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CIRCLE

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stay up-to-date from week to week.

"It's a completely different concept," Nelson said. "The joint similarity is it's to encourage parents to have different discipline techniques and improve family cohesiveness. That's the idea behind both."

Topics have ranged from potty training to temper tantrums to separation and divorce.

"The beauty of the program is parents choose the topics that they want to talk about," Nelson said. "It will be interesting to them because they're the ones actually choosing the topics."

Designed as a continuation of parenting classes, Circle of Parents helps reinforce the lessons already learned and apply them in real life.

"Parenting is a difficult task, and these kids don't come with handbooks,"

Nelson said. "It just helps people to talk. We all need to vent."

And having open discussions allows parents to learn from each other.

"A lot of parents have the basic skills of parenting and feel confident in their parental skills but yet sometimes feel frustrated isolated from other parents that might be having similar problems," Nelson said. "The concept of Circle of Parents is to remove the isolation factor of similar parents and give them a place to go and just talk."

Venting and parental support aside, Nelson added that Circle of Parents gives child rearers a breather from their kids and a moment to just relax.

"It's so much fun," Nelson said. "We've had a blast. There's tons of testing that's been done that proves that if people

Food donation offers small reprieve for empty pantry

Until Monday, Fairgrove Family Resource Center was having some pantry problems. Down 80 percent on food donations and smack dab in the middle of the food drive drought — which typically improves around the holidays — Terri Nelson, executive director, said the center had struggled to deal with increasing numbers of those in need.

"We have been close to serving record numbers all summer long," she said.

But Feed the Children — an international charity based in Oklahoma that delivers food, medicine, clothing and other necessities — came to the rescue. Rich Fork Baptist Church sponsored the distribution of food from Feed the Children to 400 area families. The resource center received a portion of that food, enough to fill a 15-foot trailer, Nelson said.

"It was a lot of food," Nelson said. "We got everything you can think of. We'll give it out until it's gone."

To donate, visit the Fairgrove Family Resource Center at 217 Cedar Lodge Road or call (336) 472-7217.

implement what they're taught, they'll really improve their relationship with their kids. We're trying to improve families one family at a time."

For more information about Circle of Parents,

call Fairgrove Family Resource Center at (336) 472-7217.

Staff Writer Erin Wiltgen can be reached at 888-3576 or at newsdesk@twiletimes.com.

Seaman Hurley reports for duty

TIMES STAFF REPORT

Navy Seaman Edward W. Hurley, III, son of Terri and Edward W. Hurley of Lexington, N. C., recently reported for duty at Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center, Virginia Beach, Va.

Hurley is a 2009 graduate of Central Davidson High School of Lexington, N. C. and joined the Navy in May 2010.

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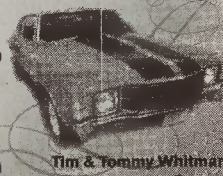
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ASHES

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get a new fuse box. That's when Prince noticed smoke.

He immediately took Morris' mother, wrapped in blankets from the cold, out to the car. Morris went to the bedroom for some important papers and valuables. When she came out, the smoke had advanced down the stairs.

"It was like a ball," she recalled. "You couldn't see how to get out."

Morris made it out onto the porch, but couldn't see the stairs to climb down. By that time, she was coughing from the smoke. A woman who had stopped to help assisted Morris down the stairs.

Soon after, firemen arrived, and Morris joined Prince and her mother in the car a little ways up the street.

"We just sat there and watched it," Morris said. "That's about all we could do."

Though everyone got out safely, Morris escaped with little more than the clothes on her back. Firemen declared the home a total loss, estimating more than \$60,000 in external and internal damages.

Looking back on that

day, Morris says it was hard to wrap her head around what happened.

"Really, you're so shocked," she said. "You know it's real, but it's like it's really not happening. It's really not sinking in."

The Red Cross gave Morris a \$545 credit card, which she used to stay in a motel for a few nights before living with her daughter until summer 2010.

Until recently, the memory of the fire burned too harshly in Morris' mind.

"I couldn't come over here for a long time," she said. "I'd start crying and go all to pieces. It's only been in the last few months when I found out I was getting a house."

And since she moved into the house April 1, 1976, Morris' feelings of loss stem from more than finances.

"When you live somewhere that long, it's home, and it takes a long time," she said. "I guess nowhere else feels like home."

With Habitat swooping to the rescue, however, that might change. Rice says Habitat is in the process of raising money, and construction has already begun. Thomasville High School's masonry class has worked this week on the foundation. The

THS Masonry class — A hands-on work experience

Thomasville High School's eight-student masonry class, led by instructor Dwight Broder, is helping Habitat for Humanity build Virgil Morris' home as part of its national curriculum. Following standards set by the National Center for Construction Education Research, the class offers students the opportunity to receive nationally recognized credentials upon completion. The curriculum is developed based on industry-described standards and is catered toward giving students the skills they need in the workforce.

"The curriculum I teach them is getting them industry-ready," Broder said. "It gives them a heads-up in getting hired."

Habitat provides the class an opportunity to work through the curriculum in hands-on construction. For example, the students must learn how to lay brick and build stairs, so Habitat has acquired bricks donated from Cunningham Brick Co.

"We're providing the classroom," said Greg Rice

high school's carpentry class will erect the framing, and Ledford High School's electrical wiring class also will pitch in.

"We're rocking and rolling with it," Rice said. "It's going to be a real community effort, putting her home back."

The construction process hasn't been without its difficulties, however. An abandoned well was discovered last week — unknown to Morris since the house was built in 1919 — and Habitat had to go through a well abandonment process with the

state to seal it. Also, when the house was torn down, debris fell into the basement, so Habitat had to pay to restabilize the soil with 10 tons of gravel.

"Now that they've got something started, it seems like it won't be long," Morris said. "I'm so thankful for Habitat. I think it's wonderful the way they help people. Without them, I wouldn't be able to have a home."

Staff Writer Erin Wiltgen can be reached at 888-3576 or at newsdesk@twiletimes.com.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Velasquez completes U.S. Navy basic training

TIMES STAFF REPORT

Navy Seaman Jonathan G. Velasquez, a 2009 graduate of Ledford Senior High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Velasquez completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations". This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endur-

ance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and

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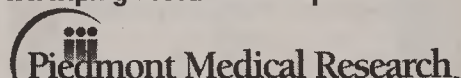
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