



Wildcats Rightfully Proud of New Vocational Center

Both the agriculture and carpentry programs at Bunn High School now have a lot more appeal. So, why is that?

Well, there's a sharp new 8,000 square foot vocational building in Wildcat Country that now houses both programs, and the Bunn High administration wants the public to see it.

Bunn held an open house for the new facility in late April. In fact, Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler along with Franklin County Commissioners and Franklin

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Look Inside!

Read the Superintendent's Response to a recent editorial concerning multiple FCS issues on page 11.

Showcase City



More than 800 people flooded the Franklinton High School Gymnasium for the school's annual Spring Showcase.

Franklinton High Shows Its Best at Annual Spring Showcase

In effort to make things better, it is common to focus on what is wrong and try to fix it. That methodology can put a bad taste in people's mouths.

Franklinton High School makes an effort to sway away from negativity each spring in its annual Spring

Showcase by showing off some of the positive programs taking place within the school.

The Spring Showcase isn't limited to classroom and club activities at FHS – area businesses get a chance to shine as well.

SEE FHSPAGE 8

Element of Surprise



Shirley Harris reacts after hearing the news...



... as does Rosa Johnson of Laurel Mill.

Harris, Johnson tabbed Employees of the Quarter

There's no substitute for the element of surprise. In fact, truly surprising a person is oftentimes difficult. However, it is safe to say the second quarter Franklin County Schools' Employees of the Quarter were authentically surprised when they learned of their awards.

Rosa Johnson and Shirley Harris earned the honor this time around – both have been with FCS for more than 20 years.

Johnson thought she was going to retire after 30 years of service, but in 2000, she decided to continue in her duties as a Data Manager at Laurel Mill Elementary. Through 37 years of service, Johnson is still going strong and admits that this award was quite a shock.

"I don't believe there are words that can truly describe how I felt," Johnson said. "God gave me the strength to

do what I do – I love what I do. It's always good to be recognized for making a difference."

Johnson was indeed surprised. Laurel Mill Elementary School Principal Kim Ferrell received a phone call from FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme that he was on his way to present the award. Ferrell quickly whipped up a plan that was destined to surprise Johnson. She assembled the entire student body and staff in the small auditorium – unknown to Johnson. When Johnson was called in, she met with an overwhelming applause from everyone.

"I've never been so surprised in all my days," Johnson said. "They really got me – it was just a blessing."

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Food for Thought(ful)

BMS Students excel in food drive event

Bunn Middle School sure proved it knows how whip up funds and food for a food drive.

Bulldog Counselor Terry Shackelford organized the food drive this past January and was quite surprised by the output from participating classes. To make the event a little more interesting, Shackelford turned into a competition, which increased donations even more.

"What's really cool about the food drive is the widespread participation. Although four classes significantly exceeded the rest, several home-rooms did really well at participating," Shackelford said. "There were more 2,000 food items collected and \$800.00 received. All of these items were given to the Bunn Community Outreach (BCO) program. This program was co-founded by Rich Fratone and has been going on for about nine years, and they have never seen a food drive as big as this according to BCO member Mr. Rich Frattone.

Bunn Community Outreach is a network of area churches and other non-profit organizations that have joined together to identify and fill the outreach needs of Bunn, Lake Royale and surrounding communities. Bunn Middle's contributions were so large that the BCO (Bunn Community Outreach) had to change their location because it was not large enough for all of the Bulldog food contributions.

"I think that Junior Beta Club participation made a huge difference," Shackelford said. "Junior Beta Club



Bunn Middle Students proudly display their certificate from the food drive.

was the sponsor of the Big Bulldog Food Drive and was the driving force behind it. Junior Beta Club officers were a tremendous help in organizing and making sure that everything happened correctly."

The Jr. Beta Club officers are Melanie Davis (President), Dylan Perry (Vice President), Sarah Faulkner (Secretary) and Michael Allen (Treasurer).

