

Hastings plans to seek re-election

N. C. House Rep. Kelly Hastings, (R-Cleveland/Gaston) announced this week he plans to seek re-election to the District 110 seat.

"Since 2011, we enhanced economic security and protected the hardworking taxpayers by cutting government red tape, simplifying the tax code and moving away from punitive income taxes. We improved education by funding education in the classroom and eliminating many unreliable tests; we enhanced public health and safety by passing stiffer penalties for habitual and violent criminals and child molesters," Hastings said in a prepared statement.

In his first and second terms, Hastings said he sponsored many important measures that garnered state and national attention. Laura's Law cracked down on habitual drunk drivers and the Castle Doctrine enhanced Second Amendment rights for law-abiding citizens. Caylee's Law helped protect innocent and vulnerable children.

"If the people of Cleveland and Gaston counties decide to hire me again, I plan to use my experience and seniority to continue the momentum and focus on being the chairman of committees so I can mentor members with less experience," Hastings said.

Kelly served as a chairman of the Energy Independence



Hastings

and Alternative Fuels Committee; he currently serves as chairman of the Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee and the joint House and Senate Committee on Civilian Credit for Military Training and State Adjutant General Selection Criteria.

Hastings also serves on the Appropriations, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Environment, Insurance, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House, Transportation, Wetland and Stream Mitigation, and Joint House and Senate Information Technology Oversight committees.

Hastings is a graduate of Appalachian State University and earned a graduate certificate in teaching from UNCC. He received an Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps and Reserve. Hastings grew up in Cleveland County; he and his family live in Cherryville.

Boyles to teach at Gardner-Webb

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — A man with both a heart for his hometown community and a desire to help future school administrators will transition to the next phase of his successful career with a faculty position at the Gardner-Webb University Graduate School of Education beginning in August of this year, university officials announced Friday.

Dr. Bruce Boyles of Kings Mountain has served as the superintendent for Cleveland County Schools since January 2007 and recently revealed his retirement plans, effective June 30 of this year. But while he lays down his role as the county's top school administrator, Boyles will begin a new journey as associate professor of education for Gardner-Webb, an opportunity that will allow him to expand upon his two years of experience as an adjunct professor for the University.

"Gardner-Webb is really emerging as the leader in preparing school administrators right now," Boyles explained. "When you talk to other school administrators from across the state—and even people from other colleges and universities—there is a realization that Gardner-Webb is doing some things right. There's been tremendous growth over the last few years. To become a part of that was a very, very interesting opportunity for me."

After attending Mars Hill College where he earned a bachelor's degree in music, Boyles taught high school band in Mooresville, N.C. He became acquainted with Dr. Doug Eury (current dean of the School of Education at GWU) when the two were in grad school at the same time at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Boyles transitioned to UNC-Greensboro where he successfully completed his doctoral work.

"Dr. Boyles' experience and background will help our students glean his high-quality organizational skills," Eury offered. "We know he brings to the table a wealth of knowledge, a wealth of experience, and an unrivaled personal work ethic. There's a need for that quality so that we are providing the service that is most beneficial to our students. I think there's a great match between Dr. Boyles' experience and his ability to address the needs of future educators and administrators."

GWU Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Ben Leslie agrees. "Dr. Boyles brings an exceptional level of expertise to the table that will provide an especially helpful resource to our graduate students preparing for careers in curriculum management or administration," Leslie said. "He joins a faculty composed of both ac-



Boyles

complished scholars and seasoned, well-credentialed professionals who have practical experience in the world of public education. His years of experience as an educator, particularly as superintendent of the Cleveland County School district, will be enormously beneficial to our students. Because he knows North Carolina public education from the inside out, our students will be better equipped to carry out their critical role of educating our young people."

While in Mooresville, Boyles served as a teacher, central office administrator, principal, director of human resources, assistant superintendent for instruction, and over six years as superintendent. "When the superintendent position became available in Cleveland County, several friends contacted me and told me it was a great opportunity for me to come home and they felt it would be good for our county. It's been a great ex-

perience. It really has," he said.

