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**Mrs. Ruth
Lockler Johnson**

Mrs. Ruth Lockler Johnson, 77, died Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at her home. Funeral services were held on Saturday, April 5, 2014, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home. Interment followed in Anson Memorial Park.

Ruth was born September 15, 1936, in Richmond County, a daughter of the late William and Emma Norton Lockler. She had worked for a number of

Obituaries

years with Waddell Farms and later retired from Kids Express Day Care in Wadesboro. She was a member of Brown Creek Baptist Church.

Surviving are her sons and daughters-in-law, Lee and Barbara Johnson of Wadesboro and Randy and Barbara Johnson of Chapel Hill; her grandchildren, Emma and Matthew Johnson, both of Chapel Hill; and her sister, Elsie Hildreth of Lilesville.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Brady Lee Johnson, Sr. and by her brothers and sisters, Louis, Alton, Jennings and William Lockler, Margaret Black, Katie McKenzie and Lois Knotts.

The family would like to express their deepest appreciation to Dr. Victoria Rommel for her kind and loving care for Ruth, to Nan Crump and everyone at Grace Senior Center for being a true highlight to Ruth's life and for being an extended family to her, and to the drivers with Anson County Transportation Services.

Memorials may be made

to Brown Creek Baptist Church Building Fund, c/o James Turner, 4210 Hwy 742 N, Wadesboro, NC 28170 or to Grace Senior Center, 199 Hwy 742 S, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneralhomewadesboro.com.

**Mr. Charles
Edsel Kiker**

Mr. Charles Edsel Kiker, 75, died Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at his home after a long illness.

Memorial services were held on Sunday, April 6, 2014, at Brown Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Curtis Williams officiating.

Edsel was born in Anson County on November 19, 1938, a son of the late Charles Hampton and Ruby Little Kiker. He was a retired welder and machinist.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Margaret Beverly Kiker of the home; a son, Charles (Mary) Kiker of Peachland; a daughter-in-law, Carol Kiker of Peachland; two grandsons, Matt Kiker of Ft. Bliss, TX, and Chris Kiker of the home; a brother, Kenneth Kiker; and

a sister, Linda Phifer. Edsel was preceded in death by two sons, Edward and Rodney Kiker.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Stanly County, 960 North First Street, Albemarle, NC 28001 or to Brown Creek Baptist Church Building Fund, c/o Mary Moore, 151 Cameron Road, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

Leavitt Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**Mrs. Joyce
Brock Watts**

Mrs. Joyce Brock Watts, 77, died unexpectedly on Monday, March 31, 2014.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, April 3, 2014, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home. Interment followed in Chatham Hill Memorial Gardens in Cheraw.

Joyce was born September 28, 1936, in Chesterfield County, SC, a daughter of the late Perry Funderburk and Vera Johnson Brock. She was employed with API Security as a security officer and Hornwood in Lilesville.

Surviving her sisters, Annie Ruth Ostigny, Bessie

(Gratton) Matthews and Pat (Richard) Gaddy, all of Cheraw; her nephews and nieces, Joey Crowley and Clay Ostigny, both of Cheraw, Jimmy Brock and Amanda Griggs, both of Benton, LA and Crystal Gaddy of Wallace, SC and their families; her special friend, Faye Treadaway of Morven; and her devoted canine companion, Scooby of the home.

In addition to her par-

ents, she was preceded in death by her husband Robert Lee Watts, her brothers, Claudis and James Brock and by niece Kimberly Quick.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Chesterfield County, P.O. Box 293, Chestefield, SC 29709.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneralhomewadesboro.com.



The Hamilton and Hubbard family would like to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts.

Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness, your many prayers and generous acts of kindness. We are glad to know she had family and friends who loved and cared for her.

Gone but never forgotten.

Eat, Drink and Live Happily Ever After Disney!

A couple of weeks ago I spent several gloriously sunny days at Walt Disney World in Orlando Florida. I couldn't begin to count the times I've visited the magical home of Mickey Mouse, but each time is just as impressive and exciting as the first. You see, there are two types of people when it comes to this topic, those who love Disney and those who don't, and for the record, I'm a lover not a hater.

Most often my trips are centered on performances by my majorettes. For years many girls from our area have graced the stages and football fields in and around Orlando, while performing or competing in Disney World's countless venues. The trips are always magical, and offer many first time experiences, and the girls will be the first to say, "Our trip to Disney World is one of my fondest memories." As a teacher and coach those words are music to my ears.

