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

Domestic Violence Coalition BBQ is this Friday at Calvary Episcopal Church

Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition will hold its annual BBQ Fundraiser this Friday, February 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This year the event will be held at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at 304 East Wade Street in Wadesboro. Dine in and take out are available. Deliveries to local businesses and organizations are courtesy of Anson County Sheriff's Office.

The costs are: Sandwiches \$4, Pints \$10 and Quarts \$20. Plates are \$9 and include chopped BBQ, slaw, baked beans, roll and dessert. Drinks are included with dine-in orders.

Call in and fax orders are welcome. The office number is 704-694-4499 and the fax number is 704-694-4515.

The Anson County Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center is a nonprofit organization funded solely by grants and fundraisers. They encourage you to come join them for some delicious BBQ and help promote awareness against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Thank you for your continued support!

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday

A new shipment of USDA foods will be distributed this Saturday, February 29, from 12:00 noon until 2 p.m., or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The items are distributed on a first come, first served basis for eligible Anson County citizens.

All Ansonians who are seeking help with food will need to apply for assistance. (The new year for qualifying began October 1, 2019). * Families or family members who receive federal food assistance automatically qualify. Children are not allowed during this time.

All participants who plan to pick up food are asked to bring someone to help them if they need help, as BRLC will no longer be able to provide this support.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution Division provide these food items through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for individual's eligibility. The food items will only be available to Ansonians. Individuals who have not registered or received food before from the BRLC Emergency Food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. Those families who receive food stamp assistance will automatically qualify. Parents are asked not to bring children due to limited seating space. Neighbors are always asked to please fill BRLC's parking lot first. Burnsville Fire & Rescue have made their parking area available for the overflow of neighbors who attend. Please do not arrive before 12 a.m. on Saturday morning.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information check www.burnsvilleilc.org.

Applications Accepted for the Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program

This internship offers high school girls an opportunity to explore STEM careers in state government

The NC Department of Administration's Council for Women & Youth Involvement (CFWYI) is accepting applications for the annual Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program. The mentorship program is a 5-week summer enrichment opportunity for high school girls in North Carolina who are interested in exploring careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics within state government. More information is at the website: ncadmin.nc.gov. Type "Lady Cardinal" in the search window.

"The Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program nurtures the academic interests in STEM of high school girls, giving them a platform to explore careers that are often dominated by men," said NC Department of Administration Secretary Machel Sanders. "Lending such opportunities to our young women not only prepares them for the jobs of today and tomorrow but can potentially help reduce occupational segregation among men and women in the workforce and close the current gender wage gap."

According to data released from the 2018 Status of Women in NC: Employment & Earnings Report, women in North Carolina earn a median income of \$36,400, and an average of \$8,600 less than men. Offering paid internships, training, apprenticeships and recruiting women to more high-growth and earning occupations, like engineering and information technology, can help improve the present employment and earnings disparity among women and men across our state and nation. The report is at: iwpr.org.

Established in 2019, the Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program offers high school girls hands-on work experience in STEM-related fields, cultivating their career goals while encouraging continuing education. The mentorship program runs June 15 - July 17, 2020. Selected students are assigned to state agencies based on field of interest. Each student will earn a stipend and work a total of 40-hours per week.

Students interested in applying for the 2020 summer mentorship program have until March 13, 2020. To be eligible, students must submit a completed application along with a resume, cover letter and transcript to NNC CFWYI's Internship & Youth Council Coordinator, Candace Dudley at candace.dudley@doa.nc.gov or NC Department of Administration's Policy Development Analyst, Emily Roach at emily.roach@doa.nc.gov.

For more information on the Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program and to download an application, please visit the NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement website for more details: ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/council-for-women.

About DOA Established in 1957, the Department of Administration acts as the business manager for North Carolina state government. Under the leadership of Secretary Machel Sanders since appointed by Governor Roy Cooper in 2017, the department oversees Government Operations and advocacy programs. The department's advocacy programs provide advocacy, assistance and services to diverse segments of the state's population that have been traditionally underserved.



Writers' Club Announces 2019 Contest Winners

The Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC) held its 31st Awards Ceremony for the winners of the 2019 contests in prose and poetry on Sunday, February 23 in the Little Theatre at Hampton B. Allen Library. The contests were open for students in grades 3-12 and adults.

