



Shirley Streater Leads Youth Motivational Workshop

East Rock Ford Baptist Church's Baptist Training Union (BTU) hosted a Youth Motivational Workshop on May 22. The presenter, Ms. Shirley Streater (far right in photo) from Ebenezer Baptist Church, gave a very scriptural, informative and interactive workshop. Present for the workshop from various churches were the following youth: Nigal Rushing, Kayla Little, Quinea Hudson, Sha-Maiya Christian, Michael Christian, Qwinton Taylor, Brandon Watson, Jeffrey Watson, Jr., Zontaria Little, Alexis Gaddy, Jada Clark, Michael Parson, Evan Parson, Deon Everrett, Diarra Jeverett, La'Niya Clark, Alexei Gaddy, Erica Hatcher, Keenan Phillips, Kelly Bennett, Brittany Henderson, Jazmine Leak, Jada King, DeQuinton Robinson, Kendrick Maye, Jayla Maye and Qwincey Joines.

Legislative Report

From Sen. Gene McLaurin (dated June 18)

Two weeks ago parts of our state were affected by a major storm. One of the counties in our district, Stanly County declared a state of emergency Thursday evening, June 13 and has qualified for state disaster assistance. Thousands of people in the county were without power for several days and there were downed power lines and trees throughout the

area. Federal, state, and local emergency management personnel worked hard in a cooperative manner to clean up the debris and damage caused by the storm. The power crews worked around the clock to restore power. My thanks go out to all who were involved in helping Stanly County and those parts of the state that have been impacted by the storm. We live in a great state and at times like this we see so many examples of neighbors helping neighbors and trained, dedicated people helping others.

The big news in Raleigh is tax reform. I have been hearing about tax reform in NC for a number of years because our state tax code is based on a manufacturing economy and today's economy is more service based. As a state, we need to address the best method to fairly and responsibly raise the revenue needed to pay for education, health care, human services, public safety and the other services provided by state government to our citizens. A number of well-meaning, but unsuccessful attempts have been made in the past to modernize our tax code. Governor McCrory has publicly stated he wants any tax reform to be revenue neutral so we will not have to cut more education and human service programs. The NC Senate and North Carolina House have different ideas and their tax plans shift the tax burden to local governments and non-profits, like hospitals. Many special interest groups want to make sure their members or clients are not adversely affected. All of these differences of opinion are being debated in Raleigh right now. Despite the fact that one political party is in control in Raleigh, there is much disagreement even among the majority party leadership about how to reform NC's tax code. Things came to a head this past week when Senator Bob Rucho, the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee abruptly resigned his chairmanship and criticized the compromise plan that was being offered by his own party. He blamed some in his own party for caving in to special interests. My objective with any tax reform plan is that it does not hurt

our hard working citizens and senior citizens. We need a fair and balanced approach and we need to invest in our state to assure a quality public education and provide other needed public safety and human services that our citizens



Remembering..... By Ed McBride

Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation

Can you believe that Anson County was the "First in the Nation" to celebrate 50 years of the Soil & Water Conservation District? In 1987 the Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District celebrated (nationally) the 50th Anniversary here in Anson County. It was publicized nationally and many people came here to share in the honor. John Potter was Anson's Farm Agent at the time. (He even had some hair then...I think!!)

I can remember some of the remarks during the celebration. I could even remember while growing up there was the beginning of the "wide and wild terraces" on the farm crop rows. But those rows of the celebration really made an impression - smaller, more compact and exacting - doing the job better while taking less of the cultivated field. Truly it has made a big difference - making it better too! Ed

and businesses need. As it is currently written, HB 998 imposes a flat personal income tax and eliminates the corporate tax rate by 2017 with a sliding scale reduction over the next three years. This seems like a step in the right direction. However, when you look closer, this bill simply shifts the tax burden to many churches, non-profits, hospitals, senior citizens, businesses, and property owners who pay property taxes to their local governments. In addition, the bill eliminates the personal income tax deduction, standard and itemized deductions, as well as deductions on Social Security Income and other retirement income. Churches and non-profit organizations will no longer receive a sales tax refund on purchases over a certain threshold. Rural hospitals will lose their sales tax refund on purchases over a certain threshold. I have heard from every hospital in our district with concerns about House Bill 998. Of the 250 non-profits who will be affected, 90 of these are hospitals. As hospitals face many challenges over the next few years implementing the healthcare reform, and providing treatment to every patient, I can understand their concern. These changes could result in the loss of healthcare jobs in our communities. (See fiscal analysis: www.ncleg.net)

Over the past few weeks, I have heard from hundreds of citizens in our district, with an overwhelming number requesting that I oppose this plan. My priorities have always been job creation, promoting education, and the health and well-being of our citizens, so I could not in good conscience support a plan that shifts the tax burden to our lower and moderate income working families and individuals. Local governments will lose several current revenue streams which could potentially force them to raise property taxes. I spoke on the Senate floor against the bill describing my 15 years' experience as mayor and the unfairness of shifting the tax burden to those who pay property taxes. For example, to make up for lost revenue, Laurinburg would have to raise property taxes by 18.2%, Albemarle by 11.5%, Rockingham by 9.3%, Wadesboro by 4.7% and China Grove by 4%. Our county governments were still calculating the impact as I write this report but it would be substantial. I am against passing the bill to our cities, counties, churches, property owners, hospitals, non-profit organizations.