As I mentioned earlier, my latest trip, however, was not with a group of easily entertained twirly girls, but rather my husband. And honestly, before we left I wasn't completely convinced that Allen would return from Orlando as a member of the "Love Disney" masses, which he so adamantly proclaimed to be prior to our arrival there. Secretly I had my doubts.

Sunshiny 80-degree days filled with sunburn, wait lines, crowds of people, noisy, crowded bus rides, fast food, crying babies in strollers whose parents almost certainly steer into your ankles, shins, or across your toes and all things pricey led me to a preconceived notion that Allen would NOT leave Disney World with the same favorable opinion as he had upon arrival.

In every relationship you learn to give and take and you choose your battles. So we enjoyed leisurely mornings with lots of hot coffee and lavish breakfasts. And if that doesn't sound like give and take, I'll explain. I would have set an early wakeup alarm, arrived at the park upon its opening and grabbed a doughnut and a cup o' Joe to go! Allen had no idea of my compromise on that.

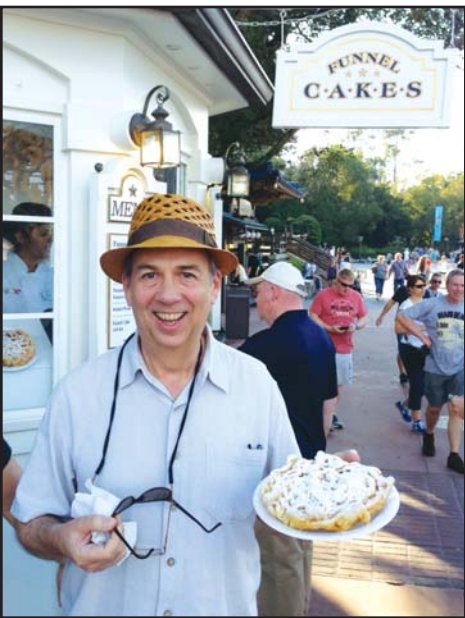
After arriving at the park the easy part was heading in the direction of things we commonly enjoyed, like the Tower of Terror and Rockin' Rollercoaster, both big rides providing an adrenaline rush, excitement and laughter. But what next? How was I going to guide Allen into an amphitheatre to see a show I wasn't certain he would enjoy? We walked and looked and I mulled it over in my mind. As we approached the entrance to where I was intently leading our steps I saw it, a perfectly situated ice-cream cart. "Don't you want an ice-cream, I asked?" And as we sat in the theater awaiting the performance Allen enjoyed his orange creamcicle so much he didn't seem to mind the show at all, and a pretty good strategy evolved at the same time.

We found the boat rides from our hotel to the parks to be quicker and far more enjoyable than the bus rides. And, the My Disney Experience mobile app (you'd be crazy not to use it) cut wait times to popular attractions in half, and a nice sit down lunch was just the ticket to extend our days even further. And with those speedy boat rides back to our Disney resort, we could easily rest and rejuvenate and make it back to the park in time to see the fireworks, always spectacular no matter how often you've seen them.

Choosing my battles was so much easier with a little help from funnel cakes and ice cream that I planned accordingly the next day while visiting Epcot. We enjoyed our common interest rides and attractions first and then toured the countries in the World Showcase. All eleven countries have something of interest and offer a variety of foods, drinks and snacks to motivate and energize. From Chinese dumplings and French pastries to Mexican salsas and Italian pastas, we nibbled our way around the beautiful sights until we were both exhausted. You know the saying, "When in Rome do as the Romans do," so we headed to Germany and refueled with some cool refreshments and left feeling refreshed and ready to take on all that remained, including the Illuminations show that night.

Back at the resort it was apparent to me that not everyone had perfected the niche between a miserable and wonderful experience while visiting the happiest place on earth. "I'm in Disney h##l," said one frustrated man as his kids screamed and his wife rolled her eyes at his expletive. They apparently had a very long, happy day and were perhaps exhausted at the thought of the next...only a few hours away. I could certainly understand their plight. It was, after all, what I had envisioned myself only days earlier.

Gleefully I share that we had a magical Disney vacation. And, as we boarded the plane home, both Allen and I realized how we learned to agree and even to disagree on everything under the Disney sun, under the Disney moon, beneath the Disney sky and within the bounds of Disney World. And we continue to live happily ever after our Disney vacation. *By Melanie Lyon*



Missing State Championship Ring Returned After 18 Years

Deavon Pressley was proud to wear the state championship ring he won while wrestling on the Anson Senior High School State Championship Team in 1993. After graduation Pressley attended Fayetteville State University and found himself leaving the ring, his most prized possession, in his dorm room rather than to wear the chunky ring around campus. It was for that reason that Pressley later made the decision to leave the ring at home, where he thought it would be safer and more secure.

