



Deryl Pendleton

## Pendleton joins *The Progress*

Deryl Pendleton, 40, joined The Morrisville & Preston Progress newspaper staff recently as an advertising representative, announced John McFarland, advertising director.

Pendleton will handle advertising accounts for The Morrisville & Preston Progress and also The Apex Herald newspapers.

Pendleton minored in business administration and earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from the University of Mobile, Alabama. He also completed one

year of graduate study at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

He has extensive experience in outside sales and retail management and recently was a sales associate at Hudson Belk in Cary.

He is a native of Mobile, Ala., and now he and his wife Merle and their three children Karla, John and Aria live in Fuquay-Varina.

Pendleton said he enjoys singing, sports and reading and currently volunteers as worship leader at Harvest Church in Apex.

## CNHI names Randy Lohrenz new publisher of *The Progress*

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munity journalism with him. "I'm excited about the opportunity of developing the highest quality newspapers in the growing communities that we serve," he says. "Several improvements are already in place and stay tuned for more," Lohrenz says about the area newspapers he now manages.

While working at *The Macomb Journal* and other newspapers, Lohrenz assumed an active role in the community, working with service organizations including the

Rotary Club, United Way, the Salvation Army and local chambers of commerce.

"I plan to continue this community involvement here," says Lohrenz.

Lohrenz has previously worked as an advertising director for the *Jacksonville Journal-Courier* in Jacksonville, Ill., and has lived with his family in Maryland while working as a manager for a firm there.

His family plans to join Lohrenz the end of the year after his daughter Ashley graduates from high school in Macomb, Ill.

# Man leaves corporate life for teaching

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see through that in a second. For their benefit, their growing, their learning, you have to basically be yourself. You're rewarded for that."

Spaulding worked for seven years at Dupont making liquid crystal displays and prototypes of the flat crystal displays that were used in the huge TV screens in the winter Olympics at Nagano.

But he says he was never a "money person." As a teacher, "There are so many people reaching out for a piece of you—but you get so much back . . . in industry, you get a paycheck."

Spaulding earned his bachelor of science degree in physics from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He minored in French, and also took all of the education courses to be certified in secondary education in earth and space sciences. But he never did his student teaching, so he was never certified.

"At the time I finally graduated, I was hurting real bad for a good salary," he said. "I had a baby on the way; it was much more comfortable to go and make a decent wage for a while, to get established before actually teaching. But I knew I would do it eventually."

That opportunity came in January of 1997, when his sister-in-law, who happens to be the director of Sterling Montessori, hired him. The school was still private at that time.

His co-teacher, Carrie Smith, provided the certification needed when the school became a charter school. But Spaulding is hoping that his year-plus of teaching will be counted toward the student teaching time he needs for his own certification.

Meanwhile, the 25 nine- to 12-year-old students are getting the benefit of his knowledge.

*"I had a baby on the way; it was much more comfortable to go and make a decent wage for a while, to get established before actually teaching. But I knew I would do it eventually."*

—Neil Spaulding, Sterling Montessori teacher

"My fourth grader was doing algebra in September last year," said Debbie O'Connell, who drives her children from North Raleigh to the charter school each day. "The academics are unbelievable. By the time these children leave eighth grade, there will probably be no courses in chemistry and physics they can take in our system. They will probably have to go over to NC State."

Science is Spaulding's specialty. Last year he taught the children to follow through on an experiment from beginning to end. Early in the year, he provided all nine pieces of the experiment except the results—hypothesis, list of materials, procedure, etc. By the end of the year, students were coming up with their own ideas and following through the process on their own.

The lessons are "50 percent science, and 50 percent learning to work in a group," he added.

"One group will be finished, and another group will be bickering the whole time."

After each group has completed their experiments, Smith and Spaulding bring in hot chocolate and coffee and they have a symposium. A representative from each group presents the results and the

class discusses them.

His science lessons can get fairly involved. For example, "these kids are very well versed in relativistic drag around black holes," Spaulding said.

What?

"Well, what we think we're seeing in the sky as black holes gives off a pulsing radiation, and scientists are trying to tie the pulsing radiation in with Einstein's theory of relativity—they call it relativistic drag because they theorize that there are these disks around black holes that will exhibit this wobbling nature that's predicted by Einstein's equation. . . ."

"There are a few of my kids who could probably explain it better than me," Spaulding said.

Every one of his students is very excited about space.

"I will try anything from putting a bunch of marbles together, throwing them around the room and doing the dance of the molecules—to straight university style, sit down and I'm going to lecture to you. I hit every motion I can. I'm not going to hit everybody, but hopefully I get most of them that way," he said.

The students also have a good grasp of the Big Bang theory, "the current theories of T=zero, when the

universe was nothing but a single point of neutrons packed together with nothing in between."

Mrs. O'Connell donated the money to buy a reflector telescope last year, which the children put together in their science experiment groups and plan to take to the Mid-Atlantic Star Party in Moore County in October.

