



‘That was our calling’

This couple is retiring after 30 years of teaching and coaching



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Todd and Jan Davis took what some would consider an unconventional approach to investing in the next generation.

“We decided not to have kids years ago,” Todd said.

Instead of bringing up a handful of their own children, Todd and Jan chose to impact kids’ lives through 30 years of teaching and coaching.

“We dedicated our love of children to our players,” Todd said. “We still do. We’ve been to weddings, baby showers and now some of their graduations. That shows how old we are.”

“We just felt like that was our calling,” Jan said. “It was what we were meant to do.”

“God has a plan for all of us,” Todd added.

“Whenever we made the decision not to have kids, we felt like the Lord wants us to use our faith and our abilities to at least show our Christian love to those kids so that they know they’re going to be loved.”

This spring, Todd and Jan both retired in May.

The BrightSide

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Jan and Todd Davis stand with some of their softball players at St. Stephens High School.



LEFT: Newton-Conover High School Athletic Director and Principal Todd Davis poses for a photo in front of Newton-Conover High School on Feb. 5, 2025. **RIGHT:** St. Stephens head coach Jan Davis encourages her team from third base during a game against Hickory in 2015. Jan and her husband Todd retired in May after 30 years of teaching and coaching.

How it started

Todd and Jan Davis met at Gardner-Webb University in the early 1990s.

Jan played softball and volleyball for the school. She got her start in athletics at 8 years old, playing Little League baseball on a boys team.

Todd played tennis, basketball and baseball growing up. He said he didn’t play high school baseball, and height got in the way of his basketball aspirations, so he focused on tennis.

“My goal was to be 6 feet tall, but the good Lord stopped me at 5-10,” he said.

He made the tennis team at Gardner-Webb and worked his way into the lineup. After graduation, he played some USTA tournaments.

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Officials: Petting zoo goats with rabies visited Hickory

JOE MARUSAK
The Charlotte Observer

Multiple baby goats at a North Carolina mobile petting zoo had rabies and may have been in direct contact with people at events while infectious, state health officials said Friday.

Anyone who came in contact with the goats from Farm Adventures in the rural

northern Iredell County community of Harmony between July 28 and Aug. 27 should contact their local health department, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services urged.

That’s so officials can determine if you need medications to prevent infection from the potentially fatal disease, according to an NCDHHS news release.

Events included one on Miller Mills Road in Hickory, in Burke County, on Aug. 9, according to public health departments with Catawba and Burke counties.

The North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health confirmed the cases.

“The petting zoo held off-site events involving children and elderly individuals across multiple counties within that time

frame,” according to the news release.

“Organizers of these offsite events are being notified,” officials said. “This investigation is ongoing and additional information about potential exposure locations at public events will be released once available.”

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