

Gast named  
Conference  
Carolinas Softball  
Player of the Week

GREENVILLE, S.C. – Lees-McRae College’s Julie Gast, pictured above, was named the Conference Carolinas Softball Player of the Week after leading the Bobcats to a split in the season-opening doubleheader at Queens (N.C.).

Gast, a junior pre-physical therapy major, finished with a .571 batting average, four hits, four RBIs and a home run in the doubleheader on Saturday. The junior went 1 for 3 with an RBI on a sacrifice fly in game one, before going 3 for 4 from the plate with three RBIs in game two. Gast hit a two-run home run in the top of the fifth in the second game to lead the Bobcats to the first win under head coach Kendall Fuller.

Gast is a 2018 graduate of ACHS and is the daughter of Amy and Tom Gast of the Bethlehem Community. For more information on Lees-McRae Athletics, follow the Bobcats on Twitter (@LMCBobcats), on Facebook (Lees-McRae Athletics) and on Instagram (leesmcraeathletics).

Virtual Academy  
receives loan from  
N.C. Wildlife  
Resources Comm.

By LAUREN WASMUND

Science teacher, April Walsh, of Alexander County’s Virtual Academy for West Alexander Middle School and East Alexander Middle School received a loan of mammal skulls from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

The skulls were the bones from several different types of herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. Students were able to see structural differences such as flat teeth vs. sharp ones.

While students were not able to physically hold the skulls, Walsh was able to point out physical features and teach the classroom from her own home.

Walsh said the commission offers loaner boxes to teachers in North Carolina. The boxes include lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations and various diagrams.

The program is completely free and lasted approximately two weeks, which gave Walsh the opportunity to share the box with teacher Kelsey Bowman. Bowman is another virtual academy teacher.

Walsh was also granted a grant from the Alexander County Public Education Foundation.

The Education Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) corporation established to secure and manage funds to enhance the educational opportunities of students in Alexander County.

She used the grant to make at-home science kits for her eighth-grade virtual academy students. The kits included safe, kitchen items such as hydrogen peroxide, vinegar and salt in addition to other items.

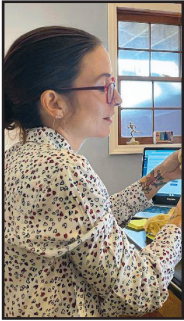
50 students were able to perform the experiments, like the making of “Elephant Toothpaste,” at home with their classmates over Zoom. Elephant toothpaste is a

foamy substance caused by the rapid decomposition of hydrogen peroxide when mixed with yeast and warm water.

The making of Elephant Toothpaste has become a popular experiment to perform at home. Videos can be found all over platforms such as YouTube and Facebook. A popular online

Walsh hopes to continue programs like these in her virtual classroom. She also invites siblings and other members of the household to join in on the fun.

She said, “It’s hard for students to feel connected. But these experiments allow them to have similar experiences at home as they would in the classroom, which is important during a time like we’re facing now.”



WALSH

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Cub Scout Troop #275  
plans drive-thru food drive

Cub Scout Troop #275 will host a drive-thru food drive on February 27 between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at various locations to collect food for local food banks.

Locations include Bethlehem Fire Department at 7373 NC-127, Taylorsville, NC 28681 and St. John’s Lutheran Church at 3512 Highway 16 South, Taylorsville, NC 28681.

The troop is asking for canned goods and non-perishable food items. Any food dropped off will be used in free food boxes and food pantries in the community.

The event will take the place of the Cub Scout’s “Scouting For Food” event, which usually supplies food pantries with a large supply of canned goods. The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts would normally go door-to-door to collect food. The event was canceled due to COVID-19.

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