



Training officer Mike Willis, in the Number 2 spot on the team, demonstrates how close physical contact with his partner Dave Hinners makes it possible for them to have an almost unspoken communication, which could be crucial in a tactical situation.

BY BRIAN GARNER/
THE N&R

TRAINING

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pated in active shooter training; they have actually been an active shooter training site three times before.

Having to have his officers train and get into the mindset of ‘what if an active shooter was in a school in Chester?’ is an unfortunate fact of the current climate in the world, Chief Williams said.

“Just think: in the past two years we’ve had attacks in movie theaters, churches and schools. No place is really out of bounds, so what we like to do is take a proactive approach and we like to be prepared. If you fail to prepare, you’re preparing to fail,” he said.

It was good training for the agencies, Chief Williams added, and said they all have one common goal: protect our kids.

Mike Willis, national training director for the United States Deputy Sheriff’s Association and association Executive Director David Hinners conducted the training along with an assist by Brian Boland with the York County Sheriff’s Office.

“What we’re going to talk about today is active shooter response/tactical entry. This is a tactical class, not a SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) class. The difference is we’re not using any special weapons or equipment, we’re going in with whatever we can get out of the car,” Willis said, adding, “but these are tactical operations that require that mindset. Everything we’re talking about, whether it’s an active shooter or a kicked door or a drug raid, whatever it may be, is a tactical situation that calls for

teamwork and a team concept.

“What we’re trying to do today is not only develop confidence in your own skills, but confidence in who you’re going to be working with. You have to be able to trust the people you’re working with.

“Everything we do today, to be efficient and effective, relies on being able to trust your partner,” Willis said.

Using plastic training firearms, as a team Willis and Hinners then demonstrated some dos and don’ts for teams of police officers to safely and securely enter a room where there may be an active shooter inside or there is some other situation that requires a tactical approach. They talked about such subjects as how to approach an open doorway, how to scan the room to determine if there were any threats, and empha-

sized concepts of firearm discipline – such as keeping the trigger finger off of the trigger unless and until they intend to shoot and making sure as they entered the room in a tactical manner, that the muzzle of the pistol was not pointed at their partner. They also demonstrated some methods that the partners could use to communicate with each other in the crucial moments before they entered a room where there could be a potential threat.

Tactical training and watching demonstrations from instructors such as Willis and Hinners was important, but nothing as important as experiencing the maneuvers for themselves. Conducting the real-world training in the halls of an actual school brought only home to the officers more the importance of what they were training for.

OBITUARIES

Mr. Robert Wylie Clack, 92

CHESTER – Mr. Robert Wylie Clack, 92, died Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at his residence.

The funeral service will be 3 p.m. Sunday, April 15, 2018, at Liberty Baptist Church with the Rev. Earl Ogburn officiating. The interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 15, 2018, at Liberty Baptist Church.

Born June 3, 1925, in Chester, Mr. Clack was the son of Johnson and Mary Jane Coleman Clack. He attended the schools of Chester County and was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served during WWII in Okinawa. He was retired from Springs Industries after forty-three years of service. Mr. Clack was a member of Liberty Baptist Church, where he was Deacon Emeritus and trustee of the church. He was a faithful and dedicated member of the church. He often joked that he had held every office in the church except leader of the WMU.

He is survived by one



Clack

daughter, Ann Clack; two very special friends, Linda Graham and Sandra Martin; and a number of nieces and nephews, all of Chester.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gladys McPherson Clack; and a daughter, Linda Diane Clack.

Memorials may be made to Haiti Missions, c/o Liberty Baptist Church, 1542 Liberty Road, Chester, SC 29706.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.barronfuneralhome.com.

Mrs. Jannie Mae Morris, 86

CHESTER – The funeral for Mrs. Jannie Mae Rabb Morris of 171 Wylie St. will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, April 16, at Brown Chapel AME Zion Church. Apostle Bernard Morris will officiate and burial will follow in Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Morris, 86, passed away on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at Hospice of Union County in Monroe, N.C.

The family will receive friends at 157 Park Drive, Chester.

Viewing will be from 1 to 7 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at King’s Funeral Home, 135 Cemetery St., Chester.

CITY

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(Stephanie Guy Jackson) who is slated to begin work on May 15, a full 13 months after the resignation of previous administrator Sandi Worthy. The police chief and public works positions were open for most of last year and it took the council two full years to fill its finance director vacancy.

Douglas said her intention was not just to criticize the council, but to start a dialogue that would hopefully lead to improved efficiency. She said part of the answer was better planning, noting that strategic, long-range planning has been continually pushed back because the selected dates conflict with the schedule of one council member or another. While acknowledging that everyone has other responsibilities to attend to, she said it shouldn’t be difficult for everyone to clear one day to handle the duties they swore an oath to perform.

“If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail and we’ve failed time and time again,” she said.

Douglas had some other suggestions. She said the council should plan out its travel and conference attendance well in advance. With the city struggling financially, she said every council member doesn’t need to go to every event. Some can go and share the information they glean with the rest of council upon their return. If any council member incurs costs above what is planned for in advance, they should have to make up the difference, she said. She said she often heard members of council say they don’t want to micromanage the city. She said being involved and knowing what is going on does not constitute “micromanaging.”

