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Wadesboro Rotary Planetarium & Science Center Features New Exhibit

A new 10 x 12 foot fluorescent mineral dark room was recently added inside the Lab Activities Room of the local Rotary Planetarium & Science Center. The exhibit was contributed by T. D. Burns, formerly from Wadesboro, and his late wife Jean. The exhibit contains their almost life-long collection of around 150 rare and beautiful fluorescent minerals from around the world.

When the mineral specimens become exposed to powerful short and long-wave ultraviolet lamps, their atoms become energized and emit brilliant visible light in almost every range of the color spectrum.

In the 1970s Burns created, patented and began marketing a model atom teaching device, and one of these is featured in the exhibit along with the fluorescent minerals. This model atom was also designed to be illustrated in a dark room and illuminated with ultraviolet light. The fluorescent particles of the model can be attached or removed from the orbiting electron wires or nucleus plate to represent the particle structure of any of the first twelve elements of the periodic table of elements, and in a typical elliptical pattern of motion. It can also be used to visually demonstrate what occurs within the atoms of the minerals that results with their emission of visible light in many colors.

For this exhibit Burns also hand constructed an 18 x 36 inch scale model of an area on the moon known as Mare Imbrium. It features many craters, individual mountains and mountain ranges. It is housed in a specially designed cabinet and also illuminated with black light. The moon is surrounded by a dark sky filled with the glowing fluorescent winter constellations of stars.

In the 1970s Burns photographed 36 of the major and most outstanding crystallized mineral specimens from his collection, with which he designed and produced a large "Minerals Poster." Sometime later, he produced a "Rocks & Minerals Coloring Book" featuring the same mineral specimens photographed for the poster. He made 36 individual watercolor paintings of those minerals that were reproduced by the publisher and printed on the covers of the book for coloring reference. Both the poster and the coloring book were published by Dover Publishing Company of New York and sold nationwide for years. The coloring book is still available over the internet and in museum stores along with one of the mineral posters and a framed copy of the coloring book. All of the 36-framed watercolor paintings are also displayed on the outer sides of the dark-room with a large sign designating the name of the exhibit as "Art From Nature." This fluorescent minerals room, along with the accompanying displays, is among the finest of its type in the country.

The Wadesboro Rotary Planetarium and Science Center is a learning resource center of the Anson County school system that brings science, technology and educational opportunities primarily to elementary school students in the area. It is a "hands-on" opportunity for these students to perform small animal dissections, do science experiments, fly model rockets and experience science and nature field trips at no charge to the students in Anson County Schools. Very few towns in America the size of Wadesboro have a planetarium and science center equal to this one in Wadesboro. Although this science center was achieved through a project by the local Rotary Club, Burns credits local club member Dr. Don Altieri, who has a degree in science education, with the idea of establishing this facility and, through his primary major efforts, brought it into fruition.

The mineral collection room as well as the animal room will be open to the public during the Christmas holiday shows.

Carl Bishop Named SPCC Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer

Carl Bishop, who has served as the interim Vice President for Academic Affairs at South Piedmont Community College since the retirement of Joyce Long last June, has been named to the position permanently.



Carl Bishop

"During his time as the interim Vice President, Carl has led the division exceptionally well and displayed the skill, integrity, and sagacity that I envisioned for the next Vice President for Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer," SPCC President Dr. Maria Pharr said in making the announcement.

Bishop, a native of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, earned both his B.A. and M.A. in Communications from Duquesne University. While at Duquesne, Bishop was a debater and an assistant coach in his M.A. program, an opportunity that prepared him for his first professional role as a lecturer in communication studies and debate coach at Clemson University. During his 10 years at Clemson, Bishop served as debate coach, director of debate, graduate of basic communication, and as director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Communication Studies.

In 2007 Bishop left Clemson to study mass communication/journalism at the University of Georgia. While there, he had the opportunity to teach at a community college. The experience helped Bishop realize how much he supported the values of the community college—open access, the idea that anyone can learn, etc.—and decided to shift his emphasis and his career from the university system to a community college.

Bishop came to South Piedmont in 2010 as a communication instructor and later served as Chair of the Department for the Arts, Communication, and Social Sciences and as Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences before assuming the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer.

Children Invited to Visit with Santa After the Christmas Parade

Anson County Partnership for Children is inviting children of all ages to visit with Santa on Saturday, December 2 after the Wadesboro Christmas parade. The parade takes place at 2 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit with children at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro.

Following the visit, Santa will mail a special letter to all the children from the North Pole. This event is free to the public.



Reading Night Held at Ansonville Elementary School

In October Ansonville Elementary hosted their annual 'Reading Night.' Every grade level participated in different activities, with approximately 100 students and their parents were in attendance.

Fifth and sixth grade students researched different historical figures and gave short presentations to parents. During this time fourth graders did a reader's theatre as well, where students performed three different plays. Meanwhile second and third grader parents were given vital information pertaining to Read to Achieve and Reading 3D. Finally indergarten and first grade classes received important information about Reading 3D.

Parents interacted with their children and the teachers to experience what the various parts of the assessments ask children to do. Additionally kindergarten parents had a Raising a Reader workshop. The focus was on the book *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. Parents and children read the book together, and then participated in a variety of activities related to the book.

