

# Corbett

From A1

Depending on the day, she will teach elementary, middle and high school students - sometimes combinations of all three.

"I'm busy," she said. "But I am used to it."

Teaching runs in her family.

"There are a lot of teachers in my family," Corbett said. "My dad had sisters that taught, and lot of cousins on my mother's side taught."

Corbett learned from them that teachers are able to make a difference in children's lives.

"They taught me that you can make a difference in someone's life," she said. "Sometimes when kids get off track, you can be the one who has a positive influence on them and get them back on track, whereas otherwise they may not hear it."

Corbett grew up in Garner, and played softball at Wake Christian Academy.

She then went to Peace College and Elon University for softball. She earned her bachelor of science degree from Elon and is a certified K-12 teacher with a biology endorsement.

Corbett started her teaching career at Currituck High School. She taught physical education and coached the softball team to a pair of state championships in 1987 and 1992.

In addition, Corbett started the Knights volleyball team.

"They (Currituck) were looking and it just so happened that I had relatives that lived there," she said. "I applied everywhere and just wanted a job, and they encouraged me to apply there."

Corbett taught at Currituck until 1993. She then took an extended break to get married and start a family - first a daughter, Hallie, now 23, followed by two sons, Wyatt, 20, and Lane, 17.

"When my youngest child (Lane) went to kindergarten, I went back," she said.

Corbett found her way to Lawrence Academy when she and her family moved near the school to help her husband Bill's father with some medical issues.



Lawrence Academy, boys tennis coach Lisa Corbett shows Mason Berry, a first-year junior player, different grips for

ground strokes during practice at the Windsor courts.

JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

"Shortly after moving here, he died," Corbett said. "I didn't want to go back (to Currituck) because I was halfway home. I had heard a lot of good things about this school, and a lot of people from my church sent their kids here, so it made sense for me to work here."

But after such a long break, why return to teaching?

"I just love teaching," she said. "I love kids and love watching them learn."

Corbett had another reason for returning to the classroom.

"I knew I wanted to be involved with my children's education, and I wanted to be on the same schedule my kids were on," she said. "I wanted a job where we have the same holidays and breaks. I wanted to be with them as much as possible."

Initially, Corbett began at LA as a volunteer - first with the PTO and then, with a group called Art Moms.

"At the time they couldn't afford an art teacher, so they had this program called Art Moms," Corbett explained. "You'd come in and do a craft with the kids, and we had a group called Lunch Moms where you are with them and the teachers could have a break. I enjoyed it, it was fun, the teachers appreciated it and the

kids enjoyed seeing me."

With the PTO, Corbett served as president and vice-president and remains a liaison for teachers.

To this day, she still volunteers with the booster club and other groups, as her schedule allows.

Corbett's teaching career at Lawrence started when her youngest was in kindergarten.

"Lane's teacher left after Christmas and they hired me to fill her spot," she said.

During her career at Lawrence, Corbett has taught biology, Life science, horticulture, health and physical education and anatomy. She even helps in the lunchroom doing everything from serving high school and middle school students, to making sandwiches and cooking French fries and chicken tenders.

Corbett started her coaching career through her children.

"When Hallie was in the sixth grade, she wanted to play middle school basketball and they didn't have a team," she said.

"The AD told her if she could find a coach, they would have a team," she said. "Hallie said 'my mom will do it.'"

Corbett coached her daughter in junior varsity basketball and was

the varsity coach for a year.

"When Hallie was in seventh grade she played tennis and then the coach retired, so they didn't have a coach," she said. "My daughter said, 'my mom will coach tennis.' So for a while I was coaching girls tennis and basketball."

Corbett started coaching boys tennis at Lawrence at the behest of her middle son, Wyatt, who tried out but didn't make the baseball team.

"He told me it would be nice if we started a boys tennis team, so we started one and we've had one ever since," she said.

Her youngest son, Lane, is a junior on the team this spring.

So while Corbett's coaching career didn't start the conventional way, she said "I think I would have missed it if my children had not volunteered me, because I didn't turn them down."

Corbett has been involved in education for nearly two decades and has witnessed many changes since she first started in the classroom.

"There is so much more technology now," she said. "We didn't have access to any of that when I started. Computers were still pretty new and you had to learn computer lan-

guage, and there was no Google and no cell phones."

For example, when students wrote research papers, they had to go to the library and utilize the reference materials, Corbett said.

