



Christina Albertson is Wilkes STAR Student

Christina Albertson was announced last Wednesday as the Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School STAR Student. She chose teacher Debbie McLeod as her STAR teacher, making this the third time for McLeod to be so honored. Christina, the daughter of Steve and Daphne Albertson, will be honored by the Washington-Wilkes Chamber of Commerce at a breakfast set for Thursday, February 26, said Chamber Director Ashley Barnett. "We're so proud of Christina," she said. "I hope the whole community comes out to honor her."

See American history come alive Feb. 14 as 'Revolutionary Days' comes to Wilkes

The days of the American Revolution will come alive again next weekend as men, women, and children in Colonial attire, a parade of patriotic colors, and a day full of historic demonstrations celebrate the Revolutionary Days in Washington, and organizers say the annual celebration will be bigger and better than ever.

"I have been closely involved with the activities on War Hill for the past four years," said Bobby Towns, President of the Georgia Society SAR. "Each year has been better than the last and this year's celebration should be no exception."

Colonial Living History on The Square

"Imagine Living in Wilkes County during the Revolutionary War" will be the theme of performances and demonstrations by Colonial personalities, Bill Ramsaur, SAR organizer for the Saturday morning activities said. "This is your opportunity to ask questions about the American Revolution to persons whom you have discovered in history books."

Visitors will be able to talk with Wilkes County Revolutionary War heroes Colonel John Doody, Colonel Elijah Clarke, and Nancy Hart, he said. "American Revolution leaders General George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson will be also present. Patriots and Loyalists will compete for your allegiance and recruit for their militia."

There will be black-powder musket demonstrations; archaeologists will discuss recently uncovered artifacts from the battle; and the many Revolutionary War battle flags will be explained. There will be opportunities for children to play several Colonial games and drill with the Revolutionary Wilkes County Militia, Ramsaur added. "There will be activities to interest people of all ages."

Barbeque and hamburgers will be sold by the Washington Kiwanis Club and children's Colonial tricorne hats and mob-caps will be available for purchase.

Visitors will enjoy living history displays in the windows of seven merchants on The Square. "Daughters of Liberty" featuring members of the Kettle Creek Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter will demonstrate hand work and sewing at the Chamber. Betsy Ross will tell her unique story at Petal Pushers Two; Sarah Hillhouse will entertain at Sophie's in the Fitzpatrick Hotel; and a Colonial spinner will perform in the window of Talk of the Town.

The Washington Fitness Center will feature a puppet show of



Saturday morning's parade will bring the historic flags and uniforms to life with a display of pageantry and hands-on fun that has grown larger each year. (Photo by Kip Burke)

Colonial music performed by the Children of the American Revolution group from Lawrenceville.

A backwoods trapper will display his pelts in the entrance to Grate Fires and a tanner will demonstrate Colonial leatherwork tools. At Master's Wildlife Taxidermy, a Continental Army Surgeon will describe how he attended to wounded soldiers.

Winners of the Washington-Wilkes Elementary and Middle School Revolutionary Days Poster Contest will be in the parade and their posters displayed at The Mary Willis Library during the entire month of February.

Annual Parade

Activities on Saturday morning, February 14, will start with the annual parade commencing at 10 a.m. from the Mary Willis Library and proceed to the historic Washington Square.

Leading the parade will be the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard in Continental Army uniforms and the Elijah Clarke Militia. They will be joined by Revolutionary War militia personnel from five other states. The

Greene County JROTC will return for their annual performance, and a new unit dressed in splendid British red-coats will be the Seventh Regiment of Foot, a JROTC unit from Lawrenceville, Georgia

Washington-Wilkes Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Club members and other youth organizations are invited to walk in this parade. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 706-678-2013 to learn more about the Revolutionary Days parade and participation in activities on Saturday.

All activities are free and everyone is invited participate in the celebration, Washington-Wilkes Tourism Director Ashley Barnett said. "Have fun while learning how Wilkes County played an important part in the forming of our great nation."

Ceremony and Skirmish at War Hill

The 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek offers a special opportunity to celebrate this significant victory on the actual date the battle took place, February

(continued on page 10A)

Canadian lottery scam letter fails, but family wants to warn others

By KIP BURKE
news editor

The letter that came to Myrna Fortson's Thomson Road home promised a small fortune: \$125,000 from a Canadian lottery she knew she'd never entered. And there was a very authentic-looking check made out in her name and address in the amount of \$5,985. But the Canadian lottery rang a bell.

"I had read about these letters in the AARP magazine months ago," she said. "They were warning people about this then."

She had her son Mike contact The News-Reporter to spread the word that this scam is happening right here in Wilkes County. "If I got this letter, others probably got it too," she said. "I hope too many haven't fallen for it."

Wilkes County Sheriff Mark A. Moore said that reports of Canadian lottery scam letters are fairly common here, and worries that many of those who are taken by the scam don't report the loss out of embarrassment.

