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

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet February 5

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5 at 6 p.m. The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

SC Man Arrested for Multiple Break-ins, Including Two Churches

On Friday, January 25, at around 4:00 a.m. deputies from the Anson County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to Morven United Methodist Church in reference to a breaking and entering in progress. Upon arrival at the church deputies spoke with a witness who was able to provide detailed clothing description along with a direction of travel of the suspect. During a search of the area deputies located a man fitting the description of the suspect in the area.



Joe Van McRae

Deputies identified the suspect as Joe Van McRae, 44, of Mount Croghan, SC, and through their investigation were able to determine that McRae was the person responsible for breaking into Morven United Methodist as well as Morven Baptist Church on the same night. In addition McRae has been charged with breaking and entering and larcenies at the United States Post Office in Morven on November 17 and the Family Dollar Store in Morven on September 15. McRae is currently being investigated by deputies in relation to several other crimes in the Morven area. McRae has been charged with four counts of Felony Breaking and Entering, Credit Card Fraud, and Obtaining Property by False Pretense and two counts of Felony Larceny. He is currently in custody at the Anson County Jail under a \$50,000.00 secure bond with a court date set for February 5, 2019 in Anson County District Court. Sheriff Landric Reid said, "I would like to thank the witness for their outstanding assistance and alertness that led to the arrest of this individual. This incident proves that a strong community involvement in working with local authorities can result in a swift and positive outcome for the residents of Anson County."

All Are Invited to the Library for "Take Your Child to the Library" Program

On Saturday, February 2, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. the Hampton B. Allen Library will host another "Take Your Child to the Library" program. Last year the library had several families come out and join them for the international event. Here in Anson County special programs are planned for the children in our community. A variety of games, including an interactive scavenger hunt that will help children navigate their way through the library. There will be a bookmark-making craft to personalize their reading experiences. As well as prizes, there will be candy and a free book for the children to take home after the event. Take Your Child to the Library Day is a wonderful way for people in our community to learn about the early literacy programs, educational resources and fun events that our librarians provide for free to the community every day of the year. The Hampton B. Allen Library is located at 120 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. For more information about Take Your Child to the Library Day or upcoming library activities, please contact the library at 704-694-5177.

Scouting For Food Community Service Project

Anson County Scouts BSA is participating in a national community service project, Scouting for Food. Starting now, scouts are distributing grocery bags in our local areas, churches and neighborhoods, to be filled with non-perishable food items. Filled bags will be collected February 2 and 3 to be donated to Anson Crisis Ministry, replenishing their food pantry which is generally at its lowest level in the winter and after a holiday season. All donations are appreciated, but the most needed items are meals in a can such as soup, stew and chili, as well as tuna or canned chicken, peanut butter, canned foods with pop-top lids, fruit canned in juice or water, low-sodium canned vegetables, olive or canola oil, spices, low-sugar whole-grain cereal, and healthy snacks like granola bars, nuts and dried fruit. According to Hunger Research, a consortium based out of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 25% of the children of Anson County live in food insecure homes. Food insecurity is when children and families do not have consistent access to food due to limited income or resources, so they are hungry or faced by the threat of hunger. Monetary donations are also welcome - just \$1 provides 7 pounds of food to families in need. If your church, civic or neighborhood organization would like to help, please contact your local Cub Scout, Boy Scout or Venture Scout, or contact Melissa Ewing at melissa.ewing@scouting.org or at 910-334-2050.

Toys for Tots Valentine's Father/Daughter Dance

The public is invited to attend a special event presented by Anson County Toys for Tots. On Friday, February 8 they will host a Valentine's Father/Daughter Dance. This event is for daughters ages 2 to 18, and the attire is Sunday's best. Refreshments will be served. The dance will take place at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per father/daughter and \$5 for each additional child. All proceeds will go to Toys for Tots to be used to provide presents to less fortunate children at Christmas. Tickets are available at the Anson County Clerk of Court's office, located in the Anson County Courthouse. Ask for Milea Gullede, Barbara Thomas or Erica Greene. For more information call 704-848-4412.



Peachland-Polkton Elementary Enjoys Visit from Renowned Illustrator

Nationally acclaimed children's illustrator Michael P. White recently held a series of drawing workshops for the students at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School. Dubbed as "The Start of Something Big," six 45-minute workshop sessions were conducted by the famed illustrator. Mr. White left numerous signed drawings at the school to keep and created a bookmark for each of the children to take home. Mr. White has illustrated such children's books as *The Library Dragon*, *Harriet's Horrible Hair Day* and *The Secret of Old Zeb*.

Ms. Mattie Spencer Celebrates Her 105th Birthday with Family and Friends

Ms. Spencer is the proud mother of five generations!

Ms. Mattie Spencer, a resident at Anson Health and Rehabilitation in Wadesboro, reached a real milestone, her 105th birthday, on Friday, January 25. She enjoyed a celebration of her birthday on Saturday, January 19, surrounded by her family, friends and dedicated staff at Anson Health and Rehab. Among the attendees was her granddaughter Barbara Thomas of Wadesboro who said, "I am both honored and humbled to be able to celebrate the queen of my life, Mattie "Granny" Spencer's 105th Birthday. We celebrated on Saturday, January 19. Her birthday is Friday, January 25. She is the mother of five generations."

Thomas continued, "A special thanks to Anson Health and Rehabilitation Center for the beautiful flowers and gifts that you presented to her. Also, thank you to Pastor Alban Burney and the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church family, Pastor and Mrs John McLaurin and the Rock Baptist Church family, Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant, her best friend, and special friend Sheriff Landric Reid. We are grateful for all her family and friends who came out to celebrate her special day!" Ms. Spencer enjoys excellent care at Anson Health & Rehab. They specialize in post-acute rehab and nursing care. PT, OT and ST is available 7 days a week, and they also offer out-patient therapy. Contact Beth Howell, Director of Marketing & Admissions, for a tour or information by calling 704-695-3301.



Ms. Mattie Spencer with Barbara Thomas as they enjoy Ms. Spencer's special day.



Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge Bird Hike is Thursday

On this Thursday, January 31 the Three Rivers Land Trust will host a guided birding trip at the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to observe migratory waterfowl while they make the Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge their winter home. This is a great chance to see migratory birds such as black ducks, ring-necked ducks, mallards and Canada geese. Spaces are limited so sign up today! This event is open to members and non-members of the Three Rivers Land Trust. If you are not a member, but would like to know more about the Trust's conservation mission and perhaps join in, visit threeriverslandtrust.org for information. The birding trip will take place from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge is located at 5770 Highway 52 North, between Wadesboro and Ansonville. Visit threeriverslandtrust.org or call 704-647-0302 with any questions.

Free Groceries for Families in Need February 6

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Mobile Food Pantry and CHS Mobile Health Unit will be at Wingate United Methodist Church, located at 111 Hinson Street in Wingate, on Wednesday, February 6. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m. • Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household. Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email tschumpert@wnc-cumc.net. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need. If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445.

Animal Shelter Needs Volunteers

The Animal Shelter depends on the help of volunteers to ensure that animal residents receive love and care. More volunteers will also help relieve the workload on staff which can result in more time for resident animals to be adopted before they are euthanized (put to sleep). Please consider volunteering. For more information on helping, call 704-694-4832. A rescue from Animal Shelter can bring lots of happiness and love into any home...and you will make the animal happy too! It's a win-win. **And remember, older animals need a home and love too!**

Storytime Every Wednesday

The Anson County Partnership for Children offers Storytime in the Early Childhood Resource Center each Wednesday, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3 to 8. For more information call 704-694-4036.