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

Sheriff Offers Information on Protecting Your Church Against Violence

This is a release from the Sheriff's Office: Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid advises that a church should be a place of peace and a safe haven for those worshipping and experiencing God's love and grace away from conflicts of the world. But, what happens when crime and violence breach the church doors? As you seek to minister to the needy and hurting, lets find ways to protect your congregation from those with evil motives? A good place to start is with the assessment, how secure is your church?
Goal: To adapt a basic plan of operation before, during and after a critical incident in a church during a time of worship.
Contact: Sheriff Reid at the Anson County Sheriff's Office, 704-694-4188, to make an appointment to discuss who should be involved with the planning.

Anson Majorettes Hosting Bingo Night Fundraiser this Saturday

This Saturday, November 18 the Anson High School and Middle School Majorettes will be hosting a fundraiser, Bingo Night, to pay for their beautiful new uniforms. There will be prizes for winners! The cost is \$10 a card, or 3 cards for \$25. Please come enjoy a great evening of family fun, while helping these hard-working young ladies. The event will be held at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Wadesboro, and doors open at 5:30 p.m. Everybody likes Bingo, so come play! Donations will also accepted! Make checks payable to Anson High School or Anson Middle School Majorettes. For more information call Coach Melanie Lyon at 704-695-2247.

School Board Meeting is November 20

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular Board of Education of meeting on Monday, November 20 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open session to the public should begin around 6:30 p.m.

Toys for Tots Motorcycle Ride is Saturday

All motorcyclists are invited to participate in this weekend's Toys for Tots fundraiser motorcycle ride. It takes place Saturday, November 1 at 10 a.m. There will be great food, a split the pot prize and door prize tickets. And, of course, there will be a good ride too! This event is open to non riders too. The event will take place at Harvest Ministries Outreach Center, behind Pizza Hut in Wadesboro. Registration is from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost to participate is \$10 for single riders, \$15 for two up. And, don't forget to bring a toy! For more information call Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412. The event is sponsored by Playaz Elite, William "Bugga" Sturdivant 910-206-3427.

Toys for Tots 2017 Needs Your Help

The Toys for Tots 2017 Christmas campaign has begun, and they need everyone's help. If you can donate a new toy or funds, please do. This will enable less fortunate children in Anson County to celebrate Christmas through the magic of receiving presents. Without Toys for Tots, some children would have nothing on Christmas day. "Businesses, churches, schools, citizens and our elected officials are very important to us," said County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant who is the Toys for Tots Coordinator for Anson County. "It's a way you can give back to your community and to our less fortunate children and families. You can support Toys for Tots through a monetary donation or purchasing toys."
You may drop your toys off at the following drop-off sites:

- Harvest Ministries Outreach Center
 - Grace Senior Center
 - Department of Social Services
 - Gumby's, Lilesville
 - All schools will have toys drop boxes
- Citizens will also be able to pick up applications for help at the above locations and the Anson county Health Department. Sturdivant continued, "Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, good will and love for our fellow man. It is a time of giving and helping others, especially those who are less fortunate. I challenge each one of you to give. Bless someone. Working together as a team, we can make this year's campaign one of the best."

Please make donation checks out to: Toys for Tots / Anson. For further information please contact Assistant Coordinator Dr. Bernice Bennett at 704-694-6616, Secretary Debra Rosebud at 704-695-2963 or Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

In 2011 Toys for Tots came to Anson County under the guidance of Commissioner Sturdivant. Sturdivant said, "During our first campaign we were blessed to collect and distribute toys to over 1,500 children. Since then the number has grown to over 3,000 children. Each year the need gets greater. Now more than ever we need the assistance of our community, businesses, churches, schools and citizens to make this program a continued success."

During the Toys for Tots conference held in September at the National Conference Center in Washington, DC, Anson County's local campaign was recognized for having a successful campaign each year.

The Toys for Tots Foundation is the largest non-profit organization in the world. It all began in 1947, with a hand crafted doll, Raggedy Ann, and a Marine who heard a mother's prayer that her kids would not get anything for Christmas. Marine Reserve Major Bill Hendrick and his wife shared with this less fortunate family, and this was the beginning of Toys for Tots. Major Hendrick and members of his Marine Reserve Unit collected and distributed 5,000 toys the first year. The seed was planted and Toys for Tots was born.

The following year, in 1948, the Marine Corps Reserve adopted the program and collected and distributed toys in 74 communities nationwide. The Toys for Tots program has grown tremendously since its inception. Today Toys for Tots serves nearly 800 local communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.



Peachland Polkton Elementary School's 'Shadow a Principal Challenge'

Sen. Tom McInnis visited Peachland-Polkton Elementary on Friday, October 20 for the National Association of Elementary Principal's Shadow a Principal challenge. McInnis agreed to shadow Principal Travis Steagall. Shadowing visits provide a wonderful opportunity for members of Congress and congressional staffers to experience firsthand the role and responsibilities of principals. The day was spent observing classrooms, preparing for the school's Fall Festival and assisting with fire safety activities with the Polkton Fire Department and NC Wildlife Service. McInnis said, "It is so refreshing to visit one of our states premier elementary schools. It was my privilege to shadow Principal Travis Steagall and watch a true professional at work. Peachland-Polkton Elementary School in Anson County represents what can be obtained with a powerful principal and a strong teaching team." Mr. Steagall added that, "Senator McInnis is working hard to promote economic development and education in our region and in Anson County. He has served as a Board of Education member in Richmond County, and understands the challenges that exist in rural counties. His efforts to help Anson County continue to grow are appreciated."

