

News



SYLVIA ALLEN/Brunswick Times-Gazette
 It was a packed house at the public hearing the Brunswick County Board of Supervisors held on a request to rezone property from Agriculture (A-1) to Business (B-1) in Ebony. The supervisors approved the rezoning request in a 3 to 2 vote.

EBONY From page 5

General stores are located in Chesterfield and Short Pump and feels the store will help the community.

"I have to vote my convictions and the business will increase the tax base and help take the burden off homeowners. We need to diversify our tax base. Business is good for everybody. Competition is good. Dollar General is not selling gas. I feel this will be good for the community," Tyler said.

Zubrod said he has served on the board for 4 years and his phone has been ringing off the hook with folks expressing opposition to Dollar General. He said he has also received numerous emails in opposition. Zubrod said he has lived in the Ebony area for 36 years and raised his family children and now his grandchildren there. He expressed concern about the increase in traffic, especially at the intersection.

Zubrod said that approximately 10 percent of the people who signed the petition in favor of Dollar General were local signatures. He said the supervisors' vision is to protect the local charm of the county. Zubrod said if the rezoning request is granted, the property value of surrounding properties would likely decrease.

"Ebony is unique. It is historic and picturesque. There are 100 year plus farms in the community. People take pride in their community. I am very concerned about the decline in value of surrounding properties. I make a motion to deny the rezoning request," Zubrod said.

FIRE From page 1

touch with me about a fire before we got a call," said Wilkins. "We're thankful for his ability to pay attention to his senses and react."

RWVFD was first on the scene and was aided by Longbridge VFD, Gaston Fire-Rescue-EMS and Northampton County EMS. Afton-Elberon VFD had someone on scene who was also working in the area.

"There were about 25 firefighters at the structure fire," said Wilkins, who said he was grateful to have so much mutual aid.

Wilkins said that the homeowners were home when the fire started. Once the man discovered the fire after seeing it over the garage, he yelled for his wife to get out of the house. Wilkins suspects that she was burned while escaping from the bedroom that was adjacent to the garage. According to Wilkins, her burns triggered the need to be airlifted for medical treatment. Wilkins said that she was released from the hospital the next day.

No firefighters or rescue workers were injured while fighting the fire, but there was extensive property damage, said Wilkins.

Wilkins said he thinks the cause of the fire was from an external battery in a recreational vehicle that was parked in the attached garage. The homeowner was working on the van prior to the blaze.



BROOKE SIMPSON

Brooke Simpson, live at Lakeland for Valentine's Day Concert

Love is in the air and home town girl extraordinaire, Brooke Simpson is scheduled to perform, at 7 p.m. on Valentine's Day at the Lakeland Cultural Arts Center.

Simpson, from Hollister, N.C. and a member of the Haliwa Saponi Native American Tribe said she loves every opportunity to come home and reconnect, and this concert is the perfect opportunity to release her latest single, Real Long Nails.

"It's a song I wrote and dedicated to 'little Brooke,'" Simpson said. "In today's music we have so many women that are spreading empowering messages saying that a woman can be a boss, can be strong on her own, can find her self-worth within herself and not in a significant other, etc. but back when I was growing up we didn't have a lot of that. Other than Destiny's Child, everything else I listened to was always a message about the damsel in distress. So I decided to write the songs that I wish I had back then."

After placing third in 2017 on the TV reality show The Voice, Simpson performed a grueling 50 shows in 52 weeks (2018) and decided to slow the pace down in 2019 to write, produce, and record more music, and to spend time with family.

"Although I still did a lot of performances, I knew that at the pace I was going I wouldn't be able to start putting out more music other than just two songs a year like I had been doing," she explained. Recently, Simpson released Untouchable, in collaboration with Terrell Grice.

"Untouchable was a song that he

and I wrote together after sitting down and just sharing past experiences we've had in relationships," Simpson said. "From that beautiful conversation, that song was born."

In July, Simpson, along with friends Melanie and Mia, released their their version of Destiny's Child cover of Bee Gees hit, Emotions on YouTube. The trio performed the song in a show in Los Angeles earlier in the year. It was the hit of the show.

"Melanie, Mia and myself had never performed together before, so we decided to make it special, seeing it's a nostalgic song that we all grew up on and it ended up being the biggest hit of the night," Simpson said. "From there we decided 'why not out it on YouTube.' We never imagined that it would go viral and blow up the way that it did. But it is definitely a dream come true, especially hitting that milestone for the first time on my own YouTube channel with two of my best friends."

Simpson's most recent music video, Little Bit Crazy is also out on YouTube. She said making a music video has its own set of challenges. "It's so much more than just a vision because you have to find a video director/team that you creatively have chemistry with, (who) knows how to bring what you see in your mind to life on the camera, someone who is not intimidated by a female artist being a "boss," someone who is willing to communicate with you throughout the entire editing process, and on

top of all of it, someone who is willing to work with an unsigned artist's budget. It's all hard but when the final product is what you want it makes it all worth it."

With only two weeks left to get tickets for Simpson's concert it's important to make your reservations soon. A limited number of premium seats are available that will include a meet and greet after the show in the Lakeland dance studio. Fans will have the opportunity for photos with Brooke and she will have a small gift for each participant.

Peter Holloway, the new Executive Director at Lakeland said, "We are thrilled to have a performer of Brooke's caliber here on our stage, and the fact that she is from right here in the area makes it all the more special for her fans. Plus, the opportunity to see Brooke in an intimate setting like Lakeland should really make for a memorable evening. In the weeks and months to come, you'll see us making a very concerted effort to broaden our programming here. Of course, we'll continue to offer a variety of plays and musicals, but you'll also see concerts, speakers and even a variety of films on our calendar."

Lakeland Cultural Arts Center is located at 411 Mosby Avenue, Littleton, N.C. Premium Tickets are \$35, and are only available by calling 252-586-3124 ext. 3. Regular admission tickets are \$20 and are available by phone or online at Lakeland's website lakelandcac.org.

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Valentine's Day Menu

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