

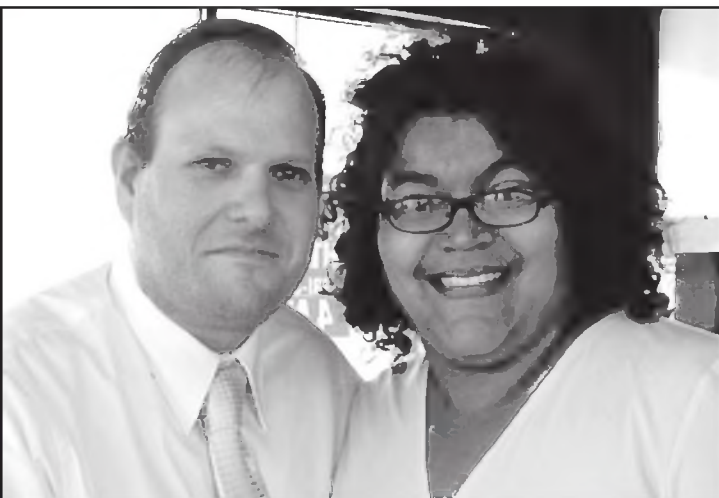
# SOCIALS

## Engagement

### Stovall - Harris

Mr. and Mrs. William Goetz of Fayetteville announce the engage-

ment of their daughter Marciava Angelique Harris of Fayetteville



Marciava Harris and Kevin Stovall

to Kevin Edwin Stovall, also of Fayetteville.

The prospective groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Espinosa of Santa Ana, California and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stovall of Florence, South Carolina.

The prospective bride is a science teacher at West Hoke Middle School and holds a master's degree in Education in Middle Grades 6-9 from Fayetteville State University.

The prospective groom is a U.S. Army veteran and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Kaplan University.

A May 15 wedding is planned for Lu Mil Vineyard in Elizabethtown.

# Cemetery cleanup day is May 29

Volunteers are needed for the annual Day of Remembrance at Community Cemetery on Turnpike Road May 29. Cleanup will take place between 10 a.m. and noon.

A balloon release will again be held to raise money for beautification of the cemetery. Organizers hope to have 100 balloons sponsored as in years past.

Community Cemetery is

located adjacent to Upchurch Elementary School and Silver Grove Church in north Raeford.

Anyone interested in helping or becoming a sponsor should call Joyce Steward at 875-7643.

## Help teens develop their character

Even teens learn more by example than by teaching. Modeling proper virtues for your children is important.

Why do today's teens answer the question, "What is character?" with "good looking?" Since when did physical appearance become a character trait? Actions speak louder than words. For years, your teens have followed you — sometimes resisting, sometimes not. They determine what is important based on observing you. If this thought makes you cringe, don't let your past failures stop you from showing love and patience today. Keep trying until you get it right. We cannot afford to stumble and fall and not get up again.

As parents, let's make our wrongs right by saying, "I'm sorry." Our sons and daughters will more easily forgive others when they've experienced forgiveness at home.

Faith. Hope. Love. So many positive character traits are reflected in the meaning behind these three simple words. If we want our teens to emulate these character traits, we need to live them out at home. Here are just a few to start with:

### Gratitude

Teens need to hear us say, "Thank you," when they watch their younger brother or cook dinner. Especially thank them if they confide in you. Teens tend to share their secrets and struggles with their friends, so if they pick you to talk to — stop and listen. Let them vent and cry if they need to. Offer understanding and a gentle word instead of a long lecture. Ask them if they want your advice.

### Respect

Discover how to get your teen

### Extension Today

Shirley Rush  
4-H Life Skills

to respect you, and your life can become much more peaceful. Imagine a teen that now speaks to you as though you are worth more than the empty pizza box he used to throw under his bed but no longer does because he regards you with high esteem. Picture a teenager who now listens to you attentively and without interrupting, even turning off his or her cell phone. This character trait can transform family life in amazing ways, but how to get your teen to respect you?

Let's answer that.

You yourself must become a model of respect if you expect an adolescent to exercise the trait toward you. Adolescents are quick to spot hypocrisy. If you want to be treated as though you have value, you must first treat others as though they have value. Don't ask how to get your teen to respect you until you learn how to show that you value him or her. Learn how to get your teen to respect you by thinking about how you treat others in the family.

Define respect as a character trait that recognizes each person's value. Tell sons and daughters that they have value and you try to recognize that value in the way you treat them. You don't have to become technical just because you want to know how to get your teen to respect you. It could help, though. You could say that the word comes from Latin and means "looking back at one" as you do when you give someone more than a passing glance. Be clever.

Employ your grasp of how to get your teen to respect you by suggesting that a good-looking boy or girl who is worth more than a passing glance has some value.

### Character

A major reason for the interest in character has to do with concern that children obtain good character traits. Much of the character in a person is learned as a young child. They are taught right from wrong, as well as attitudes toward dealing with challenges and other people. Character lessons are provided in some schools to reinforce lessons taught at home. Friends, peer groups and the media often can provide negative character lessons when children reach their teens.

### Teens

Children gain attitudes and character traits from their friends, especially when they get into their teens. Moral behavior, ethics and even religions can change due to the influence of friends and peer groups.

Many parents have seen their well-behaved child suddenly turn into a disruptive, rude individual. They hope that the negative character traits will just be a phase and that the child will outgrow them. Usually, this is the case. But sometimes, the child may go down the wrong path due to the influence of their friends.

Another influence in the teen years comes from the music, videos, movies and television that provide negative messages, advocating bad character traits. We have to keep a watchful eye on our teens we cannot afford to get tired; our future depends on how well we manage our teens.

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## Editorial Deadlines

Friday 12 Noon: Calendar Items • Social Items • News Items

Monday 12 Noon: Letters to the Editor

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