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New Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group in Hamlet

Alzheimer's Association's free support group is now open for all local caregivers impacted by dementia, including Anson County citizens

The Alzheimer's Association - Western Carolina Chapter has formed a new support group for the southern Piedmont area at the Hamlet Senior Center for family, friends and caregivers who care for someone living with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. The caregiver support group's first meeting starts November 21 and will be held as follows:

- Third Thursdays of each month, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Hamlet Senior Center, 102 Lakeside Drive, Hamlet, NC, 28345

Alzheimer's Association support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for caregivers. They allow participants to develop a support system and exchange practical information on challenges and possible solutions. The groups also allow opportunity to talk through issues and discuss ways of coping and share feelings of needs and concerns. Group members also learn about community resources that can help them in their caregiving role.

It is estimated that in Richmond County, there is a 12.2% Alzheimer's disease prevalence rate in its age 65 and older population. This equates to an estimated 1,000 individuals in the county.

"The demands of being an Alzheimer's caregiver are all-encompassing and increase over time as the disease progresses," said Katherine Lambert, CEO, Alzheimer's Association - Western Carolina Chapter. "No one should face Alzheimer's alone. We are grateful to the Hamlet Senior Center for helping bring this important aspect of caregiver support to the southern Piedmont community."

For more information on the Hamlet Support Group, call 800-272-3900 or email codonoghue@alz.org.

For more information on support for individuals and families impacted by Alzheimer's, any of the Association's resources and how to get involved can be found by visiting the Alzheimer's Association - Western Carolina Chapter at alz.org/northcarolina or by calling our 24/7 Helpline (800-272-3900).

Additional Facts and Figures: (alz.org/facts)

- An estimated 6.9 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia, including more than 210,000 in North Carolina.
- Nationally, more than 11 million caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. In North Carolina, 373,000 caregivers provide a total of 723 million hours of unpaid care, valued at a total of \$10.9 billion.
- About 1 in 9 people age 65 and older has Alzheimer's.
- Nearly two-thirds of those with Alzheimer's are women.
- Older non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanic Americans are disproportionately more likely than older whites to have Alzheimer's or other dementias.
- Alzheimer's disease was the fifth-leading cause of death among individuals age 65 and older in 2021 (the most recent year for mortality data).

Military Consumers Report Higher Scam Losses vs. General Population

A new report from the Better Business Bureau Institute for Marketplace Trust (BBB Institute), the educational foundation of the International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB), and the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA) reveals that military consumers (service members, military spouses, and veterans) report higher losses to scams compared to the general population. Marketplace challenges facing the military community can be downloaded for free from the BBB Institute website (bbbmarketplacetrust.org/MilitaryResearch).

"Military consumers face unique challenges in the marketplace," said Melissa Lanning, BBB Institute executive director. "From navigating Permanent Change of Station moves to family separation during deployment to transitioning to civilian life. This report highlights the ways in which bad business practices and scams are impacting the military community."

Key findings include:

- Higher losses: Based on the BBB Risk Index, military consumers reported a median loss of \$196, 1 significantly higher than the \$130 reported by all consumers.
- Online purchase scams: The riskiest scam type for all military consumers, making up 32.3% of the scams reported, with 78.5% reporting a monetary loss.
- Investment/cryptocurrency scams: The riskiest scam for active-duty service members, with 70.8% reporting losses.
- Employment scams: The second riskiest scam type for military spouses and veterans.
- Impact: Military consumers face unique challenges such as frequent relocations and deployments, which may make them more vulnerable to scams.

Military consumers are more susceptible to employment, home improvement, romance, and government grant scams.

"There are legal protections in place to support service members and their families in the marketplace, but scammers don't care about what is legal or ethical," said Brigadier General Omuso George, US Army (Ret.), President and CEO of the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA). "We exist in a dynamic threat environment when it comes to financial fraud. Increased awareness of those threats and education are our best defense to prevent our military consumers from losing their money to fraudsters. We are proud to partner with the Better Business Bureau in advancing a trustworthy marketplace."

Contact and payment methods:

- The highest median dollar losses were reported from scams initiated in person, by phone, and via text message.
- Payment methods with the highest losses included wire transfer, check, and cash.
- Complaints reported by military consumers:
 - Military consumers had slightly more complaints settled via Better Business Bureau (81.1%) compared to all consumers (80.5%).
 - Car dealerships and home warranty plans received the most complaints, consistently ranking in the top four since 2019.

Other impacts:

- 44% of military consumers reported losing confidence or peace of mind after being targeted by scams.
- Those who lost money were more likely to report experiencing financial distress, damaged credit, strained relationships, and loss of potential earnings.

About the BBB Risk Index To better understand which scam types pose the highest risk, BBB Institute assesses risk based on the BBB Risk Index: Exposure x Susceptibility (or likelihood of loss) x Monetary Loss. These three factors help us understand the impact of scams and who is most vulnerable to specific types.

NC's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI)

The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) has been providing services to North Carolina families of children with disabilities, their teachers and other professionals since 1983. Their Parent Educators and PTI staff are there to help you navigate the special education maze and provide you with the information and tools you need to be an informed and active participant in your child's education.

ECAC's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) is funded through the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

All services are provided to parents and families at no cost! Educators and other professionals may be charged a nominal fee.

- Toll Free Parent Info Line answered by Parents
- Individual Assistance with educational issues
- Parent and Professional Education workshops on a variety of topics
- Lending Library
- Information packets, (paper and on CD)
- NewsLine newsletter and ECAC Online!, our electronic newsletter
- Parent-to-Parent support
- Assistance to parent groups

For more information contact ECAC at 704-892-1321. Lots of information about the ECAC is available on their website: www.ecac-parentcenter.org.

Local Author Mary H. Jordan Book Signing to Support BRLC

BINGO will be played to be the ice breaker

Published Local Author Mary H. Jordan of the Polkton Community will be sharing information from her two recently published books at an event hosted by the Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center. The community is invited to this special event. It will be held on Monday, November 18, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Light refreshments will be provided. Jordan's books normally sell for \$10 each, but you will be able to purchase two for only \$15. All proceeds will go to support the BRLC's future historical museum. The books are "Frankie, Freddie & Molly," an interactive coloring book, and "Life Comes In Bits & Pieces."

Toys for Tots representative Lamar Liles will be on hand with information about the current campaign in Anson County. Liles will have applications for parents who desire Toys for Tots support for this Christmas. He will also be available to discuss opportunities for volunteers and donations to this worthy cause.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737. For more information visit www.burnsvillelc.org.



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Mon-Fri 8:30-5 Closed
Saturday 8:30-1 Sunday



FOREVER TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

This event is open to all community members. Please join us on:
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD 6PM
Leavitt Funeral Home 2036 Morven Road in Wadesboro

If you would like to place an ornament on the Forever Tree in honor or in memory of someone, please contact: Nia Jones, Bereavement Social Worker at Anson Community Hospice (910) 997-4464. The deadline is November 25. Or mail completed form to:

Anson Community Hospice, 1119 US Highway 1 N, Rockingham, NC 28379

We request a \$10 donation per ornament. Donations are tax-deductible and will help fund grief support for the community.

Place ____ (# of) ornament(s) in **HONOR** of: _____ Place ____ (# of) ornament(s) in **MEMORY** of: _____

Name and address of individual(s) to send acknowledgement to: _____

Name and address of the donor to send thank you note to: _____

• **RSVP for Tree Lighting Ceremony.**
Will attend the Forever Lighting Tree Ceremony, Yes _____ No _____
Number of Guest _____ Contact number _____ / _____

