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Jean Howard to be Inducted Into Drag Racing Hall of Fame

Long time drag racer, Jean Howard of Polkton, earned induction into the North Carolina Drag Racing Hall of Fame after her long and successful racing career. Howard will be inducted on Saturday, February 18, along with NASCAR legend Richard Petty, Terry Adams and Frank Teague.

A spokesman for the NC Drag Racing Hall of Fame said, "2017 will mark the first time that 'Grass Roots' drag racers dominate the inductees into the Hall of Fame. First of all...how many raced against Polkton, NC's Jean Howard? I did...and she's been a force in the Carolinas ever since her first start in 1964."

Jean Howard said, "I followed my two brothers, and they would let me make practice runs. So, when my brother was drafted into the Army in the 1960's, I took his ride and he never got it back!"

Among many many wins and accolades, Howard said that her biggest achievement was the IHRA victory on the "pit road" drag strip at the Charlotte Motor Speedway in 1973. Her favorite car was the 1969 Z/28 Chevrolet Camaro pictured below.

Howard said, "My biggest rival was Roy Johnson, father of NHRA Pro Stock racer Allen Johnson. Major influences in my life are my family...Dad, Mom and my two brothers."



Jean Howard and her Z/28 showing a competitor and the large crowd how it's done!

Howard will become the first woman inducted into the North Carolina Drag Racing Hall of Fame, which is located in Kernersville, NC.

The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on Saturday, February 18 at the Greensboro Coliseum. At 12:30 p.m. there will be a Meet & Greet with the current and former NC Drag Racing Hall of Fame inductees. This will include a highly anticipated autograph and picture session. The Induction Ceremony begins at 2 p.m.

The Hall of Fame event is a part of the 15th Annual Shriners Drag Racing & Hot Rod Expo that takes place at the Greensboro Coliseum on Friday and Saturday, February 17 & 18. This giant event features a car show, swap meet, trade show, cars for sale, drag cars, street cars, muscle cars, classic cars, show trucks and custom bikes. There are over 50 commercial vendors, a swap meet and many awards for different classes of cars, trucks and motorcycles. The event is labeled as the biggest indoor show in the south.

If you would like to attend, more information is available at www.Shriners-HotRodExpo.com or call 336-763-5377. If you would like to enter your car, truck or bike into a show competition, or if you would like to be a vendor, the registration deadline is February 11.

The Greensboro Coliseum is located at 1921 West Gate City Blvd, Greensboro, NC 27403.



Anson County Chamber of Commerce Announces New Branding

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce unveiled a new logo and brand identity on January 30 to better reflect itself. The new branding amplifies the Chamber's vision, and will be integrated into a comprehensive new website and across all Chamber platforms and publications in the months ahead.

The Chamber's new logo, created by Leslie Stacks, designer at Shana's Paw Graphics, incorporates the bluebird, since Anson County is known as "The Blue Bird Kingdom of the World." Local Ansonians get to proclaim this after the late Heyward Harold McKinney convinced the County Commissioners to proclaim Anson County, "Bluebird Kingdom of the World" and mounted a campaign to raise funds and erect attractive signs on roads leading into the county to welcome visitors and inform them of the county's unique designation as a haven for bluebirds.

The new tagline - "Inform. Serve. Promote." - accompanies the logo conveying the Chamber's three-pronged mission to serve the interests of business and community. "We wanted a forward-looking logo for a forward-looking chamber," said Joe Dutton, the chairman of the chamber board.

McLeod Health Red Heart Luncheon

In support of American Heart Association National "Go Red for Women Day" McLeod Health is holding a Red Heart Luncheon this Friday, February 3 at 2 p.m. You are invited to come to Cheraw Matheson Memorial Library, located at 227 Huger Street in Cheraw, for a light lunch and a presentation by Dr. Eva Rzuicidlo of McLeod Vascular Associates. The event is free of charge.

Heart disease is the number one killer of women. Too many women die each year because they weren't aware of this important fact. Come find out how lives can be saved when women know the risk factors for heart disease and the signs and symptoms of a heart attack.

Attendees are encouraged to come dressed in red, and enjoy a delicious, educational and entertaining luncheon. If you would like to attend, please call McLeod Reservations & Scheduling at 843-777-2005 to register. Space is limited so call as soon as you can.



Burnsville Computer Class Graduates

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center recently celebrated and awarded adult students for their completion of the computer skills training class. The students were asked to attend biweekly, 2.5 hour sessions on Saturdays under the instruction Inez Williamson. Upon completion of the 18 hour course each student was issued a certificate for their hard work and success.

This computer session proved to be especially successful with more than a dozen students enrolled.

During the celebration students were given the opportunity to speak of their personal experiences while attending class. Several remarked they owned computers, but were unsure of what to do with them. They praised Mrs. Williamson for her patience, careful guidance and positive attitude toward them as students. These attributes improved their overall computer skills and functions. Each student said their computer knowledge was greatly increased, and now they can't wait to attend the advanced sessions.

Student Rosa Brewer was recognized and awarded for her perfect attendance. BRLC board members Marshall Caple and Jeremy Sikes along with director Carol Smith were in attendance for this special occasion.

