

Special Olympics Planned

Volunteers Needed

Oftentimes people with disabilities are unable to compete in an athletic competition, but through the Special Olympics, many dreams are fulfilled.

Franklin County Schools and the Franklin County Parks and Recreation Department have teamed up to host a Special Olympics event on March 14th in Franklinton at the Franklinton Recreation Park.

So far, more than 30 athletes will compete in a variety of track and field events, but volunteers are still needed to help the event run smoothly.

"This is an opportunity that can lead to different tracks for these students," FCS Executive Director for Student Support Services Wendy Vavrousek said. "The Special Olympics can provide an opportunity to open the world."

Athletics are proven to help improve strength, stamina and motor skills

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Dianne Massey Carter: May 16, 1951 - February 1, 2008

Stunning Loss

FCS Elementary Director Passes

Dianne Carter began her career as a reading and math teacher at Epsom School in 1974, but friends and colleagues had trouble placing her impact into words or counting the many ways she's made Franklin County schools and the community a better place since then.

Carter, 56, died Friday. "We're not going to forget Dianne Carter," Superintendent Bert L'Homme said in her eulogy. Carter was laid to rest Monday in Zebulon.

"We're going to remember her every time a child learns to read. Every time a high school student learns to solve the quadratic equation.

"Every time we pass through Pilot and every time we need a prayer," L'Homme said. "Dianne Carter is and will always be a valued colleague and a dear, dear friend."

Carter began as a teacher in the Franklin County school



Memorials

Memorials for Dianne Carter may be sent to the Rocky Cross Holiness Church in Zebulon:

**12524 Anderson Road
Zebulon, NC 27596**

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Girton, Wright Named Top Employees



Betty Wright, left, sheds tears of joy after co-workers Jeannette Alford and Cherry Ayscue congratulate her.



Linda Girton's smile says everything one would need to know about her feelings.

There are many jobs within each school that require a lot of work and knowhow that often go unnoticed.

The first Franklin County Schools' Employees of The Quarter for 2008 fall into that category, but now they are getting their much-deserved recognition.

Betty Wright, guidance secretary at Louisburg High School, and Linda Girton, Bunn High Data Manager, graciously accepted their plaques and checks at a recent Board of Education meeting.

Girton has worked at Bunn High School for 14 years and has been the Data Manager for 12 years. Wildcat Principal Robin Faulkner, who nominated Girton for the award, praised Girton for her tremendous work effort and added that nobody in the school works longer hours than Girton. Faulkner and Girton have worked together for Girton's entire tenure.

Wright has been a part of FCS for 25 years and is known for her positive attitude and for making the LHS guidance office a pleasant place to work. Much like Girton, Wright has no issues with putting in long hours each day. Wright is often one of the first people to arrive to the department in the morning and one of the last to leave. She was recommended by the entire administrative staff of Louisburg High School.

Grappling Gurus



LHS Senior wrestler Noel Mueller was recently recognized for his outstanding wrestling performance.

Prep Wrestling Popularity Exploding

If you were a high school student in Franklin County 10 years ago and wanted to be a member of a wrestling team, you were probably out of luck.

That all changed in 1998 when Bunn High School formed a team that was coached by current Royal Elementary teacher Dean Reed. In the last three years, not only has wrestling become an option for FCS high school students, it's become very popular.

While basketball still remains the main attraction for most during the week, county residents are steadily gaining interest in what is arguably one of the most stringent sports.

Just one week ago, Louisburg High

School's Noel Mueller earned widespread recognition by winning the WRAL extra effort award. This was just a few days after the Franklinton Red Rams earned the Northern Carolina Conference regular season championship. Bunn High returned to action this year after not fielding a team the previous year because there was nobody willing to coach the team. Now Mike Diaz of Bunn Elementary has the Wildcat program back on track.

"Wrestling has really grown," Diaz said. "We get a lot of support at the matches. We used to have four or five in the gym, and now we have about 40."

Diaz is pleased to see his kids improv-

ing throughout the season.

"We are getting better each day," Diaz said. "Every single kid has risen since we started in November. In the future, I would like to see a middle school team develop."

Among the standouts at Bunn High are Chris Limer (Sr.), Patrick Limer (Fr.), William Eubanks (Jr.), Cliff Setzer (Jr.) and Mark Reich (Jr.). Reich has shown quite a bit of promise in recent meets, and Diaz believes he could be a future star.

