

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Podcasts great way to learn when you're too busy to read

During the work week, finding time to sit down and read a good book is hard. Between chores, work, cooking and other daily tasks, it is hard to find a moment to see what happens on the next page.

Usually, there might be that 30 minutes just before bed to read a few chapters, but sometimes you might be exhausted and want to sleep.

Reading, at least for me, is something I can do on the weekend and maybe in the evening before I go to bed. This sort of schedule, unfortunately, does not allow you to achieve that New Year's resolution of reading over 100 books.

Also, at least for me, I need to keep my mind active and constantly have something to contemplate.



JARED JACAVONE

Growing up, I was taught that I should learn at least one new thing daily. It could be as complex as something in philosophy or a scientific concept or as simple as a random trivia fact or skill.

When I sat down to look at my daily schedule, I discovered areas where I could try and learn something, despite how full it can sometimes be. My daily commute offered about 45 minutes of downtime where I was driving and maybe listening to the radio.

Every other day I cook, which is about one or two hours where I can

easily multitask. These and other moments throughout the day allow me to continue my reading. The solution was audiobooks. Using my smartphone, I can quickly peruse the online e-book and audiobook collection that all Pettigrew Regional Library patrons can access.

Now that Overdrive has merged with Libby, I only have to download the Libby app to access thousands of titles you can either read or listen to. If you want to access the collection, you must download the Libby app, select "Pettigrew Regional Libraries," and use your library card number (the last five digits of the number).

Right now, I am working my way through Ron Chernow's Alexander Hamilton.

If I don't want to get deep into a

book and want something relatively brief or episodic, I turn to podcasts. Most podcasts are free, and you can download them to your smartphone through an app such as Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Anchor, Buzzsprout, Google Play, Stitcher and countless others.

As a huge history nerd, I love listening to history podcasts such as Mike Duncan's "Revolutions," Mike Corradi's "A History of Italy," Jamie Jeffers' "British History" podcast, Laszlo Montgomery's "China History" podcast and I just started "The History of Byzantium" podcast.

If I'm in the mood for some good storytelling, I usually listen to "LeVar Burton Reads." As a fan of science fiction and stories that mix genres such as fantasy and horror, Burton reads some of the

latest short stories out there that experiment with writing.

I often find new authors in his episodes that I would never typically consider reading. The possible choices of educationally oriented podcasts are limitless and I find the diversity of subjects ensures that I learn at least one new thing daily.

If you want to fill up those hours with some knowledge or casual reading, give audiobooks and podcasts a try! If you need help getting set up, swing by the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, and we can help you get started.

Have a great week, and we hope to see you at the library!

Jared Jacavone is Librarian at the Shepard-Pruden Library.

PROTEST

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where they discussed strategies for approaching the school board and government officials "to integrate the schools in a way that was not racially infused."

Throughout the South, whites persistently fought against school desegregation, sometimes violently. "The depth of white resistance to sending their children to historically black schools was also reflected in the flames of the dozens of these schools that were put to the torch as desegregation approached," Cecelski wrote.

And when it happened, desegregation was a one-way street: Surviving former Black schools were almost always shuttered; Black and Native American teachers and principals were fired en masse; Black and Native

American students were sent to white schools; and only white teaching styles and school cultures were preserved.

An entire generation of Black principals was "eliminated," Cecelski wrote. And North Carolina was second only to Texas in the number of Black teachers who lost their jobs.

"By 1966 and 1967, few black communities failed to raise objections to school closings and teacher displacement," he wrote. But while other communities in the state had protested, "one of the strongest and most successful protests, the first to draw national attention to the problem, occurred in one of the South's most remote and least populated counties."

Hyde County's community of people of color didn't want to sacrifice everything for integration. They organized

and they committed fully for the long haul.

The meetings centered on "how to successfully integrate the schools so that the people of color don't feel like they've lost all of their traditions and their cultures ... and how Caucasians don't feel this is a bad thing and that they're losing as well," Brown explained.

Mackey was involved with the "Star of Zion Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ," which his father had helped found. As Cecelski's book notes, the church community was intimately involved in not only the organizing and sustaining the peaceful protests, but also in supporting the children's education while they were out of school.

The protesters prevailed despite enormous challenges.

"White politicians in North Carolina opposed

school integration with the same conviction as their counterparts in other southern states, and with more acumen," Cecelski wrote. "In the spring of 1955, the General Assembly resolved that 'the mixing of the races in the public schools ... cannot be accomplished and should not be attempted.'"

To that end, state politicians "engineered a series of legal and administrative barriers to school integration that, although very effective, did not appear openly to defy the Supreme Court."

The Pupil Assignment Act and the Pearsall Plan were two such measures. They shielded the local education boards from potential lawsuits, allowing North Carolina to avoid school desegregation for more than a decade after Brown v. Board of Education — "longer than many school districts in the Deep South and Virginia where

militant resistance to school desegregation had occurred," Cecelski wrote.

And by fall 1967, Hyde County was an outlier in the state, with just three Black students attending classes with white students — the lowest biracial school enrollment in the state.

