

## Public speaks out on superintendent search

The board also discussed the results of a public survey concerning a new school leader

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As members of the public stepped up on Monday to give a second round of feedback about the Cleveland County Board of Education's search for a new superintendent, one main theme became clear: diversity.

Most of the 10 public participants who took to the podium urged the panel to pick a candidate who would foster more minority hiring and promotion, while continuing to "close the gap" between student groups who have historically struggled academically and those who haven't.

Speakers made references to

President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty and aligned that with the struggle in school systems to reach all students, not just the ones from middle class and upper-middle class backgrounds.

"We must use diverse assessments (when picking the best candidate)" said Andrea Leslie-Fite, who said she was a product of

Cleveland County Schools. "He or she should be a team builder ... and someone who is an effective community partner. In the end, we have to select an individual that recognizes that this is a war about closing the gap."

Echoing that sentiment was Valerie Cumberlander, who said that school system has not done a good

job of reaching out to minorities when it comes to filling positions.

"We can do this through more minority job fairs," she said. "We can also have more professional development workshops that focus on subjects important to African Americans. Minorities are under-represented."

See SCHOOL BOARD, 2A

## Causby named new Director of Elections

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Dayna Causby, Cleveland County's new Director of Elections, wears many hats.

Not only did the 33-year-old Rutherford County native take the reins of the elections program in a year that will include key local, state and federal races, but she is a busy wife and mother who home schools her eight-year-old son.

"I'm never bored, something new happens in this office every day and I love it," says Dayna, who says the public may not realize the days of preparation it takes before an election. Currently, the two full-time and three part time employees are busy with plans for the May Primaries and the general election in November, mandated by strict government standards.

As deputy director working with retired director Debra Blanton, she oversaw certain aspects of elections beginning with the November 2012 election and was hired in the deputy's job May 2013.

Causby, who was hired as director by the county board of elections Jan. 1, 2014, said two goals are to increase voter education and upgrade the county's elections website.

"You don't go to school to do elections," Causby said. "You just learn how to do it. It's a fun and challenging position and its success affects the county, state and nation."

Causby said that working in business positions in Rutherford and Cleveland counties gave her some preparation for the task. Personable and organized, she excels in time management and runs her office smoothly and efficiently.

Dayna attended Randolph Macon Women's College in Virginia on a ballet and equestrian scholarship and graduated in 2003 from Gardner-Webb University with a major in business administration. Her mother is a retired school teacher and



Dayna Causby is Cleveland County's new Director of Elections.

her father, Richard Rupp, has taught in the Cleveland County school system since 1986. He teaches technology at Kings Mountain Middle School.

Instead of a classroom, Dayna has 69,000 registered voters in the county counting on her and her staff for accurate results from the polls.

Her other "hats" include helping her husband, Jack Causby, on their working farm in Rutherford County where they raise cattle and harvest six acres of vegetables they sell at three markets on Saturdays and also to wholesale customers.

Evenings after work she home schools their son, Jimmy, and with the help of her mother, Barbara, as his tutor during the day. Jimmy has followed his Mom as a lover of horseback riding but the youngster has been bull riding since the age of 3.

Every Saturday, weather permitting, Dayna and Jack Causby take their son to rodeos and he gets on the back of a 400-pound bull. Rodeoing has taken them to Pickens and Bethlehem, SC, Harmony, NC and Yadkinville, NC during recent months and Jimmy took 10th place in the nation in Mutton Bustin' in Oklahoma competition.

How does a youngster begin a bull riding sport? First, he rides sheep, then cows, and then bulls.

The Causby farm boasts corn up 1-1/2 inches high, and already planted are radishes, turnips, peas, and green beans.

Dayna's father has invited her to give a program to students at the Middle School in Kings Mountain next month about roping skills and protective gear that is needed to ride,

See CAUSBY, 2A



Sara Pasour really uses her head in last weeks match-up against Burns.

Photo by GARY SMART

## Lady Kickers off to a great start!

1B

## Patterson takes over as city's new HR director

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Randy Patterson is settling into his new job as Human Resources Director for the City of Kings Mountain, which employs about 220 people in twenty departments, including the water department, public works, the Mauney Memorial Library and the police and fire departments.

Although Patterson, a Cherryville native, has long experience in human resources, this is his first turn at government work. He succeeds Pat Blanton, who held the job for more than 30 years. Patterson's first day on the job was in late December and since then he's immersed himself in policies regarding insurance and other regulations that keep HR directors busy. He's also quickly grown fond of his coworkers in City Hall and in the other branches of town government.

"This is a good, hard-working group," he said this week in his office, where he



Randy Patterson in his office at City Hall this week. The longtime Cleveland County resident has worked in human resources positions at Impact Plastics and Grover Industries. He's also the pastor of a local church.

keeps a number of horse figurines, art pieces, pictures of his family and a football his father gave him as an infant. "Our city workers are very dedicated."

Patterson, a Presbyterian pastor since 2003, has been married to his wife Debby for 40 years. She's held various jobs in the local school system for more than two decades. The couple has two daughters, Heather and Jen-

nifer, and three grandchildren.

Patterson got his first taste of human resources with Impact Plastics, in Dallas, where he worked from 1973 to 1984. Then, after a run of sales jobs - work he admits was never his cup of tea - he returned to management and human resources, working for the now defunct Grover Industries from 1989

See PATTERSON, 2A

## School's in session Friday

This Friday is a regular school day for Cleveland County School students. The day was originally set as a planning teacher for teachers. But when wintry weather frosted the area in February, administrators had to find a way to make up the missed days.

School was also held on a Saturday two weeks ago as part of that effort to make up lost days. The next bump in the schedule is Monday, May 26, which is Memorial Day. Normally a school holiday, that day is now a regularly scheduled school day for the school system.

## Early voting begins April 29

Kings Mountain voters can mark their May Primary ballots April 29-May 3 in Kings Mountain at Mauney Memorial Library Community Room.

"This will be a convenience for Kings Mountain voters and we appreciate the Library and Mayor Rick Murphrey for this opportunity," said Director of Elections Dayna Causby.

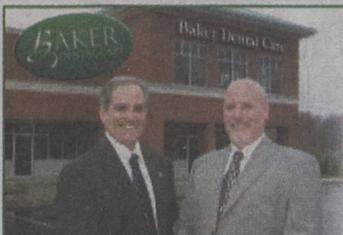
Early voting will begin Tuesday, April 29, from 1-6 p.m. and continue Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 30, May 1 and May 2 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Kings Mountain voters will go to the polls May 6. They will be voting in county races for district attorney and coroner and in state races for U.S. Senate and U.S. House and for non-partisan races for judgeships.

Big races coming up in November will include the race between incumbent Alan Norman and challenger Carl Jensen for sheriff and the race for county commissioner where incumbents Jason Falls and Eddie Holbrook are challenged by Willie McIntosh for the two seats up for grabs.



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