

Zimmer Friends to Meet

The Zimmer Friends will meet on Friday, December 2nd at the Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro at 6 p.m.

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Retired School Personnel Meet Tuesday

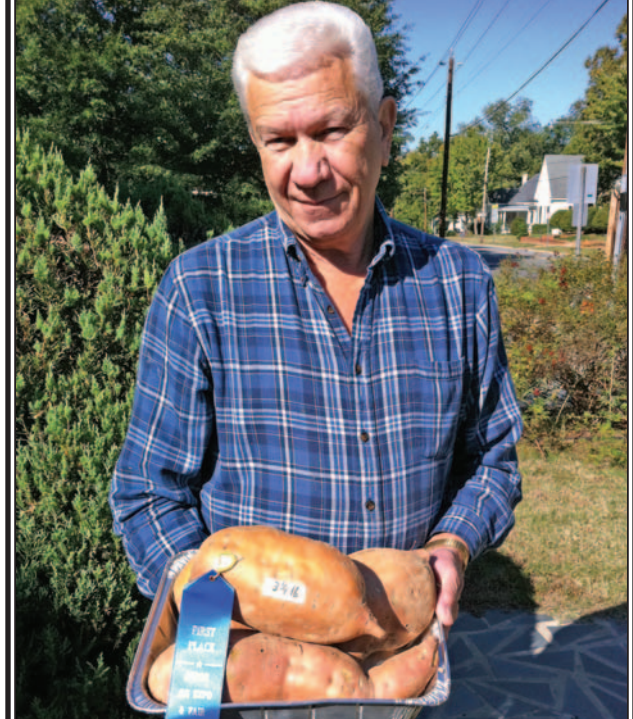
The Anson County Unit of the North Carolina Retired School Personnel (NCRSP) will meet on Tuesday, December 6 at ten o'clock a.m. at Wadesboro Primary School on Highway 52 South. They hope to show their newest retirees to join them and attend the Show Choir's Annual Christmas Program, under the direction of Mrs. Gail Litaker. Following the program, Mrs. Marlene Richardson is inviting everyone to her home for the business meeting and refreshments. Membership dues forms and volunteer hour refreshments will be available at this meeting. For more information call 704-851-9091.

Lilesville Elementary School Receives Donation of School Uniforms, Supplies




Lilesville Elementary School Principal Mary B. Ratliff is shown accepting a gift from County Commissioner, Claude Spencer. The Faith-Based Center of Hope, which is located in Lilesville, presented the school with uniforms and supplies to assist the students this year.

These Big Yams Am A-Peeling



Clinton Harward of Burnsville grew these huge sweet potatoes. He told us, "The largest potato weighed in at 3 1/4 pounds. He said, "No green tubat, just hore manure!" Clinton put out 9 plants and grew a bushel and a half of Beauregard sweet potatoes.

Remembering.....
By Ed McBride



Palomino Motel and Restaurant

A few days ago I was asked the question, "What was the most difficult and the scariest" sign job that you have ever painted? Of course that was not hard to identify - it was for Mr. Tal Austin in Marshville. I had done several road (highway) signs for him, this particular one, however, was the largest and tallest of any. It was in Monroe on Highway 74, across from the Monroe Fire Station, and down a deep embankment on the left side of the highway headed toward Charlotte.

Mr. Austin drove his large cattle truck against the sign, which was 10 feet by 29 feet in size. I then set my 24 foot extension ladder on top of his cattle truck. Even then I could barely reach the top of the sign.

I had to use the 8 foot ladder to get on top of the big truck. This job resulted in many trips up the ladders to lay out the sign and letter it, including paint and thinner up on top.

Of course this was an unusual situation - but it was an era of time when "bucket" trucks were not readily available - and, even if they had been available, I could not have afforded one!!

"Time do change" though. Today the style is to stick a paper sign on the board, let it stay awhile - move on! (Not my style, though!)

I hope "you all" had a great Thanksgiving with all the best in the days and years ahead!!

Ed

For Anson County Farmers the Next Farm Bill Should be Bold

In a release from Aaron Martin, State Executive Director of USDA Farm Service Agency in North Carolina: "Think boldly" Anson County farmers and producers! At least that's the approach you'll want to take when the next Farm Bill is written.

As a general rule, Farm Bills are 5 years in length. A new Farm Bill is scheduled to begin October 2012, covering fiscal year 2013 through September 2017. So as the U.S. Congress writes the next Farm Bill, I suggest these major components boldly be at the center.

International opportunities should be created for Anson County farmers and growers selling to expanded markets. Wouldn't it be exciting to see Italian, Kenyan, or Brazilian supermarkets displaying signs reading "Product of Anson County, USA?" And selling Anson County agricultural goods abroad will contribute to record agricultural exports, and to more than 1 million American jobs this year. Of course, as we expand worldwide opportunities, we should continue supporting producers interested in additional local and regional markets.

In addition, a safety net mechanism must be included to provide Anson County producers swift assistance if they lose crops or livestock to a natural disaster. This safety apparatus should reflect diversity of American agriculture, and must work for all farmers. It should be a simple, understandable plain language approach, one that is accountable and justifiable to all Americans. (The safety net is particularly important for beginning farmers.)

As North Carolina's population ages, this Farm Bill should identify, recruit, train and support a new generation of Anson County farmers. Careers in agriculture should be presented with the same distinction, honor and prestige as those for doctors and lawyers. Agriculture is a national security matter. Imagine the results should we ever experience a food shortage. Expanding the agriculture talent pool is a priority. (USDA Farm Service Agency already provides incentives for young and beginning farmers to begin an operation.)


Finally, the new Farm Bill should improve rural development programs. For the federal government to be the best possible partner for Anson County citizens and businesses, easier access to USDA support is crucial. These programs will help ensure that emerging rural businesses have the capital needed to grow and create local jobs.

What are the benefits of a strong local job to Anson County? Productive soil and a plentiful water supply are gained. Local jobs are created! Schools are funded! And money is contributed to charities and into church collection plates. As long as the strength of North Carolina continues to come from agriculture, a bold Farm Bill is essential. There's an Old Testament scripture "Be strong, courageous, and not afraid!" Just as that's always been the attitude of Anson County farmers and producers, it will need to be the perspective of the next Farm Bill.

No Tourism Meeting in December

In accordance with the Anson County Tourism Development Authority By-laws there will not be a TDA meeting for December. The next scheduled ACTDA meeting will be held on January 11, 2012. The meeting will take place at noon at Lady Bug Restaurant. The public is invited to attend.

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Friends of the Library to Raffle Christmas Goodies

The Friends of the Library will be raffling their annual Christmas basket, chock full of lovely gifts and goodies. Tickets are \$1 and can be purchased at Lacy's, Wadesboro City Hall and the library. The basket is on display in the library so stop by and take a peek.

Inside are items which include a Dreamscape by June Rollins, photo note cards by June Witherspoon, a North Carolina cookbook, gift cards, edible goodies, music CD's, ornaments, books, tees, pillow, and even a Wadesboro license plate! There are lots more items too.

Sitting next to the basket is a handcrafted, decorated birdhouse, which is also a part of the raffle. So drop by one of the three locations and purchase your tickets, available now! You could be the winner of this fabulously stocked gift basket.

JOHN DEERE

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