

March 3, 2020



# The Bulletin

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**FLORENCE EXCHANGE CLUB**  
**THE LONGEST SERVING CIVIC CLUB IN THE SHOALS SINCE 1921**

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Bert Bretherick introduced our speaker, Darryl Higgins, Mars Hill Head football coach. "He is a native of the Shoals and graduated from Coffee High School in 1988. He spent 22 years at Deshler High School in different areas and working as an assistant coach in football. He's been the head coach at Mars Hill since 2016. During his tenure, he has brought a no football school to a 2a powerhouse and won the state championship last year and went to the finals this year. He and his wife, Michelle, have 3 children. Darryl is a Christian man who does such a good job of building up the young kids."

"I want to talk about some things that mean a lot to me and show you the way I look at things" said Coach Higgins. "I really believe that toughness is

something that kids nowadays are lacking and it's something we need to instill in them. It's actually a big part of who I am and how I was raised being a bright redheaded freckled little boy that I was. I learned to be tough. When I got to Mars Hill, I saw some wonderful kids, but they definitely lacked some mental and physical toughness. I tell my students all the time 'tough people win.' I believe that part of my job is to help instill in these kids some toughness to help prepare them for when they get out in the real world. When they graduate high school, they find out it's not quite as easy as they once thought. James 1:2-4 says 'My brothers and sisters, you have many kinds of trouble, but this gives you a reason to be very happy. You know that when your faith is tested, you learn to be patient in suffering. If you let that patience work in you, the result will be good. You will mature and be complete. You will be all that God wants you to be.' That verse talks about tough times coming. There's going to be things out there that each of us will have to learn to deal with, persevere, survive, and when you come through and make it to the other side, God's got great plans for you. This is the toughness that I teach. This is when I tell those students; don't give up, don't quit. I teach them to learn to get comfortable being uncomfortable. God will be with them and they will get through whatever circumstance it may be.

I may be a football coach, but I try to prepare our kids for their future. In addition to toughness, I teach them to stay humble. No matter how much success we have, no matter what comes your way, you can be brought to your knees just like that. Not only do I want them to stay humble, but I want them to stay hungry too. You have to be wanting to improve and you have to want to get better. We talk about surrounding ourselves with quality people. You're going to be pretty much like what's around you. Surround yourself with quality people; people that make you better. That's exactly what I wanted to do when I came to Mars Hill. I wanted to find the best people to be around me. I want these young people to have great role models. While they might wonder why a baseball player such as Josh Willingham is apart of the football coaching staff, I want them to know the reasons of why we choose the staff that we do. He's

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

**Business Meeting March 10**

**Youth in Gov March 9**

**TBA**

**TBA**

Do you have an idea for a speaker?  
Call Fran

- MORE INFORMATION INSIDE -

a winner. He's a leader. He's a great mentor. He's teachable and coachable. That's the kind of people I want to surround them with. I also want them to just have fun. No matter what you're doing. Life goes by so fast. Try to enjoy life. While we have goals and things we want to do, we want to impact these kids' way beyond their high school years.

I teach my players that they don't always have to be the strongest or the fastest, but they can definitely be a great teammate. You don't have to have a lot of talent to be a great teammate. You can be the best teammate that anyone has ever seen and that's going to be something very important as they go out in life and learn to work with others. I also think it's very important to teach them that they can be tough and be a Christian as well. Just look at Jesus. The example He set and how tough He was. That doesn't mean you have to fight when someone does something to you. It means you stand for what you believe, and you stay strong in your faith. Be tough and don't cave in. And finally, I want them to be coachable. When someone tries to teach them something, I want them to know how to accept it, take it, and learn from it. We can all always learn something.

Football is a lot like life. Its hard, its tough, you get knocked down and things happen. Things you never thought possible come out of nowhere. Right when you think you're going in for a touchdown, bam, something happens, and the ball comes out. Things happen just like that in life and you better get ready for it. You better be prepared. I love seeing them push themselves. They learn that hard work, commitment, and dedication can change who they are, where they're at, and it can change things in their life. All they have to do is keep going and keep going and keep going, no matter what's going on. If you want to do something bad enough, you'll find a way. I may not be the smartest coach out there and they may not be the best players, but if we out-work people every single day, out hustle them, never quit, never give up, and stick together like brothers that love each other, then we can have a lot of success. At the end of the day, its just a game, and as much as I hate losing, it's just a game. I want them to have the ultimate victory in the game of life; that final day when you're in front of your Lord and Savior and He can say 'well done my good and faithful servant.'"

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

happy birthday!

Fran Nunnelly 3/15  
Parrish Riedel 3/16



We were happy to have our Alabama District Exchange Club President, Lisa deShazo, join us at Tuesday's meeting! "I'm so happy to be here. I've been trying to visit clubs around the state and I'm excited to finally get to Florence. You guys are one of the larger clubs in the state and you have a lot to be proud of. You also have an anniversary coming up! Your club was chartered June 1, 1921, so on June 1 your club will be 99 years old and will be able to have a huge 100-year celebration next year. You are guys are so active in your community and have great support. We are very proud of you. The district will be holding their annual convention in May in Tuscaloosa and we would love to have all of you attend."