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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

The BRLC Deserves Our Support

The Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center is facing a difficult time continuing their many valuable programs for the children and adults of Anson County due to the economic downturn. They distribute free food to families in need, offer summer meals to students who might otherwise go hungry, teach classes to adults and students, offer an After School Program, tutor students, and more. You can help by attending one of their regular events and donating, or just offering any kind of financial support you can. It will be an investment in our community, and will help children achieve healthier and better educated outcomes.

Presented here is a letter to the editor from a former student of BRLC, Victor Medley. He recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and credits BRLC with being a large factor in his success.

Dear Editor, I have lived the majority of my life in the Burnsville Community of Anson County. As a result I have been able to witness first hand the best and worst my community has to offer. In my community I have seen men and women lose their way to drugs, alcohol and gambling. I find myself deeply troubled by the degradation of human potential, the negative impact on the community, and the harmful effects on families that those temporary escapes from reality have. However, there is a light that continues to shine from inside the darkness. It is the Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center (BRLC).

The BRLC has been a unifying force in the community for two decades now, with a determination that has been heaven sent. The organization has helped the community and the less fortunate in many ways. In 2011 their food drives served 14,676 meals. They offer courses to adults and senior citizens in basic computer skills, which is vital in today's world. The BRLC created an After School Program that helps students, from elementary all the way through high school, get a firm grasp on their studies.

Throughout my high school years I was able to become a tutor for that program, which was really rewarding. I attended the After School Program for many years and it gave me a work ethic that me achieve my degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

During the summer the BRLC held its Summer Food Program which gave me the opportunity to meet other people my age, have two healthy meals a day, and take part in academic and cultural activities. We had the opportunity to enjoy much in the way of physical activity too. For more than ten years I participated in the Summer Food Program and I recall intense basketball games that would last long after the building was set to close. BRLC Director Carol Smith would always remind us to shut the gate and be safe. Now it seems the BRLC can no longer operate at the capacity it would like to anymore.

The economic downturn has trickled down to my small town and affected the once thriving BRLC. Now the After School Program can only take full payment from after school customers, when it used to serve people at a reduced price or for free. This year alone there was only one child who was able to attend. In all my years there I have never seen such a thing happen. I am reaching out through this letter to help the center. The people there are like family to me. I would like to see the children return to the summer programs because it is so needed in this community.

The BRLC provided care and help to children on the national free and reduced lunch program and to children who are at risk. For so many years Mrs. Smith and the volunteer board have given to Anson, Union, Stanly, Richmond and other counties with little or no pay. Now our duty is to give back and help this community center so that the volunteers can continue to help students and low income families.

At one time I was that student who drew from that light (BRLC) in my community.

The world has a habit of focusing heavily on the biggest issues at the moment. I am from a little town, with two stores, and one place where children and adults can get help learning. We are not the biggest news of the day, but we do exist, and we, like everyone, need help from time to time. I am asking that you donate financially what you can for a place that has become more than a place but an idea manifested. That idea is that unity is stronger than chaos, that knowledge is stronger than ignorance, and that love for one another is the strongest power that we have.

Will you please help with a one-time special financial donation? All checks and money orders should be payable to BRLC. The mailing address is: BRLC, 1961 Wightman Church Road, Polkton NC 28135, Attn: Victor Medley Project. All donations are tax exempted.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

My sincere thanks for any help you can offer. Victor Medley

Operation Dry Water Scheduled for this Weekend on NC Lakes and Waterways

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission will have law enforcement officers out in force June 28-30 in support of Operation Dry Water (www.operationdrywater.org), an annual nationwide campaign to remind boaters that it is unsafe, as well as illegal, to operate a boat while impaired. In North Carolina, penalties include a maximum \$1,000 fine and possible jail time.



"Drinking affects the skills necessary to operate a boat, including coordination, reaction time, balance and rational decision-making," said Maj. Chris Huebner, the state's boating safety coordinator and a wildlife officer with the Wildlife Commission. "We want everyone to enjoy his or her time on the water and do so safely. Having a designated driver, for boating and the drive home, is always a good idea."