Franklinton High School began its program three years ago and has gone from a partial schedule to a regular season

[SEE WRESTLE PAGE 4](#)

Wrestle

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championship under the direction of head coach John Pearsall and assistant coach John Grimsley. Albert Long also helps out as a volunteer parent coach. The team is 18 strong and has two managers.

"It's been amazing to see how much the sport has taken off," Grimsley said. "Each year we get more students, parents and administration involved. It's really picking up steam now."

The Red Rams had four wrestlers earn All Conference honors. Bobby Holliman, Corey Hoffmann, Jamarr Royster and TJ Buchannon were voted on to the squad. Other strong contributors include seniors Trey Kearney, David Ross, Dallas Puett and Andrew Shelton.

Brandon McFarlane, Holliman and Hoffmann are the three captains for the surging FHS team. Franklinton snatched second in the Northern Carolina Conference tournament on February 2nd and hosted a state playoff dual team meet on February 5th.

Franklinton pitched an upset earlier in the season by knocking off state power Southern Vance in conference place. It



The Bunn Wildcats continue to improve under head coach Mike Diaz

was the first conference loss ever for Southern Vance.

"We just want to continue to improve and continue to do well in the conference," Grimsley said. "We want to start a junior varsity team and a middle school team at Cedar Creek, and hopefully this can lead to more championships, even on the state level."

In addition to team championships, there is an individual championship bracket for high schools. Grimsley would like to see a Red Ram making a run for a state title in the future.

As far as middle school programs, Terrell Lane Middle School has the only one in the county. The squad was created by Phil Mueller, who is also the coach of the strong 1A Louisburg High School team. TLMS is coached by Jason Crawford.

The LHS program began in 2004.

"I wanted a program, but I wanted to be competitive. I knew we would need a middle school program to help build the high school team," Mueller said. "It's really nice having the middle school program. It's like having a family with both teams."

"The only way wrestling will continue to grow in the county is through good middle school programs and to get more parents involved."

Mueller son, Noel is a senior now and is one of the best wrestlers in the area. Noel now owns the county record for career wins (157 and counting) and made a strong run in the state playoffs last season. He is expected to do so again this year.



Franklinton High School secured it's first conference championships this season.

- Nathan Moreschi



Top Notch Writers

Maggie Phelps, Justin Bell and Emma McFarlane made quite a name for Terrell Lane Middle School recently by sweeping the Louisburg Rotary Club essay contest. Phelps pocketed \$50 for top honors, while Justin Bell collected \$25 and Emma McFarlane receive \$15. This is an annual contest put on by the Louisburg Rotary Club. The essays pertain to the Rotary Four-Way Test.

OLYMPICS

Continued from page 1

and also build self-esteem. Self-confidence can lead to future success for people in the future.

Special Olympics North Carolina is one of the largest volunteer-driven sports organizations in the state with more than 20,000 volunteers.

Students from all over the county

will participate in a multitude of track and field events from shot put and discus throwing to running events.

Adults are encouraged to participate in the games as well. If you or someone you know qualifies, contact Vavrousek at 919-496-2457 for more details. Volunteers may contact Vavrousek as well.

- Nathan Moreschi

FC Special Olympics

March 14th, 9 a.m.

