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**2018 Toys for Tots Gratitude Banquet is Saturday**

Anson County Toys for Tots 2018 Gratitude Banquet will be held this Saturday, January 12 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, beginning at 6 p.m. The guest speaker for the evening will be the Honorable Judge Christopher Windly Rhue. Pastor Steve Adams from Harvest Ministries Outreach Center will be the Master of Ceremony. Clerk of Superior Court of Richmond County Vickie Daniel will grace the event with her singing talents.

The theme for the 2019 Toys for Tots campaign is 'The Joy of Family Togetherness.' Coordinator Sturdivant stated, "This theme brought back memories of my home as a child and with my husband. We were trained to always eat dinner together as much as possible, especially on Sunday. So, some of the gifts given by the Toys for Tots Foundation were board games such as Memory, Don't Spill the Beans to Monopoly, Scrabble and Guesstures for older youth and adults."

Sturdivant continued, "Judge Rhue has been one of our greatest contributors since the beginning of Toys for Tots in Anson County."

Judge Rhue, is the son of Geraldine Laviner Rhue of Wagram, N.C. and the late Richard Windly Rhue of Vanceboro, N.C. Judge Rhue attended Wagram Primary, Shaw Middle School, and graduated from Scotland High School in 1989. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington where he earned a B.A. Degree in History. He then attended law school at Cumberland School of Law of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama where he earned his Juris Doctor degree.

Upon receiving his law degree in 1996 Judge Rhue began his legal career as a private attorney with a law firm in Abingdon, Virginia where he practiced law in Federal and State Court and was admitted to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia. He worked in Virginia from 1996-2001. In 2001 Judge Rhue moved back to his hometown to practice and was appointed Assistant District Attorney for Superior Court for District 16A (Scotland and Hoke Counties) in 2001. He prosecuted cases there from 2001 to 2014. In 2014 District 16A was expanded to include Anson, Richmond, Scotland and Hoke Counties. Judge Rhue filed for the judicial seat of Judge William McIlwain who was retiring in the new four county district and was elected by the people with no opposition in all four counties to the office of District Court Judge.

Judge Rhue is married to Dr. Jennifer Isehour, M.D. of Scotland Memorial Hospital, and who also is a volunteer at the Scotland County Free Clinic. They have an eight year old daughter Vivienne Grace Rhue. Judge Rhue is a member of Laurinburg Presbyterian Church where he is a past Deacon and currently serves as an Elder. He is a member of the Laurinburg Rotary Club, Scotland Youth Development, Scotland County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, and he serves as a volunteer on the Scotland County Truancy Court.

With Toys for Tots being the only major project supplying toys to the less fortunate in Anson County each year the need was even greater. During the 2018 campaign they were able to have their first "Senior Citizens Prom" and the Toys for Tots Motorcycle ride sponsored by Playaz Elite Motorcycle Club.

Special recognition will be given to all the contributors, sponsors and volunteers. Especially Harvest Ministries Outreach Center, Apostle Tim Adams and Pastor Steve Adams, who graciously open their doors each year and allow Toys for Tots to operate from their facility for 4 to 5 months. Sturdivant said, "For this I am truly thankful."

"For without each of them, the campaign would have never been such a success," Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant stated. "It truly brings joy to our hearts to be able to supply toys for so many less fortunate kids. We have already begin strategizing for the 2019 campaign. With the support of our Executive Board, the great leaders and citizens of this fine county, we will have a successful campaign."

**UNC and NCSU Basketball Camp Scholarships Available for Area Middle School Students**

Pee Dee Electric is giving two local middle school students the opportunity to hit the hardwood alongside their favorite college basketball athletes and coaches this summer, thanks to Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships. Pee Dee Electric will select one young man for a scholarship to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp June 22-26 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and one local young woman to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 9-12 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. The scholarships cover all expenses at the overnight camps, which provide a glimpse into life on a college campus.

"This is a great opportunity for students with a passion for basketball to experience what it's like to play and train with a college team," said Seth Allen, Communications Specialist for Pee Dee Electric. "The campers will get a chance to work closely with college athletes as well as coaches."

Applications are being accepted through March 31 and can be found online at [www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps](http://www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps). Contestants will be judged on academic records, extra-curricular activities and a required essay. To be eligible to win, students must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2019-2020 school year and have permission from a parent or guardian to attend. Scholarship winners are expected to be announced in May.

Campers stay overnight in dorms on campus, learn fundamental skills that will help them excel on and off the court, and receive individual and group instruction from Division 1 coaches to enhance their basketball and team working abilities. Wes Moore, coach of the Wolfpack women's basketball team, and Roy Williams, coach of the 2009 and 2017 national champion Carolina Tar Heel men's basketball team, will direct the camps with the help of staff, as well as current and former players.

Eligible students who are interested in the scholarship can contact Seth Allen at 704-694-7604 or visit [www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps](http://www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps) for more information.

More than 50 students from across the state will win an all-expenses paid scholarship to attend basketball camp this summer from North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Now in its 16th year, the scholarship program reflects Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' core values of accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community.

Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. Pee Dee's service area consists of Anson, Richmond, Union, Stanly, Montgomery, Moore, and Scotland counties. For more information about Pee Dee Electric, please visit [www.pdemc.com](http://www.pdemc.com); Like us on Facebook at PeeDeeElectric.NorthCarolina; or follow us on twitter.com/PeeDeeElectric.

**The Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday**

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings who have lost a child of any age, welcomes you to attend their monthly meetings. They meet on the second Thursday each month, at 7 p.m. in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric, located on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro. "We need not walk alone."

The next meeting will be held this Thursday, January 10. For more information call Irvin Thompson at 704-694-8774.

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