ACWC President Kaye Ratliff welcomed the winners along with their friends and families. Ratliff noted that, "We had some really good entries." She said that this year the awards ceremony added certificates of appreciation to the teachers whose students had won awards. The certificate thanked the teachers for encouraging their students to enter the contests in their grade level. They also received two stuffed "goody bags," one filled with office supplies and the other with classroom cleaning supplies.

Ratliff, Kelly Liddington and Randy Tarlton, the contest Co-Chairs for 2019, awarded the certificates and cash prizes. Ratliff also read the judges' remarks about the entries, showing why they had won.

Winners in grades three to six won \$15, \$10 and \$5 for First, Second and Third Place. First Place in Poetry went to Zyrell Robinson, Lilesville Elementary School, for "Your Best." Second Place was awarded to Pashense Ledbetter, Lilesville Elementary School, for "My Very Best" and Third Place to Sierra Preston, Ansonville Elementary School, for "My Grandma Baking Cakes." Grace Woods won Honorable Mention for her poem, "Irresistible Bread."

First Place in Prose was awarded to Catalina Liles, Lilesville Elementary School, for her story "Rose and Boomer." Liberti Horne, Lilesville Elementary School, placed Second with "Dream Big Dallas," and Cooper Ross, Ansonville Elementary School, won Third Place for "Flopsy the Bunny." Shaniyah Bennett, Peachland-Polkton Elementary School, was awarded Honorable Mention for "My Precious Family."

Entries in grades six-eight also won \$15, \$10, and \$5 cash awards. Winners in Poetry in this division were Allison Honeycutt, First Place for "Purpose;" and Jaydan Lindsey, Second Place for "Venus." Kenya Tanner won Honorable Mention in the Prose division for "The One Who Started it All." All three attend Anson Middle School.

Cash prizes for grades nine-12 were \$20 for First Place, \$15 for Second, and \$10 for Third. Leon Liles won First Place for his poem, "To Veterans" and Zoha Ali won second place for "Mirror Mirror on the Wall." Jacqueline Cherry won First Place in the Prose category for "Seven Letters" and Abigail Gano won Second Place for her story, "The Deal." All attend Anson County Early College.

Adult winners in the Poetry category were Kelly Liddington, Polkton, First Place for "A Righteous Farmer;" John Witherspoon, Wadesboro, Second Place for "Mountains;" and Mario Kersey, Raleigh, Third Place for "Elegy to Joy."

Prose winners were John B. Marek, Wadesboro, for his story, "Esque." Kelly Liddington won Second Place for "If It's Black and White It's a Holstein," and Kaye Ratliff, Wadesboro, placed Third with "Come Ye Thankful People, Come." Prizes in the adult divisions were \$50, \$30, and \$20, respectively.

Teachers honored with certificates of appreciation were Sharon Belcher, Rebecca Tolson and Sheila Moore, all at Lilesville Elementary School; Tracy Preslar, Ansonville Elementary School; Brooke Puckett, Peachland-Polkton Elementary School; Tangula Diggs, Anson Middle School; and Rhonda Benton, Wendy Dalrymple and Jade Knotts, all at Anson County Early College.

Following the presentation of awards, attendees enjoyed a reception featuring finger foods and punch.

The Anson County Writers' Club meets every fourth Sunday (except July and December) at 3:00 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. New members are welcome. For more information call Kaye Ratliff at 703-694-5431 or Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211. The website is www.ansoncountywritersclub.org.

Pictured above are, from left, front row: Kelly Liddington, Sierra Preston, Grace Woods, Cooper Ross and Liberti Horne. Back row: John B. Marek, Catalina Liles, Jacqueline Cherry, Kaye Ratliff, Zoha Ali, Jaydan Lindsey and Allison Honeycutt.



Anson Singers Perform at Carnegie Hall

Twelve members of the Anson Singers traveled to New York City February 14-18. They performed at Carnegie Hall on Monday, February 17 as part of a 200+ member choir (DCINY, Distinguished Concerts International New York) in an evening concert entitled, "Who Are The Brave: Music in Honor of President's Day."

The first part of the concert was under the baton of American composer/conductor Joseph M. Martin.

The Anson Singers, pictured above with Joseph Martin (center), are, from left: Janine Rywak, Mike Railton, Mary Lynn Railton, Johnny Almond, Emily Privette (director of the Anson Singers), Trey Lincoln, Krista Herold, Maggie Gibson, Barbara Dickson, Sarah Kalish, Barbara Morgan and Kim Gainey.

