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Hodges named editor of Herald-Advocate

Staff Report

Bennettsville native Cheris Hodges has joined the Herald-Advocate as the paper's editor.

Hodges is a 1995 graduate of Marlboro County High School.

Following graduation, she enrolled at Johnson C. Smith University, where she majored in journalism. Hodges graduated from JCSU in 1999 and immediately began her career in

journalism at The Covington News in Covington, Ga. She began her career covering crime in the Atlanta suburb.

Her next stop was in Winston-Salem, N.C. where she worked as the features editor for The Chronicle. During her time at that paper, Hodges won a North Carolina Press Association award for community journalism. She spent time at the News & Record's High Point bureau and covered

the aftermath of September 11th in North Carolina.

Hodges returned to Charlotte in 2003, becoming the features editor of The Charlotte Post. While working for the Post, she covered college and professional sports, including the Carolina Panthers and the Charlotte Hornets.

Following her stint at the Post, Hodges covered news and event for Creative Loafing Charlotte, an alt-weekly newspaper. Most recently,

Hodges also worked for the Laurinburg Exchange as a staff writer and editor. But being home is a new journey that she is most excited about.

"Marlboro County is a special place, and I'm excited to be here to tell the best stories about the county," she said. "People deserve to know what's happening where they live. Why the street may be closed

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Photo by Jacqueline Hough
Bennettsville native Cheris Hodges has been named the editor of the Herald-Advocate.

Editor

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in their neighborhood and how it will impact their daily lives and for how long. To me, that's what's important about journalism."

Growing up, Hodges was a long-time reader of the local paper.

"Reading the paper every week made me want to go into journalism. Newspapers are the record of a community, and I'm honored to be the new editor of the Herald-Advocate. I look forward to getting reacquainted with my hometown and highlighting the best that Marlboro County has to offer."

Hodges said she has

an open-door policy and wants to hear from everyone in the community.

"Please don't hesitate to write letters to the editor so that your voice can be a part of the dialogue." One of her primary goals as editor of the Herald-Advocate is to keep the focus local.

"I know a lot of people who once lived in

Marlboro County keep up with what's happening here by reading the paper," she said. "And there are so many good things happening in our area that we need to let everyone know. It's also extremely important to share the facts about what's going on here and that is the number one goal of our paper, being factual."