

John and Rick Curtis to Present Program of Music for 50+ Club

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre. John and Rick Curtis will be the guests, presenting a program of music of the season. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the music of these talented musicians and singers. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

BBB Warning: "Secret Sister" Gift Exchange is Illegal

Better Business Bureau is reminding consumers that the online "Secret Sister" gift exchange and similar invitations are illegal and should be ignored. The campaign, which was first big in 2015, has again been circulating on social media sites, in particular Facebook.

The post claims that participants will receive up to 36 gifts in exchange for sending one gift valued at \$10. Users are encouraged to invite others to participate in the holiday gift exchange, where they will receive information on where to mail gifts. But there is one big problem with gift chains like "Secret Sister" – they are pyramid schemes. The U.S. Postal Inspection Services says that gift exchanges are illegal gambling and that participants could be subject to penalties for mail fraud. Pyramid schemes are illegal, either by mail or on social media, if money or other items of value are requested with assurance of a sizeable return for those who participate. The laws are similar in Canada, where pyramid schemes are illegal.

Here is how this scheme works: If a consumer purchases one gift for a stranger, she will receive as many as 36 gifts in return. This type of gift exchange may seem reasonable enough in theory: six friends invite six more friends, who all send gifts to the participant in spot 1 before that person's named is removed. This process repeats itself with the participant in the 2 spot, and so on. Of course, starting this gift exchange comes with a catch – you need to disclose your personal information, such as your home address.

If you receive a chain letter by mail, email, or social media, especially one that involves money or gifts, ignore it. Report the post to Facebook by clicking on the three little dots in the upper right corner of the post.

For more information on scams, check out BBB Scam Tips (BBB.org/ScamTips). Report scams to BBB Scam Tracker (BBB.org/ScamTracker).

For more information on pyramid scams, read this notice from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

More on the "Secret Sister" Deal on Facebook:

Several of you have reached out to ask questions about the legality of these types of events or questioning how it could be a scam if you know friends who have already received gifts.

We caution folks against becoming involved in these types of events because they are a form of pyramid scheme. The people at the top of the "pyramid" benefit most - and might actually receive the items promised. However, for everyone to receive what they've been promised, each layer of the pyramid must attract new recruits. It's mathematically impossible to sustain.

Consider a typical pyramid that involves six individuals in the chain. By the time you've reached the fourth level of participation, nearly 1,300 recruits must be onboard. Today, social media might make that a bit easier in than days past, which required chain letter-type solicitations by mail. However, upon reaching the sixth level of participation, you'd have to attract more recruits than could be seated in Chicago's Wrigley Field. By the seventh level, you'd need more participants than folks living in Anchorage, AK. The ninth level requires you to recruit all of Houston, Tx and the Washington Metro area combined - and you still wouldn't have enough participants.

The 11th round requires everyone in the United States to join in, if the promise is to be fulfilled. The odds are likely greater that Santa Claus, himself, would fly his sleigh into the middle of Times Square to personally distribute the gifts.

Fraudulent pyramid schemes typically violate the Lottery Statute (Title 18, United States Code, Section 1302). They contain all three elements of a lottery: prize (expectation of monetary or other gain from participation in the pyramid); chance (the monetary return you may receive from your participation is entirely up to chance, that is, dependent on the efforts of those below you in the pyramid), and consideration (the price of your gift to join the pyramid).

Pyramid schemes carry hefty penalties. If you are convicted federally, you may be fined or imprisoned not more than two years, or both; and for any subsequent offense you may be imprisoned not more than five years. But there's more than federal prosecution to worry about. Many states have anti-pyramid laws on the books that call into question the legality of these activities. Facebook's rules may also prohibit this type of activity.

Absent all the legalities, it's unfortunate - but nonetheless likely - many well-intentioned, present-bearing sisters will experience firsthand the age old adage: "tis better to give than to receive", as the sense of sorority dissipates upon realizing the promise of a gift in return cannot be fulfilled. The best way to avoid disappointment? Avoid the pyramid altogether.

Church News

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Collar Sandwich Plate

Sale at New Life Ministries Pentecostal. Taking pre-orders. \$8 plate includes collards, cornbread fritters, fatback, chow chow, peppers & drink. Order & info 704-690-4900

NOV 29 & DEC 1

Pastoral Celebration

At Johnson Chapel Holiness Church. Fri-7:30pm with Pastor Jeremy Ludd of Morning Star Baptist in Patrick, SC. Sun-4pm with Pastor Sonya Ellerbe of United Christian Fellowship Church in Salisbury, NC. All are invited

NOVEMBER 30

Pack the Pews Program

at Church of God of Prophecy, 3pm

DECEMBER 1

Pack a Pew Program

at Flakes Chapel, 2:30pm with Pastor Terry Little of West Deep Creek MBC

DECEMBER 5 & 6

Taking It Back Crusade

at Johnson Chapel Church. Thu-Pastor Sylvia McLendon of Divine Unity. Fri-Pastor Donna McNair of Fairview COG, both at 7:30pm. Everyone is invited

DECEMBER 7

Christmas Back 'N Time Program

at Cedar Hill Methodist Church, Pinkston River Rd in Ansonville. 2 presentations, 5pm & 6pm featuring candlelight, natural decorations, live music & reading of the *Christmas Story*. Admission free, donations welcome. Info 704-826-8228

DECEMBER 8

Memorial Service In

Loving Memory of Bishop Lee Byrd, founder & pastor of Lakeside Holiness Church & President of Lakeside Singers. Held at Lakeside Holiness Church, located on North Greene St/Hwy 109 in Wadesboro, 2pm

