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

Two Fires Destroy Wadesboro Homes

On Wednesday, November 28 at 7:52 a.m., the Wadesboro Fire Department responded to a home fire at 86 Radio Tower Road in Wadesboro. Arriving fire units found a mobile home with heavy smoke and flames showing. An initial scene survey determined that the resident was safe. Wadesboro Fire Chief Jimmy Burns determined the cause of the fire to be space heater that was too close to combustible materials.

The home sustained approximately \$35,000 in damage. The fire also caused \$7,000 damage to two cars and a neighbors home. The Wadesboro FD was assisted by Lilesville FD, Anson Rescue Squad and American Red Cross.

On Friday, November 30 at 9:11 a.m. the Wadesboro Fire Department responded to a residential fire at 250 Hildreth Mobile Home Park in Wadesboro. Upon arrival firemen found the home fully involved in a fire. A mother and three children were displaced due to the severity of the fire. Tragically the home did not have working smoke alarms.

Chief Burns said, "The cause of the fire was undetermined based on its severity." Wadesboro Fire Department was assisted by Gulleddge FD, Lilesville FD, Anson EMS and American Red Cross.

The National Fire Protection Association and the Wadesboro Fire Department encourage all Anson residents to have working smoke alarms and a home escape plan. The Wadesboro Fire Department will assist homeowners with developing these critical life saving plans. For more information call Marc Sessions at 704-694-2167.

The Wadesboro FD would also like to remind our citizens to use space heaters with caution. Citizens are urged not leave the space heaters unattended and have a working smoke alarm. Maintain 3 feet clear feet around all space heaters.



This fire at 86 Radio Tower Road completely destroyed the mobile home. No one was hurt.

If any citizen needs an alarm they are available free from the fire department. A fire department representative will come to your home and install the alarm. If you have any questions contact the Wadesboro FD at 704-694-2167.

Wadesboro Fire Department Wants to Keep You Safe and Warm this Winter

As the temperature outside drops Wadesboro families take to the indoors to keep safe and warm. What they may not realize is that turning up the heat can increase the risk of home heating fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), half of all home-heating fires occur during the winter months. On average, NFPA research shows that heating equipment is involved in more than 60,000 reported US home structure fires per year, with associated loss of more than 500 civilian deaths, more than 1,500 civilian injuries and roughly \$900 million in direct property damage per year.

"While these numbers are frightening, nearly all of these fires are preventable," said Marc Sessions, Fire & Life Safety Educator. "We can reduce the number of home heating fires in our community by taking some simple precautions and using heating equipment properly."

Wadesboro Fire Department and NFPA recommend some simple home heating safety tips so residents can help keep our community safe and warm this winter.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home so that when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Be sure your home has both photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms, also known as a dual sensor smoke alarms.
- Practice your home fire escape drill.
- Have your chimney inspected each year by a qualified professional and cleaned if necessary.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Never use a generator inside your home.
- Develop and practice an escape plan for your family.

For additional information contact the Wadesboro Fire Department at 704-694-2167.

BRLC Offers Free Foods, Baby Toys

In a release from the BRLC: Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center Emergency Food Pantry has just received a large shipment of macaroni & cheese, apple juice and ground beef. The products were provided by the United States Department of Agriculture. Federal income guidelines will determine each individual's eligibility.

These food items will be made available only to Ansonians who qualify. We do not discriminate for any reason. The food will be distributed on Wednesday mornings only. All individuals who plan to take advantage of these items will need to be registered promptly by 10 a.m. in order to be served. Each family will only be provided these commodities once a month to one adult in the family. The distribution of products will continue on Wednesday mornings until all items are gone. Each individual is asked to bring a copy of their proof of income.

We ask that each you arrive early in order that applications can be completed in full which will enable you to be served quickly.

Baby Items and toys: New baby items (not diapers, clothing or formulas) are available to any parents in Anson County and the surrounding areas. These are new toys for all children, ages 10 and under. Only parents will be able to shop for items at this time. The time for this distribution is also on Wednesday mornings during the food pantry hours. We will also be available on Sundays, from 2:30 until 4:30 p.m. There is only one shipment and once they are gone there will not be any more this year. These items will make great Christmas gifts.

Partnership for Children's Seventh Annual Barn Blast Fundraiser is Coming!



The Anson County Partnership for Children will host its Seventh annual Barn Blast fundraising event on Friday, January 25, from 6 to 11 p.m. in the Ingram Room at SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Proceeds from the Barn Blast will be used to support the work of the Anson County Partnership for Children, including the following children's literacy activities: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Motherhead, Raising a Reader Book Bag Program, Reach Out and Read, and local book distributions.

Each year the western-themed event features: a delicious dinner, an open bar of beer and wine, music, silent and live auctions, and lots of dancing and fun. Tickets are available now for \$40 at the Partnership office or by calling 704-694-4036. After January 11th tickets will cost \$50.

New to the Barn Blast this year is the Champions for Children Reception that will honor a local Champion for Children. The reception will be held in the Olde Mill Gallery at SPCC prior to the Barn Blast, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Tickets for the reception are priced at \$100 per person, and include

wine, appetizers, live music and early entrance into the Barn Blast fundraising event.

2013 Barn Blast sponsorships are still available to businesses, organizations and individuals beginning at \$100. Sponsors will receive advertising before, during and after the Barn Blast. Presenting sponsors for the 2013 Barn Blast are Anson Bank & Trust and Poisson, Poisson and Bower, LLC. For more information about sponsorships, auction items, donations or tickets please call 704-694-4036, or visit www.ansonchildren.org.

The Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership is responsible for developing collaborative strategies to meet the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on Child Care Quality, Accessibility and Affordability, Child Health, Literacy and Family Support Programs. For more information contact Ashley Haynes at 704-694-4036.

