



DO YOU WANT TO SEE A MAGIC TRICK? Allen 'The Magnificent' Card, 14, practices for his next performance at the LEC April 12.

IN REVIEW

Focused audit of CCS underway

A focused audit of credit card purchases in the Cleveland County Schools Maintenance Department is expected to take about two months, according to CCS Finance Director Dr. David Lee.

Martin Starnes & Associates is reviewing transactions issued to the school systems' two maintenance directors and their administrative assistants plus random transactions from 10 percent of the department's credit cards during 2009, 2010 and 2011.

The board of education at the recent meeting okayed a \$13,000 contract but if extra work is needed by auditors the cost will run \$100 per hour.

Several months ago the N.C. Office of the State Auditor found that \$2,000 in local funds had been misspent in the maintenance department.

School officials cooperated with state auditors and with a SBI probe into the misspent funds.

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

'The Magnificent' Card to perform at LEC April 12

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

With hands swifter than the average eyes, 14-year-old Allen "The Magnificent" Card brings magic into the lives of those around him. He wows his schoolmates with tricks in the lunch lines at Kings Mountain Middle.

"Pick a card, any card..." and this Card will make it appear as he wishes. From the middle of the stack to the top with a tap, folded, signed and delivered in a snap. It's magic and he does more than card tricks. He can make items disappear and reappear and change their appearances altogether. It's part math, part science, part showmanship and a whole lot of practice.

He's wowed his teachers in impromptu magic shows performed upon request. He's intrigued travelers awaiting flights at the Asheville Regional Airport, where his mother, Dawn Neisler, works for the TSA. He's amazed his family and just a few weeks ago, he delighted a crowd at the Neisler Life Enrichment Center in Kings

Mountain.

"Our participants could not believe what they were seeing as he made objects appear and disappear all at the same time! It is truly wonderful to see a young person care so much about spreading happiness to others and I was surprised of his understanding of our diverse population," said Debbie Vaughan, community outreach coordinator at the LEC. "Our folks were amazed. It really surprised them that he could be so young and perform such feats!"

On April 12th, Card will return to the LEC for another performance at 2 p.m. He'll join another magician Dr. Keith Brown in performing at The Bottle Shop on Main Street in Gastonia at 7 p.m. on April 14th.

Card said he really enjoyed entertaining at the LEC. It was his first big performance in front of a crowd and he learned that preparation is a big part of every show. He has even more tricks planned for the next one.

"It takes me about a week to learn something new," he added.

The biggest illusion, he said, he can do today is called "In Half." It plays on the principals of the old "saw someone in half" routine, except in this one it's he who gets sawed in half and he does it without a saw. With the use of three boxes, he separates himself into two sections...both still moving.

Card said he really got into magic about two years ago after watching magician, Josh Knotts, perform feats of wonder on stage at the Cleveland County Fair.

"He made a rabbit appear out of nothing. It was really exciting," he said.

It was a big show. Knotts had a great personality. Card was hooked with a passion that pulled him...behind the curtain. Saving his tips from shows, he purchased books, tools and DVDs to learn the "secrets" of magic. The first card trick, he said, he ever learned was from his father. He's added several more to his repertoire since.

One day, while performing for tips at the airport he caught the attention of

See CARD, 7A

Connor Blalock celebrates 4th birthday

Joseph "Connor" Blalock was 4 years old February 23, 2012 and celebrated his birthday February 25, 2012 at a Spiderman party hosted by his grandmother, Teresa Falls and honorary grandfather, Lawrence Eters, at their home.

Family and friends enjoyed a Spiderman cake, chips, ice cream and drinks. Party favors were given to the children.

Connor has one brother, Walter Blalock, and one sister, Feather Bates.

Connor is the son of Laura and Kyle Blalock of Vale, NC and the grandson of Teresa Falls and Ronnie Falls of Kings Mountain and Gaye Blalock of Denver, NC and the late Calvin Blalock. His honorary grandparents are Lawrence Eters of Kings Mountain and Dot and Teddy Lane of Vale, NC.