Douglas also spoke in general terms about certain tendencies she’s noticed, including that

some members of the council only attend community events in their ward or that are staged by their friends.

“We were elected by all the voters to serve all citizens. We should attend events across color and neighborhood lines,” she said.

Lastly, Douglas wondered if some council members sought office for “a check, a title or to hold someone else accountable.” She said it often seemed like city council holds meetings for the sake of holding meetings. She wondered if the council (which is comprised of a mayor and eight council members) was too large and unwieldy to get anything done. Having a smaller council (four council members and a mayor) might improve efficiency, she said. Each council position could likely pay more, which would increase interest in seeking office by members of the public. It would be an incentive for

council members to work harder as well, knowing they’d likely face challenges for their seats.

Councilman William King took exception to some of Douglas’ comments. He said he was certain what she said was not directed at him and urged Douglas to name names.

“Call them out,” he said. “Let the rest of the public know who you are talking about.”

Douglas said she was making general observations and was not talking about anyone in particular. As he reiterated that none of the comments made applied to him, Mayor Pro Tempore Annie Reid (who was conducting the meeting) tried to restore order.

“I’m not finished,” King said.

“Excuse me,” she said. “I try to be at every event. I don’t micromanage anything. The other week, I happened to be at City Hall at 4 p.m. one afternoon. Somebody came in to

pay their business license and nobody was at their desk. Nobody was here to take their business license money. I stayed here and waited with them. I help people. I’ve always helped people whether I was in office or not,” he said.

King told Douglas if the size of the council was reduced, she might want to consider giving up her seat. Douglas said she did not have to be on council and that she would be happy to have a capable, qualified person take her place. King then wondered aloud about the racial implications of a reduced number of council seats, noting that the city is “majority-minority with a majority of Afro-Americans.”

“I don’t have to be on council either,” said Councilman Carlos Williams, who said he personally endorses the idea of a smaller council. “I just want the council to be made up of qualified individuals. If they’re qualified, I don’t care if they’re green,

black, white or whatever. I think most people just want to see Chester move forward.”

King responded that he did not want “the newspaper” misconstruing his comments.

“I don’t think based on ethnicity. I was raised to help anyone. You don’t read those stories in the newspaper when I help people pay their water and power bills. Don’t anybody think I don’t have the people of Chester at heart,” he said.

Councilman William “Budda” Killian, harkening back to Douglas’ comments about strategic and long-range planning, said, “Everybody’s got something to do sometime.” He wondered about why “certain people can come up here and get money and some can’t” without offering elaboration. He said the council often “does things the wrong way.”

No vote actually arose from the lengthy discussion.

IT HUB

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Thompson said. This is a different sort of project than building a new building, he added.

Gardner and Thompson said the design process for the building is done, and is ready to be bid out to contractors in the next 10 days. Thompson and

Gardner recommended the design-bid-build method for completing the project.

The planners and Gardner have set a preliminary schedule for the work to begin in June with a duration of six months, which will go through the beginning of next year in January, when the building would be occupied. The “heavy work” will take

place when the students are not at the school, and then as students return to the school, specialty contractors will work on the inside of the building.

Board member John Smith asked why the IT upgrade was needed. Thompson answered the server at the District Office is severely limited, and needs to be upgraded, so

the district has the same capacity as other school districts in the state.

“When you do that, you simply don’t have the right space here in the district office to make that happen,” Thompson said.

“Secondly, the IT Department has told us that centralizing the technology between attendance zones where possi-

ble seems to make sense. While LMS may not be central, it is more central than this side of the county,” he said.

Gardner added, they have sort of run out of room at the district office and with the anticipated growth (that will be com-

ing to the school district), they may need that room at the district office where the server is for additional office space to fill an as-yet-unforeseen need.

The board chose to use the design-bid-build “delivery system” for the IT hub building.

Three incumbents, one challenger win in GF

From staff reports

There will be a new face on Great Falls Town Council on June 1.

In Tuesday’s municipal election, Lee Montgomery defeated two

challengers to retain his seat. Montgomery garnered 123 votes to 82 from challenger Dean Runion and 10 for Debra Kelly.

Five candidates were vying for three council

seats.

Incumbents Glenn Smith (149 votes) and Jamie “Pudge” Simpson (145 votes) hung onto their seats.

Political newcomer Maria Chaplin (124 votes)

took the other, though, besting incumbent Earl Taylor (91) and fellow challenger David Dutton (69).

See Wednesday’s *Great Falls Reporter* for full story.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BBNB needs mentors

Battered But Not Broken, 564 York Road, is in need of mentors of all races, backgrounds and experiences to be role models for the youth. A set of guidelines are in place to

help mentors build a relationship with a child as they help them make better choices. Call 385-2290.

United Hospice volunteers

United Hospice of the Piedmont is seeking volun-

teers. With only a few hours a month, anyone can make a difference in someone’s life. Training is provided. Volunteer opportunities include patient and family support, bereavement support and office

assistance. Call 385-2002.

Volunteer tutors needed

Anyone who has been a literacy tutor in the past is asked to call Dee Fedrick at 581-9325 or 482-2525 to volunteer.

THE NEWS & REPORTER

Chester County’s hometown newspaper since 1869
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