

# Join The Club

## Franklin County Boys & Girls Club Opens

Paige Sayles' dream turned into a marvelous reality in December.

That reality is Franklin County's first Boys & Girls Club of America.

The gymnasium located on the Franklin County Schools Riverside Campus was unused, and Sayles and her husband oftentimes talked about uses for the unused facility.

"My husband kept coming up with ideas and for some reason when he said a Boys & Girls club it stuck," Sayles said. "So I started researching how we could make it

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Paige Sayles (center) shares a laugh during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

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## Memorable Trip to Japan for Stover

Judy Stover wasn't sure what to expect when she visited Japan on a Fulbright Scholarship for three weeks in November. Her concerns were quite valid, considering she is an American visiting a country the U. S. brutally fought against in World War II.

Much to her surprise, she was greeted with open arms and warm hearts.

"I was fearful at first. My dad was in World War II in the Philippines, and I really didn't know how they felt about



Judy Stover, center, poses with students she met during her recent trip to Japan.

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## FCS Student-Athletes Honored

Each year the Wendy's High School Heisman organization names two senior student-athletes from each area high school as qualifiers for a national scholarship. Nominations are based on academics, athletics and citizenship. Each finalist from Franklin County was also invited to a formal banquet that was held in Cary this past fall.

Earning the honor from Louisburg High School this year were Laura Lord and Charlie Davis. Davis was a football player, while Lord played both tennis and soccer.

Bunn was well represented by seniors Lisa Ramos and Tim Harris. Ramos played soccer, while Harris competed in football, swimming and baseball.

Franklinton High School was led by seniors Andrew Yentzer and Annie O'Brien. O'Brien is a cheerleader who also plays soccer, while Andrew participates in a multitude of sports including cross country, track, swimming and soccer.

### Louisburg High School

**Laura Lord:** Lord plans to attend North Carolina State University and major in biological engineering. Her interest in the subject was sparked during a camp that was held at NCSU this past summer. In addition to her fine academic achievement, Lord is fond of her athletic career at Louisburg. "This is a very nice award, and it is nice for some of the less popular sports to get recognized."

Lord's best sports memory from LHS is making the state playoffs in soccer.

"It was nice that we finally accomplished something. It was a struggle because we had four different coaches in four different seasons. That made it difficult for everyone to stay enthusiastic about playing."

**Charlie Davis:** Davis played at the left tackle position for the LHS football team and intends to major in Civil Engineering at N.C. State this coming fall. "I really like to work with my hands, and I think Civil



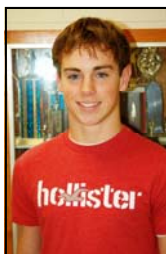
Engineering is a good fit for that."

Davis' most memorable night on the playing field came during his junior season. "We were down by 10 points with five minutes to play against Northampton-East, and we came back and won

the game. That's something I'll never forget."

### Bunn High School

**Tim Harris:** Harris could be found on a variety of playing fields throughout his high school career. The senior snagged a potential game-saving interception for the football team against Southern Nash this past fall. Harris stated that may be the moment from high school sports he'll remember forever. He is also a member of the baseball team and the swim team. "I'm really going to miss high school – especially football. There's nothing like the football team. It's really like a close family." Harris plans to pursue an engineering degree at N.C. State University or East Carolina University next fall.



**Lisa Ramos:** Ramos helped the Bunn soccer team qualify for the state playoffs twice during her prep career. In addition, Ramos was also a member for the Bunn High Color Guard team, and she takes Tae Kwon Do classes. Ramos plans to major in fashion design at Meredith College, but will miss Bunn High School. "I really enjoyed playing soccer. It's going to be tough not playing with the team and seeing them as much."



### Franklinton High School

**Andrew Yentzer:** Yentzer has participated in four different sports at Franklinton

## High School Basketball

**Start Times:**  
**JV Boys 4:30**  
**Varsity Girls 6:00**  
**Varsity Boys 7:30**

**Bunn**  
 1-4 at Franklinton  
 1-9 at S. Vance  
 1/10 Tarboro  
 1/13 Louisburg  
 1/19 at NW Halifax  
 1/23 RNK Rapids  
 1/24 at S. Nash  
 1-26 S. Vance  
 1-30 at Warren Cnty.  
 1-31 at East Wake

**Franklinton**  
 1-4 Bunn  
 1-5 NW Halifax  
 1-9 at Warren Cnty.  
 1-19 Rnk Rapids  
 1-23 at S. Vance  
 1-26 Warren Cnty.  
 1-30 at NW Halifax

**Louisburg**  
 1/5 NH-West  
 1/9 at NEHS  
 1/10 SE Halifax  
 1/18 NH-East  
 1/23 at NH-West  
 1/24 at RM Prep  
 1/26 NEHS  
 1/31 Science & Math

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# Japan

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Americans,” Stover said. “But they are so polite, and they bowed all of the time. Peace is very important to them. They are very polite to you—wherever you go.”