In committee work this past week we worked on Senate Bill 628: Promote and Protect NC Lumber. As a member of the Senate Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee, I had the opportunity to work across the aisle to help amend and pass a bill to ensure that NC lumber is promoted and given preference in the popular LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building program. The LEED program has been effectively designed to provide a rating system for design, construction, and operation of energy efficient buildings in the public and private sector. My Senate colleagues and I worked with representatives of the architects, concrete, steel, and lumber industries to bring about a compromise that promotes NC lumber in the LEED certification program.

On the Senate floor I explained and presented two house bills this week. One, House Bill 763 was a bill Representative Ken Goodman (D-Richmond) and I worked on together at the request of an attorney in our district. It is a family friendly bill which gives couples who have separated an option to reconcile without voiding a previous agreement. Another bill, House Bill 396, I explained and presented at the request of the sponsor Rep. Rick Catlin (R-New Hanover) which is an education act to help citizens better understand water quality issues with their private water wells. Both bills passed the Senate unanimously.

I had a chance to visit with the Alzheimer's Association this week, as they came to the legislature to increase awareness of the disease and help to educate people on the signs and symptoms. They shared with us the possible causes and risk factors, warning signs, issues related to diagnosis and treatment, as well as the hope of finding a cure. This is a devastating disease that affects so many people we care about. If you would to know more or have questions about signs your family member may exhibit, please visit www.alz.org or call their help line at 1-800-272-3900.

As always, please reach out to me and share your concerns by calling my office at 919-733-5953 or writing to Gene.mclaurin@ncleg.net.

BB&J FRESH FROZEN MEATS
A quality beef product.

Vacuum Wrapped State Inspected Meats

Cubed Steak	T-Bone Steak
Sirloin Tip	Sirloin Steak
Roast	Ribeye
Stew Beef	Steak
Ground Beef	And More...

Owner: Bryan Cash **Opening June 28, 2013**
704-475-3820

DEERE SEASON

NEW D105

STARTING AT \$1,499⁺

- 17.5 hp (13.05 kW)*
- Automatic transmission
- 42-in. Edge™ mower deck
- Full-length chassis frame
- 2-year or 120-hour limited warranty**

RIGHT NOW, THE PRICE IS AS AMAZING AS THE MOWER.

NEW Z235 **X300**

Only \$2,499⁺

- 20 hp (14.9 kW)* V-Twin
- 42-in. Edge mower deck
- 7 MPH
- 2-year or 120-hour limited warranty**

Only \$2,999⁺

- 18.5 hp iTorque™ Power System (13.8 kW)*
- 42-in. Edge mower deck
- Twin Touch™ foot pedals
- 4-year, 300-hour limited warranty**

JOHNDEERE.COM **JOHN DEERE**

NEW HOME BONANZA REPO RODEO

FUN! FOOD DRINKS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
JUNE 28 & 29

CHARRIETTE HOMES
HASELDEN HOMES
Cheraw, SC
843-253-5286

SHOOTING DOWN PRICES!
DON'T BE LEFT OUT!
FINANCING AVAILABLE
MANY HOMES TO CHOOSE FROM

The Source of Solutions for all Your Bedding Needs!

Celebrating Our 51st Year!

Rest Master comfort solutions.

CRAWFORD FURNITURE & MATTRESS OUTLET

127 Main St., Chesterfield SC • 843-623-7340

Over 50 styles on display! Free Delivery Free Disposal!

*Starting price at \$1,499 on the D105 Tractor; \$2,499 on the Z235 Mower; and \$2,999 on the X300 Select Series™ model. Attachments sold separately. Offers subject to availability and may be discontinued or modified, without notice, at any time. Taxes, setup, delivery and destination charges not included and may increase price. See your participating dealer for details. **Hour limitations apply and vary by model. See the LIMITED WARRANTY FOR NEW JOHN DEERE TURF & UTILITY EQUIPMENT at dealer for details. John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol and JOHN DEERE are trademarks of Deere & Company.
A0B03KCU1A54750-00393612