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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

Fire at Wyndor Downs

Apartments in Polkton Leads to Arrests

On Sunday, January 1st at 9:25 p.m. law enforcement officers were dispatched to the Wyndor Downs Apartments in Polkton in regards to people shooting fireworks. Upon arrival an officer found that a dumpster owned by Waste Connections of the Carolinas was on fire. The Polkton Fire Department was summoned and extinguished the fire.

The dumpster was heavily damaged, and the Polkton Police Department began an investigation. During the investigation several persons of interest were found and evidence was recovered from the scene. Several possible witnesses were interviewed and multiple illegal fireworks were seized, along with a small quantity of marijuana.

On Monday, January 2nd three people were arrested: Travis McLain Griffin, 21, of Peachland was charged with Injury to Personal Property, and Discharging Pyrotechnics; Paige Danyale Plyer, 21, of Marshville was charged with Possession of Pyrotechnics, and Possession of Marijuana; Kevin Dewayne Spittle, 21, of Marshville was charged with Injury to Personal Property, and Discharge Pyrotechnics. All three have a February 13 court date.

Polkton's "Booze It and Lose It"

On Saturday, December 31 the Polkton Police Department conducted a Booze It and Lose It campaign that lasted into the early morning hours of January 1st. This Campaign concentrated on all streets and highways within the Town of Polkton. During the campaign officers concentrated on discovering intoxicated drivers, in an attempt to provide for safe streets and reduce the number of alcohol or drug related traffic crashes.

During this campaign the Polkton Police Department charged the following: 2 D.W.I.'s; 1 Driving While Consuming Alcohol; 1 Open Container Spirituous Liquor; 1 Driving While License Revoked; 1 Possession of Marijuana; 1 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; 1 Failed to Stop for Blue Lights and Siren; 1 Exceeding the Posted Speed Limit; and 1 Impeding Traffic.

Polkton Police Chief Kevin Mullis said, "The Polkton Police Department will continually work to reduce the number of intoxicated drivers operating motor vehicles on the streets and highways."

Toys For Tots Gratitude Banquet

Anson County will host the first Toys For Tots Gratitude Banquet Friday, January 13 at Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro, beginning at 6 p.m. with a get acquainted session. The guest speaker for the hour will be Dr. Stan Sidor, President of South Piedmont Community College. Greetings will come from the Honorable Judge Amanda Wilson and other elected officials.

Vancine Sturdivant, Toys for Tots Coordinator for Anson County stated, "We have to prove to Toys For Tots that we will come together and help the less fortunate citizens in our county. We truly did this during the Christmas Holiday. We were able to bless over 2,500 kids with toys. Each child was given 3 toys and stocking stuffers. Now we ask the citizens to please come back together one more time. Please come celebrate at the Gratitude Banquet. As stated, all proceeds remain in our county. The proceeds collected will go toward our 2012 campaign."

You may pay at the door or to get the \$10 tickets or more information by contacting Vancine Sturdivant, (704 848-4412; Rosa Little (704) 848-4594; Ester Lindsey (704 848-8452; Dr. Bernice Bennett (704) 694-6616; Jennifer Tarlton (704) 694-3115; Leslie Deese (704) 694-1171; Priscilla Little (704) 694-9351 or Landric & Cassandra Reid (704) 695-7771.

Anson Fire and Rescue Departments Receive Grants

The Volunteer Fire Department Fund and Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund was created to financially assist our State's greatest resource, our volunteer emergency personnel. The NC General Statutes have been amended to allow for limited paid personnel. Through dollar-for-dollar matching fund programs, the Department of Insurance assist fire departments and rescue/EMS organizations to purchase related equipment and to make capital expenditures. Under the direction of Wayne Goodwin, Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal, the Fire/Rescue Grants & Relief Fund programs collect and disburse over 12 Million dollars annually.

The Firefighters Relief Fund and Rescue Relief Fund programs are designed to financially assist firefighter and rescue personnel in the event of In-Line of Duty injury or death. It may also be used for supplemental retirements, educational benefits and to purchase other insurance/pension plans.

Goodwin announce that almost \$1.5 million in grant funding has been awarded to rescue and EMS organizations across the state. The funding is provided by the Volunteer Rescue/EMS fund, which was created by the North Carolina General Assembly to financially assist North Carolina's volunteer emergency personnel. The fund program helps rescue/EMS organizations purchase equipment and make capital expenditures. Rescue organizations may apply for up to \$25,000 in dollar-for-dollar matching grants per fiscal year, and rescue organizations having cash assets of less than \$1,000 may apply for non-matching grants up to \$3,000.

