

# The Roundtable

Lake Norman Charter High School's Official Newspaper



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## Welcome to the April/May Edition!

By: Lindsey Moore

Welcome to the last edition of the newspaper! Before you know it, you'll be done with all of your AP exams and finals, and the year will be over. Make sure you take care of yourself in these last few weeks of school; don't let end of semester stress get to you! Thank you for being such great readers; have a great rest of your semester!

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### A DOMINANT SEASON

Lady Knights Soccer had a pretty great season!

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An interesting review of the gun violence panel at UNC- Chapel Hill.

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### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Look into the lives of past LNC teachers!

## Ways to Save the Earth!

By: Lindsey Moore

Though we have one designated day to celebrate our beautiful planet (April 22, in case you missed it), we should use every day to celebrate and protect the earth we call home. Here are a few ways you can help save the planet:



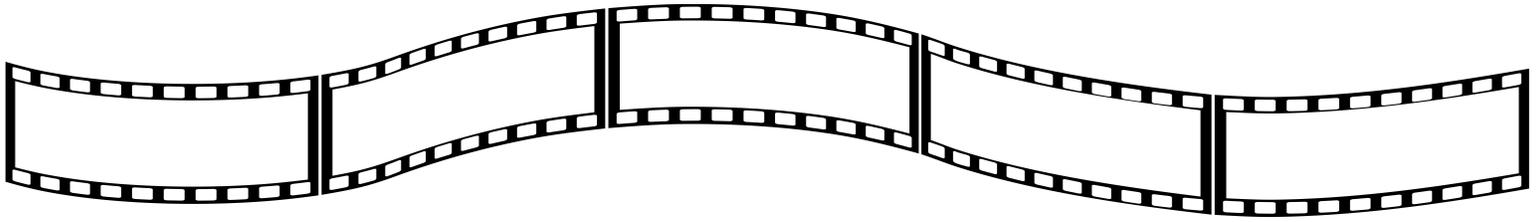
1. Recycle! There are plenty of recycling bins around in public these days, so make sure to properly dispose of your paper, plastic, and aluminum trash!
2. Take shorter showers! Reducing your shower time by a couple of minutes can save gallons of water.
3. Compost wasted food! Compost can provide great nutrients for a garden, and it reduces the amount of trash going to landfills.
4. Drive less! Think about taking public transit, walking, or carpooling to work or school to reduce greenhouse gases.
5. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs instead of standard bulbs to save energy and money!
6. Turn off lights and unplug appliances when they are not in use! This also saves energy and money.
7. Use less fertilizers in your garden! Going more natural is better for both you and the environment.
8. Get out into nature more! Got take a hike or walk with some of your friends and family Seeing the beauty of earth first hand will make you more likely to want to save it!

## Adventures, Adventures, Adventures!

By: Brynn Cleveland

Hello all! Recently I've been pretty bored so I thought I would bring some fun adventure ideas to you! I cant go to all the places I wish just yet, but I'll get my license soon enough. I will start with small activities to spice up your day then reach the movie worthy experiences!

- go outside, just enjoy the fresh air :)
- learn something new, whether it be a new word, the alphabet in a new language, instrument, or a skill
- make a change to your living space
- try a new restaurant
- try out a new recipe
- drive to the city and look at all the buildings and graffiti.
- go with a friend to the graffiti walls and model in front of them!
- dress up and act like a whole new person for a day
- ask someone who you're not friends with to hang out :)
- do something to progress you towards your life passion
- take a night drive, windows down, and your favorite music playlist playing
- plan a day trip with your mains:)



Check out the full article at: <https://incroundtable.wordpress.com/2018/04/23/adventures-adventures-adventures>

## Movies in Theaters!

By: Hannah Gorski

### A Quiet Place (PG-13)

In this new horror thriller, *A Quiet Place*, the Abbott family lives in a dystopian world where any sound is hunted and killed. This family struggles to survive in this terrifying world and must attempt to find a way to defeat their killers. This family of four struggles to navigate their lives in a silent world and put their lives at risk as they search for the solution to this terrifying problem. This film keeps audiences on the edge of their seats the entire time and has gotten great reviews so far.

