

## JROTC Cadets Support Toys for Tots in Anson County



Each year the Anson High School JROTC cadets select a project as part of their service learning. In prior years the cadet battalion has raised funds for charity, participated in a variety of community clean-up projects, and even prepared memoirs for the residents of Meadowview Terrace Assisted Living. This part of the JROTC curriculum can really make a difference in the community and the cadets look forward to it.

Cadets chose for their service learning project this year to support the Toys for Tots program in Anson County by assembling shoe box gifts for children. As anticipation for the holiday season grew the cadets were busy wrapping gifts with the hope that their work might bring the joy of Christmas to a less fortunate child this year.

Community leaders, led by Ms. Vancine Sturdivant, were overjoyed by the great efforts of the cadets as they were presented with more than 160 gifts to distribute throughout the county.

In the photo Anson JROTC Cadets are shown presenting gifts to Ms Vancine Sturdivant, Coordinator for Anson County Toys for Tots. Other notable people in the photo are Anson County Clerk of Superior Court Mark Hammonds, Weaver Thomas and Sheriff Tommy Allen.

### Legislative Update

*From Rep. Frank McGuirt:* The General Assembly returned to Raleigh this week to consider overriding the governor's veto of a bill that gutted the state's

Racial Justice Act, a law that helps ensure no one, of any race, is sentenced in the courts to death because of racial discrimination. We ended up leaving in the early hours of the next day having overridden a veto of a bill that punishes teachers who want to join the North Carolina Association of Educators.

The Republican majority said the Racial Justice Act was unnecessary. Now, let me make it perfectly clear, I support the death penalty. As sheriff and a sheriff's deputy I investigated murder cases, collected and processed evidence in murder cases as well as testifying in cases. I have been involved in cases in which defendants were convicted and sentenced to die. Two men whom I helped put on death row are there today.

The governor, like myself, a death-penalty supporter, said the state should have as many safeguards in place as possible to protect the governor's veto and prevent a legislature from being executed. The legislature could have chosen to not consider the veto, to simply meet and refer it to committee or to bring back both bodies for a session.

They chose to meet in a session that has very strict constitutional limits. The constitution allows only for the General Assembly to meet considering the single vetoed bill. The body can take no other action.

In this case, the Senate voted to override the bill. The House lacked the votes and referred the bill to committee and then appointed a committee to study racial discrimination in the court system. No additional details about the committee are yet available.

Under the constitution, the session should have ended after the racial justice bill was acted upon. Instead, the majority used the session to schedule a bill that makes it more difficult for teachers to join their professional organization, the North Carolina Association of Educators. It prevents members of the group from having their dues deducted directly from their paychecks, as the state still allows for many other professional organizations and dozens of other purposes. I myself am a member of the North Carolina Association of Retired Local Government Employees; my dues are deducted, but the majority in the House did not stop the deduction of my dues—only those of NCAE members. That simply is not fair.

Republican legislators passed the bill in retaliation for the NCAE's opposition to the Republican budget. The budget dropped North Carolina to 49th in the nation in education spending per pupil and resulted in the layoffs of thousands of teachers and teacher assistants throughout the state. The override passed with exactly the number of required votes. NCAE announced Thursday it plans to sue the General Assembly on constitutional grounds.

As always, I am a firm supporter of education and students and teachers and will side with them over politics any day. I will continue to follow this issue and let you know more as I learn it.

On another note, a number of new laws went into place on January 1, including a requirement that requires young drivers to log their time behind the wheel. For a full list of new laws, visit [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net). Under the heading on the left titled "News and Information," click on the item titled "2011 Legislation with Effective Dates."

As always, thank you for your interest in our state. I hope you had a restful and peaceful Christmas season and a Happy New Year with your families and I stand ready to help you whenever you may need me. My legislative office number is 919-715-3007, my email address is [Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net](mailto:Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net).

### Second Half of DeWitt Series Set to Kickoff in Rockingham

Individual show tickets are still available for all of the remaining shows of the DeWitt Series, held at the Cole Auditorium on the campus of Richmond Community College in Hamlet. This season's series, which has already featured three exciting shows, is reaching its midpoint as the calendar turns over to 2012.

"Attendance and audience feedback has been great for all three performances so far," said Auditorium Director Joey Bennett. "It has been exciting to have The Red Clay Ramblers, The Four Tops and a tribute to the 'Rat Pack' to make up the first half of this year's season." However, Bennett reminds community members that the second-half of the season has a lot of excitement also. "We are anticipating the remaining four shows will be just as entertaining and will have an even wider appeal," Bennett continued.

The 2012 portion of the series will feature "Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway," a George Gershwin revue entitled "Who Could Ask for Anything More" featuring the Spectrum Brass Quintet, comedienne Jeanne Robertson, and the Broadway show "Damn Yankees."

The first show of 2012 is scheduled for Thursday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m. The show, "100 Years of Broadway," is a musical revue featuring five Broadway veterans performing the greatest hits from Broadway's last 100 years. It was created and co-produced by composer Neil Berg. "Mr. Berg has worked with such well-known talents as Ben Vereen and Bernadette Peters and has created a breath-taking combination of classic songs from dozens of Broadway musicals," Bennett said. Tickets for "100 Years of Broadway" are \$25.00 each.

February's show is an entertaining sampling of some of the numerous works of composer George Gershwin. Perhaps best known for "Rhapsody in Blue" and the opera "Porgy and Bess," dozens of Gershwin's compositions have become standards in popular culture. The show will feature The Spectrum Brass Quintet's take on Gershwin's well-known pieces and will be presented on Thursday, February 23. Tickets to the performance are \$25.00 each.

Comedienne Jeanne Robertson will take the Cole stage on Thursday, March 1. She has found fame via internet videos for her clean, real-life comedy. Bennett commented, "Many of our audience members have told me they have seen her on the Internet and on video e-mails that have been forwarded to them. Anyone who has heard any of the stories that she tells about her husband, her traveling adventures, or about southern performance in general has instantly fallen in love with her. She has developed a loyal fan base with her performances at workshops, conferences and church retreats." Tickets for the Jeanne's performance are \$25.00 each.

The 2012 series concludes with the Broadway show "Damn Yankees." The original production in 1955-1956 won eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical. More recently, the 1994 revival on Broadway won four more Tony Awards including Best Revival of a Musical. The show is set in Washington, D.C. in the 1950s, during a time when the New York Yankees dominated Major League Baseball. The central character, Joe Boyd, is willing to do whatever is necessary to help for which he is a fan, the pathetic Washington Senators, win the pennant. Tickets for "Damn Yankees" are \$35.00 each.

While DeWitt Series season ticket holders will enjoy the performance as a part of their season ticket package, single tickets are available for all four remaining performance and can be purchased by calling (910) 410-1691 or by visiting the Cole Box Office at 1042 W. Hamlet Ave, Hamlet N.C. Tickets will also be available on the night of each performance.

Updated information about events at the Cole can be found on the Cole Auditorium section of the Richmond Community College website, by [www.facebook.com/coleaud](http://www.facebook.com/coleaud), [www.twitter.com/coleaud](http://www.twitter.com/coleaud) or by registering for the email program.

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