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Deborah Davis Honored as Champion for Children

This is a release from Anson County Partnership for Children: Anson County Partnership for Children is pleased to announce the selection of Mrs. Deborah Davis as the 2016-2017 Champion for Children. Mrs. Davis currently serves as Administrator of Secondary Education and Director of Youth Career Connect STEM Academy at Anson High School and has worked in education in Anson County for 35 years, in a variety of positions.



Mrs. Davis was nominated by Anson County Schools Superintendent Michael Freeman. This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate a commitment to children in Anson County by being champions for the well-being of children. Recipients demonstrate a commitment to provide a better future for children, work with others to raise awareness about children's issues, believe in building strong families, and demonstrate leadership on behalf of children in the community.

The announcement was made at the Anson County Partnership for Children 20th Anniversary event held on April 28. More than 75 guests attended including child care providers, community leaders, Partnership for Children board members, and others involved in the future of children in Anson County. In her remarks following the announcement, Mrs. Davis' words resonated with all those in attendance, who like her, work each day to improve the lives of children in this community. Mrs. Davis stated that "For many of us here tonight, being a Champion for Children is natural, like breathing. I believe that championing children is also largely about our environment." She credits her father and mother, Haze and Bessie Flowers for setting high expectations for her and for her siblings.

Mrs. Davis continued with the following remarks. "From my parents I learned many important lessons that have helped me grow into a champion for others – like valuing education, actively working in the community and the church, treating every human being with respect, and being a positive role model. I watched Haze and Bessie Flowers do the right thing day by day – and walk the walk of championing children. They were my most important role models that brought me to this spot tonight. Receiving this award honors them."

Along with her mother, another female role model was the late Gail Preslar. Mrs. Davis credits these two strong women who made such a profound impact on her life. "Their caring and nurturing spirits – along with their focus on hard work and service – have become embedded in who I am and how I relate to others. They held me to a high standard throughout my life and shaped me into who I have become."

In her role as Champion for Children, Mrs. Davis will serve as the Grand Marshall for the Week of the Young Child Parade, which will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. In addition, Mrs. Davis will be the keynote speaker at the Child Care Appreciation/Champion for Children Banquet on April 20, 2017.

Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child." For more information, contact the Partnership office at 704-694-4036 or visit our website www.ansonchildren.org.



Partnership Accepting Applications for NC Pre-K

Anson County Partnership for Children is accepting applications for the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year. NC Pre-K is a free high-quality kindergarten readiness program that is proven to help four-year-olds gain basic skills for success in school. Children who are four years of age before August 31, 2016 are eligible to apply for the program.

"NC Pre-K is a wonderful opportunity for children in Anson County to prepare for success in school; however, availability is limited," said Caroline Goins, Anson County Partnership for Children Executive Director. "Parents who are interested in enrolling their four-year-old children should apply as soon as possible."

A new research study of the NC Pre-K Program conducted by UNC's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute reports students enrolled in NC Pre-K show significant growth in language and literacy skills, math skills, general knowledge, and social skills.

The study also shows that children enrolled in the state's Pre-K program continued to make gains even after leaving it. At the end of third grade, children from low-income families who had attended pre-k had higher reading and math scores on the North Carolina end-of-grade (EOG) tests than similar children who had not attended the state's program.

A high priority is placed on serving children who are "at-risk." A child is considered to be "at-risk" if the child's family is at or below 75% of the state median income level or if a developmental delay has been identified. Enrollment is also open to students who have limited English proficiency, disabilities, chronic health conditions, or a parent who is active military service personnel.

NC Pre-K classes operate on a regular school calendar and are of the highest quality. The environment is designed to address emotional and social development, physical health, language development, and cognitive functioning. Teachers are highly qualified and hold a minimum of a BA/BS degree as well as specific early childhood credentials. Through incorporation of indoor and outdoor learning environments, students participate in active learning experiences to foster a lifetime love of education.

Parents interested in learning more about the NC Pre-K program should contact Caroline Goins at 704-694-4036 (Ext 103) or caroline.goins@ansonchildren.net or visit www.ansonchildren.org for an NC Pre-K application.

Marc Hayes Thompson Charged in Hospital Drug Thefts



On Wednesday, July 6 the Henderson County, NC Sheriff's Office arrested and charged a Wadesboro man, 44 year old Marc Hayes Thompson, with felony breaking and entering, felony safe cracking and felony larceny in connection to a drug theft from Park Ridge Hospital in Fletcher, NC. According to Henderson County Sheriff Charles McDonald, the charges stem from the Monday, July 4 theft of narcotic medications that were taken from a locked container in a secure surgical area of the hospital.

The NC State Bureau of Investigation is investigating Thompson's possible involvement in a string of drug thefts from WNC Health Network hospitals, including Mission Hospital St. Joseph Campus, Park Ridge Hospital and Transylvania Regional Hospital. In those thefts a drug called Versed was taken. According to Sheriff McDonald Versed can be used as a date rape drug or put someone in a helpless state.

Free Seminar on Bullying August 13

A program called 'You Got This!' will be presented on Saturday, August 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Room at Carolinas HealthCare System Anson. This free informative and interactive session will teach participants how to recognize, overcome and fight bullying. It is open to middle and high school students, parents, and community members. The program is sponsored by Beyond the Block, Inc.

Seating is limited and registration is required by August 6. You can call or text 336-337-5114 for more information and to register.

Tossing Coins in a Jar

About a year ago I began tossing spare coins into a jar, knowing that when the jar was filled to the top I would use the money for something or someone special. I had no doubt I could figure out what that would be when the time presented itself, and with little to no thought I randomly tossed the coins into the jar whenever my purse felt too heavy or I needed more room in my wallet.

