

Thanksgiving Basket Celebration at BRLC

The Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center will host their Thanksgiving Basket Celebration on November 20th. The community is invited to share in this celebration.

Dinner will be served at 5 p.m., and the Thanksgiving Gathering Celebration will start at 6 p.m. At the food Harvest Community Church, Rocky River Baptist Church and BRLC volunteers will provide food filled baskets to preselected families. The eligibility of these families was selected in advance by the BRLC committee. The families were selected according to the USDA guidelines. The number of children in the home was also taken into consideration as well as the need.

Carol Smith, Director of BRLC said, "When we share with we have with others and the less fortunate one we open a well that continues to give back."

This annual Thanksgiving event was motivated by Harmony Community Church, Daughters of Jerusalem and Pastor Rocky Carpenter.

SPCC to Offer Basic Beading Classes

South Piedmont Community College will offer a pair of three-hour Basic Beading classes in the coming weeks.

The first class will be from 6 to 9 p.m. on November 29, and the other will be from 9 a.m. to noon on December 6. Both will be taught on the Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe. Students will learn the basics of stringing with flexible beading wire, basic earring/pendant wrap, elements of design and professional finishing. Students will finish with one necklace and a pair of earrings.

The registration fee of \$38 includes supplies and beads. Students should bring crimping pliers, chain-nose pliers, flat-nose pliers and round-nose pliers if they can. The instructor will also have some tools that can be shared.

For more information contact Carole Lynn Simmons at 704-290-5258 or csimmons@spcc.edu.

Letter to the Editor

Bruce Waddell Reaches Out to the Community

My name is Bruce Waddell and I was a member of the last class of Wadesboro High School, 1967. Coach Emory was the head coach when I was a freshman, along with Coach Thacker and Coach Shine Huntley. Coach Shine worked at the Wadesboro Post Office; however he coached and also drove the Activity Bus to all our out of town games. He also taped our ankles before games. He was really an outstanding line coach, as he was probably the best guard ever to come out of Wadesboro High School.

I can look back and remember telling the neighborhood boys that I was not going to drink. While in high school I did drink a little, and later on while a student at Appalachian State I fell into the wrong crowd and drank beer every night. Instead of being a leader as Coach Emory taught me it was a quarterback, I became a follower...as it turned out for college.

If it hadn't been for all the alcohol I drank for years, especially at years, I'd have earned myself a full education with the football scholarship that Coach Emory told me he could get me. This was after the last year when I went into his office to tell him how much I enjoyed playing football under him. I could have a State and Federal VA Scholarship and threw it away.

In high school I played basketball and then changed to wrestling when Coach Emory brought it into Wadesboro High. I lettered in wrestling. I then was on the track team, and by my senior year I was on the baseball team, only to have to quit to go to H. B. Allen Clothing Store in the afternoons to sweep the floor and vacuum the carpet.

If I had that to do all over again, I'd have quit the job and played baseball. You're in high school only once. If you loved sports as much as I did down deep, you'd pick sports first; you could end up with a scholarship. I told my brother-in-law, Mike Wagner, that his sons would never have to do like me. I never told him what I meant by that; but sports was going to be first in their lives instead of how work was in mine.

I started working young in life, maybe 10 or 11, delivering alterations for my Aunt Sara at City Cleaners, and I started buying my own clothes. Maybe I was too ambitious for my age, I don't really know. Anyway, at college I drank too much. I was a sophomore and could have gone back to college. At times I still regret not getting an education. I always intended on going back, but I'm 63 now and never have.

I never one time stuck a needle and thread to shoot anything up or used any heroin or meth or crack. When I was using other illegal drugs, I was arrested and taken to Dorothea Dix Hospital. There I stayed for I don't know how long and had my shock treatments, which really hurt. But I couldn't learn my lesson. The Medical Board took my driver's license, and at every time I could get them back, I'd get off my medication and start back drinking, only to lose them again. Today I have been drug free around 43 years, and I attended AA for around 43 years off and on, during different periods of time not drinking alcohol.

Well, I got my driver's license back 4 years ago this coming January 9th, as I had quit drinking alcohol 13 years before I tried to get my license. That means that next month will make 17 years since I've had a drink.

I get along with my family better, as I used to be hard to get along with. I feel a lot better mentally and physically. I no longer attend AA meetings, but think of how much they did help me, and maybe I need to attend some meetings. Mr. Russell Scarborough, Alcohol and Abuse Counselor, really helped me a lot. But I had to make up my mind first that I was going to quit. AA always has their doors open to welcome anyone to their meetings and they all help something in common - likely this problem is alcohol. I thank God for being there for me, watching over me always.

I'll always be so thankful for having a mama like I've got who is and love me even though for me. She has continued to care and love me even though I might have abused her or been ungrateful. I can truly thank God for straightening out my life while my mama is still here for me so I can help her and run errands for her.

It's good to still be alive as a lot of my drinking buddies are gone. My old friends from school and some others really don't care to be around me. I get left out of things, but that's okay. I know what I was and I know the person I've become, Bruce E. Waddell.

So, don't do as I have; do as I recommend you to do...decide early to avoid harmful addictions, alcohol and illegal drugs. Stay in school, get a good education as you can get a suitable, satisfying job. Live a productive life. I sure wish that I had, but no, I didn't. I have to live with the consequences of bad choices, but I am striving every day to become a better person. I am thankful for all I do have.

Board Meeting

Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District will hold the monthly board meeting on Tuesday, November 27 at 10 a.m. in the district office located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.



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