

Editorial: Darts and Laurels

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Laurels - To the **Beau's Buddies** Cancer Fund, a local charity that intends to improve the lives of cancer patients and their families. Begun after the 2007 death of Jennifer and Parham Stanley's 2-year-old son, the couple and Dr. John Gibbs are working to provide a positive impact on the lives of those struggling with the disease. Their work is invaluable to the community.

Laurels - To the annual Winterville Watermelon Festival, one of the highlights of the festival calendar in Pitt County. The town always produces a stellar event and this year is expected to be no different, with some impressive musical acts complementing the usual array of games, rides and delicious food. Don't miss the watermelon eating festival today at 11 a.m.

Laurels - To this weekend's Run for the Fallen, a 99-mile run to honor the more than 4,000 American troops killed during combat operations in Iraq. The event is organized by Ayden's Kathy Moore, the mother of U.S. Army Cpl. Ryan Russell who was killed in 2007. It is sponsored by Give2theTroops, which sends care packages and other items to those deployed in Iraq.

Darts - To the unfortunate defeat suffered by the Greenville 13-year-old All-Star team, which was knocked out of the Babe Ruth Baseball World Series this week. Though the team put forth a remarkable effort to capture the Southeastern regional title, they did not advance from group play in the Jamesville, N.Y., tournament. Congratulations on a strong season nonetheless.

Laurels - To LaShawn Merritt, the former East Carolina University sprinter who won an Olympic gold medal this week in the 400 meters. Merritt was one of three Americans seizing a place on the medal stand in that race, with rival sprinter Jeremy Wariner taking silver and David Neville capturing the bronze. His former home is very proud of this accomplishment.

Darts - To the gubernatorial debate on Tuesday that only the intrepid Pitt County resident could view. The debate, sponsored by WTVD in Durham, was simulcast on the station's Web site, but the feed was not reliable and was obviously only available to voters with home computers. Since it will not be broadcast locally, residents will have to settle for televised debates scheduled for September.

Laurels - To the first day for students at Pitt County Schools on Monday, which ends the summer for local kids. While one hopes they enjoyed the open-ended days of play or the various activities available during the break from classes, now comes a time to refocus on the tasks at hand. Schools will be watched for signs of improvement with community support.

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