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H.W. Little & Company 109 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro 704-694-2214 • M-F 7:30am-5:30pm • Sat. 8am-12pm

#### Holla Presents an Evening Of Culture

In commemoration of Black history month, Holla is hosting an evening of culture on Thursday, February 2. The event will highlight Oneaka Collective, Inc., an African Dance Group from Charlotte. Fresh from an astounding performance at the Blumenthal Theater in Charlotte, the group promises to awe the audience with drums, song and dance.



we recognize those who have blazed the trails before us," said Alex Gaddy, chairman of the committee organizing the event. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7 p.m. event. Tickets are on sale in advance, \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. For information and advanced tickets, call 704-851-3144.

The event is co-sponsored by The Anson County Arts County Arts Council.

"We will continue to offer events to awaken the creativity and power within our youth," said Leon Gatewood, Holla CEO.

### Brown Bag Book Club Meets January 30

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, January 30 at noon for a potluck lunch (please bring a dish) and talk by Mr. Cecil Campbell, a renowed genealogist. Mr. Campbell is very active in the Historical Society in Montgomery County, NC and is a very interesting speaker.

Please make plans to attend, and bring a dish and a friend. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call the library at 704-694-5177.



Also on the program will be the New Hope Mass Choir from Hamlet, the Spirited Mime Team from Laurinburg, and Dance Like David Dance from Wadesboro. Also, a group of students from Anson New Tech will make a presentation on little known Black history facts in Anson County.

Another highlight of the program will be the presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards. "It is important that



## Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation

Some few of you remember the observance ceremony of our nation's first conservation district, located right here in Anson County - the Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District. It began in 1937 by Dr. Hugh Bennett. Bennett was an Anson County native, and he is known as the Father of Soil Conservation.

The first year of Bennett's duties were slow, continuing to improve as time moved on - changing, improving the water flow across the many acres here in Anson County - as soil and water conservation "proved its lessons." Even I can remember the "misdirected" water across the fields, the branches and creeks in the area - many times water over the roads.

Now, as we "pause for inventory," it has been 75 years since "the beginning" and twenty five years since the celebration here in Anson County that was held at the then new Anson Junior High School with many people attending. I painted the signs and banners for the event.

Thanks for reading/sharing in our Remembering. Ed

### "Thank a Farmer"

An article was recently released from Yahoo entitled "College Majors that are Useless." Being not that removed from collegiate life, I clicked on through the link, ready to see what the thoughts were. No sooner did the page refresh, I almost spit out my coffee. Agriculture was ranked #1. Their philosophy behind this choice was that farms are becoming more efficient, therefore less management and workers are needed. It makes sense, right? But, obviously the person who so eloquently authored this article is not familiar with the agricultural industry at all.

Let's look at typical agriculture in the United States, North Carolina, or hey, even Anson County. The average farmer is 58.9 years of age. Do they have college degrees? The majority I would make a hypothesis of no, which is not necessarily a bad thing. They learned from experience, from watching their grandfathers and fathers and uncles work the land. They have integrated new technologies fabulously, without having a degree in agriculture. They have much more than a piece of paper, more wealth of knowledge than any college professor, classroom, or book could teach. It's called hands-on experience, which is invaluable and cannot be taught.

So agriculture only deals with farmers, right? Not so, it is an industry that starts with the farmers, but is made possible through a network of individuals, companies, and government entities. Each state has a whole state department devoted to

agriculture, not to mention the whole United States Department of Agriculture that regulates all things ag. North Carolina Department of Agriculture has employees who work with slaughterhouse facilities, pesticide trainings, marketing, agricultural statistics, budgets, forest services, research stations, the plant industry and soil and water conservation. Then there are the feed, seed, and pesticide companies, insurance, banks, accountants, lawyers, mechanics, publicists, whose sole devotion is agriculture. Throw in the researchers at universities and private companies whose focus is on animal, poultry, soil, crop, or plant science, horticulture, agriculture economics, entomology, agricultural engineering, genetics, and microbiology, and that is a lot of people. Then come the educators, those that teach high school agriculture courses, Cooperative Extension agents and consultants, whose primary attention is teaching. They teach the high school students about horticulture, or the local producers about pasture management, or consult about a weed problem. Still think that agriculture is only farmers? I'm not trying to take away anything from the farmers of today. They have met every adversity and conquered it. They continue to feed America and other countries with less and less land. They continue to beat floods, tornados, hurricanes, drought, bugs and weeds, and still are thinking towards the next year. They are the heartbeat of America. They are the reason why this industry exists. So, if you were able to go to the grocery store and pick up exactly what you wanted for supper tonight, thank a farmer. By Jessica Anderson, Agricultural Agent



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## Toys for Tots County-Wide Yard Sale

Toys For Tots will host a County-wide Yard Sale on the Square in Wadesboro on Saturday, March 3rd, beginning at 5:30 a.m. All proceeds go to the 2012 Toys For Tots campaign.

To donate items or money to the yard sale please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704 848-4412, Bernice Bennett at 704 694-6616, Jennifer Tarlton at 704 694-3115 or Ester Lindsey at 704 848-8452.