Sheriff Reid's Tips for Safe Holiday Shopping

"The holiday season is right around the corner and shoppers are crowding malls and discount stores to buy the latest gadgets and find the best deals," said Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid.

But shoppers should not be neglecting their safety. According to Sheriff Reid, "This time of year attracts more shopping-related criminal activity because of the larger crowds and the extended store hours. These factors and the usual distraction of shopping, creates a more favorable environment for petty thieves and other offenders."

The Sheriff reminds all Anson County residents to follow these safety tips:

Shopping Safety

- A single shopper is the best target for theft. Always shop with a friend or relative.
- When going shopping, tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you to return. Also, make sure they know what you are wearing, as well as the type of vehicle you are driving.
- Shop during daylight hours. If you shop at night, park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
- Dress casually and comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry. If carrying cash, keep it in your front pocket rather than in a purse or wallet. This makes it much more difficult for a pick-pocket to remove. Also store car keys in a pants or jacket pocket. If your purse is stolen, you will still be able to drive home.
- Pay careful attention to your surroundings and avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- When returning to your vehicle, check around it and in the back seat. Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Have your car keys in your hand to avoid spending unnecessary time unprotected from the security of your vehicle.
- If you feel uneasy returning to your vehicle alone, find a security guard and ask them to walk you to your car.

According to Sheriff Reid, "During this time of year, busy holiday shoppers become careless and vulnerable to other crimes as well. Credit card fraud and gift card fraud are on the rise. However, taking a few preventive measures can help."

Credit Card Fraud

- Keep a close watch on your credit card every time you use it, and make sure you get it back as quickly as possible.
- Never write your PIN number on your credit card.
- Never leave your credit cards or receipts lying around.
- Shield your credit card number so that others around you can't copy it or capture it on a mobile telephone or other camera.
- Only carry credit cards that you absolutely need.
- Shred anything with your credit card number written on it.
- If you're planning to purchase online, make sure the web page where you enter your credit card information is secure through SSL (Secure Socket Layer). You can tell if the web page is secure by looking for the gold lock or key icon at the bottom corner of your browser window.
- If you're not comfortable submitting your information through the internet, call the seller and give them your information over the telephone. Never send your credit card information via email.
- Check the company out. Only do business with companies that provide a physical address and telephone number.
- Keep good records. Always print out a copy of any online products or services you purchase.

Gift Card Fraud

- Never buy gift cards from online auction sites. This is a large source of gift card fraud.
- Many of the gift cards are stolen, counterfeit or used.
- Only buy gift cards directly from the store issuing the gift card or from a secure retailer's website.
- Don't buy gift cards off of publicly displayed racks in retail stores. Only purchase gift cards at the sales terminal from the cashier.
- Always carefully examine both the front and back of a gift card before you buy it. If you see a PIN number, ask for a different card. If the card looks like it has been tampered with in any way, put it back.
- Always ask the store cashier to scan the gift card in front of you. This will guarantee that your card is valid when you buy it and that it reflects the balance you just charged it with.
- Always keep your receipt as a proof of purchase as long as there is money stored on the gift card.
- If possible, register your gift card at the store's website
- Never give your Social Security number, date of birth or any other unneeded private information when purchasing a gift card. No reputable company will ask for this information.

In light of these problems, Sheriff Reid warns shoppers to be careful so that they don't become the victim of criminal activity. "Unfortunately, when shopping, people have a tendency to let their guard down," said Sheriff Reid. "However, paying attention and taking precautions can help eliminate their chances of being victimized."

Veterans Christmas Dinner is December 8

The Anson County Veterans Council invites all veterans and spouses to their annual Christmas dinner on Friday, December 8 at 6 p.m. It will take place at the Woodmen of the World Lodge which is located on Highway 74 West in Wadesboro, near the hospital. The event will feature a delicious meal, fun and fellowship with friends and new friends.

There will be a drawing for the raffle, door prizes, a guest speaker, musical performances, and much more! The Veterans Council hopes to see you there. For more information call 704-694-6770.

Free Movie is Pray for Rain

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie for Monday, November 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the Little Theatre, *Pray for Rain*. A young New York journalist returns to the idyllic California farming community where she was raised, only to find it's a place now ravaged by drought, gangs and violent threats. She arrives to investigate the suspicious circumstances of her father's death, even though it puts her own life in grave danger. The movie stars Annabelle Stephenson, Jane Seymour, Nicholas Gonzalez and James Morrison. It is rated PG-13. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the movie. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

2017 Wadesboro Christmas Parade Entries Sought

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce 2017 Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 2 at 2 p.m. The Chamber is now seeking participants in the following categories: Marching Bands, Homemade Floats, Antique Cars, Walking Groups and Floats. As always, Santa Claus will make his first appearance in the Christmas Parade.

The parade route will begin on Morven Road and travel down to turn left on Morgan Street. The next right will be at Washington Street, left on Martin Street, then an immediate left on Greene Street. The parade will continue on Greene Street and disband at the Ray Shelton Ball Field parking lot.

To participate in this year's parade, pick up an application at the Chamber of Commerce, located at 107 A East Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro. Or, to request an application via email, please send requests to info@ansoncountychamber.org.

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