Not only was white resistance to integration constant, but Black students felt uncomfortable in the white schools. They missed their Black teachers and principals who had served as "their most important role models and counselors," and they missed the high expectations and family-like school atmosphere they were used to, Cecelski wrote.

After years of protests, negotiations and federal pressure, as Cecelski wrote, by the end of the 1969-70 school year, Hyde County officials agreed to keep both the Black schools, O.A. Peay and

Davis, open.

That alone was a remarkable victory in the South, but there were more. Among other agreements, officials decided to keep both the Black schools' principals; preserve the teachers' jobs; hire a Black assistant principal at the historically white Mattamuskeet School; start an African American history class; keep former educator and principal O.A. Peay's name on that school; and allow use of all three of those schools for the Founder's Day and the Homecoming celebrations that had played a big role in Black school and community culture for years.

"These were, in the end, the ultimate successes of the Hyde County school boycott," Cecelski said.

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TRAFFICKING

Continued from B1

"Our goal is to develop an architectural model for web-based technologies that can be used in the future," he continued. "We hope to combine artificial intelligence and algorithms since a majority of sex trafficking exchanges begin online through internet exchanges and on the dark web."

The information can be provided to police, who can conduct their own investigation to determine whether actual evidence of

sex trafficking exists, according to Das.

The two-year project is set to run through June 2024.

Das said sex trafficking can involve people being smuggled into the United States from other countries, but it also occurs within the country itself. People are also taken from one state to another in sex trafficking, he said.

A couple of computer industry professionals also are assisting with the research, according to Das.

The research could be just the tip of an iceberg. Das currently is work-

ing on an application for an even larger grant that would involve both ECSU and FSU.

Das said there are websites that are basically fronts for sex trafficking operations. In addition, sex traffickers also operate within the framework of otherwise legitimate websites, including some online dating sites.

There are thousands of sites online that sex traffickers use to further their operations, Das said.

Das said the research can have practical results helping keep people safe.

"The potential social im-

pact of this technology is great — it will save lives, especially young girls and boys who are often the targets of sex traffickers," Das said. "This could

have a powerful influence on our society and shape future research that can be used to assist other agencies, such as law enforcement training center,

border protection, immigration, and security, and solve other challenges that affect the health, safety and well-being of our communities."

HAYES

Continued from B1

central park right across the bridge," Dixon said.

The main house at Hayes Farm is still currently occupied by the Wood family. It will be off limits to the public until the family completes its move, Dixon said.

But the public can walk around the property and down the old Norfolk and Southern railroad track now, he said.

When officials announced in 2021 that the state intended to purchase the Hayes Farm, they said

the property eventually would provide space for Edenton residents to walk, run, hike, kayak and swim. That is still the intention, officials said.

Hayes is frequently the focal point of discussions about recreation during town council meetings, as councilors discuss how best to incorporate its nearly 200 acres of land into Edenton's existing recreation network.

Recreation will not be the only thing featured at the estate, however. Historical, cultural and horticulture opportunities will abound as well. Volunteer Master

Gardeners led by Marilyn Rutland have been seen working around the farm readying its gardens in anticipation of public access.

Robert Leath, executive director of the Edenton Historical Commission, said a formal announcement about the sale and the future of Hayes will soon be forthcoming from both the state and town. For now, "a few weeks of intensive planning" on how best to preserve and maintain Hayes will get underway.

"We're very excited about the potential of Hayes and what this means for Edenton," Leath said.

COVID

Continued from B1

low, medium or high. In high risk counties, residents are encouraged to wear a suitable mask or face covering while indoors in the public. People who have health conditions that put them at greater risk if they contract COVID-19 should stay away from non-essential indoor public events where

exposure to the respiratory virus is increased. The CDC also recommends people in high risk communities to remain current on their COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters and to get tested if they have symptoms.

In all three risk levels, the CDC recommends residents remain current on their COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters.

According to the center, the number of Pasquotank

residents who have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine is 32,377, or 81.3% of the total population. In Perquimans, 67.8% or the total population — or 9,134 residents — have received at least one dose. In Currituck those numbers are 24,238 residents, or 87.3% of the total population; in Chowan, 11,175 residents or 80.1% and in Gates, 8,123 residents, or 70.3% of the county's total population.

STEINBURG

Continued from B1

stops with them."

Hollowell praised state Rep. Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan, and state Sen. Norm Sanderson, R-Pamlico, both of whom currently represent Chowan County in Raleigh.

Commissioner Alex Kehayes said the board should consider the proposed Steinburg lobbying contract in closed session with the county attorney. The board later tabled discussion of the proposed contract until last week's meeting.

Kirby asked for a motion at the meeting to approve

or reject the contract with Stancil and Steinburg. No commissioner made a motion to act on the issue.

"Hearing (no motion), the issue is closed," Kirby said, moving on with the agenda.

Stancil, who attended the meeting, made no comment and left the meeting shortly afterward.

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