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

Friends of the Anson County Animal Shelter Organizational Meeting is Dec 10

"We are pleased to report that thanks to the cooperation of Dr. Danny Wright of Brown Creek Animal Hospital and the Anson County Board of Commissioners, the former Brown Creek Animal Hospital has been purchased to create the new Anson County Animal Shelter. The county expects to open the Shelter in April 2014," said Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood.

Gatewood continued, "We're very excited about the animal shelter project and having it staffed and open this spring. To achieve this goal, there will be a great need for ongoing coordination of volunteers and funding to make this program a success."

An organizational meeting of Friends of the Animal Shelter has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 10 at 6 p.m. at SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center in the Ingram Room. One topic of this meeting will be to discuss the establishment of a 501(c) 3 nonprofit for Friends of the Animal Shelter to support all aspects of the Animal Shelter. This includes organizing volunteers and receiving donations to help with adoption costs and operating expenses for the Animal Shelter.

The county is very concerned about the poor treatment of strays and abandoned animals that share our lives. The current euthanasia rate for dogs and cats in the county is about 96%, a number that is too large for anyone to ignore any longer. With your help the county can reverse that number and increase animal adoption and minimize the number of euthanized animals that come through the shelter. Loving pets can find loving homes.

Organizers are Sheriff Tommy Allen, Lawrence Gatewood, Carol Ann Gibson, Bonnie Huntley, Wayne Raynor and Alex Sewell. "We encourage interested citizens from all walks of life to attend this very important meeting," Sheriff Allen stated. "Thank you for your interest and attendance."



Ansonville Elementary School Recognizes Terrific Kids

Guidance Counselor Frances McLendon also recognized

Ansonville Elementary School recently held a breakfast for students who were recognized as Terrific Kids for the first 9 weeks of school. Parents enjoyed the time spent with their child, while listening to teacher-created narratives describing why each student was nominated and selected as a Terrific Kid.

The following students are to be congratulated and commended for their great display of the character trait of:

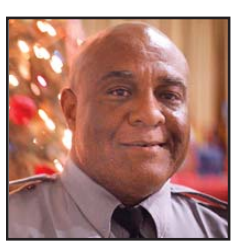
Respect Maddie Carpenter, Lindsey Thomas, Savannah Greene, Morgan Burr, Zariah Massey, Blair Threadgill, Hailey Oroszi, Makayla High, Lexis Overcash, Santiago Ponce, Akela Martin and NuNu Vue.

Responsibility Lauren Lomax, Braylon Tyson, Katherine Lee, Daylan Sellers, Ryan Robinson, Laney Hill, Ashlyn Housley, Nkauji Vue, Kimberly Smith, Zukerra Hamilton, Dalton Hill and Gavin Jones.

Also, officer, Sgt. Cannon, with the Wadesboro Police Department joined the students during the breakfast to present a plaque from the Kiwanis to Mrs. Frances McLendon, AES's Guidance Counselor (both pictured right). The plaque was given to her in recognition of her counseling services and work with the Terrific Kids Program. Congratulations to Mrs. McLendon and to all the Terrific Kids. AES is very proud of each of you. Keep up the good work!



Landric Reid Presented with NC's Highest Honor for a State Employee - the Governor's Award for Excellence



Landric Reid of Wadesboro was recently honored with the Governor's Award for Excellence, the highest honor a state employee may receive. Reid, a Trooper with the North Carolina Highway Patrol, received the award on Tuesday, November 19 in the keynote ceremony held during the Excellence in State Government Week. He was one of only seven recipients statewide.

The Governor's Awards for Excellence Program is designed to acknowledge and express appreciation for outstanding accomplishments that do not fall entirely within the scope of normal duties, but are in the nature of a major contribution reflecting credit on the person and State service. The meritorious service or accomplishment is so singularly outstanding that special recognition is justified. Reid was awarded for Public Service.

Employees are nominated for the award by other state employees including their supervisors, co-workers and subordinates.

A 21-year veteran of the State Highway Patrol, Trooper Reid is stationed in Anson County. He is known for giving back to the community and volunteering for worthy causes. Along with Anson County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant, Reid helped to spearhead the "Back to School with Pride" event, where school supplies have been distributed to hundreds of students. That effort has provided supplies for every school in the county and several churches. Reid is also on the Board of Directors of Toys for Tots. Last year they served over 3,000 families in Anson County. "To see a child on Christmas morning who is happy...that makes you feel good. It goes a long way toward showing them that someone loves them," said Reid.

