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Vancine Sturdivant Named 2013 Champion for Children



In a release from the Anson County Partnership for Children: The Anson County Partnership for Children is proud to announce Vancine Sturdivant as the recipient of the 2013 Champion for Children award. Presented by the Anson County Partnership for Children at the Champions for Children reception on January 25, the award recognizes an individual, group, or business who champions the well-being of children; demonstrates a commitment to providing a better future for children; works with others in the community to raise awareness about children's issues; believes in building strong families; demonstrates leadership on behalf of children in the community; and does their best to make life better for Anson County children.

Vancine (pictured above, left, with Elaine Scarborough) was chosen by the Partnership's Board of Directors from a group of finalists that also consisted of HOLLA!, Gail Litaker and Charles Riddle. Known by many in Anson County as a guardian of the young, the poor and the old, Vancine's generous spirit permeates all that she does, from her political activities to her enlisting everyone in her path to help nurture people in her community. In her efforts to ensure that children are given the opportunity to succeed, Vancine started the Back to School with Pride program that collects book bags and school supplies for hundreds of local children in need. In addition, Vancine was the conduit who brought Toys for Tots to Anson County; determined that every child would receive love and experience the joy of Christmas. In December 2012 over 3,000 children were served by Toys for Tots in Anson County. Vancine advocates and pushes for the election of those in support of education and children's welfare.

Elaine Scarborough, Director of Partnership for Children, had this to say about Vancine, "Almost everything Vancine does for children is done entirely as a volunteer. She works day and night for the children of Anson County simply because she loves Anson County."

In her acceptance speech Vancine specifically thanked her mother and grandmother for instilling in her the belief of helping others. "When I was young I never knew I was poor. If someone had told me I was poor I would never have believed them because my mother and grandmother always gave whatever they could to anyone who needed it."

She went on to say, "I truly believe that God put us on the earth to be a blessing to someone else, and that we pay service to God by being of service to our fellow man."

Vancine also took the opportunity to speak to elected officials who were in attendance at the Champions for Children Reception by stating, "When you go to Raleigh, remember Anson County and remember the children of Anson County."

Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership is responsible for developing collaborative strategies to meet the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on: Child Care Quality, Accessibility and Affordability, Health, Literacy and Family Support. For more information contact Ashley Haynes at 704-694-4036.

Sheriff Warns of Rip Offs

From the desk of Sheriff Tommy Allen: Seldom does a week go by that we don't receive a call from a citizen who has received some mail, fax, telephone call or email about receiving money, winning money or sending money. Many recipients of those messages have concerns that these may be some kind of scams. Unfortunately, some of these victims are calling us AFTER they have sent the money.

The old rule of thumb, "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is," always applies. I have a collection of mail and email letters where "Aware Notification, Lottery Payment Processing Form, Claims Center Notification, USA Survey Network (and the list goes on and on), have contacted local citizens congratulating them on being the winner of some drawing or out of state lottery. They will often enclose a "processing fee" check, made out to the "winner," then ask them to put the check in their bank account and write a check for the same amount and send their personal check back to them, and then they will receive the full winning amount. Of course the initial check will eventually bounce, but not until the victim's check has been sent. Some are as bold as to request the purported winner's bank account number so the vast winning sum can be directly deposited. There again, if they do get the bank account number you can be assured that a withdrawal not a deposit will be made.

Two things to always remember: 1) You will never win any lottery or drawing you have NEVER entered; and 2) NO legitimate contest will ever ask you to send money back to them under any circumstances. Again, the people who run legitimate contests will never send you a letter saying you won. The NC Lottery doesn't know who the winners are until they claim their prizes with the winning numbers.

One of the newer scams is receiving a telephone call from someone identifying themselves as a collection agency, telling you that they are trying to collect on a debt you have not paid. They may say it is probably a mistake, but they have to make an attempt, telling you that even if you do not owe the debt, it has shown up on your credit, but if you will pay a portion of the amount they will cancel the debt. In a recent incident, the caller said the amount owed was \$800 dollars, but if the victim would send them \$200 they would cancel the debt, correct the mistake and clear the credit. Of course, this is all a scam. NEVER send money to any kind of telephone solicitation. Even if they leave you a call back number, it is probably one of the disposable cell phones that cannot be traced. Never forget, if it seems too good to be true it almost always is. Call your Sheriff's Office (704-694-4188) or local police department if you have any doubts. Take time to check it out. Any legitimate business will welcome that. The crooks will not wait around.

