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Loyalti McCray Wins Award



Loyalti McCray is shown receiving a Holla award at Wadesboro Primary School where Mrs. Betsy Ammons is principal. The award recognizes students who attend school, work to the best of their ability, and respect the rights of others to learn.

The names of fifty students were entered in a drawing at the school. Loyalti was the winner of \$50 gift card. The card was presented by Mrs. Carolyn C. Green, guidance counselor at Wadesboro Primary School.

Health...Not to be Taken for Granted

It's that time of year again. The time I reveal my "Word of the Year" and the rationale behind the decision. Typically the word can take several weeks to emerge from my thought processes, onto my computer keyboard, and into this printed newspaper version, but not this year.

This year's word evolved without much thought. It's something all of us, at some point in our lives have taken for granted, and at the same time, have been kicked in the stomach for, for doing so. Without it, we really don't have much going for us, and with it we very often dismiss it, with or without intent.

The word for 2012 is "Health." There's no better way to express what I mean than by using the familiar quote, "Without your health you have nothing." One may have all the riches in the world, but truthfully, "your health is your wealth."

For several months the looming threat of illness has waged a war on my life, not for myself, but rather someone I love and cherish. During the stage of determining whether or not there was a problem and making the decision to do something about it, then onto the next stage, finding out what that problem really is, takes what seems to be an eternity. Faced with multiple doctor visits and lab work, you are then steered in the direction of specialists, who probe and scan every body part possibly housing an affliction. This very necessary but time-consuming process is a form of sheer torture to experience, especially when it involves the health and well being of a loved one.

While in the company of each doctor you pick up on clues, and linger, perhaps too long, on words you hear or phrases they say. Sometimes you or someone else asks questions, other times you're just too afraid of the truth, and for awhile you believe that if you don't hear the words this will somehow go away.

Then comes the realization that one must become an advocate and ask the hard to ask questions, hear the hard to listen to answers and stay as cool, calm and collected as you can, without alarming the person now in questionable health. All the while, you yourself and those with you, are all overcome with caution, concern and consideration for what might lie ahead for all of you. And the terror tears at your thoughts 24/7, never leaving you to rest without worry.

This is but a snapshot version of how my life has been for several months, which led me to my easily determined "Word of the Year" choice. When someone you love is facing what doctors believe could be a serious illness it quite simply puts life in its proper perspective. It changes you and how to look at life and the life of those you treasure most. Health is not to be taken for granted, ever, and this I know.

"Diseases of the soul are more dangerous and more numerous than those of the body," according to Cicero. From that quote, however, I knew no disease inflicted the soul of this woman - not that of my mother. It was a disease of the body. It consumed us with the worry that her seemingly good health could perhaps be a farce. Dropping 20 plus pounds in a matter of a few months was an indication something was wrong. With poor lab results and more and more tests ordered, the time that passed was snail-like and the wait excruciating. Finally, after weeks and weeks of facing the unknown, we were given the answer, and the words hit us like a ton of bricks. Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, the diagnosis, sounding ominous at best.

The news led to discussions with doctors and specialists who deal with this type of health disorder, and the information received felt like a weight had been lifted from our shoulders. CLL, as it is commonly referred, "may never need treatment," said the hematologist. Some go without further symptoms for years, and that's what we are banking on, together with a common sense approach to healthcare and management of the condition we will now face together.

When you look at what could be a dire prognosis in the face, then hear that you may never be subjected to the horrors of a dreadful disease, you breathe more than one sigh of relief and you say more than one prayer of thankfulness. The health you may have once taken for granted will be never more. It doesn't take but one slap in the face to wake up those of us with any semblance of intelligence, while taking preventative steps of precaution to ensure that with any up call you now graciously received was not in vain.

Health, it does a body, a soul, a mind, and a spirit good. The words good and health should go together like peas and carrots, or even better, chocolate and peanut butter. Take a bite out of its sweetness if you are fortunate enough to own good health. Savor it, enjoy it, and most of all realize that at any given moment, it can melt away like a chocolate bar in the brightest sunshine.

Personally, in the case of my mom, we've been given the time to work on our bucket list and actually do some of the things we may have been putting off, waiting for a more perfect time. Health, as it pertains to us or those we love, is a precious commodity, as precious as any gem, gold, or worldly treasure on Earth, never to be squandered, always guarded, and with God's help, everlasting. And, there IS no perfect timing for doing the things your heart desires. There is no time like the present, for it truly is a gift.

Here's to your health, here's to the health of those I love with great fervor, and here's to my own, none of which will ever be taken for granted again. May 2012 bring you good health or permit you to continue in good health, thus providing a wonderful, joyously peaceful, healthy and happy New Year.

By Melanie Lyon



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Sheriff Equips Vehicles with State of the Art Computers

The Anson County Sheriff's Office now has some of the very latest technology with "in-car" computers. The Sheriff's patrol vehicles now have Mobile Data Terminals or MDTs in their patrol vehicles. "This is a project we have been working on for over a year. The planning actually began three years ago.



This is really the first stage. Additional technology and features will be added as funding allows," Sheriff Tommy Allen said.

The MDTs allow the officer to receive call information direct from 911. The officer sees what the 911 operator see on their screens. The officer can also see maps to help locate the call better; they can run their own license checks and almost anything from DMV files; they can do reports while they are on the scene and send the reports to the computer files at the office. A mapping and vehicle locator feature allows each officer to see where other cars are located. "The officer can see on his/her screen where the other cars on the shift are patrolling. The 911 Center sees all the other cars as they move around the county. The system shows the vehicle number, its location and the speed it is traveling. All this is recorded," Sheriff Allen said.

The Sheriff said that this system greatly enhances officer safety by knowing exactly where the vehicle is if the officer calls for help. It is like a moving office for the deputies as they have almost everything they need there on the computer. The 911 Center can see where the nearest car to the call is located and go directly to that vehicle. The deputies can stay out in the county and do their reports and not have to drive back and forth to the office during shifts.

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Sheriff Allen said that he will demonstrate this system to the County Commissioners at their next meeting in January. This system was purchased with grant funding from the US Department of Justice and local funds from the county.

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WILL BUILD OR DELIVER ON YOUR LOT

Children of Deployed National Guardsmen Offered Support

This year nearly five thousand NC National Guardsmen are deployed around the world. Almost four times that number are their family members. For children it can be confusing when mom or dad is deployed. The North Carolina National Guard 'Kids on Guard' Program helps National Guard children better understand military life with other military kids just like them.

Kids on Guard is a non-profit organization that is designed to help support the physical and emotional well being of children of North Carolina National Guard. Visit the North Carolina National Guard website to check the Kids on Guard event in your area at www.nc.ngb.army.mil under the programs tab or contact your nearest NC National Guard Family Assistance Center.