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In 2012 poison centers answered more than 3.4 million calls. That is one call every 8 seconds. According to the American Association of Poison Centers, children younger than 6 years old account for about half of the calls placed to poison centers. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Poison Prevention campaign, the public needs to remain vigilant in their efforts. Poisoning incidents can be prevented if parents and caregivers remember to lock up products that could potentially harm children.

So, what chemical-containing products are in your home? There are more potentially hazardous items in your home than you might think. Common products that could seriously harm a child if ingested include: bath and kitchen disinfectants and sanitizers, bleach household cleaning or maintenance products, drain cleaner, paints, and glues. Other products include automotive products stored around the home, such as anti-freeze or windshield washer fluid, health or beauty care products, medicines, hair and nail products, roach sprays and baits, insect repellents, rat and other rodent poisons. Also included are weed killers, products used to kill mold or mildew, flea and tick shampoos, powders, and dips for pets, and swimming pool chemicals. So in answer to what's in your home - a lot!

Some simple steps you can take to prevent poisonings from occurring in your home are to always store pesticides and other household chemical products in a locked cabinet or garden shed away from both children and pets.

Read the product label first and follow the directions to the letter. Post the Poison Control Centers' national helpline number, 1-800-222-1222, near your phone or program the number into your phone's "address book" or speed dial feature.

Use products with a tamper-resistant bait station to protect children and pets from exposure to mouse and rat poison. Seal products after each use and store up and out of a children's reach. Remove children, pets and toys before applying pesticides (inside or outside the home). Read label directions to determine when children and pets can re-enter the area that has been treated.

Never transfer pesticides and other household chemical products to containers that may be mistaken for food or drink. Do not use empty pesticide containers to store anything else. No matter how well you wash the container, it could still contain residues of the pesticide and could harm someone. *By Janine B. Rywak, County Extension Director*

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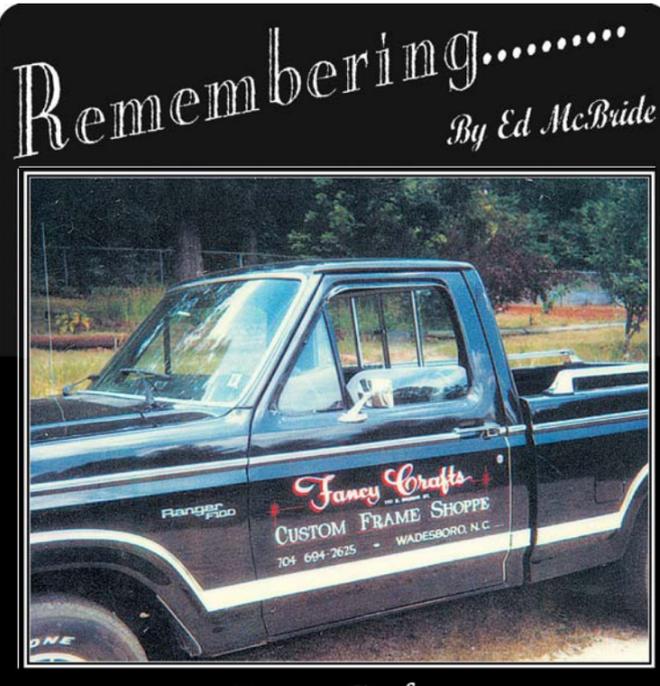


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Remembering... By Ed McBride

Do you remember this class Ford Ranger pickup truck - with all the chrome and custom aluminum wheels? Well, I lettered this "Deluxe" pick-up truck on May 21, 1984, for Fancy Crafts when they first began business (1982), next door to the former Bank of Wadesboro on the North side and Raymond Northcutt's Insurance on the other side.

doing all types of arts, crafts, hand made pottery (and demonstrations), looking after the two grandchildren - plus so many other things, including the leadership of Wadesboro's People Fest for many years - making it into an outstanding community event!

This was at a time that Denise Beachum taught many classes of basket weaving, tole painting, doll making, sewing - plus many other crafts. Danny did the framing in the "back corner" - and their children were younger.

Oh yes, son Justin "inherited" the "classy Ford pickup truck" for his building business. Daughter Heather is in Wilmington real-estate and Travis is with Ryan's in Charlotte.

Today, after many years of hard work and very long days, they occupy the entire "Fred Dunlap house" at 217 South Greene Street,

Note: "Many thanks for remembering our sixty-second anniversary last week. We appreciate the many calls and comments very much, as well as the great number of nice comments through the years of 'Remembering'." -Ed McBride

Historical Society's Spring Social

The Anson County Historical Society will hold their Spring Social event on Thursday, May 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the garden behind their office. Their office is located at 206 East Wade Street in Wadesboro.