Franklinton Park

FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS
TRADITIONAL
2008-2009

Board Approved
12/10/2007

JULY 2008

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MAY 2009

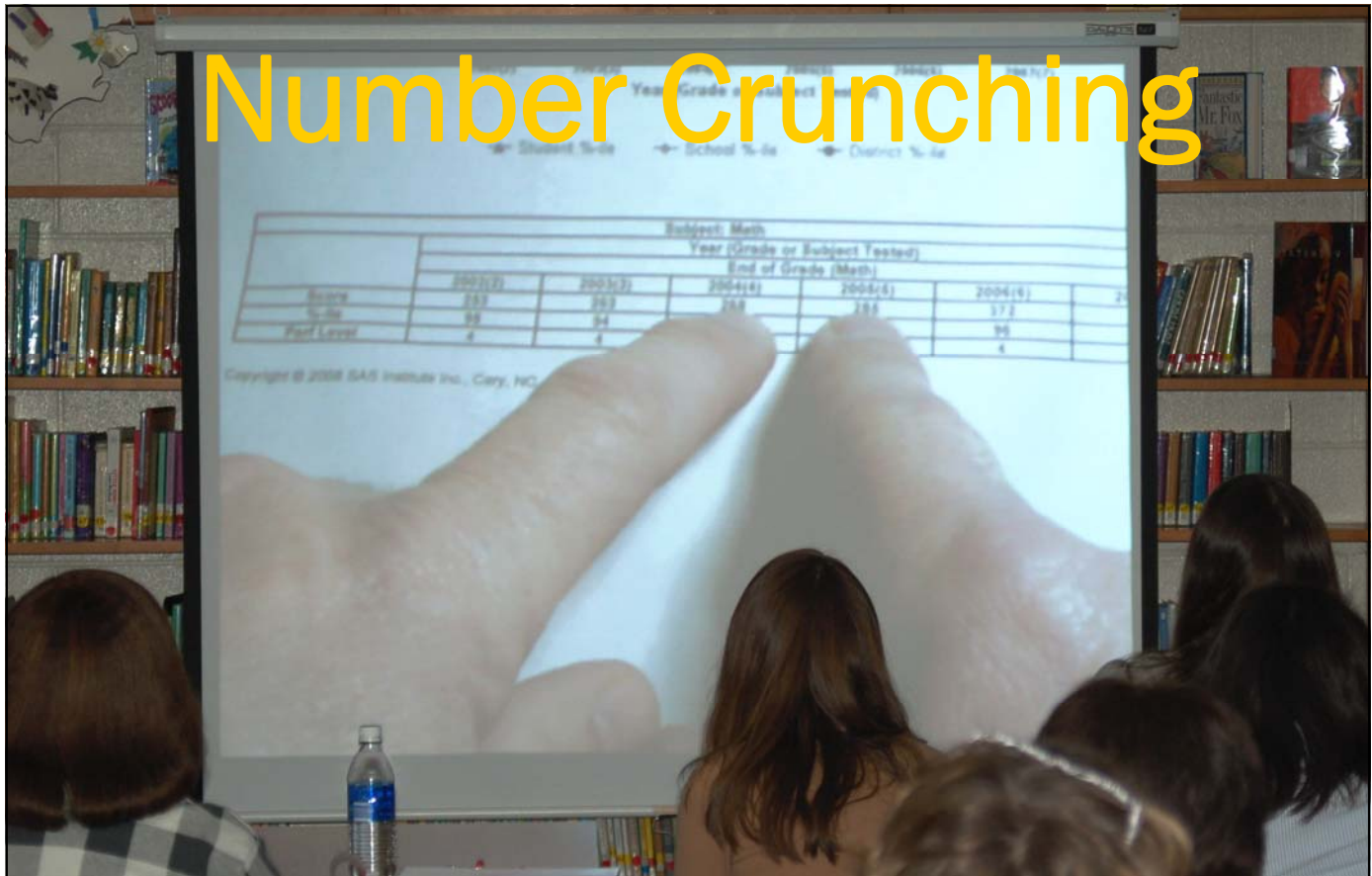
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VACATION
 HOLIDAYS
 STUDENT DAY
 TEACHER WORKDAYS
 EARLY RELEASE DAY

Makeup Days
 Oct. 17
 Dec. 22
 Feb. 16
 Mar. 13
 June 10
 April 17
Early Release Days
 Sept. 10
 Oct. 16
 Nov. 5
 Dec. 10
 Feb. 11
 Mar. 12
 April 1
 May 6



EBES teachers soak in a data-driven explanation for increasing student achievement.

In-House Staff Development at EBES

In a recent series of teacher work-days, Edward Best Elementary teachers were led through a series of meetings to help improve their teaching skills.

The meetings were designed to educate teachers on data driven instruction and how to help children who struggle to keep up with the normal pace of the classroom.

"We wanted to do this at our own school because we can sit back and see the entire picture for our school," EBES Principal Debbie Ayscue said. "As the standards change, we have to change. We've got the means and resources to help them more, and our teachers will improve because of

these sessions."

EBES Assistant Principal Rodney White led the program concerning data-driven instruction.

"We took a historical look at test scores - we have to realize the bar has been raised, and we need to do everything we can to keep up," White said. "We use data to decide where to go next. I think a lot of teachers struggle when to move on. Teachers actually give assessment and find out where to go. It gives you a map to follow, and it really helps with instructional planning."

White outlined a series of scores and specific data and explained how the data can be used to pinpoint spe-

cific areas of weakness.

"I think the staff really likes this because it helps them determine what they really need to be working on."

White expressed the importance of making sure that all students continue to improve, regardless of achievement level.

"Every student can improve, even the students who make fours on their EOGs."

