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

Merrie Datin Honored as Main Street Champion



Merrie Datin receives the 2008 NC Main Street Champion Award from NC Secretary of Commerce, Jim Fain, and Assistant Secretary for Community Development, Cleveland Simpson

At the annual NC Main Street Awards Reception and Program held on Thursday, January 31 in Rocky Mount, NC, a local uptown Wadesboro business owner, Merrie Datin of The Forever Inn Bed & Breakfast Inn, received a 2008 NC Main Street Champion Award.

Four representatives from Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. traveled to Rocky Mount to attend the annual NC Main Street event. They were UWI chair Kathryn Emory, Don and Barbara Altieri and Datin. The NC Main Street awards event recognizes and honors communities, companies and individuals throughout North Carolina who have made significant contributions to their towns in the NC Main Street program. The scope of the improvements and contributions made in NC Main Street communities is very impressive; the financial investments made are significant; and the investment of time and effort to improve small towns is incalculable. "It's a big deal for our small town to be included in this event," said Emory.

Datin was recognized for her support of the downtown revitalization efforts of UWI. Some of Merrie's contributions include creating UWI's website at www.uptownwadesboro.com, promoting uptown Wadesboro on the internet and maintaining the website at no charge. Merrie was the driving force behind the Visitor Shopping Guide for the uptown Wadesboro business district, designing and writing the brochure as a member of the UWI Publicity Committee.

Wadesboro has been a Main Street town since 1984, and is the only town in the NC Main Street program to be administered by an all volunteer group of dedicated citizens. If you'd like to volunteer to help UWI on any of their community projects, please contact Don Altieri at 704-695-1644. For more information on UWI please visit the website at www.uptownwadesboro.com.

Charles Collini Announces Bid for Superior Court Judge

Attorney Charles Weaver Collini has announced his candidacy for Superior Court Judge in District 20A, which includes Anson, Richmond and Stanly Counties. "The people of Anson, Richmond and Stanly Counties deserve a working judge who comes from a background that represents the district. I understand what it means to make a payroll and to work for a living. I will bring that experience and background to the bench and that's important for the families and businesses in our district," Collini said.

Prior to running his private practice in Wadesboro for the past twenty-five years, Collini served as Assistant District Attorney in the 20th Judicial District for six years. He twice served as President of the 20th District Bar Association.

Collini is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received both his Bachelor and Doctorate degrees. Upon receiving his Doctorate, he served as the law clerk to the Hon. Algernon L. Butler, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina.

Collini is married to Olivia Collini, and is a father to four children, Charles, Jr., Michael, Morgan, and Meredith.

Edgeworth Trial Underway

The trial of Jerry Edgeworth for the murder of Risdan Lyon is underway in Rockingham. District Attorney Michael Parker and Assistant District Attorney Tim Rodgers are leading the prosecution for the state. Edgeworth is charged with First Degree Murder and First Degree Kidnapping in Lyon's case.

Ronnie Burr, who was charged with Accessory After the Fact in the murder, is cooperating with prosecutors in the trial in a plea bargain situation.

Besides the charges in the Lyon murder, Edgeworth is also facing charges of Statutory Rape, Sex Offense with Over Six Year Old, Indecent Liberties with a Child, Crime Against Nature, First Degree Kidnapping, Attempted Second Degree Sex Offense and Assault on a Female.

Crocheting Classes at Grace Senior Center

Grace Senior Center is sponsoring a series of crocheting classes at the center each Wednesday, starting February 20 and running through March 26. The classes will run from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

According to instructor Doris Bennett, you will need to bring these items to the classes: size H or I crocheting hook, and yarn suitable for crocheting.

Call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register or to receive more information.

Morven Elementary Students are Royal Readers!



Ms. Corbett's second graders at Morven Elementary School, celebrated the one hundredth Day of School by reading one hundred books. The students read various genres as well as practiced their fluency and comprehension skills.

Pictured here, the students are holding some of the stories that they enjoyed reading. Ms. Corbett was proud to "crown" her students Kings and Queens of Reading.

Dare to Delve and Discover, Become A Detective, Darling!

All of you have a "fave" holiday, occasion or circumstance that makes your heart pump a little harder and your step a little lighter. Favorites stimulate the senses and make you feel good even on the worst of the worst days.

Valentine's Day is, for what it's worth, my favorite special day. February 14 is not a date occupied with fervent shopping, long to do lists or significant hoopla that sometimes encompasses other holidays, events and occasions. It's just an adorable day satiated with pretty colors like pink, pink and more pink (another favorite) and usually carries with it lovely sentiments. Wine and roses, candy and cards, or diamonds and gold are often typical favors and do provide that warm and fuzzy feeling. But I must say one of the warmest, fuzziest feelings I ever experienced was from none of the above mentioned. No, it came by way of three dance classes for a grand \$10 deal! So the thrills and chills one would expect from expensive gifts were actually realized from a ten dollar bill, some not-so-fancy footwork on the dance floor and carried more value for me than a diamond encrusted tiara. And even though it has been a while, I still remember those classes with sheer delight. Factor in that someone was actually attuned to my thoughts and feelings make the event even more distinctive.

