



MILES BATES / Dispatch staff

Fifth-grade math teacher Elizabeth Brown (center) helps Ashlyn Allen, while Armani Ragland (to her right) and Ameashia Moses (foreground) work in class at C.G. Credle Elementary School on Friday. C.G. Credle Elementary School will shift to become a leadership and wellness choice school in the 2018-19 school year.

Regional broadband study underway

BY RACHAEL RILEY
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In November, Vance County Commissioners agreed to enter into an agreement to participate in a regional broadband study with Granville and Franklin counties. Mighty River LLC was retained though the Kerr Tar Regional Council of Governments as the study's consultant.

The process of conducting surveys to identify Vance County's needs is underway, Joe Freddoso, chief operating officer of Mighty River, told commissioners this past week.

"We've got a good idea of where there is no service in the county and where there is inadequate service in the county," Freddoso said, based on resident surveys. "But we're also now surveying businesses to figure out if there are gaps in their areas between what they need for broadband service, what they need for internet service and what they have today."

Mighty River is also mapping assets of county- and city-owned buildings and towers, or assets around the counties.

Both entities have broadband needs, Freddoso said.

"So we're looking at how you get broadband to county offices to the school district and other things," he said.

Once the data gathering is complete, officials will have a better idea of service gaps in the county.

"And then we'll ask providers to respond to those gaps. Can they improve service? What are their plans for investment, if they're already here, or are there new players that want to come in and serve your underserved areas or unserved areas of the county," Freddoso said.

The providers will submit responses that officials will evaluate during an expected September or October time frame.

Mighty River has worked with about 15 to 20 similar rural counties across the country, Freddoso said.

In working with Person County and speaking to downtown merchants in Roxboro, Freddoso said employees at doctor's offices were getting up at 4 or 5 a.m. to transfer radiological images to Duke.

The employees were unable to transfer images during the day, when networks were too congested, or broadband from providers wasn't adequate enough.

"The more situations you have like that in a community, it really stunts job growth. It stunts services to citizens, and it becomes very, very difficult for businesses to scale and to attract job growth," Freddoso said.

The process of conducting surveys to identify Vance County's needs is underway, Joe Freddoso, chief operating officer of Mighty River, told commissioners this past week.

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C.G. Credle Elementary to shift into a leadership and wellness choice school

BY MILES BATES
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C.G. Credle Elementary School is becoming a leadership and wellness choice school.

During last Monday night's Granville County Board of Education meeting, the board approved a motion to approve the school as a leadership and wellness choice school.

"We are very excited that the Board of Education has provided the opportunity for parents to be able to choose C.G. Credle regardless of where they live,"

C.G. Credle Elementary School Principal Julie Finch said in an email.

The choice will be available to all students for the 2018-19 school year, said Stan Winborne, executive director of operations, human resources, communications, and safety.

At last Monday's meeting, Finch spoke about what they hoped to achieve by focusing on leadership and wellness at the school.

Finch said they hope to decrease incidents of discipline, increase student achievement and

then to increase leadership capacity among the teachers, students and parents, she said.

She said they want to build leaders within their school community and find the "greatness" in everyone.

When Finch got to the school in 2015-16, there was a "significant" amount of teacher turnover, she said. Teachers were leaving in the middle of the year. Also, discipline wasn't good and neither was student achievement, Finch said.

"And so I knew that in order

SEE SCHOOL/PAGE A8

Candidates focus on drug issues in sheriff primary

Incumbent Vance County Sheriff Peter White announced his retirement in March, after holding the office for 12 years. Vance County will be one step closer to White's replacement after the Democratic primary on May 8.

Democratic candidates include Curtis Brame, Melissa Elliott and Billy Gooch, one of whom will be facing lone Republican candidate Charles Pulley in November's general election.

All three Democrats spoke with The Daily Dispatch about the upcoming race and their replies are paraphrased here.

<p>CURTIS BRAME DEMOCRAT</p> <p>Curtis Brame, 55, has 33 years of law enforcement work and 32 of them were spent in various roles with the Vance County Sheriff's Office, where he retired from in 2016.</p> <p>How long have you lived in this area? Native of Vance County and have resided in Vance County for 55 years.</p> <p>Why are you running for office? It was my dream to become a Vance County deputy sheriff.</p> <p>SEE BRAME/PAGE A8</p>	<p>MELISSA ELLIOTT DEMOCRAT</p> <p>Melissa Elliott is currently a Henderson City councilwoman and founder of Henderson's Gang Free Inc., an organization that empowers and educates at-risk youth.</p> <p>How long have you lived in this area? I have lived in my hometown of Vance County for the last 13 years. I spent my youth in Vance County, as my family moved here when I was 13 years of age. As an adult, I moved</p> <p>SEE ELLIOTT/PAGE A8</p>	<p>BILLY GOOCH DEMOCRAT</p> <p>Billy Gooch, 37, spent nearly 16 years with the Vance County Sheriff's office before resigning as a sergeant in August, 2017, in order to begin his campaign for sheriff.</p> <p>How long have you lived in this area? I was born and raised in Vance County and I have lived here for all 37 years of my life.</p> <p>Why are you running for office? I am seeking office of the Sheriff because</p> <p>SEE GOOCH/PAGE A8</p>
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Weather

