



Ground is broken on the expansion on Nov. 1.

QEA Photo

QEA growing yet again

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Quality Education Academy (QEA) held a groundbreaking ceremony on Nov. 1 to mark the beginning of construction of a 36,000 square-foot addition to the QEA campus, which sits near the corner of Carver School Road and Lansing Drive.

Mayor Allen Joines and Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke joined school leaders and officials from New Bridge Bank, which is financing the expansion, and Davie Construction for the ceremony.

Burke gave very passionate remarks about how blessed the community is to have a long-standing relationship with Carver Road Church of Christ and QEA, which was born from a church initiative. She praised



Students perform at the groundbreaking ceremony.

the church and school for being "so professional, so structured, so well-organized."

The expansion will house new classrooms, an auditorium,

cafeteria, office space and a "Fighting Pharaohs" gymnasium with a state-of-the-art theater stage. The work is expected to be completed by spring 2013.

This is the third expansion for the charter school, which began in 1992 when Minister Cloys Cecil Sr. had a vision to exceed the educational expectations set by traditional public schools. Cecil was on hand for the ceremony and received a rousing round of applause from those on hand.

"I read that someone said this was a factory," Cecil said, seemingly referencing criticism of the school's successful athletics program. "Well it is. It is a factory of excellence! We keep producing excellence every year. Excellence in the classroom. Excellence on the basketball court. A factory for excellence!"

Joines applauded QEA for galvanizing the community and lauded the school as "a strong part of Winston-Salem's fabric."

Beds

from page A6

stress. Sometimes she noticed a "pins and needles" feeling in her hand, but didn't think anything of it. After shaking her hand for a while, the numbness would go away.

A few weeks later, facing the fitted sheet task without her granddaughter to help her, the woman tried for some

time to move the sheet over the mattress without success. When she moved her hand from the sheet her thumb dropped down, limp. That's when she called her doctor, Dr. Mary F. Lyles.

On examination, Lyles saw that her patient had lost most of the ability to perform simple tasks such as tying a shoelace or buttoning a sleeve with her right hand. Suspecting acute

carpel tunnel syndrome, Lyles called on neurologist Walker to perform nerve conduction studies and image the hand using ultrasound. Few physicians have seen what Walker saw in the study.

"High resolution color flow Doppler showed a rare persistent median artery that had blood flow in it in the forearm, but not at the wrist where it was next to a swollen, injured, median nerve,"

Walker said. The patient is among the five percent of people who have persistent median artery, a vessel that usually disappears after birth.

Shortly after her tests, the patient underwent surgery to relieve some of the pressure on the nerve, but her limp thumb persisted. The woman's surgeon advised her to strengthen the thumb by going through the motions of performing

her everyday activities. Even if a patient can't do them, trying the daily tasks can help. Little by little, the strategy worked. At first she was successful picking up a paper clip. When she could open and close a chip clip, she knew she was back to normal. It had taken nearly a year for the nerve in the wrist to grow the new pathways that allowed her thumb to function.

College

from page A1

go home until when they get registration for their kids.

"That has been the passion for all these 20 years in our hearts, how can we provide opportunities for people who want training, they want the education, but they do not have a way of getting it?"

Their school was first licensed and approved by the North Carolina Community College System as Mount Eagle Institute in 2010 to offer two certificate programs in the health care field. After some growth, Mount Eagle became a college this summer and now offers 15 programs, including ones for Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), phlebotomy and massage therapy.

The college has already graduated more than 850 students, who have earned certificates to obtain jobs like EKG technicians and pharmacy techs.

Edward, the college's opera-

tions director, said Mount Eagle has helped the unemployed and underemployed meet the growing demand for jobs in the booming health care industry.

Shallua and Edward met in college and have been married for 15 years. Edward's father is a Moravian minister who trained in the United States and had friends in the Triad. The stories he related about the Twin City drew the couple here.

Edward worked as a nurse at local hospitals and nursing homes. Shallua taught biology at Forsyth Technical Community College. He was asked by Forsyth Tech President Gary Green to start a biotechnology program there. He served as head of the program from 2002 until 2009. Over those years, the program grew rapidly in size and recognition. In 2010, President Barack Obama paid a visit to the Forsyth Tech biotechnology program to highlight it for preparing the workforce for the high tech jobs of the future. Shallua was teaching at



Photo by Todd Lack

Steve Baldwin

Appalachian State University when he started Mount Eagle. He said big colleges aren't for every student and wanted to offer a smaller, more intimate college that provides the type of flexibility, convenience, customization and individual atten-

tion that larger institutions fail to give students.

"There are places that we think we can do better than bigger universities," said Shallua. "Every university and institution has its mission, and we feel we have a unique mission to reach out to areas that might not be in the mission of the existing universities."

Mount Eagle is located in a suite inside a business park on Hanes Mill Road. It has 15 instructors, three classrooms and two labs. As a private college, Mount Eagle doesn't receive money from the federal government and may have tuition higher than its public counterparts. Financial assistance through the Mount Eagle Foundation, loans and payment plans are available to students.

Steve Baldwin said Mount Eagle was a good fit for him. The former truck driver had been dreaming of becoming a nurse for the last 15 years. He has now completed CNA I and II courses at the college.

"It was much more relaxed.

I liked the attention you would get from the instructors, the one-on-one attention. It was just a good fit for me," said Baldwin, who plans to take more courses at Mount Eagle.

Baldwin now works as a CNA at Mount Eagle Health, a home care business, also owned by Shallua and Edward, that employs dozens of the college's graduates. He said he enjoys the work and looks forward to taking his next step towards becoming a nurse.

As a new, small, nontraditional college, Shallua said people sometimes question if Mount Eagle is a real school, but he said with time he hopes the amount of quality graduates it produces will answer that question.

"The best way of letting people know about us is doing the job and doing it right," said Shallua.

For more information about Mount Eagle, visit mounteag.com or call 336-776-0357.

Dignity

from page A6

having an HCPOA is always an end-of-life decision, consider the case of an automobile accident, which occurs without warning and leaves no time to make your wishes known. There needs to be one person assigned to speak with the healthcare professional on your behalf and answer questions regarding your care.

An HCPOA only goes into effect when you cannot make your own decisions. It may be revoked by the person who enacted it at any time. Therefore, if situations change (e.g. divorce or death of an assigned person) someone else can be appointed. If there is no assigned HCPOA, there is a common law progression of decision makers who take over. This starts with the husband or wife, followed by adult children, parents, and then brothers or sisters. Unfortunately, if an individual's wishes have not been discussed with all the family members, each may have a different decision. This may result in chaos, anger, frustration and family division.

Remember: Both a living will and an HCPOA agreement must be signed in the presence of two witnesses and notarized. While this can be done at a lawyer's office, public libraries also have blank forms, and there are many organizations that offer assistance in completing the forms and having them notarized.

Do you need further information, support or have questions or comments about this article? Please visit www.aging-withdignity.org or contact us toll-free at 1-877-530-1824.

For information about the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, please visit: <http://www.wake-health.edu/MACHE>.

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