Elementary Schools Early Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences

On Thursday, March 7 only the elementary schools will dismiss early for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Dismissal and conference times are listed here: • All Elementary Schools will release at 12:30 p.m. • Conferences are from 1 to 6 p.m. Early dismissal is for elementary schools only, all other schools will operate on normal schedules.

Wadesboro Primary School Honors Terrific Kids



These students at Wadesboro Primary School were chosen as their class representative for the character traits of Caring and Fairness. Students and their families were honored with a breakfast and recognition presentation.

The Terrific Kids are pictured here, from left, front: Destiny Blackwelder, Catie Stegall, Casey Scarborough, Tiffany Brown, Jayln Little, Tianna Crowder, Kayle Latchman and Caitlin Ross. Row 2: Jason Bridges, Shafraviem Liles, D'Mikal Gaddy, Katie Pierre, Nicole Felder, Katie Little, Markeith Knotts, Megan Smothers and Shaheim Heath. Row 3: Caleb Goodwin, Joseph Merritt, Jadden Jenks, Kayden Murdock, Alishia Phillips, Joseph Davis, Ariel Terry, Kalib Burris and Zachary Wall. Row 4: Nathaniel Smith, Daisy Allen, Maya McCoy, Maddie Martin, Deondre Crowder, Josiah Beam, Jaylin Coleman, Chenoa Gaddy and Adrian Hough.

Artists Reception is Sunday

After an absence of several months, the Anson County Arts Council's Artists Reception is returning to Wadesboro's Olde Mill Gallery on Sunday, March 10, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Featured artists include the Red Hill Basket Makers and painter Barry Stebbing.

Red Hill Basket Makers have been weaving baskets for ten years in the Ansonville area. In addition to examining completed baskets, you will be able to watch these ladies weaving baskets on site. Barry Stebbing, a nationally known oil painter and a McFarlane resident, will also be featured. Stebbing studied at the Maryland Institute of Art and did graduate painting studies in Italy. He has painted in Italy and has traveled the United States, painting scenes from all forty-eight continental states.

Olde Mill Gallery is located in the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. As always, admission is free. Wine, punch, and refreshments will be served as you enjoy the artwork of the featured artists as well as the work of other artists displayed in the gallery.

Drop in for a few minutes or stay longer. It will be an enjoyable way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Carolina's Writers Conference Scheduled for April 20

The fifth annual Carolinas Writers Conference is set for Saturday, April 20 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Everyone is invited to come enjoy this event, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Presenters Rob Dunn, Marjorie Hudson, Angela Knight and Robert Macomber will give talks of interest to the general public in the morning. There will be in-depth workshops for serious and aspiring writers in the afternoon.

In association with the Writers Conference, the Ansonia Theatre will host Back Porch Stories at 7 p.m. that evening. Randy Rayfield will moderate this evening of storytelling, featuring Michael Reno Harrell, Martha Reed Johnson and Tryis Jones.

More information about both events is available at www.carolinawritersconference.org. The cost for the Writers Conference is only \$5 for the morning talks, \$15 for the afternoon workshops, and \$20 for an all-events ticket that includes the Ansonia performance. Tickets are available online at www.carolinawritersconference.org, the Arts Council, or by calling 704-694-7022. Students are encouraged to check the website for scholarship opportunities.

The cost for the Back Porch Stories is \$5. Students get in for \$2. For ticket information visit www.carolinawritersconference.org or call the Arts Council at 704-694-4950.

Anson County 4-H Holds Achievement/Recognition Banquet

Fifty-three proud relatives, friends and supporters were in attendance at the annual 4-H Achievement Night, held Tuesday, February 19th at the Cooperative Extension Center. The event was held to honor Anson County 4-H'ers, 4-H Volunteer Leaders for their accomplishments over the last year, and Volunteer Leaders who have given of their time to help with programs in 4-H. Youth and adults were recognized and awarded ribbons, certificates and medals.

Deserving young 4-H'ers earned scholarships for club project work. These scholarships, provided through program fundraising efforts, will be used toward 4-H trips and camps.