Applications are being taking now for the next class. The tentative start date is March 4. Please call BRLC at 704-826-8737 or Toby Carpenter at South Piedmont Community College for more information.

Pictured here are Marshall Caple, Trumenda Caple, Gregory Brewer, Rosa Brewer, Inez Williamson, Jeremy Sikes, Virginia Cash, Clara Sicard, Phillis Watkin and Junius Sicard.

Blood Brothers Opens at the Ansonia!

"Did you hear the story of Johnstone twins? As like each other as two new pins. How one was kept and one given away. How they were born and they died on the self same day."

These are the opening lines for the hit musical Blood Brothers opening at the Ansonia Theatre. It runs two weekends, February 17-26. This is the heartbreaking story of twin brothers separated at birth when their mother can't afford to keep them both. She decides to give one of them away to her wealthy employer who can't conceive a child of her own. The two brothers grow up unaware of the other's existence, until they meet by chance at the age of 7 and become best friends and "blood brothers."

Director Tommy Wooten first saw the Broadway show at the age of 19 and it made a lasting impression. "It was my first trip to Broadway and I had never heard of the show, but got a discounted ticket and in I went," Wooten said. "When I left the theatre that day, I was a changed human being! I ended up seeing the show 3 times that week. I couldn't get it out of my head. The characters and the music stayed with me. The show was tragic, but more than that, it was joyful!"

"I had no idea that one day I would go on to direct the show myself. Being able to bring the show home to Anson County is a dream come true," Wooten added.

This production has a cast of 19, and includes some Ansonia stage regulars as well as several newcomers. The cast is led by Gina Clarke who plays Mrs. Johnstone and Terra Medlock as Mrs. Lyons, the birth mother and the adoptive mother respectively. They are joined by Tyler Baucom and Jake Sessions as the brothers and Savannah Tarlton as Linda, the girl who eventually comes between the two brothers. Wooten himself serves as the Narrator for the piece. The rest of the cast includes Steve Lear, Mark Traywick, Connie Thomas, Lauren Sellers, Glenn Caulder, Paige Mercer, Donnie Lewis, Ann Crescitelli, Kianna Ellerbee and Akela Martin.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or at www.ansoniatheatre.com.

The Ansonia Theatre Presents

WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD
Brothers

Directed By
Tommy Wooten

Music Directed
By Gail Litaker

February 17-26, 2017
704-694-4950
ansoniatheatre.com

Gina Clarke, Tyler Baucom, Jake Sessions, Savannah Tarlton, Terra Medlock, Tommy Wooten, Steve Lear, Mark Traywick, Connie Thomas, Lauren Sellers, Glenn Caulder, Paige Mercer, Tabitha Thomas, Mike Railton, Donnie Lewis, Ann Crescitelli, Kianna Ellerbee, Akela Martin

Polkton VFD Barbecue is Sat.

Everybody round up the family and head to Polkton for some of the most delicious food you have had in 2017! The Polkton Fire Department is holding their annual barbecue this Saturday, February 4, starting at 10 a.m. and running until they run out.

Dine in or use the drive-thru carry out and enjoy salt & pepper chicken, BBQ pork or BBQ chicken plates. They are served with beans, cole slaw, bread and dessert, all for only \$9.

If you have a large order, please call 704-272-7933.

Citizen donations of baked goods for dessert or monetary donations will be gratefully accepted.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday

Also, free food products are available every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) Emergency Food Pantry will distribute free food products this Saturday, February 4 at 10 a.m. These foods are provided by the NC Department of Agriculture. Families will be served until the food runs out.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for each individual's eligibility. Individuals who have not registered before nor received food from the BRLC Emergency Food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. Families that receive food stamp assistance automatically qualify. Each family will only be provided these commodities this month. Parents are asked not to bring small children. Neighbors, please park in parking lot behind center. BRLC distributes free groceries to eligible families on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and at other times. You can contact them at 704-826-8182 for information. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

Board of Elections to Hold Special Meeting February 8

Steve Adams, Elections Director at the Anson County Board of Elections, has announced a special meeting for Wednesday, February 8 at 5 p.m. at the Board of Elections office. The meeting will discuss Wadesboro 3 Precinct (Wadesboro Primary School).

For information call 704-994-3223. The Board of Elections is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The website is www.co.anson.nc.us/CountyServices/BoardofElections.

Grace Senior Center Offering Day Trip to Historic Brattonville

Grace Senior Center is sponsoring a one day trip to Rock Hill, SC on Tuesday, March 7 at a cost of \$50 per person. The trip includes lunch at Golden Corral in Rock Hill and admission to Historic Brattonville in McConnells, SC. Brattonville is a site that presents the history of the Scots Irish and African Americans in the South Carolina upcountry largely through preserving and interpreting the story of the Bratton community. The site features more than 30 historic structures from the 1760s to the late 19th century. The site provides visitors with an opportunity to see the evolution of Southern culture and architecture in the Carolina Piedmont. It includes a souvenir shop.

The trip will also visit the Rock Hill Galleria Mall for anyone who wishes to shop at the mall. Motor coach transportation is included in the cost of the trip. Grace Senior Center is now taking deposits for the trip, with a deadline of February 20. For more information or to register please call 704-694-6616.