Operation Dry Water is incorporated into North Carolina's multi-agency "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign, with wildlife officers from the Wildlife Commission on waterways and troopers from the State Highway Patrol on the highways, working for public safety.

Organized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, Operation Dry Water began in 2009 with the purpose of reducing boating fatalities involving alcohol. A 2012 US Coast Guard study found that while alcohol contributed to 8 percent of boating accidents overall, it contributed to 17 percent - nearly a fifth - of all boating fatalities. Operation Dry Water received this year's Horizon Award from the National Safe Boating Council for the campaign's dedication to moving recreational boating safety to a new level.

For more information on safe recreational boating or to enroll in a free boating education course by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, go to www.ncwildlife.org or call 919-707-0031.



Lilesville Elementary School Recognizes Terrific Kids for Honesty and Citizenship

Lilesville Elementary School Principal Maresa Dutton Phillips, Guidance Counselor Frances McClendon, and Staff would like to recognize the following students who were chosen by their peers as "Terrific Kids" for the character traits of Honesty and Citizenship. Congratulations!

They are pictured here, from left, front: Jessie Boatwright, Jason Zell, Travon Edgeston, Khenniyah Williams, Mason Lee and Zanolbia McRae. Second row: Ethan Lockler, Robert Lowery, Molly Abston, Trudy Bennett, Abigail Underwood and Jeffery Willoughby. Third row: Ronald Capel, Millie Ingram, Annie Brock, Hailey Cummings, Dylan Moore, Caden Clarke and Parker Lee. Back row: Rachel Eddins, Maya Pond, Elizabeth Felix, Kaeley Whitlock, Jacob Welch, Malik Duboise, Justin Huneycutt, Kalista Burr, Nykaiya Leak and Nicholas Bauer. Not pictured: Hailey Boone and Landon Brigman.

Patriotic Musical Event at the Ansonia

The patriotic cantata *Sweet Land of Liberty* will be performed by the Singing Americans of Stanly County, a non-profit organization on Thursday, July 11 at 7:30p.m. The event is free. The cantata, created by Randy Vader, Jay Rouse and Camp Kirkland, is a mixture of patriotic and religious music to be viewed and enjoyed by all ages. It is sponsored by the Anson County Arts Council.

Catherine Crandell of the Arts Council said, "America - the sweet land of liberty - home to a people who long to experience life to the fullest, and home to those willing to offer and endure what freedom demands." As our country faces uncertain times, we look through our history and ahead to our leaders, our families, our neighbors, and to God for strength and guidance. This sweeping tapestry of song, narration and drama is a definitive statement of tribute: to the American dream, to those who have given their lives to defend it, and to all Americans as we stand together for the sake of future generations."

Titles include: *An Orchestral Collage Of American Folk Songs; Star Spangled Banner; Sweet Land Of Liberty; Salute To The Armed Forces; This Land Is Your Land; Give Me Your Tired Your Poor; How Can I Keep From Singing?; Arkansas Traveler; Pick A Bale Of Cotton; Down By The Riverside/I've Got Peace Like A River; Great Is Thy Faithfulness; Salute To Our Fallen Heroes; The Lord's Prayer; and Battle Hymn Of The Republic.*

"They are a choir of 40 voices, with 4-5-6 part harmony, from all denominations, who sing for God and in support of our nation," Crandell concluded. "Please join us to celebrate the Birthday of our great nation! Veterans from all services will be recognized and are invited to come in uniform if you are available."

Summer Reading and Math Program

Studies have shown that students lose a fraction of what they have learned throughout the school year during each summer. Don't let your child be a statistic of this study. New Grove Missionary Baptist Church is offering a Summer Reading and Math Program to help students keep their focus and skills. This program, for grades K through 5, runs from Monday, July 1 to Thursday, August 1, with classes from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Space is limited so please call to enroll your child today. Donations are appreciated. Call Michelle Prince at 704-272-8884 (church) or 704-291-1320 (cell).