In 2011 he founded the "Stride with Pride Shoe Drive" which has distributed more than 500 pairs of new shoes to underprivileged children. Reid knows the importance of new shoes for children starting the new school year. "I didn't have new shoes when I was a boy," Reid told The Express. "I want to make a positive impact on kids so they don't become a statistic. It just feels good to be able to bless someone else."

Earlier this year Reid worked with the Wadesboro Police Department and others to organize a motorcycle ride to benefit a retired captain of the State Highway Patrol who needed a bone marrow transplant. During the winter months he works with local charities to help feed the hungry.

Vancine Sturdivant said, "Officer Reid is a very generous, special, outstanding person. He helps our community in so many different ways."

"These award winners epitomize the best in public service," Governor Pat McCrory said. "Going the extra mile is something they do every day whether they are in the office, in the field, and when required, when they're off duty. We're fortunate they have chosen to work for the people of North Carolina."

Thomas Stith, the governor's Chief of Staff, presented the awards along with agency leaders and university chancellors. Governor McCrory honored Reid and the other award recipients and met with them at a luncheon he hosted at the Executive Mansion last week.

Gary Porter Inducted Into Monster Truck Hall of Fame

Anson County's Gary Porter, a long time participant in monster truck sport with his Carolina Crusher, was one of only five men officially inducted into the International Monster Truck Hall of Fame recently. The third annual Induction Ceremony and Reunion was held on Saturday, November 9th in Auburn, Indiana.

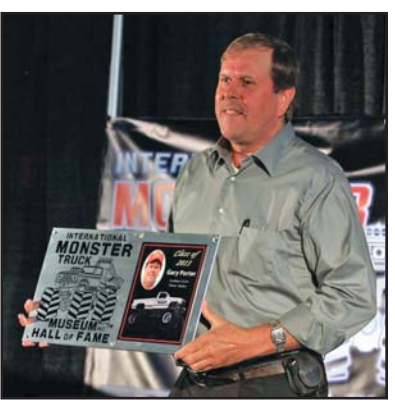
The original announcement of Porter's inclusion in the Hall of Fame was made at the 32nd Annual 4-Wheel Jamboree Nationals in Indianapolis, Indiana. The other inductees were Scott Stephens, Dan Patrick, Allen Pezo and Army Armstrong.

Previous inductees were Bob Chandler - Bigfoot, Jeff Dane - King Kong, Dan Degrosso - Beast, Jack Willman - Taurus, Everett Jasmer - USA-1, Fred Shafer - Bearfoot, Jim Kramer - Bigfoot, Mike Welch - Monster Mash, Super Pete, etc., George Carpenter - Promoter, Safety Director, Tech Official, etc., Paul "Pablo" Huffaker - King Krunch, Just Show'n Off, Grave Digger, etc. and Dennis Anderson - Grave Digger.

The International Monster Truck Museum and Hall of Fame was founded in late 2010. The IMTM is housed inside the Kruse Automotive Horsepower & Carriage Museum in Auburn, Indiana. The Museum and Hall of Fame's mission is to collect and archive the history of the monster truck sport and related aspects of the high performance aftermarket, focusing upon capturing the history from the surviving pioneers and legends.

Through the accumulation of vehicles, oral histories, videos and still images, the International Monster Truck Museum and Hall of Fame will provide a documented history and an entertaining and educational retrospective display about the birth and growth of a purely North American year 'round motorsport that is geared toward the entire family and the industry it launched for future generations.

More information can be found on the organization's official website, www.MonsterMuseum.org.



Woodmen of the World Christmas Dinner

The annual Woodmen of the World Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 7 at 6 p.m. For tickets call Diane Shackelford at 704-694-4107.

Chamber of Commerce Anson County Maps are Available

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to stop by and pick up their new maps of Anson County. The maps are free, and they feature very valuable information.

The Chamber is located in uptown Wadesboro in the Scarborough Building at the corner of Greene and Wade Streets.

Early Dismissals for Anson Schools

Anson County Schools will have early dismissal on the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 27
 - Thursday, December 5 (Wadesboro Christmas Parade)
 - Friday, December 20
- Dismissal times are:
- All Elementary Schools will dismiss at 12:30 p.m.
 - Middle and High Schools will dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon is December 5

Anson County's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 5th at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Because of limited seating capacity there will be two servings: One at 11 a.m. and another at 1 p.m. If you are interested in attending please call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register and to receive a designated time to attend.