### Blumhouse's Truth or Dare (PG-13)

Another thriller in the movies, *Truth or Dare* tells the story of teenage kids that become trapped in a game of Truth or Dare. If someone tells a lie or if they refuse a dare, they are punished. No one knows who, or what, may be behind this terrifying scheme, but these teens put their lives in jeopardy as they become trapped in a seemingly never-ending cycle of Truth or Dare. Produced by the same company that made movies such as *Split* and *Happy Death Day*, this thriller is sure to keep audiences on the edge of their seats.



### Ready Player One (PG-13)

This film takes place in 2045, in which the world is on the brink of collapse. Society finds comfort, though, in a virtual reality experience called OASIS. When the creator of OASIS dies, he creates a challenge for all users of his VR to find an Easter Egg that he has hidden in his world. The one who finds it will inherit all of his fortune. The film focuses on the story of a boy named Wade Watts, who decides to enter the contest and is, in turn, thrust into a world full of twists and turns on his adventure to find the treasure. Based off of a very popular novel and directed by Steven Spielberg, *Ready Player One* expects very successful box office numbers.

## A Dominant Season

By: Melvin Harris

This year's Girl's soccer team is having one of their best seasons in a while. Their success can be partially attributed to one of their leaders, Ayden Yates.

Yates is a sophomore who plays forward. She leads the team in goals scored and points. She is also second in assists per game.

Yates believes the difference between this year's team and last year's team is the technical aspect of the game.

"Our entire team and I grew with the ball at our feet compared to last year. We are much more comfortable with the ball and are able to get out of tight situations" said Yates.

The ability to make plays with the ball at their feet has been key to winning this season. However, a coaching change has made a big difference for their team.

Yates said, "Our new coach, David, is amazing. His love for the game is priceless. He comes to practice ready to coach and makes us better like there is no tomorrow. He is the main reason we have gotten as far as we have".

This year LNC moved on from the Big South 2A/3A Conference and into a new one, South Fork 2A Conference. It seems like they enjoy playing in this new conference because they are 11-0 against their opponents. Ayden believes being new to the conference serves as an advantage for them.

"I think the biggest factor to our dominance is that we are in a new division meaning we have to come out strong every game because we are unaware of their talent. We take each game one



by one and make sure we finish out on top" Yates said.

The Lady Knights have won all of their games outside of one, which they tied Cox Mill 1-1. They are currently ranked third in the state for 2A girls soccer and have the ability to go all the way in the playoffs. Nevertheless, winning states has been on the girls' minds since day one.

Yates said, "Winning states has been a team goal since the first practice. I believe if my team stays focused and does not take a game for granted, we will win. We have the technical and athleticism to win states but at the end of the day, it is in the mindset and work ethic".

Their next game is Tuesday versus Bandys. Playoffs start next week, and they are fully aware of what is at stake. Yates is certain they can win it all if one thing happens.

"If we come out as if it is our last game and play the hardest we ever have, we will bring home a ring" Yates said.

Their last regular season home game is on Thursday against West Lincoln. Go out and support your Lady Knights!

# What You Need to Know for the NC Primary Election

By: Aaron Daum

## Basic Details:

-Who: Democratic and Republican candidates (and a lone, brave Libertarian,) and most importantly, you, the voter!

-What: Voters will pick candidates who they feel either represents them the most or has the best chance of winning against the other party.

-When: Early voting is available until May 5th, and the official election day is May 8th.

-Where: This tool tells you your day-of polling place, and the districts that you will vote for: [http://apps.meckboe.org/addressSearch\\_New.aspx](http://apps.meckboe.org/addressSearch_New.aspx). You can vote early at one of these locations: <https://www.mecknc.gov/BOE/Documents/early%20voting%20calendar%20for%208PNCMECK.pdf>

-Why: Voting is your civic duty! Also, people complained in 2016 that picking between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton was like picking between the lesser of two evils. As many of us prepare to vote in our first-ever election, voting in a primary gives you the power to help make sure that such a disaster never happens again.