United Way's Anson Office Thanks Top Local Donors

Top companies and volunteers recognized for their community support

Recently the United Way corporate donors and volunteers gathered at South Piedmont Community College to be honored by United Way of Central Carolinas' Anson office for their contributions to a successful 2012 campaign. Sponsored by Anson Bank & Trust and Anson Community Hospital, the event recognized the top local organizations supporting United Way, as well as volunteers who led last September's Day of Caring, when more than 250 volunteers completed 55 projects helping senior citizens and nonprofits throughout Anson. In addition, local Board members and Community Investment Council volunteers were recognized for their tireless service and dedication.

During the event remarks were made by Lula Jackson of Anson County Department of Social Services, the 2012 and 2013 Board Chair, Dr. Fred Thompson of Anson Community Hospital, the 2012 Campaign Chair, Lawrence Gatewood of Anson County Government, the 2013 Community Investment Committee Chair, as well as representatives from United Way. Also on hand were representatives of several United Way agencies in Anson to show their appreciation.

The top 10 contributors honored at the event were: Premiere Fibers - United Way's Top Campaign award winner for Anson, Hornwood, Inc., Anson County Public Schools, Anson Community Hospital, Anson County Government, South Piedmont Community College, CMH Space Flooring Products Inc., Anson Bank & Trust, Duke Energy Progress, and Pee Dee Electric.

Together these 10 companies and their employees contributed 93 percent of the more than \$87,000 raised during United Way's successful Anson campaign.

"United Way could not support 10 partner agencies in the Anson region and 84 throughout its five-county area without the passionate support of more than 1,000 corporations and over 50,000 donors," explained Richard Heins, regional vice president of county operations for United Way.

"Thanks to host South Piedmont Community College this event gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation for this community's most significant philanthropic leaders."

United Way of Central Carolinas focuses on three vital areas: Children & Youth; Housing & Stability; and Health & Mental Health. Through its 84 partner health and human services agencies, United Way creates long-lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of problems, working in Anson, Cabarrus, Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Mooresville/Lake Norman and Union. To get help, or learn how you can help, call United Way's 211 hotline, or for more details, please visit www.uwcentralcarolinas.org.



Pictured here are Subrina Hough of HOLLA! and Dr. Fred Thompson of Anson Community Hospital.

Bowman Classes of 1968, '69 and '70 Reunion Meeting

There will be a meeting to plan the reunion of Bowman High School Classes of 1968, 1969 and 1970 during 2014. The meeting will take place at Lady Bug Restaurant on Saturday, July 13 at 6 p.m.

School Board Meets Today

The Anson County Board of Education will meet in regular session today, Wednesday, June 26, at the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Town of Lilesville Holiday Schedule

The Town of Lilesville will pick up garbage on Wednesday, July 3 instead of Thursday, July 4 due to the holiday.

Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" Campaign Yields 10,938 Violations

The North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Governor's Highway Safety Program announced today that nearly 11,000 drivers and passengers were cited for seat belt and child passenger safety violations during the 20th Anniversary campaign of "Click It or Ticket" over the Memorial Day holiday, which was held May 20 - June 2.

"The safety of everyone who travels our roadways is always a top priority," said NCDOT Secretary Tony Taka. "Our first-in-the-nation 'Click It or Ticket' campaign reminds us that while we've made significant progress we still have work to do to encourage every driver and passenger to buckle up."

Participating state and local law enforcement officers issued the citations during 8,482 checkpoints and stepped-up patrols. Nighttime enforcement was stepped up across the state and in Guilford County during one nighttime operation, they issued 109 occupant restraint violations over a four-hour period.

In addition to law enforcement efforts, GHSP and the N.C. Department of Transportation launched a social media campaign to increase awareness and remind passengers to buckle up. "#SafetySelfie" pictures were posted on social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and Instagram, including one posted by Gov. Pat McCrory.

"Click It or Ticket" is administered by the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program. For more information contact Heather Jeffreys at (919) 707-2665, or visit the GHSP website www.ncdot.gov/programs/GHSP.