Shackelford also commended Junior Beta Club Member and special Food Drive Coordinator Shane Rawlings. Rawlings made announcements and helped move many large and heavy boxes.

Bunn Middle Science teacher Michael Sheldon's class prevailed in

the competition. Sheldon knew it was close heading into the final day, so he went as far to match the student's donations dollar for dollar.

"The key is to get involved with the students," Sheldon said. "If the teacher pushes the kids, they will respond and get involved."

Ms. Parler's 6th grade Math class was second, while Mrs. Fowler's 6th grade social studies/science class finished third and Mr. Fouts' 7th grade Science class was fourth. Bunn Community Outreach is giving all of them pizza parties.

- Story by BMS Students Melanie Davis and Dylan Perry

Orlando Trip Could Yield 'Healthy' Careers for LHS Students

Enlightening Health Retreat

Ten students from Louisburg High School set out for Orlando in early April to learn more about a career in the health occupations, but they got a little more.

The Association of Minority Health Professions Schools invited 10 LHS students to attend the 21st annual symposium on career opportunities in biomedical sciences and health professions at almost no cost. Once the LHS guidance counselor Cherry Ayscue found out about the opportunity, she gathered up 10 students willing to pay to \$50 registration fee, and the trip was moving forward.

Most of the students had never flown or been to Florida. While the majority of the group is now considering a career in the health field, all of them felt they learned a little more about life after the trip.

"I learned a lot of stuff, even stuff about taking the SAT," junior Tameka Alston said. "It was a very nice experience, and I was glad we had the opportunity."

The program, which was held April 4-7 at the Orlando World Center Marriott, featured quite a few speakers that the students found to be very informative.

Many of the students learned about the hazards of using credit cards, as well as the importance of keeping a positive outlook on life.

One speaker that caught the attention of many of the students was Willie Jolley. Jolley is a celebrity speaker, singer and author who attempts to motivate people through his thunderous speeches.

"He was very creative, and he really



Ten Louisburg High School students got a great sense for what a career in the health field would be like after a trip to a seminar in Orlando.

captivated the audience," LHS junior Kelli Wardrick said. "He told a lot of jokes and gave great examples using real-life scenarios."

Louisburg High School senior Stacey Newell was also impressed by Jolley.

"He told us some different ways of thinking and that the best of our life is yet to come."

Also on hand was University of Maryland, Baltimore County, President Freeman A. Hrabowski, III. Hrabowski had conducted in-depth research in math and science.

Efrain Valencia found Hrabowski to be very helpful, and it inspired him to think about a career in the health field.

"I liked the way he offered money to us," Valencia said candidly. "After

hearing him, I think I really want to be a pharmacist now. It seems very interesting."

This was the first time Louisburg High was invited to the event, and Ayscue hopes they get the chance to return in the future.

"This was a great experience for them," Ayscue said. "I was very happy with the program."

Attending the program this year from Louisburg High School were Jasmine Scott, Stacey Newell, Tameka Alston, Kelli Wardrick, CJ Alston, Efrain Valencia, Ivan Hedgepeth, Pamela Ocampo, Darius Wilson and Michael Jefferson.

- Nathan Moreschi

County Golf Supremacy



Bunn's solid golf season earned them a spot in the Class AA Regionals.



The Red Rams improved throughout the season and hope to be even more improved by next spring.



Louisburg High School finished first in the Tar-Roanoke Conference.

Bunn High clips county foes for local links title

It's no secret that when it comes to sports, the three Franklin County high schools are extremely competitive. So when Bunn, Franklinton and Louisburg squared off in late April at Bull Creek Golf Course to decide the county championship, the stakes were high.

But in the end, it was Bunn hoisting the trophy with a 36-hole team total of 638 strokes. Louisburg finished second with 671 strokes and Franklinton tallied 755 strokes for third place.

The Wildcats had a strong performance in the final 18-hole outing. Nick Bell set the pace with a sizzling 74, including an eagle on the par-4 seventh hole. Cole Williams had a 79 for Bunn, while Michael Burnside finished with 80 and Chase Franks fashioned an 82.