Katie McDaniel, an FCS Psychologist Intern, presented a Powerpoint show to help teachers improve their ability to help students who learn at a slower rate.

[SEE EBES PAGE 8](#)



Edward Best teachers and staff recently went through a series of classes, including one outlining data driven analysis.

EBES

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"A lot of children who don't qualify for EC (exceptional children's program) have a low IQ, but we still need to teach them," White said. "Katie gave some specific strategies to help these children."

One example outlined by McDaniel was to link new material to familiar material. McDaniel's presentation listed the typical profile of slow learners and possible causes.

Other ideas mentioned were highly structured and concrete assignments, highlighting key words and directions and providing lots of praise to increase desired behaviors.

White believes it is very important that teachers stick to the content area

and make sure they are following the standard course of study throughout the school year. He believes that sticking to the plan is essential in producing higher test results.

"We have to embrace the process that the state has put out there," White said. "We have to get everyone to realize that you can't teach material, you have to teach kids. We need to support this process and move forward. We can use the hard numbers to measure our success."

Teachers often find themselves in workshops that are similar to previous ones they have attended or stuff they have learned from class and books, but White believes there is a big reason for that.

"We send these same messages over and over again because it is the essence of what we need to do."

Ayscue praised her staff for their co-

operation and enthusiasm.

"I had several teachers say that they were very interested in going back and trying to work with the ideas we discussed. We are already seeing positive results from it."

- Nathan Moreschi



Katie McDaniel

Franklinton High School Career Fair

Help Wanted



FHS Students crowd around to find out more about potential career opportunities.

Franklinton High School has enjoyed continued success with its annual Spring Showcase, and now a similar event has taken shape.

The Red Rams hosted what proved to be a very successful career fair. Twenty area businesses showed up on January 30th and flooded the science building with colorful booths and brochures to hand out to interested students during lunchtime.

"We want to be able to find career paths for kids through exposure," FHS Curriculum Resource Teacher Kelly Clemmer said. "This all came about through our business alliance. This is a great way for our students to see what is out there in the world of business."

There were a variety of careers repre-

sented at the event including horticulture, medicine, film editing, education, forestry and energy.

By the second lunch block, students were cramming and crowding multiple booths yearning for information about possible careers.

"This was very helpful for me," FHS senior Shay Barclay said. "I really needed to get some more college information about transferring, and I'm interested in video editing."

Barclay, a multiple sport athlete for the Red Rams, gained his video editing interest through the new FHS digital media program.

TJ Piper, another senior, has similar

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Nationally Prepared



Sixteen FCS teachers earned their National Board Certification late last year and each were honored at a recent ceremony held on the campus of Louisiana State University. Seated in the front row are Diana Hamner (YES), Rebecca Bishop (FES), Heather Shipley (YES), Lisa Bendel (EBES), Michelle McGhee (FES) and Jill Massey (BHS). Standing in the back are Tara Smith (YES), Rob Heller (YES), Diana Jones (EBES), Elaine Ihrie (BES), Jennifer Lupo (BES), Nanette Rhyme (YES), Genevieve Hillaire (BES) and Laura Smith (REMS). Not pictured are Amy Tunstall of Bunn Middle and Melissa Pendleton of Royal Elementary.



The Progress Energy booth drew its fair share of attention.

CAREER

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interests.

"I'm interested in digital communications and I may try to attend the School of Communication Arts," Piper said.

"I'm glad they are here – I feel like I know a little bit more now."

Piper added that whatever he winds up doing, it will have something to do with computers.

Charles Fuller, FHS Principal was very impressed with the turnout and was pleased to see the event go so well for the first time. If the event gets any bigger, organizers will have to find

more space. The halls of the science building were jammed with participants and displays.

"I've heard so many positives from the students – a lot of them left with a new interest," Clemmer said. "There were some very specific careers that connected directly with a lot of our students.

"Teachers found it very useful as well. We simply can't tell students everything there is out there so this gives them a chance to actually see different opportunities."

Clemmer stated that the vendors were equally pleased and are already planning for next year. Each of the 20 vendors was invited to the FHS Spring Showcase which is set for April 14th from 6-8 p.m. in the FHS Gymnasium.

The annual showcase continues to grow in size with an increasing number of vendors and more and more student work on display each spring. More than 800 people attended the Showcase last spring.

The showcase not only provides students a means of displaying their work, but each FHS department displays some of the work and activities they are presenting to the students.

- Nathan Moreschi



Vance-Granville Community College was present during the career fair to answer any potential questions from students. Vance-Granville offers an extensive list of career study paths for students that includes a strong college-transfer program. Many students utilized the program.

