

In a release from the Chamber of Commerce: Anson County Chamber of Commerce hosted the 18th Annual Big-Game Hunt tournament and it was once again, a great success! Hunter Williams of Marshville, and Dean Effird of Albemarle, earned top honors in the buck and doe categories, in the tournament held Thanksgiving weekend. Both of them earned prize money of \$800 each. Williams also received a free mount from Wesley Holbert Taxidermy. Williams's 8-point, 174 pound buck was shy of the record by a little over 10 pounds set 2 years ago by Bron Hyatt, 184.7-pounds and 10 points. Tonda Edwards of Peachland, placed second with an 11-point 164-pounder and pocketed \$475, followed by Alan Hildreth of Marshville, 10-point 161-pounds, \$350; Lanny Davis of Peachland, 9-point 161-pounds, \$175; Grayson Sarif of Albemarle, 6-point 157-pounds, \$75; and Zack Smith of Wadesboro, 6-point 142-pounds and a free 2016 tournament registration plus \$25 daily prize. Mr. Effird weighed in a 113-pound doe to earn \$800 in total prize money. Travis Curran of Polkton placed second with a 109-pounder for \$500, followed by Richard Bates of Lexington, 104-pounds, \$375; Aaron Bates of Wadesboro, 102-pounds and \$200; Jordan Caudle of Lexington, 102 pounds, \$75; and AJ Rathje of Polkton, 101 pounds, \$25 daily prize money and a free 2016 Big-Game Hunt registration.

In the youth buck category, Mallory Sikes of Wadesboro won top prize money of \$300 with a 9-point, 144-pounder. "Way to go Mallory", commented Edwards. Sikes also won a free mount from Wesley Holbert Taxidermy. Hunter Williams of Wadesboro took second place in the buck category winning \$150 with a 6-point at 137-pounds followed by Luke Morton of Norwood, 8-point 134-pounds \$90; fourth place was Collin Smith of Oakboro, 9-point 132-pounds and \$65 in prize money; and Zack Sikes of Lilesville with an 8-point, 122-pounder \$50 daily prize and a free 2016 Big-Game registration. Alan Dale McRae of Wadesboro, won the youth doe category with a 90-pounder worth \$300. The record for the youth largest doe of 115.3-pounds was set by Elizabeth Tarlton of Wadesboro in 2008. Jordan Sikes of Wadesboro, placed second with an 82-pounder and won \$175, followed by Jack Flake of Wadesboro, 80 pounds, \$100; Noah Carpenter of Wadesboro, 77 pounds, \$75; and Joe Don Tarlton II of Wadesboro, \$15 daily and a free 2016 registration for his 75-pounder. The 2015 weigh-in breakdown listed 43 buck's and 50 doe's grand total of 93 deer. "Not a record but certainly a good harvest for the tournament", Edwards stated.

The entire bay area of the Ansonville Volunteer Fire Department was available for the tournament and there was still standing-room-only at the banquet held on Saturday night. Winners of the drawings include: AJ Harrington, youth gun; from the raffle, Dean Effird won the Remington Bolt Action Rifle 308 caliber. Bev Hicks won the Yeti Cooler; Tebow Dixon, \$100; Youth Crossbows donated by Whitley Power and Equipment and Reel Determined Outdoors went to Joshua Cranfill and Joe Don Tarlton II. From the card game, Harold Gardin won the Drone and Eli Randall won a Kindle Fire. There were two pick boards this year and those winners included, Joe Sikes who won a Patio Heater; Doug Richardson won a Fire Pit and Donnie Edwards won a Henry Rifle. William Hicks won 500lbs of deer shell corn and Otoniel Miranda won 500lb of Persimmon flavored deer corn all donated by Long Creek Farms. Drew Thomas won a free deer mount from Kelly's Taxidermy. We had a special donation from one of our hunters this year which was a homemade deer crossing sign made of wood. This was donated by Clint Mabry, brother to the Director of the Chamber of Commerce and was won by Bobby Burr. "I can't thank everyone enough for all the great donations that help make this tournament the success that it is," Edwards commented.