The jar was not quite filled to the top on Monday, June 27, but it was close enough. It was on that morning I knew in my heart what I wanted to do with the spare change. And so I spilt it across the dining room table and began separating, counting and sifting through the mass of coins. I stacked all of the quarters neatly by dollars in four-quarter stacks, the dimes by ten coins and the nickels by twenty. When I was finished there were stacks of coins covering the entire dining room table.

An hour or so into the separating, sorting, stacking and counting I realized that I would need to roll all the coins into sleeves prior to taking them to the bank. Allen reminded me of several places I could take the coins to be counted mechanically, but I had a strong need to do it myself. The mundane work gave me something to do and kept my mind occupied. It gave me a temporary purpose and made me feel like I was doing something rather than the helplessness I had been experiencing for over a week.

Why had I been feeling helpless? You see, ten days earlier I had received some troubling news about a friend who is as close to my heart as a sister. Four days later her diagnosis was clear, and we were all in shock to learn that she has Leukemia and had entered the hospital that very day for treatment. How thankful we were that she had been proactive about her health with the decision to get a routine physical examination, which led to her very early detection.

During my coin-sifting process there were various objects found and pushed aside from the heap. After my counting was done I looked a bit closer at those items pushed aside, which included a paper clip, a bolt, some lint from my purse and a silver angel resembling a coin. I admired the angel, which had been given to me by my niece Cayla a few years ago. On the back was a one word inscription, STRENGTH. The angel was given to me during a time I too needed strength, and it served as a reminder that we are all stronger than we may sometimes believe. Somehow the angel ended up hidden among the coins taken from my purse and tossed into the jar.

As I stated earlier, I already knew what I would do with the coins, but the angel made it even more crystal clear. I would give the money to my friend. She is too sick to work, and away from her job for an extensive period of time. Up until that point all I could do was pray. Now, at the very least, I could help in a small way with the many bills and medical expenses she faces. And, I would pass the angel coin to her as well, with hope that the inscription would remind her of how strong she is and how her own strength and faith will see her through the battle she is facing.

The money from my coin jar didn't have a large dollar amount, but it was now being put to good use. I wonder how many of you have a jar of coins just sitting around collecting dust like mine was? If you have such a jar I challenge you to spill it, sift it, count it and give it away. Pay it forward. Give it to someone YOU know who can use a helping hand. Remember that, "The best exercise for the heart is to bend down and lift someone up." And, that can be as easy as tossing coins in a jar.

By Melanie Lyon

Next Board of Elections Regular Meeting is August 16

The Anson County Board of Elections will hold their next regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 16 at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Board of Elections office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-994-3223.

Any person wanting to be placed on any meeting agenda to address the board should notify the Board of Elections in writing no later than 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the meeting.

- Here is the tentative meeting agenda:
- Call to Order/Invocation 5:00 p.m.
 - Approval of Minutes (if applicable)
 - Appearance Before the Board – Jasmine Kilpatrick – Local Federal Credit Union
 - Precinct Combination Update/Discussion
 - Early Voting Staff List Discussion / Approval
 - Election Day Poll Workers Discussion / Approval
 - Election Law Updates (Same Day Registration / Voting Out of Precinct
 - August Elections Training Recap and Comments
 - Other Concerns /Matters
 - Upcoming Dates/Events

Wear a Life Jacket... Your Life Could Depend on it

Since boating season started to ramp up in April, 11 boaters have died from drowning across the state. None of the victims were wearing a life jacket.

"Anyone who is in or near water should wear a life jacket," said Maj. Chris Huebner of the Wildlife Resources Commission. "It's a simple thing to do and it can absolutely mean the difference between life and death."

North Carolina requires anyone younger than 13 to wear an appropriate life vest when on a recreational vessel. Anyone riding a personal watercraft or being towed by one must also wear an appropriate life vest.

Both North Carolina and federal regulations state that a personal floatation device in good condition and of appropriate size should be accessible for each person onboard a recreational vehicle.

"It's important to put on your life jacket before you enter the water," said Huebner. "In dire situations, there often isn't time to grab a life vest and put it on properly. It can save your life and can help you assist others who may be in danger."

For more information on safe recreational boating or to enroll in a free boating education course by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, go to www.ncwildlife.org/Boating or call 919-707-0030.

Girls Softball Registration

Anson County Parks and Recreation is offering fall girls softball. This program is for ages 4-6; 7-8; 9-10; 11-12; and 13-15. Home games are at Little Park in Wadesboro, and away games are in Stanly County.

Registration started on July 1 and runs until Friday, August 5. The cost is \$25 per person. You may come to Little Park office to register Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or register on the Parks & Rec website, www.co.anson.nc.us.

For more information contact Jeff Waisner at 704-695-2550, Wendell Small at 704-695-2782 or Morris Gatewood at 704-694-5751.

Lifeguard Instructor Training Offered at Little Park

An American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor Certification Class will take place at Little Park Pool in Wadesboro in August. To participate you must currently be certified as a lifeguard, pass the lifeguard swim test, take an online orientation, and a pre-course session is required. Candidates must be at least 17 years of age.

For more information and class dates contact Wendell Small at 704-695-2782.

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Summer Camp Evening of Celebration

As the Summer Fun Day Camp 2016 is coming to an end, the campers at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center wanted to host an evening of celebration to share with sponsors and community supporters some of the things they have learned this summer. The celebration will be held this Thursday, July 28, starting at 5 p.m. Supper will be served, so you are asked to arrive early.

Sponsors, parents, presenters, workers, volunteers, tour guides, hosts and hostesses are all invited to come and celebrate this special event.

This summer over 50 children were enrolled in the camp. This could not have happened without kind and generous support.

For more information about this event or any BRLC program, please call 704-826-8737 or 704-826-8182. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.