(Above: Sheriff candidates Ensley and McFadden debate)

## Candidate Highlights in Key Races:

List of candidates running in Mecklenburg, if you want to do your own research: <http://apps.meckboe.org/CandidatePrint.aspx>

*Sheriff (3 Democrats, 0 Republicans):*

-Irwin Carmichael, Democrat: Current Sheriff, and Mecklenburg county's most prominent conservative Democrat. He supports the county's 287(g) program, which partners federal and county immigration officers to deport undocumented immigrants from the county. He also supports video visits, which eliminates in-person meetings but allow families to contact inmates whenever they desire, as well solitary confinement, which has been shown to be damaging to inmates. He's worked with the sheriff's office since 1986.

-Antoine Ensley, Democrat: Charlotte Human Resources officer and former police chief of Fletcher, NC. Ensley directly opposes Carmichael on 287(g), and his inmate policies, saying that video visits should be kept, but that inmates should also be able to see their families in person.

-Gary McFadden, Democrat: McFadden has spent 36 years with CMPD, including 20 years of service in the homicide department. He stands with Ensley in his opposition to the 287(g) program, and is strongly opposed to solitary confinement. He says that putting a person away without help just prolongs their problems.

*Board of Commissioners At-Large (7 Democrats, 1 Republican):*

You can vote for 3 candidates in this race!

-Trevor Fuller, Democrat: Fuller was the former chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and wants to increase economic mobility in the city, guarantee Universal Pre-K, and work on making sure that affordable housing and secure jobs are available for all citizens.

-Jamie Hildreth, Democrat: Hildreth is a first-time candidate, and an avid advocate for affordable housing, increasing school funding, and expanding the Greenway project.

-Tigress Sydney Acute McDaniel, Democrat: Did that name sound weird? It's a good representation of her campaign. McDaniel refuses to speak about actual issues, and hasn't put forth any kind of platform. However, if equality and youthfulness are your top criteria for a candidate, she's attacked the use of the word "deplorable" to describe conservatives, and her website screams Kanye.

-Ray McKinnon, Democrat: Like the other established candidates in this race, incumbent McKinnon supports a 15\$ minimum wage, universal pre-k, increased funds for public schools, and affordable housing.

-Ella Scarborough, Democrat: The incumbent Commissioner hasn't released any stances on issues, but you can get a pretty good idea of what she's about in this 6-minute soundbite: <https://soundcloud.com/keithrichardsbjmurphy/get-to-know-ella-scarborough>.

*Senate district 38 (4 Democrats, 1 Republican):*

Senate districts 37, 40, and 41 all border district 38, however, each only have one Democrat and one Republican running.

-Roderick Davis, Democrat: Davis has run for Charlotte mayor, city council, and NC Senate in the past unsuccessfully in the past. His top priorities are public safety, workforce development, and education.

-Joel Ford, Democrat: Ford is the incumbent senator in this district, and has come under fire from his primary challengers for being too moderate in the Senate. He believes the best way to protect Democratic values is to work with the GOP to keep them from overriding the governor's vetoes. Ford wants to invest in state transportation, reform the education and criminal justice systems, and make marijuana legal.

-Mujtaba Mohammed, Democrat: Mohammed is seen by many as Ford's most credible challenger, and has been endorsed by the Black Political Caucus and Equality NC. Mohammed wants to ensure quality early education, pass a competitive pay act to attract good teachers, raise the minimum wage to 15\$, invest in state infrastructure, and pass the Equal Pay for Equal Work act.

-Tim Wallis, Democrat: Wallis is a first time candidate and proponent of green energy, environmental protection, and reform our education system.

Visit the article at <https://incroundtable.wordpress.com/2018/04/29/what-you-need-to-know-for-the-nc-primary-election> for a more complete list of candidate highlights!