"It was not as easy an access to information as there is now," she said.

How has it affected Corbett as a teacher? She enjoys the convenience but dislikes the addiction to being on-line.

"Let's say if I don't have access to a computer lab, I can ask students to pull out their cell phones and give them what they need to look up that day rather than wait a day to gain access to a lab," she said, "because otherwise we can't use cell phones in class."

"I don't like the addiction part of it," she said. "Students check their phones to see the time, and that's not what cell phones are for. 'Wear a watch - everything has its time and place.'"

Corbett's classes are active and interactive, as explained by one student.

"She is so fun and allows us to do games, but she teaches us very well," said Ashley Featherston, a sophomore biology student. "I am never bored, and it's not like I want to go to sleep in her class -

and I like to sleep."

Though Lawrence Academy draws students from several counties, Corbett believes it is a community school.

"Even though we draw from several communities, when they get here we are all one," she said. "Even though we are not a Christian school, we do promote a lot of Christian moral values and that helps also."

Corbett likens the school and the staff to a family.

"The teachers and administration all get along and everyone is accommodating," she said. "Teachers always will help cover for me if I have to leave, and I have done the same thing for them many times. Everybody helps everybody."

Corbett said the job has been perfect for her.

"I don't know if there will ever be another job like this," she said. "It's been perfect for me because it's close to home, my children will have all graduated from here, and I've worked with some of the best teachers, students and administration that anyone could ever ask for. I wouldn't trade the friends I have made here for anything."

Corbett says she averages between four and five hours of sleep per night.

"Maybe," she said. "There are still household chores to do, which I hate, but they have to be done."

When Corbett does have free time, she spends it with her 83-year-old mom in Garner (her dad passed away in 2010), and many members of the family join her.

"I stay busy there too, because my mom always has this list of things she needs done," she said. "It's a different kind of busy but it's my kind of break - I love being with my family, and I want my kids to know (my brothers') kids."

Corbett admits she has a hard time saying no to anyone who asks for help.

"I usually say if I can work it in, I'd be more than happy to," she said.

# Thwart

From A1

investigating several incidents related to the delivery of drugs and cellular phones to the prison, and began a surveillance operation.

At approximately 10:45 a.m. Saturday, two men were seen on a path leading to the prison grounds, with one of them carrying a volleyball. The two were intercepted by Windsor Police Officers Chris Leggett and Naomi Wiggins.

"The officers spoke to the young men and during the interview, the men began to run," Chief Lane said.

Officer Wiggins was able to secure one suspect while Officer Leggett gave chase, and cornered the second suspect in the yard of

a residence on Cooper Hill Road. He waited for backup by Windsor Police Det. Eddie Hoggard and Cpl. Frank Ratzlaff before taking the second suspect into custody.

"Officer Leggett contacted prison officials and had them check the property for contraband," Chief Lane said. "Prison officials advised they located two volleyballs on the property."

Chief Lane said an investigation of the three volleyballs allowed officers to recover 8.9 ounces of marijuana, 80 Xanax pills, three bags of tobacco and 23 cell phones.

The two suspects in the case - 26-year-old Marquise Robinson of Lewiston Woodville

and 23-year-old Dejuan Deovonte Davis of Woodland - were charged with 23 counts of attempting to furnish cell phones to an inmate, as well as possession with intent to sell and deliver a Schedule IV narcotic (Xanax) and possession with intent to sell and deliver a Schedule VI controlled substance (marijuana). Each was taken to the Bertie County Magistrate's office where he was confined to the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail under a \$100,000 cash bond.

Davis and Robinson are to make their first appearance in Bertie County District Court today (Wednesday).

"I can't speak highly enough about the actions of the officers of

the Windsor Police Department," Chief Lane said. "Several of the officers involved were off duty, but responded to the scene to assist with the arrest and the investigation. Officer Leggett and Officer Wiggins did an excellent job of containing the situation until additional officers could arrive."

Chief Lane expressed appreciation for the work of N.C. Department of Corrections Coastal Region Director Annie Harvey and Dave Millis of Bertie Correctional Institute for their efforts in local investigations.

"These arrests are the direct result of cooperation between the administration of Bertie Correctional Institute and the Windsor

Police Department," Chief Lane added. "This is a great example of how agencies achieve

a common goal when they work together for the betterment of the community."



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