the most yet, with a record of 43-7.

This is the first time in history the University of Lynchburg has made it to the

Division III College World Series. The University of Lynchburg is the #3 seed and will take on Wisconsin - La Crosse on Friday, June 2, with first pitch set for 7:45 pm. Jackson is the son of Mark and Kelli Harding of Keysville.

GRISSOM: Book tour kicks off next week

FROM PAGE ONE

her career as an author when she started to research and write The Kitchen House.

Originally from Saskatchewan, Canada, Grissom moved to the Madisonville community of the county the in early 90s and it was when she and her husband began to renovate their circa 1830 home, she became interested in learning the history of the home and the area.

It was when she was shown a map that she became even more interested.

"I wanted to know what happened there," Grissom said. "I joined a writers' group, and the Piedmont Literary Society, and when I met Eleanor Dolan, a gifted poet, she generously agreed to mentor me in my writing."

In addition to Dolan, Grissom said it was the late Pamplin native Raymond Dickerson that helped in her search for answers.

"I just remember feeling at peace and being able to ask questions and they generously shared those answers with me," Grissom said. "I don't know if I would have ever been an author if I had not moved to Charlotte County."

Today, Grissom makes her home in Charlottesville but says that Charlotte County will always feel like home to her.

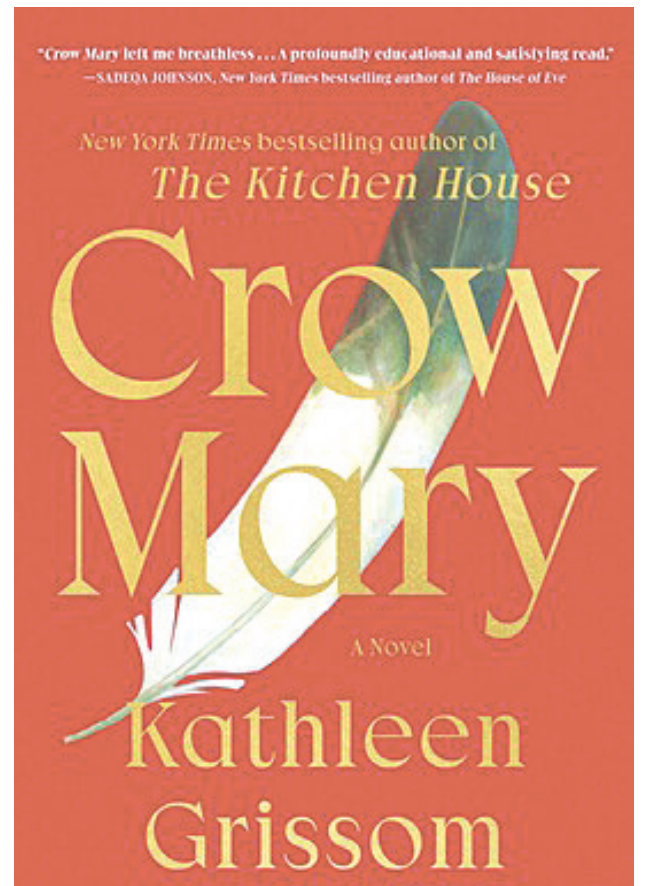
"I felt at home when I moved there ... and I still consider it my home," Grissom said.

Beginning next week Grissom will kick off

her book tour for Crow Mary with her first appearance and reading at Givens Books at 2236 Lakeside Drive Lynchburg beginning at 6 p.m.

For more informa-

tion on Grissom's other novels or to preorder Crow Mary visit <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Crow-Mary/Kathleen-Grissom/9781476748474>



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