## A Chat on Gun Violence

By: Genevieve Husak and Clayton Covington

In the wake of yet another mass shooting, we as Americans find ourselves divided once more over the issue of guns. Rather than ignore yet another tragedy of negligence, students have taken to the streets and the headlines to try and bring needed change. But when rights collide, there will be conflict, as a solution supported by one group seems to infringe on the freedom of another. Yet in such terrible tragedies there will always be great opportunity - a chance for us to come together, discuss our differences, and push for needed change in the interest of society at large.

Last Sunday, the Institute of Politics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill went through great effort to organize a “reverse town hall” - an opportunity for student citizens to discuss polarizing issues for an audience of NC State Legislatures. The panel was made up entirely of students from colleges and high schools across North Carolina, all joined together by a common desire to voice how they believe we can end gun violence in NC. This group of students truly reflected the diversity in thought and experience within North Carolina, from cities as large as Charlotte and Raleigh to towns as small as Laurinburg. It included those who have travelled and lived across the world and those who have never left the US.

Among these students were the three of us from Lake Norman Charter - Clayton Covington, Genevieve Husak, and Janais Phillips. We arrived at the massive UNC Campus, unsure of what - or who - to expect. None of us had ever



been on a panel before, and the new experience was as exciting as it was daunting. When we first arrived, we were warmly welcomed and soon introduced to the other panelists, many of whom were the heads of political organizations at their respective schools. We paired off and did team-building activities so we could learn to respect and appreciate one another before politics can intervene. They only informed us after that they actually paired opposing opinions.

After, we went to a lecture dedicated to the debate - most of all to understanding the types of guns that we hear about so often in the news. The lecture sparked questions and dialogue between the panelists and overall left everyone better-informed. We then rested and calmed our nerves before the panel opened. We slowly started to see the media and politicians pour in, all of whom excited for what was to come.

It was time to begin - we stood on stage with the bright lights above as the audience clapped below, taking our seats as we prepared ourselves mentally for the questions to come. The discussion lasted well over an hour, with questions over whether guns should be allowed in schools, what steps the legislature could take to prevent violence in the future, and much

more. While we spoke of specific issues and societal problems, the discussion itself was the strongest message of all - of the power of youth to speak to societal issues, and most of all, to do so respectfully. While many of our views were in conflict with one another, we, the students, were not. We were dedicated to a civil and constructive dialogue, one that hopefully will contribute to bringing progress that all can agree with. This will be the most important message going forward in our country - that despite our political divisiveness, we must come together to understand one another. Our nation finds itself at political extremes, but we need not let our extreme opinions get in the way of what is most important: helping our fellow citizens - all of them, even if we disagree on how to do so.

## Former LNC Teachers: Where are they now?

By: Preethi Velagapudi and Genevieve Husak

For this article, we thought we'd look back at former LNC teachers who left us for a variety of reasons. We reached out to four former teachers: Tim Swiatek (left 2015), Tim Venable (left 2017), Danielle Derwich (left 2017), and Marc Pecorella (left 2015) to check up on them and see what they've been up to since they left LNC!

For those that didn't have him, **Tim Swiatek** was the 9th grade World History teacher for four years up until 2015. Since his time as a teacher at LNC, Mr. Swiatek applied for an ESL teaching position in Ulsan, South Korea, as "working abroad (and traveling) were always things that [he] wanted to do" and he felt that it was definitely worth the risk! He proceeded to teach kindergarten in Ulsan for two years and then he saved as much money as possible to travel during his time off and after his teaching contract ended. One of his favorite places to travel is Siargao in the Philippines, where he enjoys surfing (but not so much motorbiking - which he reportedly learned the hard way). At the moment, Mr. Swiatek is working on getting his MA in World History from NYU and plans to apply to History PhD programs next fall in hopes of becoming a "proper historian" and eventually "researching, writing, and teaching at a university." He'd also like to adopt a dog as soon as he moves out of NYC. When asked if he misses LNC, Mr. Swiatek responded, "Of course! I think about LNC almost every day! LNC is such a great community, and I feel lucky to have been a part of it." In addition, he misses building

relationships with the students, seeing them grow, and working along with other “amazing educators.”

