

Dr. Brothers named CHS principal

By Judith Brown
Staff Writer

Laurens County School District 56 has announced the selection of Dr. Martha Brothers, currently the ninth grade administrator, to replace outgoing Clinton High School principal Maureen Tiller, who recently accepted a position as principal of the planned Fountain Inn High School.



Dr. Martha Brothers

Now beginning July 1, Brothers will be leading the school which she'd already served almost a decade ago as assistance principal from 2001 to 2009 when she left to work at Spartanburg High School.

"I just think all of my positions have helped prepare me for this," Brothers said Tuesday, recalling her years working in Spartanburg as an assistant principal of a middle, secondary, alternative and special education schools within the Spartanburg County system. It was a move to

Lake Greenwood which brought her back to Clinton, since the hour-long commute convinced her to apply for the ninth grade administrator position at CHS last year.

"I've stayed in touch with people here and maintained those relationships," Brothers said. "I was grateful Mrs. Tiller hired me, though I had no idea at the time she would be leaving."

District 56 Superintendent Dr. David O'Shields said he was grateful Brothers had already returned to Clinton and that he's excited she'll be leading CHS.

"Dr. Brothers' experience and love for Clinton, coupled with a very successful track record in all of her previous assignments, made her an ideal fit for CHS," said O'Shields.

"Her leadership style is well suited for taking existing initiatives and making them better, and she has the respect of the staff and students," O'Shields said. "She is fair, firm and focused on excellence, and she understands the needs of students and staff."

Brothers holds degrees from Clemson, South Carolina State and Walden universities, and before her areas of administration, her work had also included teaching English as a

second language.

Now Brothers said she is grateful to have the opportunity to be back in Clinton and looks forward to leading Clinton High School.

"You definitely have to wear a lot more hats at a smaller school, but I feel like you can become a lot more involved in the community, and I like that," Brothers said, adding that she is beginning conversations about adding to curriculum options.

"I would love to see our AP courses expand and technology courses expand," Brothers said. "Money is always an obstacle, but we will look at ways to expand these career in technology classes, and to expose students to more of the Advanced Placement classes. I'd like to see both of those expanded."

CHS has no shortage of students capable of taking more AP classes, and it will mean educating students and parents about the benefits for signing up for them.

"They impact how you think and work and manage your time," Brothers said. "It can be good for the entire community to expand the exposure to these types of courses — both additional AP and career and technology — to meet the needs of all the students."

Jones defeats Cook in Gray Court runoff

By John Clayton
Editor

Gray Court has a new mayor for the first time since 1987.

Stellartean Jones defeated Scott Cook in a runoff election Tuesday for the Town of Gray Court's top post.



Stellartean Jones

Jones, a two-term town councilwoman, finished with 126 votes while Cook had 85.

"I was confident, and then I was anxious," Jones said of her emotions on election day. "But I guess they go together in

things like this."

Jones and Cook were the top vote-getters in a three-way race with incumbent John Carter on March 6. Carter, who had served as mayor for 32 years, missed the runoff by three votes.

Jones said she spent the past two weeks leading into the runoff election doing the same things she did heading into the March 6 municipal elections.

"I went to churches and spoke to people and spent a lot of time just talking to people," she said.

Jones said most of the people she talked to wanted to see change for the town, which continues to see growth to the north in areas such as Fountain Inn.

"They want to see something positive for Gray Court," she

said. "We want to get some things going here. We need to present ourselves a little bit better. If we do that, hopefully somebody will be able to invest in Gray Court."

She will take office April 15. Jones said residents told her they would like to see more retail establishments.

Her opponent, Cook, also ran on a platform of pro business and development.

"It's going to take some effort and some work with the citizens and the council," she said. "We've got to work together to try and do some things."

Revitalizing Gray Court's downtown area is among her priorities.

"It was beautiful at one time, and we can bring it back," she said.

— Court —

(Continued from page 1)

Goodbar said she reviewed the toxicology reports provided by Tackett's defense attorney, David Stoddard. The report noted four total medications in the anti-depressant and anti-seizure spectrum in Tackett's bloodstream at the time of the accident, as well as marijuana.

Goodbar testified the medications are generally prescribed in a manner to "minimize the onset of side effects," which can include drowsiness, dizziness and a drop in blood pressure.

"These (drugs) had been on board (in the body) for quite a while, and the side effects would not just appear," she said.

The defense claimed that Tackett appeared coherent and exhibited "signs of sobriety" following the

March 28, 2018, accident that killed Zach Ivey and injured John Howell. Ivey and Howell, who were employees of Bagwell Fencing, were struck by Tackett's vehicle in the median at Exit 19 on I-385.

Stoddard is claiming that a medical episode unrelated to the drugs in Tackett's system caused the accident, asking jurors to keep open minds during his opening statement Monday afternoon.

According to witness testimony, Tackett, 32, of Gray Court, was driving erratically on I-385 before she slammed into Ivey and Howell despite caution signs set out along the route and on the rear of the truck. Her vehicle sped between the truck and the catch fence where the two were working.

The impact knocked Ivey

through the air and onto the road. He died later at Greenville Memorial Hospital.

R. Knox McMahon, special assistant solicitor for the Eighth Circuit, grilled Goodbar about the possible exponential side effects caused by the multiple prescription drugs in Tackett's system coupled with marijuana.

The defense was expected to rest its case Thursday afternoon.

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