

*Thank You*

Please accept our heartfelt appreciation for the many acts of love and kindness shown to our family during this difficult time in our lives.

God's richest blessings to you is our prayer.

The family of Billy Lee  
Linda, Stephen and Kevin

**Letter to the Editor**

**Praise for Retiring School Administrator Deborah Davis**

Dear Editor,

An incredible educational career is ending this month. The loss strikes hard at the heart of classrooms and communities across Anson County. Deborah Davis, Director of Secondary Education for ACS, has been a heart and soul – a positive spirit – of Anson County Schools according to all who have known her in her roles as teacher and administrator. That was clear at the formal thank you reception held in late May.

Mrs. Davis bid goodbye to her teaching and administrative career at a reception in her honor sponsored by the school system on May 23. It was an emotional and fun-filled affair, appropriate for a professional who has given 37 years of her career to the community she respects and loves.

So many good things were said about their leader, colleague and friend by people who have known her through the years. Dr. Jim Sims, former Superintendent, spoke of the model Mrs. Davis set for others and how much she will be missed. Dr. George Truman, who assigned her to her first principalship at Anson High School, wrote, in summary, that her spirit made her the perfect leader to open that pioneering secondary school that aimed to transform the future of students who may not have otherwise attended college. "Your impact on this community will live beyond your service."

Mr. Freeman, current Superintendent of Schools, remembered the teacher and eventual assistant principal that he appreciated at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School, and who gave the campus and community spirit-filled life. "It's difficult to imagine Anson County Schools without you," he said during his comments.

Former staff of PPES even performed the "Lean on Me" routine that Mrs. Davis had choreographed for them and that they performed frequently in those days, sometimes with students, to remind them of why they do the work they do and how they manage to do it together.

Her baby brother Kenny, current Undersecretary of State for NC, told everyone about the precious sister who has held their family together for years. Of course he also remembered the "terror squad," he called them, of older sisters who made his life a little uncomfortable when their parents were not close by. "So there it is – even developing saints have had their weaker moments," words heard from an adoring assemblage.

Two graduates of the Youth Career Connect academy at Anson High – the program that she directed, focusing once again on students earning college credits and credentials prior to graduation – quietly stood at respectful attention as words were read about Mrs. Davis. "She totally changed my life," one said, and the other, "I would not be where I am without her influence. She made me want to be a better person."

There were many stories from former students and colleagues; from community people who had moved on to lives outside of North Carolina but returned to preach the praises of their Mrs. Davis; and from current friends, family, and professional friends who had enjoyed the aura of this lady who always leads with love and respect. Listening made the crowd in that room feel uplifted, hopeful for education and the human race, yet completely emotionally drained at the same time. That's exactly the effect Deborah Davis has had on all who know her core. As one speaker stated, "She is an amazing combination of everything good in humanity, and she believes strongly that she and everyone she impacts should serve the community."

Based on the words of those who know her best, Mrs. Davis combines love, relationship, service and unity, and lives that life as though it is a Picasso or a modern watercolor in motion. That combination represents the legacy that Deborah Davis leaves to education in this county and to community unity as well.

*Signed, Kathy Dutton Carroll*



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**Anson Students Earn Academic Honors at College**

**Dabney Storz Named to Dean's List at Anderson University** Dabney Storz of Wadesboro was named to the Dean's List at Anderson University for the spring semester, 2019. In order to be named to the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the semester.

**Cydney Livingston On Dean's List at Duke University** Cydney Livingston of Wadesboro was named to the Dean's List with Distinction at Duke University for the spring 2019 semester. She was among 1,937 students who achieved the honor. Cydney, the daughter of Patty and Michael Livingston, is a freshman in the Trinity College of Arts & Sciences.

To make the Arts & Sciences Dean's List, students must rank in the top third of their college; for Dean's List with Distinction, the top 10th of their college.

**A Ripple in the River Reunion Planned**

To celebrate its 30th year of fostering the art of writing in Anson County, the Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC) is contemplating holding a reunion of the cast and crew of the outdoor drama, "Sneydsborough: A Ripple in the River." The outdoor drama, written and produced by the ACWC, was held from 1993 to 2002.

In 1993 and 1994 the drama was held at the football field at Anson Junior High School (now Anson High School). In 1994, with the help of a grant from the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, the Helen Goodman Amphitheater was built at South Piedmont Community College, where the drama was presented until 2002.

"The outdoor drama would not have been possible without the help of many people from the community," said Sandy Brune, Sneydsborough Project Committee chairman from 2000-2002. "People not only acted out the story, but built and painted sets, provided sound and lighting, sewed costumes, did make-up, designed programs, directed, and provided refreshments."

Brune said that with the passage of time, contact information for those involved has been lost. "We are asking that if you participated in any way to contact the club at [info@ansoncountywritersclub.org](mailto:info@ansoncountywritersclub.org) or call me at 704-694-5211. Also, let us know if you are interested in joining the reunion committee. Your input is not only welcome, but needed."

Brune added, "Word of mouth is still the best advertisement, so please pass the information about the reunion to any friends or relatives who you know were involved."

Following the closure of the outdoor drama, the ACWC took on hosting the Carolinas Writers Conference at South Piedmont Community College from 2009-2016; sponsoring Back Porch Stories from 2012; and holding one-day workshops each November from 2014.

Since its inception in 1989 the club has held annual contests in prose and poetry open to anyone living in, working in, or originally from Anson County. Every three years an anthology of the winning entries, *Anson Pathways*, has been published. *Anson Pathways X* was released in April 2019 and is available at the Anson County Arts Council.

"Although I joined the Writers Club after the production of Ripple, I remember the drama well and that it highlighted not only the history of Sneydsborough, but the importance of the Pee Dee River in Anson County and in the history of North Carolina," said Kaye Ratliff, current club President. "We look forward to the opportunity to highlight the drama again, and celebrate the writers and actors who created it."

**State Highway Patrol Puts Promotions on Hold to Investigate Allegation About Testing Process**

North Carolina State Highway Patrol promotions are being put on hold while Internal Affairs investigates an allegation that the promotional testing process was compromised.

"I am saddened and concerned about the allegation," SHP Colonel Glenn McNeill stated. "I take this allegation seriously and directed for the internal investigation to get underway without delay."

Promotions are being put on hold until further notice as a result of an anonymous allegation. This allegation was received by the Highway Patrol on June 20. After meeting with N.C. State University officials the following day, Colonel McNeill decided to initiate an Internal Affairs investigation.

The Highway Patrol, in partnership with N.C. State University, developed the formal promotional process which consists, in part, of written exams involving job task scenarios and knowledge of Highway Patrol policy and procedures. These exams and other relevant factors are used to create annual promotional lists which normally become effective at beginning of each new fiscal year. On June 26, however, the Highway Patrol notified members of the Highway Patrol that the promotional list would not be released on July 1 as anticipated.

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