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Obituaries

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Commander Martha Owen Aycock

Commander Martha Owen Aycock, Nurse, US Navy Retired, died peacefully Sunday, May 7, 2017, at Trinity Place in Albemarle. Services were held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. Martha was born December 11, 1916, in Anson County, a daughter of the late Collier Bennett

Aycock and the late Mary Fannie Maner Aycock.

She was Valedictorian of Lilesville High School Class of 1935 and was a graduate of the University of Buffalo. She was a registered nurse, serving in the United States Navy prior to World War II. She retired as Commander with 21 years of duty with the Navy.

Martha was the oldest member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, David and Daphne Aycock of Florence, SC and her nieces and nephews and their families. She was lovingly called "Aunt Martha" by all her family and even to her friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, PO Box 656, Wadesboro, North Carolina 28170.

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

Free Family to Family Course for Families and Caregivers of Those with Mental Illnesses

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Moore County is offering the Family to Family course free to family members, caregivers, and friends of those with mental illnesses. The course begins on Saturday, May 13, and will run subsequent Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings until June 17.

You will learn all current information about the severe and persistent mental illnesses and addictive disorders, up-to-date information about medications and current research. You will also gain empathy by understanding these illnesses and the lived experiences of a person with a mental illness, while learning in special workshops about problem solving, listening, and communication techniques. You will be given strategies for handling crises and relapse, all the while learning how to cope with the worry, stress, and emotional overload of being a caregiver. You will be given guidance on locating appropriate supports and services within our community, and information on advocacy initiatives designed to improve and expand services.

For more information or to register call 910-295-1053.

New Lilesville Community Center Clean-Up Project Set for Saturday

Faith Based Center of Hope Executive Board members along with Vancine Sturdivant, CEO and citizens will host a community clean-up project for the new Lilesville Community Center on Saturday, May 13, beginning at 9 a.m. The Center is located on the square of Lilesville.

"We are asking the citizens of Anson County to please come together and meet us at Whit's Convenience Store in Lilesville for his famous coffee, and then we will get to work," said Sturdivant. "The future site of the Lilesville Community Center was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Lynn Whitlock. A special 'Thank You' also goes out to Mr. Mike Goodwin who has been very cooperative in working with this project."

The following items are needed for the clean-up. Can you help?

• brooms (large brooms, push brooms), trash bags, gloves, masks (face), dust pans, food (hot dogs, rolls, cole slaw, cookies, variety of chips), monetary donations, a dumpster, dump trucks.

The vision for the Community Center is to provide tutorial service for youth, a GED program, a library, community awareness & healthy living workshops, and a second floor level homeless shelter. All shelter occupants will be required to obtain their GED, if necessary, and employment. Help will be available to help them transition to self-sufficient living.

"The Lilesville Community Center is a vision my husband and I had for years," stated Sturdivant. "In 1998 our vision came to fruition. In 1998, due to the enormous number of youth in our community who were below grade level in reading and math, I began accepting kids in our home and working with them to pull their reading and math levels up. What began with two to seven youth became over twelve. We could no longer do it from our home. This is when Harvest Ministries Outreach Center allowed us to utilize their facility."

Sturdivant continued, "At this time, Faith Based Center of Hope is seeking long term sponsors, however we will accept whatever you may be able to provide. This project is so important to me for several reasons, but most importantly because the need is great. We cannot continue to lose our youth to the prison system."

Faith Based Center of Hope is intended to transform lives by empowering people at risk to achieve healthy sufficient lives. The mission statement is "Where Hope Begins."

Sturdivant concluded, "We seek funding to take advantage of a window of opportunity which will allow us to begin renovation. Thank you in advance for your consideration."

For further information please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412, Dr. Bernice Bennett at 704-694-666, Lynn Whitlock at 704-848-4711, Lilesville Fire Chief Marty Morton at 704-848-4194 or Lilesville Police Chief Bobby Gallimore at 704-465-1830.

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