Louisburg, which won the Tar-Roanoke Athletic Conference title, was led by a 78 from Kai Lucas and a 79 from Wayne Gilbert. Brandon Davis fired an 80, and Ryan Wheeler shot an 84.

The Red Rams were led by a pair of 89s from Chris Griffin and Daniel Dickerson as Justin Perry manufactured a 93, and James Hilliard carded a 104.

In addition to the county title, Bunn finished second in the Northern Carolina Conference and qualified for Class AA Regional. LHS qualified for the Class A Regional Tourney.

More Than A Walk

Relay For Life Raises More Than \$220K

Franklin County is no slouch when it comes to fighting cancer. After the completion of the annual Relay for Life Walk, the Franklin County Chapter had raised more than \$220 thousand to help in the fight against cancer.

All Franklin County Schools were involved, including this year's youngest cancer survivor Jacob Noe of Bunn Elementary School. BES raised more than \$19,000 as a school and proved to be the school to raise the most of any in the county. In all, FCS raised more than \$80,000.

For 24 hours, people of Franklin County conducted the relay at the Bunn High School track in April. All facets of people were represented from cancer survivors, school principals, teachers, county commissioners, State Representatives, mothers, fathers, students, etc. All were out to have a good time and promote the bat-



Cancer survivors officially start the Relay Walk.

tle against cancer, as well as celebrate those who have survived it and also to remember those who lost their lives to the horrible disease.

Schools in the Franklin County School System, as well as many other

organizations, set up booths around the track and on the interior to sell items in which all the money would go to the fight against cancer.

- Nathan Moreschi



There was plenty of celebrating going on throughout the event.

2007 Franklin County Relay For Life



Louisburg High School juniors CJ Alston and Emily Williams (above) had an enjoyable time at the Rotary Leadership Conference in Greensboro last month. Both students learned a great deal about what it takes to be a leader in today's very competitive society. DeVonte Keith, right, a LHS Freshman, poses after returning from his time spent as a Governor's Page in Raleigh. Keith was particularly impressed by the legislative process. He spent his spring break touring the state capitol and learning about the process of state government.

LHS Standouts



SURPRISE

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Harris has worked as a receptionist for FCS for 21 years and has spent the last 15 years anchoring the front desk for the Central Office. She was at Louisburg Elementary School for her first six years.

Needless to say, Harris was as surprised as Johnson when she learned of her award.

Central Office employees gathered and sneaked down the hall to surprise Harris at the front desk. But it didn't quite work out as planned. Harris was the one pulling the initial surprise because she came out of another room and questioned what everyone was

doing. But, in the end, Harris was the most surprised when she found out about her award.

"I was totally, completely surprised," Harris said. "It's hard to explain – it's nice to see people think of you this way. It's very nice of them to take the time and write a letter to nominate someone – it's special."

Anyone who has called the Central Office knows the high level of professionalism and care that Harris answers the phone.

"I enjoy what I do – I enjoy people – this is just me," Harris said. "I never imagined this happening. I didn't even expect to be in the running, let alone win."

Both Harris and Johnson are natives of Franklin County and are happily married with two kids each. Harris

is married to Jim (for 37 years and counting). Her daughter Tonnita is a teaching assistant at Edward Best Elementary School, while her other daughter Crystal works and lives in Ohio.

Johnson's daughter Renee works in the pharmaceutical industry and lives at Lake Royale. Her son Jay also works for a large company and lives in Greensboro.

Employees of the Quarter receive a plaque and a \$500 award. The deadline to submit nominations for the third quarter is July 15th, 2007. Entries can be submitted via mail, e-mail (berthomme@fcschools.net) or by hand to Dr. Bert L'Homme at the Riverside Campus.

- Nathan Moreschi

FHS

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More than 800 community members attended the event April 23 at the FHS gymnasium and got a personal view of 16 individual classroom exhibits, seven department booths, four clubs and support groups and 18 area businesses.