TODAY
Sunny
High: 60, Low: 42

TOMORROW
Partly Cloudy
High: 75, Low: 58

Details, A2

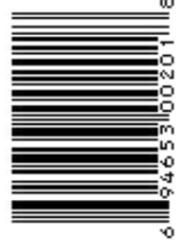
Deaths

Henderson Bettie Gales, 87	Raleigh Edna C. Tingen, 87
Kittrell Betty H. Hedgepeth, 93	Warrenton Elizabeth M. King, 89
Queens, N.Y. Pearlene E. Branch, 85	

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BRAME

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

working where I was born and raised. I always looked forward to applying the self-respecting morals and dignity my parents instilled in me. I have compassion and concern for the welfare and safety of the citizens. With 33 years of experience, I have the necessary skills and training to be sheriff. I'd love to continue serving and meeting the needs of our citizens, and address the issues and concerns that have kept some of our citizens frozen at home, unable to enjoy the great things this county has.

What do you see as the most important issue in this election?

My intentions are to address violent crimes, school shootings, school bullying and intimidation. Our



CURTIS BRAME

neighborhood crimes, including random and targeted crimes, will be brought under control allowing citizens to take back their communities. The serious drug issue that is keeping our county stagnant will also be tackled. With the ability to hire more qualified deputies this will certainly decrease response times to calls. Also, I plan to work closer with the criminal justice system to implement harsher and longer sentences

and penalties for offenders. Also, more resources to assist with the substance abuse problem that has plagued this community.

What do you think distinguishes you from your fellow candidates?

Currently I'm the only candidate for Sheriff who is a sworn certified law enforcement officer. In my 33 years of my law enforcement career and continuing education, I have served the public for 33 years, as a deputy, sergeant, lieutenant and captain. Worked in every division within the sheriff's office, including, supervisor over patrol shift sergeant, patrol squad lieutenant, narcotics lieutenant, child support lieutenant, crisis intervention team, lieutenant and patrol captain for the command staff.

GOOCH

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

I am tired of seeing the community I was born and raised in spiral downhill due to violence and drug problems. The department has lost a lot of good deputies to other counties due to certain leadership roles and low morale within the department. Through accountable and responsive leadership I can restore a sense of pride and dignity within the department which will make it function more properly and efficiently.

What do you see as the most important issue in this election?

The most important issue I see in this election is the drug epidemic we are having



BILLY GOOCH

in our community. We are seeing a lot of other crimes being committed due to this problem ranging from murders, assaults, break-ins, larcenies, as well as other petty crimes. If we could get the drug problem under control I know the crime rate would steadily drop and would make our county strive again.

What do you think distinguishes you from your fellow candidates?

I am young, energetic, honest, and approachable. I don't believe in being a paper-pusher. I will be a working Sheriff who is proactive and visible. I have dedicated 15 1/2 years to serving the citizens of Vance County. Even as a supervisor, I have served search warrants, executed drug raids, investigated crime scenes, worked murder investigations, etc. I know what it will take to make the department run more efficiently. Being Sheriff is more than just a title to me, it's about being a strong leader for our community and ensuring that the citizens in our county feel safe.

ELLIOTT

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

away and lived in the Tidewater Region of Virginia and Northern Virginia area before returning home.

Why are you running for office?

I'm running for sheriff to better the community in which I live and serve by implementing innovative strategies to increase the safety in our community and bring greater quality of life to all citizens. As a young girl, I felt compassion towards others' needs and as a young woman acknowledged there was a great call of "leadership" on my life. Now, I'm a community champion who embraces the call of God to bring change in areas that seemingly are difficult. I'm grateful and honored to be considered to serve the citizens of Vance County in the capacity of Sheriff.

What do you see as



MELISSA ELLIOTT

the most important issue in this election?

The most important issue in this election is the "community." Community is defined as a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. Community is most important to me as it relates to the people who are served through this election. Working together, we as a community can collectively bring rewarding outcomes for all — by moving the needle forward towards the reduction of crime — whether it be gun violence, domestic violence, drug trafficking & addiction

and/or property crimes.

What do you think distinguishes you from your fellow candidates?

