

THE HERALD

Friday, May 25, 2007

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934-2176

Single copy 50¢

In Kenly: Town reformer receives state's highest honor.

INSIDE, PAGE 4A

Teen's memory lives on

Cleveland artist honors friend's son by creating a sculpture of him as a child.

FEATURE, PAGE 1D

High school baseball:

Princeton takes a 1-0 lead in the Eastern Regional Series.

SPORTS, PAGE 13A



Employee suspected of stealing from law firm

By JORDAN COOKE
STAFF REPORTER

SMITHFIELD — A former employee of Spence & Spence law firm has been charged with stealing money from the practice, a State Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman confirmed.

A grand jury indicted Patsy Narron of Middlesex on May 14 on four counts of lar-

ceny by an employee and 10 counts of obtaining property by false pretenses, court records show.

SBI spokeswoman Noelle Talley said Narron turned herself in to agents two days later.

She was released from the Johnston County jail after posting a \$250,000 unsecured bond.

Talley said the Johnston County District Attorney Susan Doyle could not be reached for comment.



Narron

Narron's attorney, Doug Parsons of Clinton, was also unavailable. Attorney Bob Spence, for whom Narron worked for much of the past decade, declined to comment on the matter.

year period, Talley said.

District Attorney Susan Doyle could not be reached for comment.

Narron's attorney, Doug Parsons of Clinton, was also unavailable.

Attorney Bob Spence, for whom Narron worked for much of the past decade, declined to comment on the matter.

The charges against Narron mark the second time in recent months she has found herself in legal trouble.

Narron is also among more than a dozen defendants named in a civil suit filed in U.S. District Court in April.

Dawn J. Higgins of Virginia said in the lawsuit that Narron conspired with oth-

ers to defraud her of thousands of dollars in an elaborate mortgage fraud scheme.

The case has not yet been resolved.

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Library would open new chapter

By SUZETTE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF REPORTER

CLEVELAND — When Ann Blake moved to the Cleveland community two and a half years ago, she looked around for the public library.

There wasn't one — at least not close by.

She and her husband, a retiree, settled in western Johnston County to be near their grandchildren in Cary and Holly Springs. To stay active, she did some tutoring, took a part-time job at the Sleep Inn and got involved with the local Chamber of Commerce.

As Blake met people and made friends, she asked what they thought about starting a local library. Feedback was so positive that she began looking into getting one built.

For the next several months, she researched grants, talked to school ad-

See LIBRARY, page 5A



Lauren Williams brushes resin onto a tabletop that will be placed at The Coffee Mill.

HERALD PHOTO BY KATHERINE HIGGINS

Student artists give furniture needed facelift

By KATHERINE HIGGINS
STAFF REPORTER

CLAYTON — Over the past seven years, the barstools and tabletops at The Coffee Mill on Lombard Street have endured a lot of hot coffee and muffin crumbs, and it

showed.

Jane Roberts, an art teacher at Clayton High School, had a group of students paint designs on the business' furniture seven years ago. When it was time to update six tabletops and three barstools recently, the

restaurant's owners called Roberts again.

"The designs were starting to get worn off from so much use," Roberts said.

A handful of seniors in Roberts' crafts class submitted drawings for new looks, and The Coffee Mill's owner

Jodi Sager selected nine colorful designs.

Among the creations are a tabletop with a Dayglo version of Andy Warhol's "Marilyn" on a black-and-white checkerboard, and one with

See ART, page 5A

Hospital to add radiation therapy

By SUZETTE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF REPORTER

SMITHFIELD — Johnston Memorial Hospital plans to open a radiation oncology clinic at the Medical Mall in April 2009.

In February, state regulators gave approval for the public hospital to buy a \$2 million linear accelerator, which emits the radiation used to shrink cancerous tumors. To make room for the clinic, the hospital plans to renovate and upfit 5,000 square feet in the mall basement.

In all, the project would cost about \$4.8 million.

"We're pleased that we're going to be able to bring to Johnston County a service that saves lives," said Kevin Rogols, the hospital's chief administrator. "Half the patients diagnosed with cancer require radiation intervention during the course of the disease."

Rogols said the hospital wants to buy a 2100-megavolt machine, which is powerful enough to treat deep-seated tumors. Patients who have

See CANCER, page 5A

Customers pick their crop

By SARAH McNEIL
STAFF REPORTER

SMITHFIELD — Susan Taylor thinks that finding her new business spot was destiny.

"I was talking to my husband on my cell phone one day, and I pulled over on the side of the road because the connection was bad," she said. "When I looked up, I saw the 'For rent' sign on the window. It was almost like it was meant to be."

Taylor opened Susan's Pick of the Crop, an old-fashioned country store, May 11 on West Market Street. The business sells fresh fruits and vegetables from Johnston County farmers. Produce that is not in season

comes from Raleigh's Farmer's Market every few days.

Cleveland bakery Desserted provides homemade jams and jellies, including muscadine preserves and zinfandel wine jelly. The store also sells homemade pepper relish, bread and butter pickles, apple butter, sweet watermelon rind and chow chow.

Kathy Crank sells homemade cakes and pies at the store on Fridays and Saturdays. Customers can choose from 10-layer chocolate, lemon pound, strawberry, German chocolate, pineapple and coconut cakes. Cakes for various occasions, such as birthdays, weddings and graduations, can be ordered, too.

At the store, two refrigerators

See STORE, page 5A



Faye Strickland Robinson picks out tomatoes at Susan's Pick of the Crop store in Smithfield.

HERALD PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCLOONE

Driver gets 10 years in fatality case

By JORDAN COOKE
STAFF REPORTER

SMITHFIELD — Cayetano Flores will spend at least a decade behind bars for an accident that claimed the life of an unborn child and left a 5-year-old boy with permanent injuries, a judge ruled on Tuesday.

Flores, 21, had been charged in a fatal collision on Buffalo Road in February that left five people seriously hurt and killed a child Maria DeJesus Hernandez was carrying.

The crash also left Hernan-

See CRASH, page 5A



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