Stover, a veteran teacher and current FCS Reading First Coordinator, learned quite a bit in her three-week stay in the Japanese capital of Tokyo.

“It was so big,” Stover said. “I couldn’t get over how busy it was. It was so beautiful at night. I used to think Times Square was big, and it is, but Tokyo was so much bigger.”

Stover was particularly impressed by the Japanese education system. Stover had the opportunity to visit a variety of schools on all different levels. She even got to chance to teach a few high school English lessons.

One of the major differences in Japan is that students attend school 230 days a year. Stover said she noticed that teachers stayed at school until as late as 11 p.m.

Teachers are put on the spot on certain Sundays – parents come in and observe them while they are teaching a lesson. Many teachers live on or extremely close to the campus due to a demanding schedule.

The Japanese society really acknowledges all the hard work teachers do. “Teachers are respected, and they are treated like royalty.”

Stover was one of 200 people who were invited on the annual trip. There were 2,300 applicants this year. The program first began under the direction of Senator Fulbright in 1949 as a peace-building program with Japan.

“I did it because this is my 34<sup>th</sup> year in education, and I wanted to learn something new. I really believe you have to be a life-long learner to be a good educator.”

While many people elected to travel to other cities when they got the chance, Stover decided to stay near Tokyo and explore as much as possible. She had quite a memorable time at Tokyo Disney.

“Families were coming up and smiling at us and talking to us,” Stover said. “A little girl touched my hair and started singing in English, and I sang with her. She was five and speaking English, I was very impressed and that was such a special moment for me.”

As one might guess, culturally it was a very different experience.

“I wish every teacher could have an experience going somewhere they can’t speak the language,” Stover said. “I learned what it felt like trying to live like that. I was amazed at how well people picked up on body language.”

For example, when ordering at a McDonalds, Stover would point at pictures to place her order.

Most people in the United States slip on a pair of shoes in the morning



Franklin County Schools Reading First Coordinator Judy Stover found the people of Japan to be very friendly, including this little girl near Tokyo. Stover visited several schools during her three-week stay and got the oppor-

and don’t think much else about it. Expect to change footwear quite often throughout the day in Japan. People are expected to wear slippers upon arriving indoors. The kind of slippers may change depending on what part of the facility you are using. For example, people are expected to wear a different type of slippers in the bathroom.

“Cleanliness is crucial there,” Stover said. “Even in the schools, the children are required to scrub and clean. It is a very clean place.”

Stover got to live a life of luxury at the Ryokkan Hotel, which is located over hot springs.

“The food was presented very well there,” Stover said. “We even had 13 course meals.”

Stover didn’t spend every night in the hotel, one night she visited with another family and spent the night.

“That was a very interesting time,” Stover said. “It was difficult to communicate, and I didn’t want to hurt anyone’s feelings. The funny thing was that we ended up communicating in Spanish.”

Physical challenges were abound for Stover also. There are many castles in Japan, dating back more than 1,500 years ago, and Stover decided that she was going to personally visit one.

“I decided to go visit a Samurai castle on a mountain top. It was about a four or five mile walk and it had just rained, so the leaves were very slippery. I managed to get to the top and it was worth it. The artifacts were amazing.”

Stover had a quite memorable time in Japan, and she is interested in sharing her experience with other groups around the county. She welcomes requests for her to speak to classes of students about her journey.

- Nathan Moreschi

# Busy Lifestyle for High School Athletics Directors

Ever been to a high school athletic event and wondered what really goes on behind the scenes? Have you ever thought about the detail that goes into running an event effectively? More than likely, most of us have not asked these questions because we are usually there for entertainment purposes.

Well, as it turns out, there is quite a bit that goes on during a typical high school sporting event, and the responsibility of making it run is in the hands of the athletics director.

The three high schools of Franklin County each have athletics directors (AD) and each one stays extremely busy, not just with teaching class, but perhaps even more so with organizing the athletic program for their particular school.

Team schedules, uniforms, event staff, game officials, bus rides and everything else that goes along with an athletic event requires extensive planning and time.

“The time aspect is very big,” Bunn High AD Hancel Phipps said. “Nobody gets to see all of the time we put in, but I knew that before I took the job.”

Phipps is in his third year as AD at Bunn, he replaced long-time Franklin County icon Mike Lovin. Phipps, much like the other high school ADs in Franklin County, coaches a variety of sports in addition to being AD.

“There is a lot of time involved, but it is a very rewarding job,” Phipps said. “It’s nice to see the entire program perform well. It’s

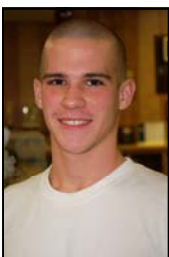


Prep athletic events provide a lot of excitement for fans, but remember athletics directors are often the source of success for

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## Heisman continued from page 2

High School. However, the senior standout has no desire to continue his athletic career after high school. Yentzer hopes to become a Navy Seal and will enlist in the Navy upon graduation.