Although Mike Fortson reported the letter to the sheriff's office, the international reach of the scam makes postal authorities and Federal agencies more likely to catch the perpetrators, experts say.

In the Canadian lottery scam, the potential victim is sent a letter from a company in Canada claiming to be an official lottery agent. It instructs the recipient to deposit the check in their bank account, then make a wire transfer or moneygram to the Canadian company for a smaller amount. In the Fortsons' case, a

"Nancy Jeffrey" in Alberta wanted them to call a claim agent to begin the claim process.

The problem is, although their check will be accepted by your bank at first, it will bounce sometimes weeks later, after the victim has sent very real money through the wire transfer.

There are several tip-offs that a letter or e-mail is a scam, experts say:

Legitimate sweepstakes will never ask you to pay fees or handling charges, service fees, or any up-front charges to receive a win. That's a sure sign of a scam.

Many of the letters say the recipient has won a lottery. Scam experts say it is impossible to win a lottery

without buying a ticket; and the lottery does not contact you to tell you that you won.

Winner's notices from foreign lotteries are even more suspicious. Since it is illegal to sell tickets for foreign lotteries across international borders, unless you bought a lottery ticket in that country, the lottery notification is a scam.

Both Myrna and Mike Fortson are glad that they knew better when the Canadian lottery scam came calling, and they're speaking out because they're worried about others falling for it. "It seems so easy. They think there's \$125,000 waiting for them just by sending in \$5,000," she said. "Really, it's greed that drives people to fall for this."

New AD, head coach expected to be named at BOE meeting tonight

If all goes well, the Wilkes County Board of Education will approve the selection the next Tiger head football coach in a called meeting tonight.

An executive search committee is checking references and backgrounds on the final four candidates this week in the search for a head coach and athletic director to replace Coach Russell Morgan, said Dr. Rosemary W. Caddell, a member of the committee.

The board set the called meeting for Thursday, February 5, at 6 p.m. to vote on the choice. "We're on schedule to have a recommendation for Mrs. Williams to make to the

board Thursday night," she said.

In recent weeks, a seven-member community committee narrowed the field from some 25 qualified candidates, Callaway said. The seven-person committee, consisting of Pete Gartrell, Ricky Callaway, Detric Jones, Ed Geddings, Raleigh Turner, Skeet Willingham, and Jane Echols, ranked the candidates and passed their top choices to the executive committee consisting of Superintendent Joyce Williams, Dr. Caddell, and W-WCHS Principal Steve Echols.

The selected candidate is expected to meet the board and the public during the meeting.

Arrest for rape, child molestation leads January roundup of Wilkes Co. arrests

Washington Police have a Washington man in custody charged with rape and aggravated child molestation that the 14-year-old victim says happened last fall.

Richard Davis, 30, of Rusher Street in Washington, was arrested by parole officer Mark Bryngelson January 27. Davis was charged with forcible rape, statutory rape, and aggravated child molestation, and was held on a parole violation.

Washington police say that the alleged violent rape was brought to light when the girl confided to authorities at her school. The investigation is continuing.

In other Wilkes County arrests during the month of January, the continued emphasis on getting drunk drivers off the road is getting results, along with a few more serious crimes.

Nicholas Shelton, 19, of Wilkes County, was arrested January 6 by Washington Police and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; failure to stop for a stop sign; and with a seat belt violation. He was released on \$26,000 bond.

Deonte T. Norman, 22, of Lincolnton, was arrested January 6 by Georgia State Patrol troopers and charged with felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; driving under the influence; driving while license withdrawn; possession of marijuana; obstruction of an officer; and a traffic charge. No bond was indicated.

Charles Berry, 48, of Wilkes County, was arrested January 2 by Georgia State Patrol troopers and charged with felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to

distribute; and with violation of the open container law. He was released on \$25,000 bond.

Felicia Milton, 21, of Washington, was arrested January 5 by Wilkes County deputies and charged with aggravated assault. She was released on \$10,000 bond.

Corey Gresham, 24, of Lexington, was arrested January 2 by Wilkes County deputies and charged with escape and a parole violation. He was turned over to Oglethorpe County parole authorities.

Michael Anthony Osborne, 23, of Tignall, was arrested January 6 by Wilkes County deputies and charged with criminal trespass; interference with a 911 call; and violation of the "fighting words" vulgar and obscene language law. He was held on a

(continued on page 10A)



Children's author entertains at Wilkes schools

Children's author Ronda Friend (R. Friend) kept her audience spellbound at Washington-Wilkes Primary School Tuesday with stories from her "Down on Friendly Acres" series. Friend, who also entertained at the elementary school, brings vocabulary words and character lessons to life with her animated stories of family life on the farm. After the assembly, the author was available to autograph books for the children.