The kid's games were a lot of fun again this year and all the little ones received goody bags.

Lynn Edwards, executive director of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, the tournament's host, gave a "huge thanks" to the all the hunters who participate each year and support this event. "We had record number of hunters for the second year in a row, 376 and I thank you all for participating," Edwards stated.

"We could not host this event without our generous tournament sponsors", said Edwards. They are as follows - Four A Loader Work, Title sponsor; Uwharrie Bank, Banquet sponsor; Gold sponsors; Buckshot Deer Processing, Cobb-Vantress, Duke Energy, Jordan Lumber Company, Pee Dee Electric and Waste Connections, Silver sponsors; Locust Lumber, Lynn Thomas Grading, Tyson Foods, Valley Proteins, Inc., Wesley Holbert Taxidermy, and Windstream, Bronze sponsors; 704 Outdoors, Anson Towing & Recovery, Bates Law Firm, First Financial Bank, PNC Bank, Woodsman Forestry; Youth sponsors; Dale McRae Farms, Precision Saw Works, Whitley Power Equipment and Reel Determined Outdoors, Youth Daily sponsors; Dennis Concrete Finishing and Kiker Resource Management LLC. And for the first time there was a Volunteer Sponsor which was Hyatt Land Surveying. "Again, I give you all my most heartfelt appreciation for your gracious support", expressed Edwards.

"The Big Game Hunt tournament is very successful because of our great volunteers too," Edwards mentioned, singling out Marty Cato, Courtney & Jamie Webb, Abby & Luke Young, Jake Henry and Megan and Dempsey Sellers. Edwards also expressed the outstanding effort that Marty Cato puts into this event each year. "Marty is a special person who simply loves hunting and kids and puts a lot of energy into our tournament. Without him this event would not be what it is today," Edwards said. She also thanked her husband, Walter and John Hyatt for cooking at the event this year. Edwards would also like to thank Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Refreshment Services, Wadesboro IGA and the Ansonville Volunteer Fire Department for allowing the event to be held at the fire department each year.

The 19th annual Big-Game Hunt Tournament will be held on Nov. 25-26 of 2016. Best wishes for a great 2016 year!

### Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to Give Away Pair of Panthers Playoff Tickets

Donors who give blood with CBCC between now and January 14 are eligible to enter the drawing

A lucky Community Blood Center of the Carolinas (CBCC) blood donor will have an opportunity to win two tickets to the Carolina Panthers NFC Divisional Playoff game the weekend of January 16-17. The game will be played on either Saturday, January 16 or Sunday, January 17 at Bank of America Stadium. The tickets are for 50-yard line, row 12, Panthers' side seats.

All presenting donors who donate blood or platelets at one of CBCC's blood centers or mobile blood drives now through Thursday, January 14 will be entered to win the pair playoff tickets. To schedule a blood donation appointment at one of CBCC's centers or mobile blood drives, call 704-972-4700 or visit [www.cbcc.us](http://www.cbcc.us).

"We are very grateful for our donors who play a vital role in helping save local lives so we are excited to give people a chance to win this set of Carolina Panthers' tickets," said Kim Jones, director of recruitment and retention at Community Blood Center of the Carolinas. "With the busy holidays and cold and flu season, our blood supply tends to run lower than other times of year. Our goal is to help keep our blood supply strong as there is always an ongoing need for blood. We encourage people to donate life-saving blood to support local patients and our home team."

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### Cheraw Arts Commission Presents Oil Painting Workshop in February

Charleston artist Joyce Hall will return to Cheraw February 26-28 for a three day workshop. Joyce is an international award winning oil painter whose work has been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the US. ([www.thestudiosc.com](http://www.thestudiosc.com)) The focus of the workshop is The Color of Light & the Color of Shadow. This class will explore a method of underpainting full color light and shadow. Participants will paint favorite subjects and achieve exciting luminous results.



The workshop will be held at the Cheraw Police Department Community Room, located at 258 Second Street, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Cost for the three day workshop is \$195. A supply list will be provided upon registration. For additional information contact the Cheraw Arts Commission 843-537-8420 x12.

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