11th Pastoral Anniversary

of Bishop Arvester Lindsey & Elder Terry Lindsey at Rose of Sharon COG, 3pm with Pastor Jameson Quick of Parsons Grove Baptist Church in Lilesville & Morning Star Church in Hamlet

Ordination Service

For Min First Lady Maxine Ingram-Gaddy at Poplar Hill MBC, 3pm. Everyone is invited

Prayer & Tribute To Grandparents

George, Beulah Maske & Ella Broadway Borden at Saron MBC in Polkton, 11am with Pastor Eddie Lee

Candlelight Service

At Rock Hill MBC, 3pm with Deaconess Lillian Rorie from Flat Rock MBC. All missionaries asked to wear white. Everyone is invited

DECEMBER 5

Wadesboro Christmas Parade

4pm rain or shine. Info 704-694-4181 or uptownwadesboro@windstream.net

DECEMBER 6

Zimmer Friends Will Meet

at 1:30pm at Papa Joes in Wadesboro. All are invited. Info Betty Huneycutt 704-694-4213

DECEMBER 6 - 8

Ansonia Play Miracle on 34th Street

the heartwarming holiday classic about the power of believing. Friday & Saturday 7:30pm & Sunday 3pm. Tickets & info at ansoniatheatre.com or 704-694-4950

DECEMBER 7

Christmas Time On the Square

in uptown Wadesboro, 5:30-9pm. Hosted by the Anson County Sheriff's Office, enjoy Santa & Mrs. Claus, a children's choir, face painting, food & drinks and the movie *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Bring lawn chairs & blankets

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DECEMBER 14

Annual Fellowship Outreach Dinner for the Community

11am at Johnson Chapel Church. Everyone is welcome to come

Christmas Program

At Parsons Grove MBC, 5pm with Rev Benton

DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Service

at Parsons Grove MBC, 10pm-midnight with Bishop Walter Ellerbe

ONGOING

Bible Class

At Red Hill Baptist Church, 12noon, Wednesdays, public invited

Service Schedule

At Abundance Grace Ministry of Morven. Sunday School 10am, praise & worship 11am. Discipleship class Thur at 6:30pm. All are welcome

Men & Women

Fellowship at Abundance Grace Ministry of Morven second Saturday, 3-5pm

Free Exercise Class

Every Wed & Thu, 5:30-6:30pm at New Grove MBC. Need a ride? Call 704-272-8884

Wednesday Bible Study

At New Meltonville MBC, 7pm

Brotherhood Meetings

Every 3rd Saturday at N Wadesboro Baptist Church, 6pm. Bible study & meal, all men welcome

Wednesday Intercessory

Prayer at New Meltonville MBC, 6:30pm

Bible Study

At Sneedsboro Church, Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm, everyone invited

Prayer Line

Each Wednesday, Reaching the Lost Church of God from 7-8pm. Call 704-695-1842. Someone will be available to assist you and pray with you

Sunday Youth Day

Every 5th Sunday at Cedar Creek MBC

NC Inspection Oil Change Tire Repair Drinks Snacks
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Across from Police Station on Washington Street in Wadesboro
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Events

NOVEMBER 27

Deadline for Entry Forms

for Wadesboro Christmas Parade to be held Dec. 5 at 4pm. Forms available at Wadesboro Town Hall & REV Center, 114 West Wade St. Vendors must obtain permits from Town of Wadesboro. Info 704-694-4181 or uptownwadesboro@windstream.net

DECEMBER 3

Board of Commissioners Meet

6pm in Board Room, Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. Public Hearing regarding the proposed FY 2019-2020 Budget. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201

DECEMBER 4

Free Groceries

For families in need Mobile Food Pantry & Atrium Health Bus at Bethel Community Center, 8180 NC 742 Hwy South in Wadesboro. Register 8-10am. Call for details 704-694-2445

Curtis. Everyone is invited. Info 704-694-5177

DECEMBER 10

Christmas in the Park

Free & sponsored by the Town of Lilesville at Hatcher Park, 6-8pm with a tree lighting, Christmas carolers, live nativity scene, Christmas hayride, visits with Santa, crafts for kids to make, cookies & delicious hot cocoa. If inclement weather, event held in Lilesville Fire Dept. Info 704-848-4711

DECEMBER 13 - 15

Ansonia Play Miracle on 34th Street

the heartwarming holiday classic about the power of believing. Friday & Saturday 7:30pm & Sunday 3pm. Tickets & info at ansoniatheatre.com or 704-694-4950

DECEMBER 14

Class of 1975

Bowman High School 45th reunion planning meeting, 4pm at Quincy's Restaurant in Monroe. Info Karen Burney Nash 704-219-0978 or JoLetha Gordon Little 704-694-6212

DECEMBER 17

Auditions

For upcoming Anson Theatre Play *Little Shop of Horrors*, 6pm. Prepare a song to sing. Play presented

March 13-22, 2020. Info 704-694-4950

ONGOING EVENTS

Compassionate Friends

Meet on the 2nd Thursday of month, 7pm, at the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric, bereaved parents, family and friends invited, 704-826-6063 or 704-694-2425

ACDVC One on One

Call us to meet & discuss how to keep you & your children safe. Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition 704-694-4499

Regular Monthly Meeting

of Wadesboro Housing Authority 2nd Tuesday each month at 12noon at Papa Joes

Anson County Board of Commissioners

Monthly Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm in Board Rm (Suite 209) of Government Bldg, 101 S. Greene St in Wadesboro. Info 704-994-3201

After School Program

Kid Cafe Mon-Fri from 2:30-5:30p.m. at the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, 704-826-8737