The trick is to discover your special someone's favorites and share those rather than the traditional. It was a wise person who said, "When you speak you repeat what you already know, but when you listen you

learn." With that said, make someone truly happy by giving them a heart grabbing ear to ear grin with not so much mullah spent it flattens the wallet or empties the purse. Use a smidgen of creativity, listen intently and find that your guy or gal may surprise you with just how little it takes to intrigue them. Part of their charm, after all, is their unique individuality so don't just give him or her any old trinket requiring no thought provoking exploration. Delve into their minds, their souls, become a detective!

And since tomorrow is Valentine's Day, bear with me as I send sappy sentiments to all my family, friends and loved ones. Hopefully you'll receive the unique charms you deserve, like finding a love note in your lunch, on the refrigerator door or in the seat of your car, bubbles in your bath, a container filled with hand-written daily blessings, pennies from Heaven, heads up of course, poetry composed especially for you, a smile and a hug at the door after a long day's work, a favorite song on the radio, warm cover for your afternoon nap, a heart drawn through the steam on your bathroom mirror, or whatever you, in your uniqueness feel passionate about for a perfectly pleasing day.

Take note of the words spoken by those significant in your lives and listen to their hearts when words are left unsaid. You may discover something that proves invaluable. And hey, it doesn't have to be a special occasion either, but happy Valentine's Day nevertheless.

By Melanie Morse

Forum for New Agri-Civic Center

The public is invited to an open meeting at the Extension Center on Thursday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the feasibility of a new agri-civic center. The community forum will gain local citizen input to the needs of the county in relation to such a facility. This open forum follows a series of smaller meetings that started the discussion of opportunities and possibilities in pursuing a new center, as well as tours of facilities in surrounding counties. And now this process turns to the community.

Anyone interested in the possibility of a new agri-civic center for Anson County is asked to be in this conversation. Steve Allan, consultant and President of Solutions 4 Local Government, will facilitate the session to explore the needs of the county in designing a new facility. The public's input is welcomed.

The morning forum will address such questions as - What would such a building look like? How big should it be? Who in the county (and outside the county) would use it? What would it be used for? If you know of others that need to be included in this dialogue, please feel free to invite them. For this building to become a reality, it must represent the total county, in terms of need, usage and potential. Please call if you plan to attend. The number at the Extension Center is 704-694-2915.

The future of Anson county is too important to remain stagnate while surrounding counties grow. Your voice is needed to see where the county's collective interests are and proceed from there. Thank you for being a part of this process.

Open Doors Center for Children

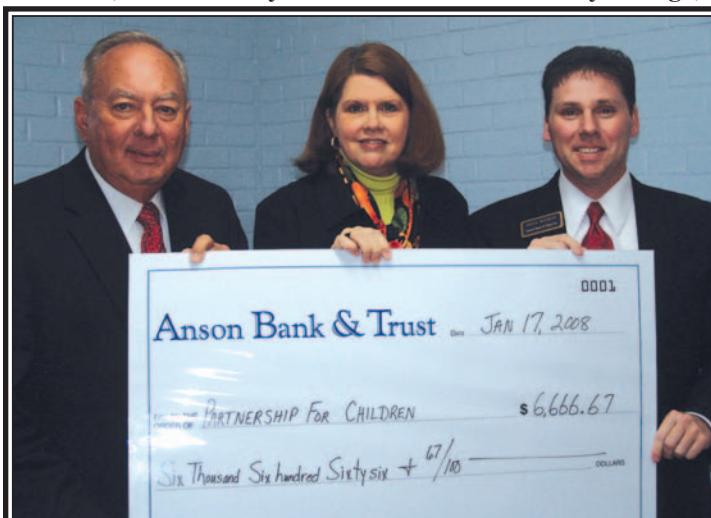
More children will enter Kindergarten ready to succeed in Anson County thanks to a contribution made by Anson Bank & Trust. Anson Bank & Trust has partnered with Anson County Partnership for Children to assist the Partnership in its mission of "helping make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child." The contribution of \$6,666 helped to renovate a new classroom to serve 18 children through the More at Four program in Anson County. The classroom, operated by Open Doors Center for Children, is a ministry of the First United

Methodist Church of Wadesboro. This classroom opened and began providing services on February 4.

The Anson County Partnership for Children has been instrumental in increasing the availability of quality child care in Anson County for the last eleven years. The Open Doors Center for Children is another example of the Partnership's collaboration with local organizations to leverage resources and meet the needs of the community.

The More at Four program, a program started by Gov. Mike Easley a little more than five years ago, has expanded in Anson County to serve 180 children. Children are eligible for the program the year prior to Kindergarten if they meet income and service priority eligibility. The More at Four program provides 4-year-old children with a full-day, high-quality preschool program free of charge to their parents.

Limited slots are still available at the Open Doors Center for Children for this program year. To find out if you qualify for this free program or for information about the More at Four program, call Kim Wilson at 704-694-4036.



Jim Strayhorn and Dana Maness from Anson Bank & Trust flank Elaine Scarborough, Anson County Partnership for Children Executive Director.

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