"You hear horror stories about what goes on in high schools, so we take this time to show everyone about all of the positive things we have going on," FHS interim curriculum resource teacher Mary McGhee said. McGhee, who retired from FHS as the Media Specialist in 2005, spent 33 years in education.

"We had more than 900 people attend the event (including faculty and staff), and it went very well. This gives the community a chance to see what we have to offer. This program originally started out to help students transition from the eighth grade to high school, but it has developed into much more now."

Student involvement in the program is quite high as well. More than 330



The Franklinton High School Student Government Association was one of many booths at the annual event..

students participated in the annual event.

While the students in tenth grade and below are encouraged to visit the department booths to get a sense of what they may want to do in the future, upperclassman were encouraged to attend the business booths.

"The benefits are invaluable," McGhee said. "Students get to interact with businesses and make eye contact. How do you put a value on that – it has to be a big help."

In some cases, businesses were actually taking applications for summer employment opportunities.

Individual departments really get a chance to shine at the showcase. From student artwork to latest classroom technology to delicious treats prepared by a foods class, it's on display.

"The students enjoy seeing their work on display," McGhee said. "It's a very positive experience for everyone involved – everyone leaves with a smile."

Among the more popular school-driven exhibits were ones that featured interactive activities. The FHS social studies department modeled a

game similar to Jeopardy using TurningPoint technology. A question would flash on the screen, and contestants would respond using a remote control. The FHS math department also used this technology to show how students use this same technology practice or take an interactive quiz. The technology provides instant feedback for teachers.

Many teachers at FHS and the other high schools in Franklin County will be using the technology to review for upcoming End of Course Tests.

As many people know, schools are often judged only by overall test scores, but McGhee believes that is a measure stick; it is not fair to use that as the only gauge.

"This is the kind of stuff that goes on in all of our schools," McGhee said. "This is real learning at its best. Students really learn in our classrooms, and to be judged only by test scores is not fair."

- Nathan Moreschi



FHS Science on Display.



Members of the Bunn High Chapter of FFA were present at the grand opening.

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County Schools' administrators spoke at the event.

The facility was funded by the \$30 million school bond passed in 2004, and is one of the first major projects funded by the bond to be fully operational.

Rather than the tight quarters the agriculture and carpentry programs were confined to in the past, students and teachers have ample room and better equipment to conduct their work.

In the past, many projects had to be completed outside, and construction schedule was dependent on weather. But now, students can work on the majority of their projects inside. There is a new welder's room with plenty of electrical access, and there are also five locations to access compressed air.

In addition, the new sink area is larger and students can get ready much quicker for their next class. On the carpentry side of the building, there

is a new ventilation system that cuts down considerably on the amount of saw dust in the air.

"The kids are going to benefit from this facility," agriculture teacher Bob Frisbie said. "This is a better layout and a safer environment, and it is more efficient."

Bunn High Principal George Kelley is as excited as anyone about the new structure.

"This is very exciting for our school and the community," Kelley said. "We have about 95 kids in the program, and that shows how much the facility is needed. It was not only badly needed, but it will be fully used, both before and after school."

Both Kelley and Frisbie noted that the location is superior to the location of the former vocational building because it is much easier to access. Now when shipments of materials arrive, the material can be dropped off inside the building. In the past, shipments were dropped and then later hauled to the facility.

"The community can expect to see more great

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Many prominent community members attended the grand opening. Among those were commissioners Sydney Dunston and Robert Swanson, FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L’Homme, MBAJ Architect Jon Long, and Franklin County School Board Members Bernard Hall and John May.

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projects like this one come to completion in the next six to 12 months,” Franklin County Schools’ Superintendent Dr. Bert L’Homme said. “This is a direct result of voting yes for the 2004 bond.”

Another major project that will be completed within one month is the new cafeteria at Bunn High. There are big projects taking place at several schools in the FCS system, including major renovations and additions to Louisburg High School.