Grace Senior Center Trip to Smithfield & Lumberton

Grace Senior Center is sponsoring a one day trip to Smithfield and Lumberton, NC on Thursday, May 8. The trip consists of shopping at Carolina Premium Outlet Stores in Smithfield followed by dinner at Fuller's Old Fashioned BBQ Restaurant in Lumberton.

The cost of the trip is \$55 which includes transportation and dinner. For information and registration call 704-694-6616.

Aware? Or Beware!

This is a release from Mary Lynn Railton at the Anson County Health Department: We are created male and female, sexual creations, created by the act of sexual intercourse. Sexual health and behavior is part of every person's life. Our behavioral choices are based upon our knowledge, our environment, our belief system and our culture. Risky sexual behavior results in unplanned pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STI's), including HIV. And, now we know that the STI called the Human Papilloma Virus causes cancers that can be debilitating and fatal years after the initial infection.

The Anson County Health Department's Family Planning Program is dedicated to providing education and resources for the promotion of healthy attitudes and behaviors. "Our community's health is our priority" is the mission statement that we live daily. Call today and make a Family Planning appointment for a physical examination and counseling, (704) 694-5188. Reduce your risks by being informed. Live long and be healthy.

Young Leaders Meeting at Southern Medley Winery Hosted by Sen. McLaurin

A few weeks ago I decided to contact young leaders from my 5 county senate district and invite them to come together. Many of them are taking on leadership roles within their communities in business, in government, in education, within the legal field and in various non-profit agencies. Frankly, I hoped maybe a dozen would show up for our organizational meeting. I thought they might benefit from meeting one another and I knew from my experience that problems in our rural communities can best be solved by working together, across county boundary lines and in a collaborative manner. Well, I must admit I was inspired by the positive response from over 40 young people who braved rain and wind and busy schedules to not only show up but to actively participate and share their ideas this past Tuesday evening at my 1st Young Leaders Advisory Council Meeting, held in downtown Wadesboro at Southern Medley Wine Cellar. The true purpose of forming this group is to enable young leaders in our communities an opportunity to meet one another, discuss issues of concern, and share with me their thoughts and ideas on state policy and budget concerns.

Some of the topics discussed were providing incentives for small businesses, the importance of creating good jobs in rural communities, providing equal educational opportunities for every child, providing mentors for our children, and rewarding our teachers with competitive pay and most importantly, with the respect they deserve. One example given by an educator at the meeting was that of a local teacher who could take a similar position in South Carolina where she could make about \$9,000 more each year. It is simply unacceptable for North Carolina teacher compensation to be so far behind. In NC we need to set our sights on being #1 in education and make sure our policies and state budget reflect our priorities and our values. If we fairly compensate and respect our teachers, then they will not be tempted to leave our state's schools or the teaching profession. Other topics discussed included support for early childhood education and intervention, support for veterans, foster homes in our region, and more. I am excited to meet with the group again following the upcoming short session.

Interim legislative committees are finalizing reports in the next month and will be making recommendations to the entire legislative body. I serve on the following committees: Energy Oversight Committee, Workforce Development Reform Committee; Economic Development Oversight Committee; Environmental Review Commission; Affordable Care Act Implementation Committee; Committee on Health Care Provider Practice Sustainability, Training, and Transparency.

Normally during the primary season, voter turnout is extremely low. I encourage you to get out and vote in the primary. Early voting will start April 24 and end May 3. Please do your research on local, state, and federal candidates. Voter guides are being mailed to homes and can be accessed by clicking on the following link: www.ncvoterguide.org. The primary is May 6, 2014.

Finally, if you have concerns about state legislative matters or need our help to resolve a problem with a state agency, please feel free to contact my office at 919-733-5953 or email Gene.Mclaurin@ncleg.net.

Mark Pankey Appointed Animal Control Officer

Mark Pankey has accepted the position of Animal Control Officer, reporting to Ms. Becky Wilson, Animal Services Director of the new Anson County Animal Shelter. Pankey will start work on Monday, April 14.

He has worked four years with the Richmond County Humane Society as Shelter Manager and Animal Cruelty Officer, and for the past two years has been employed as Animal Control Officer and Kennel Technician for Richmond County Animal Shelter.

Pankey is state certified as rabies vaccinator, euthanasia technician and chemical immobilization technician. In addition, he is certified by the National Animal Control Association and has completed a number of state-sponsored courses in animal control, equine cruelty, body scoring and shelter management.

Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood said, "I am thrilled that we have been successful in attracting another well-qualified, enthusiastic and experienced individual to help lead and expand Anson County's animal services program. Mark is excited about his new position - and so are we! We still are on track to open the new Anson County Animal Shelter this month."

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