

Lifesaving counselors receive Red Cross honor



Hanna Prince holds her award.

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Two Girl Scout summer resident camp staff members were recently awarded the National Certificate of Merit lifesaving awards from the American Red Cross. The two young women used skills learned in Red Cross to assist a camper in a life-threatening situation.

Hanna Prince of Sophia and Kristin Greene of Port Elizabeth of East Cape, South Africa served as camp counselors at the Keyauwee Program Center in Randolph County during the summer of 2012.

During a tubing trip to the Dan River, a camper was pinned underwater, head down and underneath a 60-foot tree that had fallen into the river. The camp counselors quickly responded by removing her from the water and administering CPR so

the camper could cough up the water and breathe on her own. The counselors continued to move the injured victim down the river, helping her to remain calm and keeping her conscious from her head injury, while ensuring the safety of eight other girls on the trip.

"We were grateful that our camp staff had the necessary lifesaving skills to respond to this emergency situation," said Marcia Cole, chief executive officer for Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont. "We are humbled that both have been honored for their heroism and how to be prepared for anything in life, especially when something like this happens."

In 2013, there were only 70 of these awards presented nationally.

"We're honored to present this award to Hanna and Kristin as their actions

demonstrate why a fundamental mission of the Red Cross is to help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies," said Suzan Anderson, community chapter executive for the American Red Cross Catawba Valley Chapter. "It's so important to have as many people as possible trained in lifesaving skills because an emergency can happen at any time any place."

The Certificate of Merit is the highest award bestowed by the American Red Cross and bears the signature of the President of the United States. It is a national-level award recognizing community members who save or sustain a life using skills learned in Red Cross training. Honorees receive a medal of honor that bears the Red Cross logo and the words, "Lifesaving Award of Merit."

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Sawyers completes military training

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Haleigh B. Sawyers graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Sawyers is the daughter of Kari and Charles Sawyers Jr. of Belews Creek and a 2012 graduate of East Forsyth High School.



Sawyers



Above: Terry Hicks leads the women in rehearsal.

Right: Posters like these have been pinned up all over town.



Messiah

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said. "I enjoy meeting the people. I enjoy the music."

Norma Bernhardt of Clemmons, a member of the chorus for more than 25 years, is an accomplished singer and musician in her own right. Bernhardt is a member of the choir and a handbell player at her church, Clemmons Moravian. She also sings at the Great Sabbath service at Home Moravian Church. Even with her full schedule, Bernhardt never misses "Messiah."

"It's part of my Christmas tradition...," she said. "It's so inspiring and beautiful. I see so many people year after year singing in the chorus, and we're all good friends."

Bernhardt has made "Messiah" a family affair this year. Her daughter, Lydian Averitt, will be in the chorus for the third time and her granddaughter, Caroline Averitt, a senior at Grimsley High School, will be singing for her first.

"I grew up hearing her 'Messiah' stories ... so when I was in high school, I came and sang and it was such a great experience," said Lydian Averitt, who lives Greensboro.

David Williamson, First Baptist's minister of worship and the arts, directed the first rehearsal. He split up the men and women, directing the men himself, while Terry Hicks, the chorus teacher at Reynolds High School, led the women. Williamson, who has long directed rehearsals, said it's been a "wonderful experience" working with talented singers.

"To do every note of it is quite a goal and they've done well," he said.

Those who'd like to join the performance are welcome to come for the next few rehearsals. They are held Sundays from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. through Dec. 6. The Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, Dec. 7 at Reynolds Auditorium. The performance, also at Reynolds Auditorium, is on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. It is free and open to the public.



David Williamson gets the chorus in tune.

Photos by Todd Luck

Community Outreach Services

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The Eighth Annual Luncheon of THE WOMEN'S FUND OF WINSTON-SALEM

Presented by Wake Forest Baptist Health
Wednesday, November 13, 12:00-1:30pm
Benton Convention Center
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Emcee: Wanda Starke, WXII anchor

To register for the luncheon or for information about sponsorship opportunities, visit us online at womensfundws.org or contact Sabrina Slade at sabrina.slade@wsfoundation.org or 336-714-3468.



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