- Nathan Moreschi

UNCG opens new online program for prep students

UNC-Greensboro has developed a program for high school students to earn both high school and college credit for certain core classes. Tuition and books are available at no charge to students. Spots in the program are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The iSchool program is available for juniors and seniors and offers a wide range of both core classes and electives. These are the courses most students take in college, regardless of their major.

If students are interested in this program, they should contact their high school guidance counselor or visit the Internet at <http://www.icampus.uncg.edu>.

School Enrollment Report (month 7)

Elementary Schools

School	Students
Royal	640
Youngsville	699
Laurel Mill	309
Franklinton	616
Bunn	681
Edward Best	523
Louisburg	503

Total for all
Franklin County
Schools : **8,158**

High Schools

School	Students
Bunn	853
Franklinton	700
Louisburg	663

Middle Schools

School	Students
Bunn	664
Cedar Creek	720
TLMS	587

Superintendent Responds

Editor's Note: The following is a response written by FCS Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme to the Franklin Times in response to an editorial published in the Franklin Times on April 14, 2007.

Dear Editor,

There is always danger when you respond to an article in the local newspaper. On the one hand, I would like the people of Franklin County to have the complete story. On the other hand, whatever I say becomes grist for the mill. I willingly take this risk, because a complete story is the beginning of a productive conversation.

Every month I meet with a teacher representative from each school to discuss school related issues. Several months ago, I raised the issue of grading, and specifically assigning grades that students don't earn. Contrary to the article that appeared in *The Franklin Times* (4/14), there is no district grading policy that forces teachers to give a minimum grade of 60 percent. However, several schools do. The question that was not asked in last week's *Franklin Times* was "Why."

Administrators and teachers understand that if a student receives less than a 60 average the first or second marking period the student will probably fail the course for the semester. No matter how hard the student works, the student will probably fail. A student who is forced to attend class with no hope of passing inevitably misbehaves. When one student misbehaves, the entire class suffers.

The conclusion I've reached after talking with teachers is that the

practice of issuing a grade a student does not earn is unacceptable. Teachers believe that assigning grades that students don't earn is the wrong message — in fact it's a message that no one wants to give. There is no free lunch!

So, that puts us between the horns of a dilemma. Administrators and teachers want students to behave and achieve academically, and teachers rightfully insist on assigning grades that students earn.

We are completing the process of determining the most effective method that maintains rigorous expectations and at the same time ensures acceptable classroom behavior. Please go to the district website (www.fcschools.net) and read the article under the heading "Grading Policy Opinions Needed" and read what teachers and administrators have to say and give us your opinion.

This is an issue that is going to be solved — to the benefit of our students — by teachers, administrators and parents working together. The good news is that we are well on our way to resolving this dilemma. Franklin County does have an alternative high school and middle school program located on the Riverside Campus. Contrary to what was reported in the article, it's been in operation for nearly five years. It's called the Creative Education Center (CEC) and it's successful beyond our expectations. It's staffed by competent and caring teachers and an administrator who goes the extra mile for each and every student.

Ask middle and high school princi-

pals and they will tell you that this option for students who misbehave in class is the keystone to their discipline program. It's a model program that is recognized throughout the state as a positive and successful option for students who cannot, and oftentimes will not behave in the regular classroom. On behalf of the CEC principal, Mr. Dale Byrns, I invite you to visit our alternative program at any time.

The citizens of Franklin County can take rightful pride in their public schools. We have talented teachers, dedicated administrators and supportive parents. This is an unbeatable combination of people and resources. Staff and faculty work diligently to ensure that every student achieves at their highest potential.

As always, my door is open. Share your opinions as well as solutions with our teachers, principals, and me. Call anytime (496-2600) or send an e-mail at bertlhomme@fcschools.net. Together we can do so much for all of our children.

Dr. Bert L'Homme

Superintendent

Franklin County Schools