I'm a woman who fears God and is accessible to all. I've proven my loyalty and dedication in this community as one who hurdles over challenges and yields positive results. I have the educational background, unmatched by any other candidate, making me uniquely qualified in crime prevention. My bachelor's degree and post master's in criminal justice, and master's degree in public administration allow me to demonstrate knowledge and skills pertinent to leading this office. My background includes gang resource officer and Vance County Sheriff's Office jail liaison, 911 dispatcher, correctional case manager, correctional officer and gang intel committee with NCDPS.



MILES BATES / Dispatch staff

Donald Johnson, who teaches fourth-grade reading, works with students in class Friday. Students were working on text structure, summarizing and main idea.

STUDY

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

With pockets of the county with no service or inadequate service, and service in the core business area not scaling well to needs, Person County received responses from seven service providers.

Person County already had plans to build two towers for public safety in the county's capital improvement plan, which could be used to hang broadband equipment on, and had an agreement with the state to allow commercial providers to hang wireless equipment on two state towers.

The county offered \$250,000 in incentives to a wireless provider to be paid as a reimbursement, once residents signed up

for service.

Person County Commissioners decided not to pursue fiber in the home, as one provider wanted \$4.5 million in incentives and another requested \$19 million.

A construction company offered to build about 50 miles of fiber between the county's four towers. Person County's commissioners decided to invest about \$3.1 million to own that fiber and later offer access to it to a commercial provider.

The investments, Freddoso said, allow for wireless reach to underserved and unserved areas of the county, fiber connecting county and city offices and enhancing public safety.

Vance County Commissioner Archie Taylor questioned if the county owning fiber is "normal." Freddoso said Person

County officials decided if it paid \$4 million or \$19 million in incentives to providers, it risked "not having anything to show" if the provider didn't perform over time.

The \$3 million was spent to attract providers, while the county owns the underlying asset, Freddoso said.

Taylor indicated he's not sold on the idea.

Though there is the possibility of leasing to providers and gaining revenue from allowing commercial providers to lease equipment, Freddoso said he told Person County commissioners he does not think the return on the investment will recover the full \$3 million in capital costs.

"I think you've got to do it for the reasons of getting better broadband service out to the public," Freddoso said.

Report: North Carolina hospital misdiagnosed more cancer cases

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINSTON-SALEM — A report on cancer misdiagnoses at a North Carolina hospital says three patients underwent treatments only to learn they didn't have cancer, while another who did have cancer was initially declared cancer-free.

The Winston-Salem Journal cites a report that says at least 25 patients had faulty pathology laboratory test results at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services review says two patients underwent lumpectomies and radiation and one underwent a lumpectomy and mastectomy before learning they didn't

Medicare officials say 19 had erroneous test results that didn't ultimately affect treatment. An initial report had only identified four potentially misdiagnosed patients.

have cancer.

Medicare officials say 19 had erroneous test results that didn't ultimately affect treatment. An initial report had only identified four potentially misdiagnosed patients.

The hospital has until Thursday to submit a corrective plan to CMS. Inpatient Medicare billing privileges could be suspended if issues aren't resolved.

SCHOOL

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

for us to do anything with Credle at that time, that we had to do three things: one, I had to decrease teacher turnover significantly, because if you can't get staff to stay with you, you can implement any process or whatever you want, but your culture's not going to change, cause every year you're retraining people," she said.

Finch also said she knew they had to decrease incidents of student discipline in order for the school to have a chance to be a school that could succeed for students.

They had 874 referrals the year prior to

them coming there, which has decreased by 25 percent.

"That's OK, but that's still not great because that means students are out of the classroom and not in the classroom learning ...," Finch said.

Of classroom teachers, there was a 63 percent teacher turnover, which "significantly" dropped to 11 percent, Finch said. Now she feels like they've got a "good stable" staff and they are ready to move forward to do the next thing.

Their mission is to develop leaders one teacher and one kid at a time. They will begin their journey by implementing the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, based off the business and self-help book of the

same name written by Stephen Covey.

Therefore, the school's students will start to develop and "strengthen" their independent and interdependent skills. Also, students will learn how to work collaboratively with others, lead discussions and be "self-reliant" learners and leaders.

When people walk into the building, Finch

wants everything to be rooted in the overall culture of the school where it's the students, staff, teachers, the front office — everybody who walks the halls — will not only be trained in seven habits, but will live the seven habits.

Leaders from her leadership team told those at the meeting last week about the seven habits.

The habits include:

be proactive; begin with the end in mind; put first things first; think win-win; seek first to understand, then to be understood; synergize; and sharpen the saw.

The last habit fits right in with CATCH — Coordinated Approach to Child Health, Finch noted.

"And we all know the growing numbers of children facing obesity, diabetes, asthma

and other chronic illnesses ... at younger ages, the time for action is now," she said. "And so, in combination with the CATCH program, to make all students MVPs, to move and stay active, to value healthy eating and practice healthy habits, that is why we would like for an approval to become a super choice school for leadership and wellness."


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