Connor is the great-grandson of David Lockridge of Kings Mountain and the late Lucy Leigh Lockridge and the late Carl and Vada Falls. Honorary godparents are Nancy and William Wiggins of Kings Mountain.

Connor is a special nephew to Rhonda Falls Bullock of Kings Mountain and Connor is a special great-grand nephew of Charles McDaniel and the late Liz McDaniel and Mrs. Betty Jo Carroll. Connor is special great-nephew of Marty and Shawn Lockridge. Connor is very special to and loved by Mrs. Jane Gilbert and Dusty Gilbert and Mrs. Katherine Hicks and Howard and Ann Bryant, his family and other friends.

Connor was the second runner-up in the Gaston Gazette 2010 Baby Contest.



CONNOR BLALOCK

Grover museum featured on NBC early morning show

Annual egg hunt for up to \$100 in prizes set for Monday, April 9 at The Inn of the Patriots

GROVER - The "Inside the Presidents' Cabinet" show starring Chefs Marti and Stormy Mongiello of the Inn of the Patriots, featured special Easter-inspired items from Mongiello's Presidential Culinary Museum. The show aired Monday with Larry Sprinkle on NBC TV at 6:45 a.m. in Charlotte.

Mongiello's collection features the mother of the White House Easter Egg Roll, Dolley Madison, and her china formerly owned by Marie Antoinette. It reveals why she started the egg roll in

Washington and showcases authentic wooden eggs from the White House.

Both Mongiellos work as curators at the Presidential Culinary Museum and Presidential Service Museum lo-

cated in Grover - the town named after the President of the United States of America. They have been performing around the world, on stage and television and at the largest state fairs, festivals, casinos and shows in America. Of recent interest has been the traveling collection of Presidential replica and authentic china mostly focused on First Lady Dolley Madison.

First ever to coin the term, "First Lady," the Quaker lady once heard of children rolling colored eggs around at the foot of the pyramids in Giza.

The early morning show on WCNC NBC TV featured a text campaign for viewers to win a \$1,200, two-night stay at The Inn of the Patriots complete with culinary classes, breakfasts and a limousine

ride to the Baker Buffalo Creek Vineyard for a tour and wine tasting.

The 2012 Annual Easter Egg Roll at the Presidential Culinary Museum will feature fun games and a "Most Decorated Spoon Contest" for kids 14 and under. The hunt for eggs will include a complete collector's edition, five-piece wooden set of 2012 official White House Easter eggs, eggs filled with coin, cash and candy.

New this year will be two eggs with \$100 inside. The roll in Grover has gained prestige over the years drawing visitors from several states. The roll and hunt is synchronized annually with the White House Roll - and for 2012 will be held on April 9 at 11 a.m.

History of the White House Easter Egg Roll

The original site of the Easter Monday Egg Roll was not the White House, but the grounds of the United States Capitol. By the mid 1870s, the egg rolling activities on the West Terrace had gained notoriety as the children turned the Capitol grounds into their Easter Monday playground.

The first egg rolls, largely family affairs, seem to have been held during the administration of President Andrew Johnson. Youngsters of the President's family dyed eggs on Sunday for the Monday rolling, which the First Lady would watch from the South Portico. A family member has attested to hearing the stories of such activity from Andrew Johnson Patterson, the President's grandson, who lived at the White House while his mother served as White House hostess on behalf of her invalid mother, First Lady Eliza Johnson.

Experience Easter with Dixon Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday

April 5th • 7:30 pm

The Thursday before Easter is set aside as Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday. It is a time to commemorate the last supper of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Tenebrae

Friday, April 6th • 7:30 pm

The literal translation of the Latin word, tenebrae, is 'shadows,' and thus the service of worship moves from light to darkness.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 7th • 2 pm

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 8th • 6:45 am

Come celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior

Sunday, April 8th • 11 am

Easter Cantata by the choir 'O What a Savior!'

Randy Patterson, Pastor
Dixon Presbyterian Church

602 Dixon School Rd., Kings Mountain