"The Good, The Bad and The Ugly"

As have many of you, the past month has found me sick enough to see a doctor twice and take medications specifically prescribed to heal my ailments. Unfortunately those meds didn't quite get the job done and I spent many an hour either bedridden or curled up on the couch like a lump. Flu is bad enough as it is, but when you are making every effort imaginable to get well, it is a harder pill to swallow when your efforts to feel better seem to be in vain.

After a while you just lose sight of all else and pretty much forget to care. As you traipse around in your bathrobe and slippers, while knowing you haven't washed you hair in well, a lot of days, you don't even think twice about how badly you look because of how badly you feel! That is, not until you catch an unfortunate glimpse in a mirror, window glass or other reflective surface.



As you can see, all is well with Jane Lyon!

Poor, poor Allen, I thought to myself as I realized just how bad it must have been for my husband too. Allen never complained and took very good care of me. He's just not the type to be unkind, even in the worst of circumstances. He's a gentleman and thank you God for that. I would have been a prime target for any less of a man after the first few days, so I'm a very lucky gal in a lot of different ways.

While I was sick our home was very different than normal. We're usually a pretty lively bunch, the six of us, as we interact with each other several hundred times a day. So when the flu knocked the wind out of my sails, it affected our four dogs just as it did my husband and me.

By now you know our girls, Posie, Jane, Belle and Vale, and are probably familiar with their sense of adventure, quest for happiness and love, and sometimes over zealous behavior. But, during this time the girls became my four-legged caretakers. They intuitively knew something wasn't right with "Mommy" and their behavior reflected that intuition.

The girls didn't seem to mind, just like Allen, that I hadn't raked a comb through my hair. They didn't care at all that I didn't talk, pet or play with them as much as usual. They stood guard while I was down. Each took their positions on the floor around wherever I had crashed, and they followed me from bed to couch and back to bed again. They didn't play outside like normal. Each of the girls had a way of checking to see if I was still breathing, I suppose, and would either quietly tap a paw, make a quiet whimper or faint cry in hopes I would raise my head. They waited quietly and patiently for a chance to give me a nosey nudge, a lick on the back of the hand or cuddle around my feet. When I was up, they were up, when I was down, they too were down, and that isn't typical behavior.

From good to bad to ugly and beyond, their unconditional love never waned, never faltered. That love is the kind you hear about and read about, but if you haven't experienced it you are missing something special. Like I said earlier in this story, I am a very lucky gal. Our home is filled with unconditional love and there is no place I would rather be, in sickness or in health. If I never have another thing I already have plenty because simply put, "My cup runneth over" with a wonderful blessing, a heaping helping of unconditional love.

By Melanie Lyon

Toys for Tots Motorcycle Ride is Saturday

Toys For Tots will host their motorcycle ride this Saturday, December 8 beginning with the registration at 10:30 a.m. Riders and non riders are all invited to come out to Centenary AME Zion Church for fun and great food. There will be fish, hamburgers, hot dogs and more. The cost to ride is \$10 plus at least one toy. Plates are available for various prices.

The volunteers for this event are Dee Dee Funderburk, Rosa Little, Landric Reid, Annette McCoy, Priscilla Little, Wanda Talbert and William Sturdivant, who will be cooking lots of fish!

HMOC Christmas Blessing Event is December 16

Harvest Ministries has announced their annual Christmas Blessing Event for 2012. They invite you and your family to come join in the fun and fellowship on Sunday, December 16, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

They will be giving away hundreds of toys, prizes, bicycles and much more for all children. There will also be prizes, gift cards, cash and more for adults. One lucky person will leave with a new television, \$200 in cash or a special "surprise prize." Something new this year...HMOC has partnered with Toys for Tots to reach even more children and families.

Also, all attendees will enjoy a free Christmas meal. And, a bus will be running during the dinner to provide meals to shut-ins, nursing home residents and others.

If you need a ride to HMOC, just call and they will pick you up. If you would like to donate with this tremendous event, donations of gifts and money are graciously accepted. To donate, or if you need a ride, please call 704-695-2879. Harvest Ministries is located behind Pizza Hut in Wadesboro.

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Sign-ups Run Through Dec. 7

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan sign-up runs until December 7. Those individuals with existing plans who want to make changes may do so during this period. People who are just turning 65 years of age can choose a Medicare Part D Plan. Failure to choose a plan will result in a penalty, when the person does sign up.

For those individual who fall into the Low Income Subsidy category, there will be a low cost for premiums and medications. You can also apply for extra help.

During the sign-up period please call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 for an appointment, Monday through Friday, beginning at 9 a.m.

Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon

The Annual Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 6th, beginning at 11 a.m. in the Ingram Room at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Persons 60 years or older are invited to attend.

If you are interested in attending please call Grace Senior Center to register at 704-694-6616.

Compassionate Friends Candle Lighting

You are invited to the annual Compassionate Friends World Wide Candle Lighting will be held at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro this Sunday, December 9 at 7 p.m. This is a day of unity when all who are bereaved, as well as friends, family, and the general public can join together to light candles and remember all children gone too soon. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the church fellowship hall.

The candle lighting starts at 7pm in New Zealand, and then works its way west throughout the world, through all 24 time zones.

If you cannot attend, you are encouraged to light a candle for an hour at 7 p.m., knowing you are joining in spirit with hundreds of thousands around the world that the "light of deceased children of all ages may always shine."

For information call 704-475-5005, 704-826-6063 or Leavitt Funeral Home at 704-694-2524.

No Tourism Meeting in December

The Anson County Tourism Development Authority will not hold their regular meeting for the month of December. The next regular meeting will be January 9.

The telephone number is 704-681-5087.

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