"Rescue and EMS organizations selflessly serve our communities large and small, and their budgets don't always match the magnitude of their responsibilities," Goodwin said. "It is important that our state helps support them by providing the means by which they can obtain the best equipment to do their jobs safely and effectively."

There were a total of 160 Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund applications received for the 2011 program, for which \$1,460,764.27 was available. Of those, 136 applications were approved for a total distribution amount of \$1,456,049.12. The surplus money will be placed in the 2012 Volunteer Rescue/EMS fund for distribution to future applicants.

The Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund has disbursed more than \$27 million since 1989.

In Anson County these departments received grants:

- Rescue:**
- Anson Rescue Squad \$7,200
 - Burnsville Fire & Rescue Ambulance Service \$2,912.50
- Fire:**
- Ansonville Volunteer Fire Department \$14,387.50
 - Burnsville Fire & Rescue \$11,032.50
 - Lanesboro #1 Fire District (Polkton) \$8,153.50
 - Lilesville Fire Department \$14,474.50
 - Morven Volunteer Fire Department Inc. \$1,080.00
 - Peachland Fire Department \$10,298.96
 - Wadesboro Fire Department \$11,394.17

Artists and Crafters Meet Every Tuesday

The Anson County Arts Council holds an arts and crafts workshop each Tuesday, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Olde Mill Gallery at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Bring your own supplies. The workshop is free, but donations are welcomed. Call 704-694-4950 for more information.

The Pretty Little Church on the Hill



As you head around what is known at the "S curve" in Polkton, your eyes will surely fall upon the pretty little church on the hill. Polkton United Methodist Church is a Mecca when it comes to my family holiday traditions. It was where we spent each Christmas Eve, singing hymns and participating in the annual Christmas program. The beauty of the church made for a warm and inviting atmosphere, with its elegant stained glass, arched windows, hardwood floors, carpeted aisles the color of wine, rounded pulpit and semi-circular pews. Its charm and character, along with its meticulous details, are among the prettiest I've seen. Many years ago there was a balcony where you would be seated when the downstairs pews were filled. And, I remember that being the case on several occasions.

Today there are far fewer members present in the pretty little church, but those in attendance are just as friendly and welcoming as days of long ago. I attended this year's Christmas program and was received with open arms. There was a sense of home, both welcoming and relaxed. Almost everyone made his or her way over and talked with me about times we had once shared, many of which were in that very church.

Attending Sunday School was something we as kids didn't miss. The educational building held many church socials and wedding receptions. It's where each class met every Sunday and where Homecoming lunches were served. As teenagers it was the setting for MYF meetings and teen night functions.

Knowing from experience how the pretty little church on the hill has been used for so many wonderful events leaves me with only fond memories. My family, next-door neighbors, and cousins attended the same church, and as I recall, those days I remember lots of fun times shared. Not only did we worship together, we learned about the bible and were given lessons in spiritual blessings, acceptance and forgiveness.

After Sunday school and just before "preaching," as we

called our worship service, we would meet in the main church building to hear how many people were in attendance and the accounting of tithes and offerings. There were always two hymns to sing, and every once in a while the superintendent would break away from the norm and ask the congregation for input on what hymn to sing on that particular Sunday? As young people we seemed to like "Standing on the Promises" because it had a nice tempo. Mr. Charles Ross, a talented vocalist, would really belt that one out with his own solo especially for him and his beautiful, deep voice.

My cousin Gene, my neighbor Kevin and I would take turns sitting on the far right side in the smallest pew at the back. It was the place to be to us and we often raced over to make sure we were seated in our favorite space. Once, Gene and I were sharing the hymnal and accidentally dropped it on the head of the person sitting in front of us. We were mortified! How could this have happened in a place of worship? I guess it's true what they say, "God does have a sense of humor!"

The pretty little church on the hill still has a graceful presence, as beautiful as I recall, and it still feels like home. There's an abundance of warmth both from the wonderful people who belong there to the serene sanctuary offering amazing visuals. It was a great church to have grown up in and a great church to bid you welcome as you make your return visits.

In Polkton all roads lead to this special little gem, and if you listen closely as you pass by you can hear, "Y'all come, y'all come," from her members. Looking for a place to call your own? Then enter the pretty little church on the hill. Every place of worship is beautiful, but this space is special, something you will need to experience for yourself to realize her true blessings. "May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace, Amen." *By Melanie Lyon*

Anson County Partnership for Children Receives Grant for Another Early Literacy Project

Getting books from the doctor will soon be a routine part of regular pediatric checkups at Anson Pediatrics and Wadesboro Family Medicine medical practices in Anson County. The Anson County Partnership for Children has received a grant from the NC Partnership for Children to partner with Reach Out and Read® to make books and literacy guidance a reality for children and families in Anson County. The new Reach Out and Read clinical locations join more than 4,779 programs nationwide that are preparing America's youngest children to succeed in school.