“It’s a job that really suits me. I like to work hard, and I’m always looking for a challenge.” Yentzer is a charter member of the FHS swimming program and was a standout on the team. However, his most memorable athletic moment as a Red Ram is somewhat surprising. Yentzer’s biggest memory was not a victory or memorable moment of success, but a tough

loss in the first round of the state soccer playoffs this year. The Red Rams, who won their first soccer conference title, suffered a one-goal defeat after four overtime periods and a round of penalty kicks.

“It was a very emotional game. It kind of helps you become a better player, and you realize you just have to accept it.”

**Annie O’Brien:** O’Brien is going to attend Brigham Young University and plans on a majoring in a technical field because of her love for both math and science. O’Brien selected BYU because she found the atmosphere to be very appealing to her.



The senior has strong memories of both cheerleading and soccer. A few years ago O’Brien was a member of the FHS soccer team that pitched a surprising first-round upset against Rosewood. “That was such a great game because it was so unexpected.”

In cheerleading O’Brien helped the Red Rams finish second in the state in a new division for FHS. Annie was very pleased with the squad’s performance.

In the classroom, O’Brien and Yentzer stated that their math classes with veteran teacher Bob McMillan were always the most fun.

“His class is such a challenge, but at the same time it is a lot of fun.”

- Nathan Moreschi

# CLUB

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happen. I found out that a lot of people thought it would be a good idea.”

Sayles, who is the Unit Chair for the Franklin County Boys & Girls Club, was quite pleased with how quickly the process came to fruition. The group of 18 board members have already helped raise \$100,000 from local resources and received a \$50,000 grant. Novozymes and Embarq have proven to be huge contributors thus far. Novozymes has donated \$40,000, while Embarq has come up with \$25,000.

“We have a very diverse group of directors,” Sayles said. “Everyone has brought something really good to the table.”

The entire process took about a year, and it is already proving to be worth while. A total of 99 children were signed up for the grand opening on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

“It’s really incredible,” Sayles said.



**Children will find traditional games at the new Boys & Girls Club.**

“We knew there were kids out there who needed this. I had no idea we would get so many so fast, however.”

Membership is not limited to children in Louisburg. Sayles said all Franklin County children are welcome, but capacity is limited to 150.

Boys & Girls Club of American regional Executive Director and Chief Professional Officer Judy B. Johnson has been quite impressed with the charter efforts from the Franklin County unit.

“The Unit Board has done a phenomenal job,” Johnson said. “Everyone was very enthusiastic and made this a very refreshing experience. This is truly a start-up club. This is unusual because this is a new unit that applied for a charter. We do not get many of these each year.”

Sayles, who is also the Chairperson for the Franklin County Board of Education, said that she would like to see the club expand with sites in Bunn and Franklinton in the future.

“We understand that not everyone in the county who wants to attend can make it to Louisburg,” Sayles said. “We would like to find ways to serve all of the communities in the county.”



**Boys & Girls Club Regional Executive Director and CPO Judy B. Johnson serves refreshments to children on the day of the grand opening.**

- Nathan Moreschi

## Wildcat Walk Encouraging Kids to Stay in Shape

In an era when the importance of routine fitness is being stressed, the folks at Bunn Elementary decided to put a different spin on staying in shape.

Three years ago the Wildcats were fortunate enough to have a paved track installed around a baseball field behind the school. It didn't take long for Bunn Elementary School Principal Jewel Eason and school nurse Rhonda Shearon to develop what is now known as the Wildcat Walk.

Students are encouraged to walk two or three laps prior to recess and can earn rewards for number of laps completed. Rewards are earned by

class on a monthly and yearly basis. Students in the class with the most laps at the end of each month are rewarded small feet on chains that they can wear around their necks to show their success earned on the track. Students of the class with the most laps at the end of the year are awarded T-shirts. The T-shirts have an imprint of little feet and post the title "mileage club".

"I think it has been very successful," Shearon said. "The kids are recognized over the intercom, and they get very excited about it. And, now



BES students enjoy a recent "Wildcat Walk."

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## AD

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almost as rewarding as coaching it."

Phipps is the Offensive Coordinator for the tradition-rich Wildcat football team and has also coached tennis in the past. This spring he will be the new varsity golf coach for the Wildcats.

James Collier, AD for Louisburg High, has similar opinions to those of Phipps.

"You end up doing more after school each day, but I really enjoy it," Collier said. "I've got into a routine, but if I did not like doing this, there is no way I would do it."

Collier, who is head coach of varsity football team, varsity girls basketball team and varsity golf squad for the Warriors, has been AD for eight years.