"My little brother was also fond of the ring. He began wearing it and ultimately misplaced it," Deavon said. "It wasn't until I returned home that summer - the summer of 1995 - that I discovered that the ring had been lost." Of course Deavon was disappointed to lose something he had worked so hard to win and he followed a few leads but came up empty handed. He feared the ring lost forever and would think of it from time to time, wishing he still had the one symbol of his accomplishments in wrestling.

Meanwhile, in 2013, while at a truck stop in Red Springs North Carolina, Rocky Lowry was approached by a stranger, a stranger with a state championship ring in his hands, which he was selling for a mere \$10. Lowry looked at the ring, noticed the words state championship, felt a tug at his heart, but walked away. That tug at his heart is what made him turn around and return to the stranger and the \$10 state championship ring and purchase it. "I knew the ring didn't belong to the seller, and I just felt like I could help someone find what rightly belonged to them," said Lowry. And Lowry didn't stop there. He along with his fiancé Brandy Newberry went on a mission to find the owner. With the help of Mrs. Carla Freeman, who works at Anson High School, the ring and its owner were reunited after an 18-year separation. Lowry (left) is pictured here with Pressley.

It is certain that Rocky Lowry could have sold the ring for more than the \$10 he paid for it. But there are good people in the world. Instead, Rocky Lowry went the extra mile to find the ring's rightful owner. What a great thing to do! Many thanks are extended to Rocky for the ring reunion. Deavon Pressley couldn't be happier. *By Melanie Lyon*



MIKE SMITH
For **SHERIFF**
A PROVEN LEADER

As I mentioned in my previous article, the number one priority of the Sheriff is the safety and security of all citizens. In order to accomplish this, my administration will focus on many areas including:

DRUGS/VIOLENT CRIME:

My administration, along with support from the community, local government, District Attorney's Office, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, the faith based community and other resources will seek to adopt a "Focused Deterrence" strategy to fight the ongoing drug and violence problem in this county.

This strategy allows for the identification of our most at-risk and violent drug offenders. Offenders with multiple drug convictions and a demonstrated history of violence will be aggressively targeted for prosecution. Other at risk offenders will be "called in," confronted with the consequences of their continued behavior, and given a "final warning" to cease their criminal activity. Those who wish to "heed the warning" will be offered assistance to ensure they remain out of the criminal justice system. Those who choose to continue their illegal activities will be dealt with swiftly and feel the full weight of local, state and federal law enforcement efforts.

We must send a clear message that we will not tolerate illegal drug dealing or violence of any kind in our county. We must also send a clear message that we are here and willing to help those who want to help themselves.

I am the only candidate with more than 5 years of full time narcotics investigative experience. I am ready to bring that experience to effectively deal with and reduce drug and violent crime in Anson County.

PROPERTY CRIME:

Property crime has been and continues to be one of the most prevalent types of crime we experience in this county. One of the most effective ways of investigating these crimes is quick access to pawn shop information.

It is no secret that most stolen property will eventually find it's way to a pawn shop or drug house. Through a computerized pawn tracking system deputies will have instant access to records from pawn shops, second hand stores, metal recyclers and precious metal dealers.

The system also allows officers to put repeat offenders on a "watch list" that will notify the Sheriff's Office anytime anyone on the watch list sells or pawns an item at a participating business.

The system also has an added benefit which allows Anson County residents, at no cost, to enter their personal property information into the system, protected by a personal username and password. In the event a citizens property is stolen they can go into the system and retrieve photos of their property along with serial numbers. This allows law enforcement a much greater opportunity to locate and return stolen property.

Next week I will discuss the following additional focuses of my administration:

- Crisis Intervention Training • Domestic Violence • Active Crime Stoppers
- G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education and Training) for our middle school youth

IMPORTANT DATES April 24 to May 3...One Stop Voting May 6...Democratic Primary Election

Upcoming Fundraiser/Meet the Candidate Event
CONTRIBUTION CHICKEN AND FISH LUNCH
SATURDAY APRIL 19 • 11am-3pm
At the home of Mr. & Mrs. James Richardson
located at 206 Morven Road in Wadesboro

www.MikeSmithForSheriff.com

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