

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Seven vie for Democratic position in Coroner's race

(Ed. Note: Seven Democrats are running for Cleveland County Coroner in the May 6 Democratic Primary: Randy Walker of Boiling Springs; Rick Garver of Lawndale; Tott Griffin, Bruce Arton, and Ovetta Youngblood-Griffin, all of Shelby, and Tommy Carroll of Grover. The winner will face Republican Robbie Morgan of Fallston in November. Four of the candidates responded to questions from The Herald.)

1. Why do you want to be the Cleveland County Coroner?

Rick Garver

I have been actively involved in civic organizations all of my life. Going back to my childhood here in Lawndale, I recall well spending time with my father at the Upper Cleveland Rescue Squad. At an early age I became interested in the life saving efforts the dynamics that go into being that type of first responder volunteer. During this time and as I grew into an adult - I recognized the need and the responsibilities - and even the necessary training that a Coroner would need. They fill a very important position within our community. I wanted to be a part of that team. I wanted to participate in making a difference within my own community.

Tommy Carroll

I would like to have the opportunity to serve the people of Cleveland County in this position because I feel that with my experience and background I am the most qualified candidate. I have experience in law enforcement, experience as a successful business owner, and I have experience with dealing with grieving families at their worst time. I feel that with my experience as a business owner I will be able to continue running this office as a professional business. I feel that with my leadership skills, communication skills, and past experience, I would be a Coroner that Cleveland County will be proud of. As

coroner I do not feel that you must be a licensed funeral director, funeral home owner or an employee of a funeral home because to some circumstances I feel that this could cause a conflict of interest or even interfere with your day to day operations. I am neither a licensed funeral director or an employee of a funeral home and this will make me more ready and available to the people of Cleveland County in their difficult times of need.

Robert S. Morgan

My intention is to run a fair and cordial race with whoever is my Democratic challenger. I truly feel that this office should be as un-political as possible due to the nature of what it is. My qualifications are the best of any candidate that has filed. Here is a synopsis: EMT with Rutherford County Rescue and EMS, Shelby Rescue and Kings Mountain Rescue. Paramedic with Cleveland County EMS. Attended Life University College of Chiropractic with classes in Anatomy and Physiology including dissection of cadavers. Licensed embalmer and funeral director in NC and SC. Bachelors' degree in Business from Gardner Webb University, ANSI Certified Radiation Protection and ALARA Specialist with an active commercial nuclear security clearance.

Randy M. Walker

I feel the coroners office is a service to the citizens of Cleveland County. I would like the opportunity to serve families in need during their time of sorrow. I believe with my experience and qualifications I am the best candidate for the job. I am retired and have the time and energy to devote to the coroners office.

2. What are your qualifications for the job?

Rick Garver

I became a member of the Cleveland

Rescue Squad in 1979 at a young age. I earned my certification as a EMT and spent the biggest part of 20 years working with the Rescue Squad and the Cleveland County EMS. In parallel with this, I have been a sworn Deputy Sheriff in Cleveland County since 1982. I believe that my emergency management background, along with my Sheriff's department background - qualifies me to perform the duties of this position that I am seeking. It is important that the Cleveland County Coroner have a good working relationship with Law Enforcement and Emergency Management personnel. I am confident that I bring this quality to the table and this would only enhance the good standing and team efforts required to do the job that Cleveland County residents require in this position.

Tommy Carroll

I have approximately 13 years in law enforcement serving in different capacities. I have 4 years experience in the funeral industry as a small business owner by providing a professional transportation service to funeral homes. I also provided 6 years of volunteer service to my community while serving as a volunteer member with Grover Rescue Squad as a EMT. I also volunteered a number of years with Antioch Vol. Fire Dept in Blacksburg, SC.

Robert S. Morgan

Owner of Robert S. Morgan, Jr. Funeral Service Licensee, LLC of Fallston, NC. My medical, funeral and radiological background qualifies me significantly better than any other candidate to handle any situation that may arise. My business skills also come into play in dealing with the everyday duties of the job.

Randy M. Walker

I retired from Cleveland County 911 Communications in 2013 with 25 years service. I have a good working relationship in place with Police, EMS and fire departments in the county. I was a certified Emergency Medical Dispatcher and former North Carolina Emergency Medical Technician. I have been an active member of the Boiling Springs Fire and Rescue since 1977. I currently work part time with Cleveland Funeral Services.

3. Give us some background information on yourself.

Rick Garver

I have lived in Lawndale all of my life. My two children (Dustin and Callie) were raised here. I am a member of Lawndale Methodist Church. I served many years on the Lawndale Town Council prior to becoming the Mayor. I am currently serving in my third term as Mayor of Lawndale. I have worked at Duke Energy for 30 years and am currently a Deployment Specialist at the Kings Mountain Training Facility for Duke. I am a member of Lawndale Lodge #486 and am proud to be an Oasis Shriner. I have spend most of my life because of my own passion for building a good future for our young people.

Tommy Carroll

I am 35 years old and this is my first time pursuing a public office. I have lived in the Kings Mountain/Grover area for the last 15 years. I have a 8 year old son that attends west elementary School in Kings Mountain, NC. I feel that with my past experience and qualifications, I am more than qualified to lead the Coroner's office into a new direction, under new professional leadership, and in a way that the citizens of Cleveland County will be honored and proud to call me their Coroner. I am not a professional politician and I will not make any promises that I can not uphold. If selected on May 6, 2014 to continue on to the general elections in November, I pledge to all citizens of Cleveland County to continue running a professional campaign that reflects my visions and plans.

