BLOWING HIS HORN — Along with being involved in his church’s youth group and playing varsity football at Southwestern Randolph High School, Nathaniel Chamberlain enjoys playing in the band. His favorite instrument is the trumpet.

Senior aspires to become neurosurgeon

Editor’s note: The Courier-Tribune’s popular “Trailblazer” feature showcases the positive things young people are doing. If you know someone who fits that description, email name, phone number/email address and a brief description of accomplishments to ajordan@courier-tribune.com.

By Terrence Jefferies
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ASHEBORO — Nathaniel “Hurley” Chamberlain, a senior at Southwestern Randolph High School, has big aspirations for the future. He hopes to attend either East Carolina University or the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to study Biomechanics or Biology — and one day become a cerebral neurosurgeon.

“My final goal is to find a cure or preventative drug to stop strokes and prevent Alzheimer’s (disease),” the 18-year-old said, a desire fueled by witnessing the negative effects of strokes on two family members.

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Trailblazer

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“My grandfather on my mom’s side has had two strokes in my lifetime — one of them very recently — and just seeing him having to go through the treatment process and him losing some of the mobility that he has, (it) has inspired me to try and find a prevention and cure for stroke patients,” Chamberlain said.

“I want to try and create a possible cure so that he is not affected as much by the stroke and so it doesn’t have such a negative effect and impact on him. … If I could find something out that would make that less debilitating that would be great.”

His step grandfather on his father’s side was also diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, as well as lung, stomach and throat cancer. He passed away in 2013.

Many of Chamberlain’s extracurricular activities reflect that compassion for others.

A volunteer firefighter with the New Hope Volunteer Fire Department, he is taking classes to obtain his Medical Technologist (MT) certification.

“When me now being 18, I can run a medical call or go out to the scene of a fire if I wanted to,” he explained.

At New Hope United Methodist Church, he’s been involved in his youth group since the age of 9. The group often holds food drives for those less fortunate, but they also take part in fun activities such as hay rides and a trip to Carowinds. At school, he also stays busy.

“I’m in the Marching and Concert bands, play football and in Scouts.”

The youth, who is an Eagle Scout and plays the trumpet, credits his parents, DeAnna Hurley-Chamberlain and Don Chamberlain, as the driving forces behind his desire to excel and to become a neurosurgeon.

“My mom is a professor at Pfeiffer University and has pushed me to do the best I can do in every aspect of my life,” he said.

GET ACTIVE — Eagle Scout Nathaniel ‘Hurley’ Chamberlain poses beside the Honor Guard truck whose steps were built and donated by Chamberlain with the help of Boy Scout Troop 500.

Five little known facts about Nathaniel Chamberlain

- He is an Eagle Scout.
- In his spare time, he enjoys going to the Randolph-Asheboro YMCA and playing basketball.
- He is an only child and is family-oriented.
- He loves to travel.
- He enjoys participating in volunteer work.

DeAnna Hurley-Chamberlain and Don Chamberlain, as the driving forces behind his desire to excel and to become a neurosurgeon.

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