The Montessori environment fits in well with Spaulding's teaching style. Last year, when an incident on the playground turned into a bickering match between the boys and the girls, they decided to settle it in a court of law.

Ms. Smith was the judge; Spaulding was the bailiff. The title of the case was *The Football Boys v. The Valley Girls*.

"Each side got organized, got their attorneys, their spokespeople," Spaulding said. "We brought in video cameras and made a big thing of it." Loosely speaking, Spaulding handles the math and science in the classroom, and Ms. Smith does the history, reading and geography.

He also teaches French on Mondays, German on Tuesdays, and Russian on Wednesdays, for half an hour each day. He chose those three languages because they are all different. Though he can speak Spanish, the similarities between French and Spanish (both Romance languages) would make it too confusing for the children, he thought.

Spaulding studied in France for a year during college, so it is his best language. He also studied Russian in college, but in German he is self taught.

Both of Spaulding's children, Cassia, 8, and Gideon, 6, attend Sterling Montessori. His wife, Sallie, teaches infants at Cary Montessori, the sister school.

## Fired police chief Newnam plans to sue

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notice for 11 reasons, none of which were met in this case. These reasons include fraud, conviction of a felony, falsification of records for personal profit, willful misuse of town funds, damage or destruction of property, acts that endanger the lives and property of others, possession of unauthorized firearms, brutality, conflict of interest, acceptance of gifts in exchange for favors, or "engaging in political activity prohibited by this policy."

He also said that under the personnel policy, an employee who is rated as unsatisfactory should be notified in writing how the work is deficient and given time to improve the standard of the work. Hodgkins met

with Newnam on April 28 to discuss the deficiencies, and then terminated him on April 30, only two days later.

In his letter of termination, Hodgkins cited "frequent mood swings, irritability, and at times a lethargic demeanor that appears to be negatively impacting your job performance."

Newnam told Hodgkins that he was under the care of a physician for stress-related problems, and later presented medical evidence that he was physically fit for duty by doctors both before and after the termination.

Gammon said if Hodgkins had proved that Newnam was medically disabled, the town personnel policy provides that he should be placed in

an alternative position or medically retired instead of terminated.

Newnam's firing came on the last day of a 60-day probationary period for Hodgkins, during which the board had asked him to investigate the police department, among other tasks. Mayor Pro Tem Mark Silver-Smith had been a particularly vocal detractor of Newnam's job performance.

In his review of the department, Hodgkins had found that there was divisiveness among officers based on differences in law enforcement philosophies, but that Newnam did not appear to be part of the problem.

The only criticism of Newnam raised in the investigation was that he allowed rules and discipline to be administered inconsistently,

including promotions.

Gammon said pressure on Hodgkins by outside sources is "inappropriate" and "an attempt to deny him (Newnam) his First Amendment right to free speech, his right to seek public office, and his right to vote and support those he chooses without fear of retaliation from others."

He went on to say "The power to terminate Newnam in retaliation for seeking public office and challenging (former mayor) Ms. Margaret Broadwell threatens his constitutional rights."

These statements were presented to Hodgkins on July 29 in a document which was released to the press in early August.

## The Morrisville & Preston Progress

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## Morrisville quenches thirst with Bull City water

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water from Durham until May 1, 1999.

Morrisville will then be obligated to buy 80 percent of the one and a half million gallons allocated. Morrisville's agreement with Cary does not obligate it to buy any water, so Morrisville will fulfill its obligation with Durham before buying extra water, if needed, from Cary.

Morrisville now gets up to 1 million gallons of water per day from Cary at a cost of \$1.82 per 1,000 gallons. The contract with Cary also provides that Morrisville will get an additional 2 million from Cary once

the plant is expanded.

Cary, Apex and Morrisville are waiting for a permit from the state for the additional allocation from Jordan Lake before the plant can be expanded.

The state is studying the potential effect of an interbasin transfer from the Cape Fear River basin in to the Neuse River basin, where the North Cary wastewater treatment plant discharges.

On paper, Morrisville is already out of water. Several large apartment complexes, along with some single-family and business development will drink up all the water currently available. More than 1,500 apartment units alone were

approved during 1997, and many are now under construction. In May, the town approved a 1,147-unit mixed use residential development, Parkside, to be located north of Morrisville Carpenter Road near Davis Drive.

The development boom began about a year ago, after Morrisville connected with Cary's sewage treatment plant and began buying up to 2 million gallons of sewage treatment capacity per day in Cary's newly-expanded plant. Until that time, there was not enough sewage treatment capacity for further development.

Hodgkins said although the cost is a little higher, it is better for

Morrisville to get water directly from Durham. Cary staff had worked out the contract that was approved last month, acting on the way they had managed the system in the past, Hodgkins said. Cary has always acted as lead agency for the system. Cary also made a separate agreement with Durham during August.

Kim Fisher, director of public works and utilities for Cary said, "We're all feeling the constraints of a limited water supply. . . . In my personal opinion, it's probably prudent for Morrisville to have an assured water supply for the here and now, which they don't have from Cary."

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