Deran Coe, who replaced retired Franklinton High School Lester Wilder as AD in the spring of 2006, also spends long days at his school during the school year.

"It's a job that keeps you busy, but is rewarding at the same time," Coe said. "You teach class in the day and take a lot of phone calls from other coaches. You are always scheduling and getting ready for the next season, but it's very nice to help the kids. I enjoy watching the kids turn into adults. Being an AD, you get the chance to build great relationships with other coaches. I think people sometimes fail to realize how much the coaches really do."

Coe started the soccer program at FHS seven years ago for both boys and girls and continues to coach both soccer teams.

When school is out in June, the job of an AD doesn't end. Although they are paid as 10-month employees, they each find themselves spending many, many hours scheduling events during the summer and performing other prep work for the upcoming year. Other activities include mowing grass and cleaning facilities.

To run an athletic program successfully, a lot of people are needed to help out. For example, each time a team

travels, a bus driver is needed and that requires money.

"One of the biggest headaches for me is the lack of coaches and bus drivers," Collier said. "Sometimes it's very difficult to fill all of our coaching spots, and then we have to make sure we have drivers. It's really nice when the coaches have a bus license."

Basketball season always proves to be quite busy for each AD. A typical home event has three games with the JV boys tipping off at 4:30 p.m. The varsity boys game usually ends around 9:30 the same evening. During that time, the AD has to make sure the officials are happy and everything is going as planned.

"A big thing is to make sure everyone has what they need at an event," Coe said. "We try to keep everything running smoothly and make sure there aren't any major problems."

And the smoother the event is run, the more likely the fans are inclined to pay their admission to see the next contest.

- Nathan Moreschi

# Keeping Kids Warm



The annual Coats for Kids drive was a big hit in 2006. Pictured above are Kevin Potter of Novozymes, Dr. Bert L'Homme (FCS Superintendent), Jackie Hartsfield (LES CRT), Mary Smith, Laura Terry, Pat Serf, Randy Green and LES Principal William Harris.



## *Novozyymes and FCS Team Up for Coats for Kids*

Novozyymes and Franklin County Schools teamed up again this year for the annual Coats for Kids drive. Beneficiaries of the event collected their presents six days before Christmas at area schools. Hundreds of coats were donated to both Franklin County and Warren County in cooperation with Novozymes. Louisburg Elementary's Jackie Hartsfield of LES (pictured to the left) helped head the drive for Franklin County Schools.

## Louisburg Wal-Mart Donates \$5,750 to FCS

Franklin County Schools principals got a nice surprise at a recent principals' meeting in the form of money. The Wal-Mart Foundation generously donated sums of money of up to \$750 to each school in the county as part of its community grant program. The grand total donated was \$5,750.

"This is just a way to give back to the community," Louisburg Wal-Mart Personnel Manager Donna Gurley said. "This is a wonderful way to help the students and show our appreciation for their hard work."

Louisburg Wal-Mart Assistant Manager Glynda Ibrahim voiced similar words and is very proud to be a part of the program.



Laurel Mill Elementary Principal Kim Ferrell (right) proudly accepted a check on behalf of Wal-Mart from Louisburg Wal-Mart Personnel Manager Donna Gurley (left) and Wal-Mart Assistant Manager Glynda

## Tips for Your Child's EOC Success

High School students enrolled in courses that have a state issued End of Course Test will be challenged next week as EOCs for the first semester of the 2006-2007 school year are administered. EOC tests can bring a great deal of stress to high school students, but simple steps can be taken to help improve your child's performance. Be sure your child is taking advantage of after school study sessions and is spending extra time reviewing the material for their tests. The following is a list of a few simple tactics to increase EOC results.

- Attend after school study sessions
- Review the standard course of study
- Get plenty of rest and eat properly
- Take practice tests and review the results
- Stick to a solid study schedule

## WALK

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we have a new program in which we recognize students individually. We are tying this in with math because the students can count and graph the results. We want to make sure that every kid has the opportunity to be successful."

The latest portion of the program has been made possible by a grant earned

through the United Way.

End-of-the-year results can produce astounding numbers. Shearon said the winning class from last year logged more than 800 total miles.

This program ties in with the fight against obesity. According to statistics, one in four students (K-12) in Franklin County are overweight.

"We hope this program will implant the seed for encouraging physical activity throughout their lives."

- Nathan Moreschi

## Bunn High Property Purchased

Two lots adjacent to Bunn High School, known as the Gaskill property, are now officially part of the Bunn High School Campus. The property parallels Bunn Elementary School Road and will be used for future expansion to Bunn High School.

In addition to Bunn High, the property for the new Franklinton High School was officially purchased on December 28th, 2006. The 75-acre tract is located at the intersection of Lane Store Road and Cedar Creek Road.