CARTER

Continued from page 1

system, moving up to teach algebra for almost 20 years at Louisburg High School.

For much of that time, she also taught night classes at Nash Community College, and taught reading and math for the Summer Youth Employment Program for the Franklin-Vance-Warren-Granville County Summer Program.

She also lent professional support for the state Department of Public Instruction.

At the end of her career, Carter also directed Elementary Education and Title I, a program designed to improve academic achievement for disadvantaged students.

"She was about the business of teaching and learning," L'Homme said.

And there are too many to name who benefited, friends said.

Former Franklin County Schools Superintendent Carl Harris said Carter taught students and administrators alike.

"She always believed that every kid had it within himself or herself to do greatness," Harris said. "She was a leader in making sure all the educators understood that as part of their mission.

"It really saddened me a lot when I got the news," said Harris, who now leads Durham's school system. "I just remember the many wonderful days I

"(Carter) was well loved by her colleagues and what stood out the most was how well she was loved by students in the schools."

- Gene Allen



Dianne Carter was a true hands-on employee as Director of Elementary Education. Carter is seen here in January during an event at Laurel Mill Elementary School.

got to work with her as an administrator and I got to know her as a person.

"She represents the finest."

Another former superintendent, Gene Allen, said he knows of Carter's impact first hand.

Allen led the Franklin County schools from 1986 until 1999. Carter taught his daughter, Susan.

"I knew first-hand what she meant to students and how much she really motivated and stirred children to learn," Allen said. "My daughter hasn't gotten over it. She was crushed.

"(Carter) was well loved by her colleagues and what stood out the most was how well she was loved by students in the schools."

During the eulogy, L'Homme recalled just such a story shared with him by Carter's supervisor, Shelby Street. Street had taken her son and his friends on a ski trip over the weekend, but there was one young man busy doing algebra homework.

"Mrs. Street asked him why he was doing his homework on a vacation weekend," L'Homme shared. "He quickly responded, 'I don't want disappoint Mrs. Carter.'

"I know there are thousands of children who grew up and are growing up

in Franklin County who are better off because Mrs. Carter was their math teacher."

School Board Chairwoman Paige Sayles said there are plenty of board members who were better off because they had Carter to rely on, also.

"She was able to explain legislation and rules in a way where you didn't have to have a degree to understand," Sayles said. "She was a tremendous resource.

".... Anytime we needed her, she was there with a wealth of knowledge," Sayles said. "Now, there is a great void and loss, both personally and professionally in our system."

Story submitted on behalf of *The Franklin Times* from Carey Johnson.

FCS Construction Projects On Schedule

There are a handful of major on-going FCS construction projects and each remains on schedule for completion.

Long Mill Elementary School, which will be the 14th school in the FCS system, is still on pace to open for the 2008-2009 school year.

If you've driven by the intersection of Bert Winston and Long Mill Roads on the west side of US Highway 1 between Franklinton and Youngsville, you have probably noticed the continued progress of the new school.

With the opening of Long Mill, also comes a redistricting process. The Franklin County Board of Education, FCS Leadership Team, and ORED are working closely to provide the best redistricting plan possible. ORED is a redistricting specialty firm that has extensive experience. It is important to keep in mind that this process must fall within the guidelines of a 40-year federal court order that requires FCS to have a racial balance



Construction has started on the 10 classroom building at Franklinton High School.

of plus or minus 15 percent of the county's racial makeup at each and every school.

Franklinton High School is seeing a new building go up also. A 10 classroom building is now under construction, and it will also be ready by the start of the next school year. This building is

being built with the idea that it can be turned into a new gymnasium. In the event a \$53.3 million bond passes this May 6th, a new Franklinton High School would be built at the intersection of Cedar Creek and Lane Store Roads. The existing FHS campus would then be turned into a middle school

and the new 10-room building would be converted to a gym.

Bunn High has undergone extension additions and renovations, much like Louisburg High School. Bunn High's new auditorium will open this spring, and the new classroom building will also be complete.



Long Mill Elementary School is taking shape. Located at the intersection of Bert Winston and Long Mill Roads, the school is scheduled to be open for the start of the 2008-2009 school year. Long Mill will run on a traditional school schedule. The redistricting process involving the school is currently ongoing. A redistricting proposal will be presented to the Franklin County Board of Education on March 10th on the Riverside Campus in Louisburg at 7 p.m.