

Friday, February 18

NCWPC Will Roast Louise Brennan

On Friday, February 15, the North Carolina Women's Political Caucus (NCWPC) is sponsoring a roast of former N.C. Rep. Louise Brennan, who represented Mecklenburg County in the General Assembly for nine years before her defeat this November.

The "Failure is Impossible!" Celebration will be at the Quality Inn Downtown on McDowell St. There will be a cocktail reception with a cash bar from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program.

The roasters will include elected officials, past and present members of the Mecklenburg County delegation to the General Assembly, Democratic Party leaders and other community leaders.

"We are calling the event a 'Failure is Impossible!' Celebration because February 15 is the birthdate of Susan B. Anthony, who inspired women with that saying," said Bea Quirk, chair for the event. "In her own way, Louise has continued the work of this famous suffragette with her work in the General Assembly and in the Democratic Party." Quirk, a member of the Charlotte Women's Political Caucus, is also treasurer



Louise Brennan
Former N.C. Representative
for the NCWPC PAC.

"This event is both a celebration and a tribute for Louise, a time to honor her and a time for her friends to laugh together," Quirk added.

"And it's a time for hope for the future - you can be sure Louise is not retiring from politics or public life!"

Proceeds from the event will go to the NCEPC PAC, which contributed \$4,000 to women candidates in both parties across the state last year.

Brennan was the first woman to chair a county party when she was chair for the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party. She is also a past president of the Democratic Women's Club and past chair of the Ninth District Democratic Party. She is a charter member of the Charlotte Women's Political Caucus.

In the General Assembly, Brennan sponsored much of the state's daycare legislation, the state's open meetings law, stronger legislation concerning sexual assault, funding for domestic violence centers and elections reform making it easier for handicapped and elderly people to vote.

Tickets to the roast are \$25. To make your reservation, send a check, made payable to "NCWPC PAC," to Rona Steinberger, P.O. Box 13212, Charlotte, NC 28226, by February 8.

Tamika Edwards Will Compete In "Little Jr. Miss America" Contest

For Tamika Edwards, participating in the "Little Jr. Miss America" contest will be an experience of a life-time. Selected to participate in the preliminary pageant, to be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel Saturday, March 9 beginning at 1 p.m., Miss Edwards will be involved with competitions of articulation and poise.

"I believe this pageant will give Tamika the incentive to move on to better things in life. This is a starting point for her to look to high goals in life," shared her mother Mrs. Rayford Edwards.

The seven-year-old first grader at Thomasboro Elementary School started off life with a bang. Being the first baby born at Charlotte's Presbyterian Hospital in 1978 (born January 2 around 1:52 a.m.) she received the honor of being the "Diamond Jubilee Baby" Presbyterian Hospital was



Tamika Edwards
CMS 7th grader
celebrating its 75th anniversary in '78 as well.

Miss Edwards was present, with then Mayor Eddie Knox, as Presbyterian Hospital officials buried a time capsule on the grounds of the hospital. In 2003, when Miss Edwards is 25 years old she has been asked to return to the Time Capsule. At this time, her mother explained, the capsule will be taken from the ground and the hospital will then honor the first baby born in 2003.

Miss Edwards attends Second Calvary Baptist Church. She also takes dance classes and gymnastic classes. Her favorite subjects include Mathematics and reading. Rayford Edwards Jr., and Dorothy Edwards are the parents of Miss Edwards. She has one sister, Kenya.

Miss Edwards started life off being first. Perhaps as a participant in the "Little Jr. Miss America" contest she will again claim the rank of being "Number One."

Family Outreach Adult Care Center Provides Option For "Frail Elderly"

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Family Outreach Adult Care Center provides what activities director Ann Brooks calls "an option to institutionalization" for adults 55 or older who need care or companionship during the day. Only the third adult day care program in Charlotte, the center expects to have its first participants this month.

"We are geared for the frail elderly," explains Ms. Brooks, who adds that some participants may have Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, be legally blind, or need the aid of a walker. The program allows family members to go to work knowing their elderly parents or relatives are safe and well cared for.

Brooks, who was an assistant at the Selwyn Avenue Life Center (another adult day care program) before joining the Family Outreach Center, is enthusiastic about adult care programs. Of the participants, she says, "At first they're convinced they're useless. They come to the center and say, 'I can't do anything.' After a while, they've made friends, they've done crafts, and they realize they're still productive. Even though they're older, they still have a lot to give."

One can tell from talking with her that Brooks enjoys working with elderly people. "I live with my grandmother and she's 92 years old," she explains. "She's probably been the biggest influence. She still handles her own business, writes her own checks, and takes care of about 200 houseplants. A lot of the crafts I do I learned from her." The activities director also taught older adults at CPCC. "That also gave me a closer bond," she notes.

Besides Brooks, the center's staff



Ann Brooks, Activities Director, shows off new stove in one of three spacious rooms to be used for Family Outreach Adult Care Center, 1326 Woodward Avenue.

consists of a director (Dona Patterson, executive director of Family Outreach and Counseling Center) and a secretary (Judy Spencer). The program will rely heavily on volunteers for a variety of tasks, such as helping with Bible studies, taking walks with participants, or just sitting and talking.

"We really want people to get excited about the program," Brooks emphasizes. "We need a lot of support. If we can get the churches involved, they can do so much to push this center. We're asking ministers to speak to their congrega-

tions." Brooks states that, besides volunteers, the center needs money for games, Bingo prizes and other equipment.

Located at 1326 Woodward Avenue off Statesville Avenue, the Adult Care Center is part of a complex that also houses a Headstart program.

Cost per participant is \$15 a day, with some financial aid available through the Department of Social Services.

Hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call 332-7037.

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