- This year's Cloverbud (5-8) project winners were Quenton Cromartie, Kendall Duncan, Courtney Sturdivant, Jr., Jania Maxwell, Janiyah Maxwell and Malyajah Smith.
- Junior Division (9-10) winners were Katherine Brown and Justin Duncan. Junior Division (11-12) project winners were Na'La Brown and Katie Edwards.
- Senior Division (13-15) project winners were Morgan McCoy and Kyaira Griffin. Senior Division (16-18) winners were Aaliyah Escalera.
- This year's Junior Outstanding 4-H'er was Katherine Brown.

Na'La has been in 4-H for 7 years. She participated in Creative Talent, Favorite Food Show, and summer day camps. She has also competed in presentations on the county and district levels.

The Senior Outstanding 4-H'er was 18 year old Rasheed Leak. Rasheed has been in 4-H for nine years. While he has done many things on the local, district and state levels, he has enjoyed representing the county 4-H program at the North Carolina's Association of County Commissioners meeting. He has served in the capacity of teen leader for summer camp, Jr. 4-H Camp and Holiday Craft.

4-H Volunteer Leaders were recognized with years of devoted service to the 4-H program. They are: Eric Mitchell (2 years), Natasha Duncan (3 years), Carrissima Garris (3 years), Yolanda Wilson (6 years), Debra Ratliff (7 years), Addie Richardson (8 years), Janice Bennett (9 years), Hannah Dunlap (12 years), Kim Bennett (21 years), Betty Garris (29 years), and Pearl Blount (30 years). Each Leader was given a certificate and a token of appreciation.

Community Clubs and 4-H's new in-school club was recognized for doing all of their paperwork to become chartered clubs in the county. Those clubs receiving charter certificates and seals are Eager Beavers 4-H Club, Busy Bees 4-H Club and RoboWolves 4-H Club.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to volunteers who gave their time during the past year to 4-H in the capacities of teaching a program, judging or helping structure programs. Those individuals present were Joanne Clark, Jean Williams, Deana Napier, John Springer, Eloise Harrington, Janet Gilreath, and Margaret Ridenhour.

This year's Outstanding Volunteer Award went to Kimberly Bennett. She has been involved in various programs and community service projects including Relay for Life, Day of Caring, Toys for Tots donation, letters to the military, Backpack Buddies and school supplies to the Caraway Foundation to name a few. Kim has recently stepped to leadership by presenting various programs for her 4-H club. Her dedication, support and participation in Anson County 4-H and the Volunteer Leaders Association are immeasurable.

The evening was capped off with the recognition of the 2012 4-H Leaders Association Officers: Addie Richardson-President, Janice Bennett-Vice President, Yolanda Wilson-Secretary, Carrissima Martin-Parliamentarian and Hannah Dunlap-Treasurer. Installation of the new officers was also held. They are: President-Janice Bennett, Vice President-Betty Garris, Secretary-Carrissima Martin and Treasurer-Yolanda Wilson.

For more information on the 4-H program in Anson County, contact Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent with the Cooperative Extension Service at 704-694-2915.

Blood Drive this Friday at Anson High School

The Anson High School HOSA class will be sponsoring a Blood Drive this Friday, March 8, from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Anson High School gym. Community Blood Center of the Carolinas will be in charge of the drive. Please come out and "give the gift of life."

Masquerade Jewelry and Accessory Sale at the Hospital

A \$5 Masquerade Jewelry and accessory sale will take place at the Anson Community Hospital this Thursday and Friday. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Hospital's Auxiliary Volunteer Program.

Be sure to come and check out the great deals. The sale will take place Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is located in the Fitness Room on the second floor.

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Stories and Songs Relating to Anson County

The Hampton B. Allen Library's 50+ Club will meet on Monday, March 11 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Leon Smith will be presenting a program of stories and original songs relating to Anson County, and specifically the Polkton area. The program title is *Songs of Hope in Hard Times*. David Napier will be accompanying Leon playing the bass. You are invited to join them for this delightful program.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Democratic Party Meeting Thursday

There will be a Democratic Party meeting on March 7 for precinct organization. The meeting will take place at the Hampton B. Allen Library at 6 p.m.

Republican Convention is Saturday

The Anson County Republican Convention will be held on March 9 at the Hampton B. Allen Library at 11 a.m. All Republicans are invited to attend.

Bowman Senior High Class of 1971 Gathering

The Bowman Senior High School Class of 1971 will have their first 2013 Fellowship Gathering on Saturday, March 9th at the Hilltop Restaurant in Monroe at 2 p.m. This gathering is hosted by the Charlotte Group. All 1971 classmates are encouraged to attend.

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