Although **Marc Pecorella** might have left physically left LNC, he remains very connected to LNC today as a parent of two LNC students and through his wife, Ms. Pecorella, a 6th grade science teacher at the middle school. Marc Pecorella, a 10th grade Civics and Economics and Contemporary Issues teacher, left LNC midway through the 2015-2016 school year to pursue an administrative career as an Assistant Principal at Union Ridge High School where he gets to contribute to the workings of a “large, complex and vibrant school.” As you can see, he is a fan of his new school. Though he has more experience as a teacher, he sees administrative work as “a more active role in education” for him. He is very passionate about helping the students at his new school, just as he was at LNC. As one of the original LNC teachers, he recalls “teaching in trailers across the street and having limited facilities,” which really emphasizes LNC’s growth and prosperity.

Though Mr. Pecorella is no longer an LNC employee, he appreciates that he has been a part of LNC’s community and hopes to maintain contact through his other connections to the school.

Midway through 2011, the LNC band program had already hired and lost two band directors (one of whom only made it one day before quitting). Many LNC students and parents worried that the LNC band program was falling apart - however, luckily, the school’s third band director of the year turned out to be exactly what the program needed. **Tim Venable** worked as the LNC band teacher for both middle school and high school from 2011 to 2017, though he was a substitute teacher here even before then and is a parent of two

daughters who both graduated from LNC several years ago. Last year, after investing about seven years of hard work and energy into the LNC band, he decided to retire from his position due to old age and to pursue some of his lifelong dreams: “building and selling a high quality classical guitar” and curling. Though he’s been doing curling for a while, he now has a lot more time to pursue that hobby. Additionally, Mr. Venable has been a guitar player for most of his life, and somewhat recently began playing classical guitar. However, now he is moving beyond simply playing and looking into building also guitars.

This takes a high level of skill and commitment, so being retired gives him a lot more time to spend mastering the craft. Though he will still be around working as a substitute teacher at LNC and hosting a guitar ensemble after school on Mondays, Mr. Venable does miss the community here, including the “students, music, performances, rehearsals, and working with [his] colleagues.”

**Danielle Derwich**, an 11th grade English teacher, had been heavily involved in LNC before she left just last year (2017) to take a leadership position as an elementary school assistant principal at Lincoln Charter. Having been at LNC for nine years, Ms. Derwich helped build student council, worked with the seniors for years, and had gotten close to many students and parents. When she was approached to do a UNCC add-on program from Ms. Stein and Ms. Padgett, she decided to see “where this path would lead [her].” She initially wanted to use the interview as practice, but after getting the job, Ms. Derwich decided it was “time for [her] to take a leap of faith and try something new.” She says, “As hard as it was to leave my students and parents at LNC, I knew if I wanted to push myself and use my degree, this was a chance I needed to take. I am

a true believer in things happen for a reason, and this came at a time where I needed a change. I know my calling is education, and my journey may take me back to the classroom one day. The future is undetermined :).” Since last year, Ms. Derwich has been working on finishing up her add-on admin degree at UNCC and graduates on May 12th! She also enjoys her time “watching [her] two boys grow. Austin will be entering kindergarten in the fall and Aiden will be turning two at the end of June.” and “getting lots of love” from her elementary school friends. On LNC, Ms. Derwich exclaimed that she “miss[es] working at LNC every day!” especially because of the relationships she’s built and the memories she’s made. She’s said she misses teaching “EVERY day” and “the interactions, the students making me laugh, the process of seeing my students go to prom, graduate, experiencing these life changing moments.” She also adds, “Please let my students know that I am so blessed to have been a part of their education, and I wish them nothing but happiness and success. They will always have a special place in my heart, and I am always here if they need anything!”

Many teachers, both past and present, have contributed to the growth and positive community of LNC. These teachers include Mr. Swiatek, Mr. Pecorella, Mr. Venable, and Ms. Derwich, all of whom no longer work at LNC but have been very integral to its development and continued prosperity. Although they may not miss grading papers, it’s clear they miss LNC and we’re thankful for their contributions to our school and wish them well in all of their future endeavors! As Mr

Have a great  
summer!

Thanks for reading!