

As you prepare to complete your holiday shopping this year, like most Americans, you will probably use the Internet. Online shopping has become a popular way to purchase items without the hassles of traffic and crowds. However, the Internet is also convenient for attackers, giving them multiple ways to access the personal and financial information of unsuspecting shoppers. There are three common ways that attackers can take advantage of online shoppers. They create fraudulent sites and email messages, intercept insecure transactions, and target vulnerable computers.

This holiday season, US-CERT, the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team and division of the Department of Homeland Security, has a few tips to keep you and your financial information secure. How can you protect yourself?

- Do business with reputable vendors. Before providing any personal or financial information, make sure that you are interacting with a reputable, established vendor. Some attackers may try to trick you by creating malicious websites that appear to be legitimate, so you should verify the legitimacy before supplying any information.
- Review the certificate information, particularly the "issued to" information. Locate and note phone numbers and physical addresses of vendors in case there is a problem with your transaction or your bill.
- Make sure your information is being encrypted. Many sites use secure sockets layer (SSL) to encrypt information. Indications that your information will be encrypted include a URL that begins with "https:" instead of "http:" and a padlock icon. If the padlock is closed, the information is encrypted. The location of the icon varies by browser. Some attackers try to trick users by adding a fake padlock icon, so make sure that the icon is in the appropriate location for your browser.
- Be wary of emails requesting information. Attackers may attempt to gather information by sending emails requesting that you confirm purchase or account information. Legitimate businesses will not solicit this type of information through email.
- Do not provide sensitive information through email. If you receive an unsolicited email from a business, instead of clicking on the provided link, directly log on to the authentic website by typing the address yourself.
- Use a credit card. There are laws to limit your liability for fraudulent credit card charges, but you may not have the same level of protection for your debit cards. Additionally, because a debit card draws money directly from your bank account, unauthorized charges could leave you with insufficient funds to pay other bills. You can minimize potential damage by using a single, low-limit credit card to make all of your online purchases. Also, use a credit card when using a payment gateway such as PayPal, Google Wallet, or Apple Pay.
- Check your statements. Keep a record of your purchases and copies of confirmation pages, and compare them to your bank statements. If there is a discrepancy, report it immediately. *By Janine B. Rywak, County Extension Director*

Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candlelight Program is this Sunday

The annual Compassionate Friends World Wide Candlelight Program will be held on Sunday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro. Groups all over the world will be lighting candles at 7 p.m. their local time in memory of deceased children. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are lighted in the next, creating a 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world. This is believed to be the largest mass candle lighting in the world.

You are invited to take part in this program. Please bring a photograph of your child, your family and friends, and party refreshments for the fellowship that follows the candle lighting.

For information call 704-694-8774 or 704-272-7449. Or you can call Leavitt Funeral Home at 704-694-2524.

Anson Animal Shelter Needs Volunteers - Would You Like to Help?

The Animal Shelter depends on the help of volunteers to ensure that animal residents receive love and care. More volunteers will also help relieve the workload on staff which can result in more time for resident animals to be adopted before they are euthanized (put to sleep). Please consider volunteering. For more information on helping, call 704-694-4832.

Anson County Animal Shelter is listed on *Petfinder.com*. This is a searchable national database of pets available for adoption that includes a description and photo. All the animals that are up for adoption are listed and have a picture. Just go to *Petfinder.com* and search for any Anson County town or zip code.

A rescue from Animal Shelter can bring lots of happiness and love into any home...and you will make the animal happy too! It's a win-win.

And remember, older animals need a home and love too!

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. Brick Paver Campaign

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. (UWI) is again offering the opportunity to purchase a laser brick paver in honor or memory of someone special. You may also recognize an organization, a business, or an individual. You can honor your high school graduating class or some special event and support UWI in raising funds for festivals and community activities.

The pavers may be placed anywhere in the uptown area where unmarked bricks are located. You may wish to create a cluster of bricks related to your family members. Since the beginning of the brick paver program, a total of more than 600 bricks have been placed in the uptown Wadesboro area.

The bricks come in two sizes, the four inch brick will accommodate three lines of print and costs \$50 and the eight inch brick will allow for six lines of print and costs \$100. For an additional \$100 you may add a company logo.

For more information please call the UWI office at 704.695.1644. Order forms are available at the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, or you may download a Brick Paver Order Form by going to *www.uptown-wadesboro.com*, and click on Brochures and Registration Forms and then look for the Brick Paver Form.



Visit Student Services, LL Polk Campus, Garibaldi Building (Polkton) to begin the process.
Mon.-Thurs.: 8 am – 5 pm
and Fridays: 8 am – 2 pm

Proudly serving Anson and Union counties, South Piedmont offers 41 degree programs, 15 diplomas, 49 certificates & more!

REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING!

Spring 2017 Classes Begin Jan. 9

www.spcc.edu

2017



WASTE CONNECTIONS



The Six Locations of our Convenience Collection Centers will close early on **Christmas Eve (December 24) 7am to 4pm** & **New Year's Eve (December 31) 7am to 4pm** so that staff may enjoy the holidays with their families.

Charity Golf Tournament

4 Man Captain's Choice Tournament

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 11AM SHOTGUN START

Proceeds will benefit medical expenses for **Kenn Ray Bowers, founder of The Express Newspaper**
Sign up at **Beacon Ridge Golf Course** or contact **Kenn's son Will Bowers at 704-241-1158**

Beacon Ridge Golf Course - Seven Lakes, NC
\$225 per team

- **Team Skins • Closest to the pin challenge**
- **Long drive challenge • Mulligans available**

Lunch included - Brisket, Baked Beans and Slaw - \$1.50 Beer

Cash Prizes awarded to 25% of the field.

Rounds of golf included in door prizes.



We can help you with Christmas expenses

- ✓ **Property Taxes**
- ✓ **Christmas Shopping**
- ✓ **ATV's**
- ✓ **Vehicles**
- ✓ **Home Improvement**
- ✓ **Any Other Needs**

If you've been turned down for a loan, give us a try! We have one of the highest approval rates around!

Loans from \$500 to \$7,500 JUST ASK!

BASIC FINANCE, INC

913 East Caswell Street • Wadesboro
704-694-3619