Anson County Partnership for Children Executive Director Elaine B. Scarborough says the Partnership has always included a focus on developing early literacy skills. Reach Out and Read will be added to the other children's literacy programs currently provided by the Partnership including the Raising a Reader Book Bag Program, as well as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and numerous book distributions at community events in Anson County. Mrs. Scarborough says, "The grant from the NC Partnership for Children will support Reach Out and Read for the first six months. We will rely on funds raised at our annual Barn Blast fundraiser to support Reach Out and Read beyond the grant period."

The 2012 Barn Blast will be held on Friday, January 27 at SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Tickets are now available at \$35 each by calling the Anson County Partnership for Children at 704 694-4036. Ticket prices will increase to \$45 after January 13. Reserved Barn Blast tables for 8 guests are also available for \$300 per table.

The Reach Out Read Program was chosen because it is proven to be successful in increasing the time that families read to young children. Doctors, nurse practitioners, and other medical professionals incorporate Reach Out and Read's model into regular pediatric checkups by advising parents about the importance of reading aloud and giving developmentally-appropriate books to children.

The program begins at the 6-month checkup and continues through age 5, with a special emphasis on children growing up in low-income communities. Families served by the Reach Out and Read Program read together more often, and their children enter kindergarten with larger vocabularies, stronger language skills, and better prepared to achieve their potential.

The Anson County Partnership for Children is one of 14 Smart Start partnerships selected to implement Reach Out and Read. The others include Alexander County Partnership for Children, Children & Youth Partnership for Dare County, Inc., Smart Start of Davie County, Inc., Down East Partnership for Children, Duplin County Partnership for Children, Franklin Granville Vance Smart Start, Madison County Partnership for Children and Families, Inc., Randolph County Partnership for Children, Region A Partnership for Children, Rockingham County Partnership for Children, Inc., Smart Start Rowan, Inc., Children's Council of Watauga, Inc., and Wilkes Community Partnership for Children.

For more information, please visit Reach Out and Read's website at www.reachoutandread.org. or call Shana Payne at the Anson County Partnership for Children at 704-694-4036.



Bridget Wall is shown reading to her son Malachi Wall, age 4, in the Partnership's Early Childhood Resource Center. Literacy services to young children in Anson County will be expanded by the Reach Out and Read grant recently received by the Partnership.

Chamber Lunch & Learn Features American Cancer Society

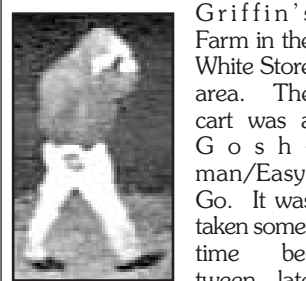
The American Cancer Society and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce cordially invite chamber members to attend the next Lunch & Learn Session titled, "We Save Lives." Everyone has been touched by cancer in some way with a family member, friend or co-worker. This Lunch & learn will tell you all about what the American Cancer Society has to offer, including services, programs and information about Relay for Life. Cameron Whitley, Community Manager, will present the program which will include a video about ACS and Relay for Life and how the funds raised are saving lives.

Chamber members are urged to please join in for this free Lunch & Learn Session on Tuesday, January 17th, at 11:45 a.m. at the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. Seating will be limited to the first 25, so please RSVP your attendance as soon as possible. The deadline for registration will be January 13th. You may register by calling 704-694-4181 or e-mail to ansonchamber@windstream.net.

Don't forget your business cards for door prizes and to share with other attendees.

Golf Cart Stolen

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies are investigating a larceny of a golf cart stolen from



Griffin's Farm in the White Store area. The cart was a G o s h - man/Easy-Go. It was taken sometime between late

December 29th and the 30th. A photograph of the suspect was taken with surveillance cameras in the area. The suspect is described at a light skin male, wearing a dark coat and hood. A white pickup truck may have been involved.

A reward of up to \$500 is being offered to anyone with information that would lead to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals involved in this crime. Contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188.

50+ Club Meeting

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club will meet on Monday, January 9 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Leon Smith will be presenting a program with song, guitar and stories of an Anson County carpenter and his children in the fifties. The presentation will emphasize the profound effect this man's fatherly kindness had on his son. Everyone is invited to this event.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177..

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