2018 Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) Open Enrollment Runs Until December 15

Apply online for tax subsidies to offset premium cost - shortened enrollment period this year

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey reminds residents that Open Enrollment for the 2018 Federal Health Insurance Exchange, also called the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare, is open now, and runs through December 15 with coverage to start January 1, 2018.

"This is a shorter enrollment period than previous years," said Commissioner Causey. "If you do not have health insurance elsewhere, you need to take part in Open Enrollment to make sure you choose the best insurance plan to meet your needs as well as determine if you qualify for tax subsidies to offset premium costs."

Enrolling in an Affordable Care Act or ACA health insurance plan online at www.healthcare.gov is the only way to take advantage of tax subsidies to help pay for premiums. It is estimated nearly 85% of ACA insured members with the state's largest insurer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, will be eligible for Advanced Premium Tax Credit Subsidies.

Outside the Open Enrollment period, the only way to buy health insurance from Health-care.gov under the ACA is to qualify for special enrollment due to having a child or adopting children, losing health coverage or moving.

Under the Affordable Care Act, residents are required to maintain ACA compliant insurance or be subject to penalty. Residents are guaranteed to be insurable and are encouraged to sign up for health insurance if they meet one of the following conditions:

- They have current qualifying ACA coverage but may want to change their plan for 2018.
- They don't have health insurance through their employer or their spouse's employer.
- They don't have government coverage (such as veterans, Medicare and Medicaid).
- They are older than age 26 and can no longer be on a parent's health insurance.

To enroll in or change 2018 ACA health insurance policies, consumers may visit www.healthcare.gov.

Consumer specialists at the N.C. Department of Insurance are available to answer any questions during ACA Open Enrollment by calling 1-855-408-1212.

"The N.C. Department of Insurance is in full support of giving consumers broad access to quality, affordable healthcare," said Commissioner Causey. "We are doing our best to maintain a stable health insurance market that provides new products and more choices."

Kaeley Whitlock is Lilesville Fire Department's Fire Queen

The Lilesville Fire Department is proud and honored to have Kaeley Whitlock serve as this year's Fire Queen.

Kaeley is very involved in church, school and community activities. She served as the Captain of the Anson High School Junior Varsity Volleyball team this year, played on the AHS Soccer team, and was a majorette for the AHS Marching Band. She has twirled for 13 years with Majorettes by Melanie. Kaeley is a role model to her peers and in her community.

Kaeley is the daughter of Steve and Lynn Whitlock and twin sister to Dillon Whitlock.



Will Dagenhart a Winner in Wendy's High School Heisman

There are some students who set the bar. They work harder, show more passion and lead by example in the classroom, on the field and within the community. Wendy's High School Heisman has recognized William Dagenhart from Anson High School and his dedication to never cutting corners by naming him a School Winner.

"We are excited and honored that a program like Wendy's High School Heisman is recognizing the hard work of students like Will Dagenhart," said Chris Stinson, Principal at Anson High School.

Since 1994 Wendy's and the Heisman Trophy Trust have been running the same play to perfection: honoring more than 600,000 of the nation's most esteemed students. This year Wendy's will celebrate the accomplishments of thousands of the best high school seniors, awarding winners in five phases.

School winners receive a School Winner certificate and a Wendy's High School Heisman Patch. State finalists receive a bronze medal, a Wendy's High School Heisman State Finalist patch and a \$25 gift card. From the group of state finalists, one senior male and female are selected from each state and announced as state winners.

For more information or to track a student's progress through the competition visit www.WendysHeisman.com.



BCSWCD Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 21 at 11 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-694-3516.

Zimmer Friends to Meet Friday, December 1

The Zimmer Friends group will meet on Friday, December 1 at 1 p.m. at Bojangles Restaurant in Wadesboro. If you or someone in your family worked at Zimmer you are urged to attend and enjoy the fellowship. For more information call Betty Huneycutt at 704-694-4213.

4-H Christmas Craft Workshop

The Anson County 4-H Program and 4-H Youth Promise is offering a Holiday Craft Workshop. The program is offered to all interested participants, ages 5-12. Youth do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to attend. The workshop will be held on Thursday, December 21, from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Center on McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The cost is \$7.

Youth will need to bring a bag lunch. Drinks will be provided. The deadline to register is Friday, December 8. To register come by the 4-H Office at 501 McLaurin Street. There is a limit of 20, so registration is on a first come, first serve basis. No phone call registration is accepted.

Youth will be making a variety of ornaments and crafts. Don't miss out on this fun filled workshop and make some really neat crafts too!

4-H programs are offered to all youth regardless of sex, race, religion, national origin or handicap.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com