Women's League Meets December 10

The Anson Women's League will meet on Tuesday, December 10, from noon to 1 p.m. at Twin Valley Country Club for the annual Christmas Gathering. Matt Bailey will provide music for the event. Lunch is available for \$8.50, and all women are invited.

Please RSVP for the meal to AWL President Sandra Pliescott by Friday, December 5 by calling 704-694-7853 or you can send an email woodsand@carolina.rr.com.

SPCC Awarded 2014 Military Friendly Schools Designation

For the second year in a row, SPCC has been named to Victory Media's coveted Military Friendly Schools list. The 2014 list honors the top 20 percent of colleges and universities in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans and their spouses and support their educational success.

The announcement came as SPCC hosted a week-long celebration of Veterans' Day on its campuses in Monroe and Polkton the week of November 10 - 15.

"South Piedmont Community College is proud to again be designated as a Military Friendly School," said John Ratliff, South Piedmont's Dean of Enrollment Services. "We strive to support our veterans and their families in their educational pursuits and celebrate their service and accomplishments."

The 1,868 colleges, universities and vocational schools on this year's list exhibit leading practices in the recruitment and retention of students with military experience. These schools have world-class programs and policies for student support on campus, academic accreditation, credit policies, flexibility and other services for those who have served. The Military Friendly Schools website, found at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com, offers a variety of education resources to meet the unique needs of military students.

"Inclusion on the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools shows SPCC's commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students," said Sean Collins, vice president at Victory Media and a nine-year Navy veteran. "The need for education is growing, and our mission is to provide the military community with transparent, world-class resources to assist in their search for schools."

In honor of Veterans' Day, SPCC's Student Government Association offered a number of activities on both campuses. All week, bulletin boards were available for students, faculty and staff to leave words of appreciation for current and former members of the military. On Tuesday, November 11 at the college's L.L. Polk campus in Polkton, the SPCC community was treated to a free military-themed movie day, complete with complimentary popcorn and slushies. The college also hosted a drop-in reception for its veterans that same Tuesday at its Old Charlotte Highway campus in Monroe and another on Wednesday, November 12 at the L.L. Polk campus.

Victory Media is a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business that has been serving the military community since 2001. Its data-driven Military Friendly lists are published in G.I. Jobs, Military Spouse, Vetrepreneur media channels, republished in periodicals like USA Today, Wall Street Journal, Fortune, Bloomberg BW and are frequently cited on national TV by NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, CNBC, Fox News and others.

Thanksgiving "Click It or Ticket" Campaign Kicks Off, Runs to Dec. 1

While driving to visit with family or friends this Thanksgiving, don't be a turkey. Wear your seat belt, or face a \$161 fine. That was the message shared today in Wilmington where the Governor's Highway Safety Program kicked off the Thanksgiving "Click It or Ticket" campaign. Officers across the state are stepping up enforcement efforts through Sunday, Dec. 1, to catch motorists who do not buckle up.

"The simple act of fastening your seat belt will not only save you the cost of an expensive ticket, but it could also save your life," said Don Nail, director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. "Wearing a seat belt during a crash reduces chances of suffering critical injuries or death by 50 percent."

The N.C. Department of Transportation echoed that sentiment in a public service announcement airing now online and on local radio stations, warning drivers in North Carolina that it is "Click It or Ticket."

In May, the Governor's Highway Safety Program celebrated the 20th anniversary of "Click It or Ticket." The celebration continued with the announcement last month that seat belt usage statewide rose from 87.5 percent to 88.6 percent in the past year. The increase is a significant step in the right direction, but the Governor's Highway Safety Program will not stop working until every driver in North Carolina clicks their seat belt.

Anson Singers to Present Christmas Concert

The Anson Singers, Anson County's Community Choir, will present their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 8 at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro. The concert, as in past years, will immediately precede the Wadesboro Tour of Homes.

The Singers, under the direction of Emily Privette, will present a varied program of sacred, secular, traditional and modern music. The featured work will be *A Symphony of Carols* by Randol Alan Bass. Other titles include *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, *The First Noel* and *Go Tell It On the Mountain* among others. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend this musical event.