Robert S. Morgan

Most of my competitors are friends and will remain that way regardless of election outcomes! I ask you to simply look at the facts and make the best choice for Cleveland County in November 2014.

Randy M. Walker

I live in Boiling Springs. I married Renee Blanton in 1981. I am an active member of the Flint Hill Baptist Church. My wife and I own and operate Boiling Springs Florist and Lock Tite Storage.

CaroMont Community Challenge set for May 17

Walk, run or bike your way to better health & wellness

CaroMont Health has announced the inaugural CaroMont Community Challenge that will take place on Saturday, May 17 at Forestview High School, 5545 Union Road in Gastonia. In partnership with a number of community groups in Gaston County, the run, walk or bike event aims to inspire the community to be healthier in a fun and enjoyable way. Proceeds will benefit Gaston County Schools' robotics program, a school initiative that teaches

students skills in science, technology and math.

"Health and wellness is our mission at CaroMont," said Doug Lockett, President and CEO. "We want to lead the charge in taking health and wellness to a higher level for our community through a fun, interactive and educational experience."

Poor health is no stranger to Gaston County, 79th out of 100 counties in North Carolina according to new health rankings in the 2014

County Health Risk Assessment. The growing number of obesity rates, as well as high levels of type II diabetes and other chronic disease, show there's still is a lot of work to be done to get the community healthy.

"Taking care of your health is so important, but we understand in order to motivate people to change behavior, you have to make it accessible, attainable, and worthwhile," said Lockett. "We want to take this same philosophy out into the com-

munity."

The Community Challenge offers a one-mile fun walk, 5K, 39- and 50-mile bike rides, and family-friendly festival all rolled into one. Regardless of anyone's activity level or interest, there is a portion of the event for everyone to enjoy.

Each race will start and finish on the campus at Forestview High School. The bike rides will start the Challenge off early at 7:30 a.m., followed by the 5K at 9 a.m. and the one-mile fun walk at 10 a.m.

To train for the Challenge, CaroMont is offering a Couch to 5K running and walking program every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at Martha Rivers Park, 1515 Neal Hawkins Road in Gastonia, from now until May 10. The training programs are designed to get anyone from the couch to running—or walking—a 5K in just nine weeks. While the running portion is already underway, people can join a walking

session on any Saturday.

To learn more about how to train for a 5K or for more information about other training programs being offered, visit caromontcommunitychallenge.org.

Registration fees are \$20 per person or \$75 for a family rate (4 or more) for the 5K and \$25 for the 35 or 50-mile bike race before April 15, with rates increasing thereafter. The one-mile fun walk is free to all participants and is not timed. Race registration is available online at caromontcommunitychallenge.org or can be mailed to CaroMont Community Challenge, 1700 Camden Rd., Suite 101, Charlotte, NC 28203. Bike participants get a t-shirt and virtual goody bag. Cycling shirts will also be available online for purchase.

The event is expected to draw a large crowd, so volunteers are welcomed for a number of positions—registration, water station, bike ride sweepers and more. Volunteers should register in

advance online at caromontcommunitychallenge.org.

Designated sponsorship opportunities are also available online.

To learn more about the CaroMont Community Challenge, please visit caromontcommunitychallenge.com or the event Facebook page, www.facebook.com/events/48515067

Crabb in concert May 15

Grammy award winning Gospel artist Jason Crabb will be singing at Daystar Family Worship center, 115 Industrial Park Dr., Lincolnton at 7pm on May 15th. Tickets are \$10 with limited availability and can be obtained via the church web site www.daystarnc.com

Hot Rods for Honduras

Chapel Grove Baptist Church will sponsor Hot rods for Honduras Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. for benefit of its Honduras mission trip. All vehicle types are welcome. There will be food, door prizes, 50/50 drawings, vendors, music, crafts and more. New this year is a 5K run for Honduras starting at 7 a.m. For more information call Gary Gregg at 704-913-3223 or check the website for more details: www.chapelgrove.com. The church is located at 716 Camp Rotary Road in Gastonia.

Auction!

Saturday, May 3 • 10am

Yard Sale All Day Friday - May 2 - starts at 8AM

706 E. King St. (Hwy 74 Bus.), Kings Mountain

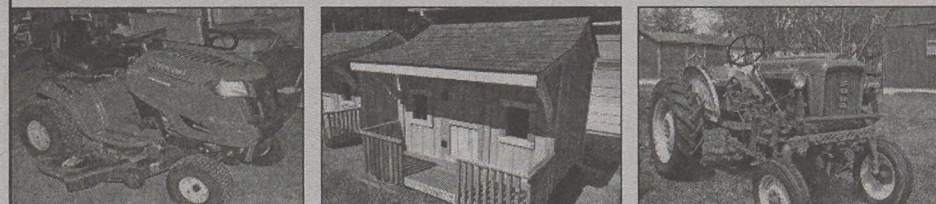
All Proceeds to Benefit the Honduras Mission Program

First Baptist Church

of Kings Mountain

(Chris & Donna Keeter Missionaries)

New Items Arriving Daily!



Check out some of these items at www.auctionsunlimited.us for more info call 704-600-5495



Happy Birthday

Mary Wood!

Then, and now, you will always be our 'birthday girl'!

We love you