

Bulldogs face off against rival Lexington on the court.

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Lifelong Valentines

Love that stands the test of time

BY ELIOT DUKE

When Margery Veatch wakes up tomorrow and goes into her dining room, it's a good bet a little Valentine's Day card from her husband Roger will be sitting on the table. In return, there's a good chance Roger will enjoy his breakfast with a piece of heart-shaped toast, compliments of Margery.

While void of roses and boxes and candy, the Veatch's still find a way to express their love for one another after 64 years of marriage. In a time where nearly half of all marriages end in divorce, the Veatch's are proof positive that partnerships can still work. It just takes hard work and understanding.

"If you're not a person who is focused more on problems that you have outside rather than inside that helps," Roger Veatch, a retired bio-chemist, said. "We have very different personalities. She is much more intuitive where I am analytical. We always supported each other, no matter what was going on. People are very complicated and many times you don't know what another person is going through."

Margery Veatch, a retired speech therapist, said a key to her marriage's longevity is the ability to laugh and cry with her husband. One of the reasons why marriages fail, Margery feels, is that couples fail to see just how challenging staying together really is.

"Young people expect too much of each other and their marriage," said Margery. "You think it's going to be lovey-dovey all the time and it isn't. When we've had problems, we go at them together and tackle the hard things together. I think that has helped over the years. We admire each other's skills and we have learned to be forgiving."

Roger said it's important to accept a person for who they are and not try to change them. When an argument happens, sometimes the best thing to do is simply "keep your mouth shut." Marriage is all about respecting one another and having the ability to compromise, instead of arguing and making the situation worse than it already is.

"Young people buy into that romantic image," Roger said. "They know they have frailties but they don't want to face the fact someone else isn't going to solve your problems. If you have two people, there's always some negotiating going on. It never ends. "You aren't going to change anyone. Never. We change. I hope I'm not the same person I was at 22, but it's a matter of accepting people and letting them be."

Roger and Margery met in Oak Park, Illinois, in 1942 and married three years later. The couple tied the knot not long after Roger enlisted in the Army during World War II.

"I had to wear my G.I. uniform for the wedding," Roger said. "It was regulation during war time."

Once the war ended, the Veatch's eventually found their way to North Carolina, first living in Chapel Hill before

ending up in Thomasville 12 years ago. With their 65th wedding anniversary on the horizon, the Veatch's are still going strong, and they're doing it together. The couple has four children.

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Avis and Kathryn Tobin met on a double date in the early 1940s. Born and raised in Thomasville, Avis and Kathryn married on Jan. 30, 1945, but like most couples of the time, enjoyed an abbreviated honeymoon.

A week after tying the knot, Avis got word he was shipping out overseas to join in the Pacific front of World War II. He would not see his new bride again for the next 22 months.

"We were issued winter clothing because we thought we were

going to attack Japan," Avis said. "Ships were loaded down with artillery and infantry as we were heading to Okinawa when a typhoon hit. It lasted like six days. Landing crafts were washed up on the beach for two miles."

Before any land invasion could be carried out, the United States ended the war by dropping two atomic bombs on Japan. As part of the occupational forces, Avis went to Hiroshima where bodies still laid in the streets.

"We got old fast with that war going

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Top photo, Roger and Margery Veatch. Bottom photo, Avis and Kathryn Tobin.

Photos/Eliot Duke Graphics/Mary Leslie English



County seeks ways to trim budget

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

LEXINGTON — In a struggling economy, government feels the same tightening of the purse strings as its tax-paying citizens. Davidson County Board of County Commissioners gathered Thursday for its planning retreat to discuss the budget plan and options for cutting back spending.

One option — an early retirement incentive plan for county employees.

COUNTY RETREAT
Find more about Commissioner's Annual Retreat, Page A6.

Essentially, an early retirement plan would offer a monetary compensation to employees who decided to retire before age 65 and save the county money by allowing employers to hire or promote someone to the position at a lower salary or by consolidat-

ing jobs.

"What you've got to emphasize in a program like this is you're not really doing this for an employee," said Board Chair Max Walsler. "You're doing it for the county taxpayers. It's saving for the county taxpayers."

Human Resources Director Jim Tysinger presented the board with a variety of criteria, such as defining those eligible for early retirement as

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Ledford High School teacher arrested for sex offense with student

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

A Ledford High School teacher is facing multiple charges for having a sexual relationship with one of his students.

Scott Edwin Ring, 41, of 936 South Ridge Court in Winston-Salem, was arrested Friday and charged with felony taking indecent liberties with a minor and felony sex offense with a student by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, according to an arrest warrant obtained from the Davidson County Clerk of Courts office.

"I can confirm that the SBI arrested Scott Ring on charges of taking indecent liberties with a student and sex offense with a student," Noelle Talley, public information officer with the N.C. Department of Justice, said in an e-mail to the Thomasville Times. "I don't have any other details to share right now. The investigation is ongoing."

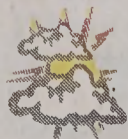
Ring, a science teacher at LHS for the past 12 years, was taken to the Davidson County Detention Center and issued a \$200,000 secured bond. He is scheduled to appear in court on May

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