After more than seven years at the helm, Boyles made the difficult decision to retire. However, he counts among his successes in Cleveland County a tremendous increase in the graduation rate, the designation of several national blue-ribbon schools, and the completion of new construction projects (including the brand new Shelby Middle School and the conversion of the former middle school building into central administrative office space). "It's a great system. At the end of seven years, I hope I've done what I can to make it better," he shared. "But it has been a team effort; we've had a lot of people working on those things."

Boyles believes there is a need within schools of education for practitioners who can share their experiences and help prepare people for the real world. "I hear from students in the graduate courses that I've taught that really want the practical knowledge," he reflected. "I think that's important. As we evolve through our professional careers, perhaps we can learn from other people's successes or mistakes and do a better job. I'm so thrilled about joining this fine institution and seeing how I can fit in with the great things that are going on here."

Blood & marrow transplant unit first of its kind in region

Carolinas Health Care System's Levine Cancer Institute opened the region's first adult blood and marrow transplantation (BMT) unit Jan. 16.

The new, state-of-the-art unit is part of the Institute's expanding hematologic oncology program, which includes a team of internationally recognized experts who specialize in leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, transplantation and non-malignant hematologic disorders.

"The unit will allow any patients diagnosed with blood cancer throughout the region to receive their care closer to home, without having to drive nearly three hours to centers offering similar services. Hospital stay for transplant patients can often last up to six weeks, so the ability to receive this level of highly specialized care in Charlotte is a "game changer" for both local patients and their families," said Paula Vess, of Market Communication for Carolinas Health Care System, including Cleveland

Regional Medical Center and Kings Mountain Hospital.

In addition to 16 completely refurbished patient rooms, the space will include an apheresis lab for the collection of donor cells; a stem-cell processing lab; exercise rooms and laundry rooms to accommodate family members; a protected, positive pressure environment that minimizes the risk of infection through the continuous filtering of highly purified air.

Dr. Ed Copelan and Dr. Belinda Avalos, who are chair and vice-chair of the Department of Hematologic Oncology and Blood Disorders at the Institute, are overseeing the development of the unit, along with a team of specialists from some of the nation's top-ranked cancer centers.

Leading physicians include Saad Usmani, MD, director of the Plasma Cell Disorders program and director of Clinical Research in Hematologic Malignancies and recruited to the Institute from the University

of Arkansas; Jonathan Gerber, MD, director of the Leukemia program and recruited from John Hopkins University; Michael Grunwald, MD recently joined the Hematologic Malignancies and Blood Disorders Faculty and was recruited from John Hopkins University; and Omotayo Fasan, MD, director of Apheresis and recruited from the Fox Cancer Center in Philadelphia.

"This team of physicians is among the best in the country and brings an unparalleled level of care and expertise to the Carolinas," said Dr. Derek Raghaven, president of Levine Cancer Institute. "Our mission is to provide the best cancer care where our patients live, and the development of this new space is a significant step towards ensuring that there are no barriers preventing our patients from accessing the advanced, high-quality care that they need."

Over the past four months, eight new clinical trials for blood cancers have opened and seven more are expected to be available by the end of February. By the end of 2014 Levine Cancer Institute will be one of the leading sites in the country for HemOnc clinical trials.



CONTEST WINNERS - Jonathan Sayles, left, and Jacob Bell, right, are congratulated by District 23 American Legion Commander Larry Deaver as winners in the District 23 Oratorical Contest Saturday at Post 155. Bell, a senior at Shelby High School and son of Gary and Karen Bell, placed first in the contest and will compete in the Division V contest in Hickory. Sayles is a junior at Thomas Jefferson School.

Photo by LIB STEWART

Goins treats mayor, council to BBQ

Mayor Rick Murphrey and City Council traditionally present appreciation plaques to employees and other citizens but Sunday they were on the receiving end of appreciation plaques and home cooked barbecue with all the trimmings at Second Baptist Church after morning services.

Roger Goins, retired popular barbecue chef, turned out 70 pounds of his own recipe and served it to the visitors and also to members of the congregation.

"I just wanted to say thank you to the mayor and council for a 'good job well done.' He said there was plenty of barbecue for the guests to take home and he added a jar of his own recipe sauce.

Goins formerly owned and operated Rogers' BBQ.



TO PERFORM — George Washington Carver and Friends, with Bright Star Theatre, will perform on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 2 p.m. at Gaston County Public Library. Carol Reinhardt is program coordinator, 704-868-2164 extension 124.

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