

Owen Middle Students Travel to Hop'n Blueberry Farm

7th grade students from Owen Middle School had their first field trip to coincide with their Natural Impact Initiative. Van and Vicki Burnette hosted the students at their 7th generation family farm in Black Mountain. Students were taught how to make bee "hotels" and given further knowledge of the importance of pollinators to our food source. They collected flower seeds in the native pollinator maze that they used to make seed bombs. In addition, they toured the on site butterfly house and got to see Monarch butterflies in various stages of development. The students enjoyed a picnic lunch, then were taken to the Black Mountain Public Library where they were told Jack Tales by Laura Edmonds, then given a tour and each student who applied got a library card. It was a day full of Appalachian Heritage and both students and staff had a lot of fun!



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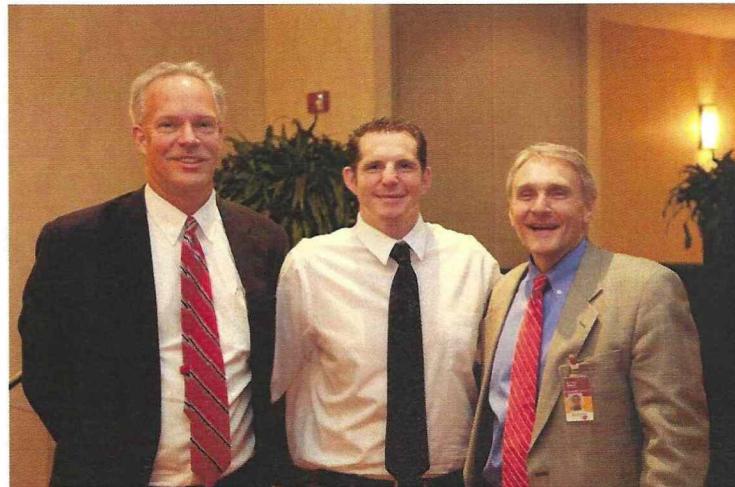


Brian Gonzales Named BCS Teacher of the Year

Brian Gonzales, a social studies teacher and department chair at Clyde A. Erwin High School, has been selected as the 2016 Buncombe County Teacher of the Year at the school system's annual Teacher of the Year Banquet held this year at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel®. Tammy Jones and Dex Mitchell, hosts of Tammy and Dex In the Morning on Mix 96.5, served as the Masters of Ceremony.

"Never in my wildest dreams would I consider myself deserving of such an honor in the company of these other incredibly talented teachers—many of whom were my teachers and had a definite impact on my life and any success I've enjoyed in my life and in the classroom," Gonzales said. "Events like this remind us that teaching is one of the very few professions that spans across generations. It's why public education is so important for every student. It's humbling and motivating at the same time."

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Pictured from left to right: Erwin District Board Member Pat Bryant, Erwin High's Brian Gonzales, and Superintendent Dr. Tony Baldwin..



Ruth Henderson Award Goes to Owen Middle's Cathy Haughney

Cathy Haughney, a Language Arts and Mathematics teacher in the day treatment program at Owen Middle School, received the prestigious honor of receiving the Ruth Henderson Award at Tuesday night's Teacher of the Year Banquet.

"I am incredibly thankful to be in a position in which serving others is at the core of what I do each and every day," said Haughney.

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From left: Owen District Board Member Chip Craig, Cathy Haughney, and Superintendent Dr. Tony Baldwin.