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Anson Animal Shelter Receives 1,500 Pound Food Donation

For the third year in a row, Freekibble.com and Ellen DeGeneres' natural pet food company, Halo, Purely for Pets, will make the holidays brighter for homeless dogs and cats across the nation. During the 2013 Holiday Kibble Drop "Inspire Tour," Halo and Freekibble.com are delivering more than 500,000 meals to pets in need. The Kibble Drop trucks, including two 18-wheelers packed full of food, will make a combined 12 stops throughout this holiday season, including 1,500 pounds of food for Anson County's new Animal Shelter. "I'm thrilled to report that thanks to the fine support of Rep. Brody and Neva Helms, the Anson County Animal Shelter is one of only five shelters/rescue organizations in the state that received a large pet food donation on Tuesday in Raleigh," said Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood. "We were told to expect around 1,500 lbs. of premium Halo dog and cat food. Jeff Waisner sent a crew from building and maintenance to pick it up, and the food will be securely stored inside our new shelter."

At each Kibble Drop location, 5 to 8 shelters will receive a substantial food donation in honor of a special, inspirational story in that city. In Raleigh, the donation is honoring the Wake County SPCA's incredible rescue of 30 puppy mill dogs. These dogs, the organization and all of the people who came together to rescue them, care for them and foster them until they are ready for adoption are an inspiration to all.

The Raleigh area shelters and rescues receiving food are Goathouse Refuge, SPCA of Wake County, Anson County Animal Shelter, Pawfect Match and Happy Hills Animal Foundation.

The Holiday Kibble Drop provides homeless pets the highest quality food possible, helping shelter pets look and feel their best, sometimes helping them find their forever homes. In fact, in a survey of 85 shelter professionals, 71% said that better food quality "definitely helps" dogs and cats to get adopted.

Since 2008, Freekibble.com has donated 11.5 million meals to shelters and rescues. As Freekibble.com's official pet food sponsor since 2010, Halo donates the kibble distributed to shelters and rescues throughout the US.



"This year is the Third Annual Holiday Kibble Drop and I couldn't be more excited to be a part of it," says Mimi Ausland, Freekibble.com founder. "It makes me feel great to know that so many homeless dogs and cats will be getting healthy, nutritious meals over the holidays. I hope the Kibble Drop will also inspire people to help shelter pets and to think of other ways they can make an impact on animals' lives."

Kibble Drop Cities include Nashville, TN; Washington, DC; Raleigh, NC; Philadelphia, PA; Greenwich, CT; New York, NY; Wichita, KS; Phoenix, AZ; Las Vegas, NV; Los Angeles, CA; San Francisco, CA; and Bend, OR.

The magnitude and positive impact of past Holiday Kibble Drops inspired partners like GreaterGood.org and C.H. Robinson to donate resources, time and effort to the trip. Both organizations donate a portion of the freight costs, and each offers volunteers at each stop.

In addition, professional photographers who donate their time and talents to helping shelter pets through GreaterGood.org's One Picture Saves a Life Program, will be on site in many cities taking photos of the events. In Raleigh, photographer Cathy Allinder captured the drop.

For over 25 years, Halo, Purely for Pets has created holistic pet products of uncompromising quality. Halo believes nutrition is the single most important factor in the quality of a pet's life. Halo offers natural pet food, treats, supplements and grooming products - including the award-winning Halo Spot's Stew, Dream Coat and Liv-a-Littles treats. Ellen DeGeneres, a long time Halo customer, became a part-owner of Halo in 2008. Halo's natural dog food, natural cat food, treats, supplements and grooming products are available at Petco, Whole Foods Market, your local pet specialty and natural food store, and online at www.halopets.com.

Seventeen-year-old Mimi Ausland created Freekibble.com when she was 11 years old, to help feed the homeless dogs and cats at her local animal shelter. Freekibble.com and Freekibblekat.com are two of the five most-visited animal rescue websites in the world, with over 125,000 combined daily visitors. With the help of Freekibble's 500,000 loyal monthly followers, they have donated 11.5 million nutritious meals to over 200 shelters, rescues and food-banks across the country. Freekibble.com works with Halo, Purely For Pets to distribute the pet food to all the animal shelters they are assisting. Freekibble is played in 137 countries.

Gatewood concluded, "The word is getting out that Anson County is serious about opening an active shelter, and we'll need a lot of support to turn this vision into reality. I'm excited!"

Organ Music for Advent and Christmas

Charles Litaker will play a 25-30 minute program of various organ music, sacred and secular, at First United Methodist Church, Wadesboro. Invite your friends to come relax with music of Christmas on consecutive Wednesdays at noon, then go enjoy lunch together!

- December 11 - "Strictly American-Made" Modern settings of traditional carols by 20th century American composers.
- December 18 - "A Christmas Mixture" A light look at Christmas with mostly secular music, including *Sleigh Ride*, *Rudolph* and more! A fun way to end the series!



No Rain On Our Christmas Parade!

A drizzling rain threatened the Wadesboro Christmas Parade, which marched through the streets of uptown on Thursday, December 5. But by the 4 o'clock start time there were no raindrops and a very pleasant 70-degree temperature for the fun event. The Wadesboro Chamber of Commerce deserves a round of applause for their hard work and efforts in putting on this holiday affair.

Be reminded that we did not have our annual Homecoming Parade this year. Also be mindful that events of this magnitude do not just pop out of a magic box and march through the streets on their own accord. No, parades involve a lot of planning with many hours and many people to make them happen in a timely, safe and entertaining manner. Special kudos go to Mrs. Lynn Edwards and Mrs. Shelby Emrich of the Chamber for leading the way to another wonderful parade for everyone to enjoy. Be sure and thank the Chamber for stepping up and sponsoring the parade for our Christmas pleasure.

Personally, I love a parade, and I am, at this moment, trying to determine just how many I've actually been involved with during my lifetime. As a child I began marching in the parade at age 5 and did so every year until I graduated high school. After that time I have entered my majorettes every year. My goodness...that's a lot of years! But the Wadesboro Christmas Parade never gets old. It is always exciting to see not only my girls, but also all of the other participants who are showcasing their talents and having great fun in anticipation of the Christmas holiday.

From dignitaries and marching bands to beautifully decorated floats and local princesses, there had to be something for everyone to enjoy. The sounds of the steel drum band or the precision of the JROTC surely were impressive. Teachers, students, athletes, dancers, football mascots, clowns, twirlers and even a Grinch all helped to make up an impressive lineup of pageantry.

"I love a parade, the tramping of feet, I love every beat I hear of a drum. I love a parade, when I hear a band I just want to stand and cheer as they come. That rat-a-tat-tat, the blare of a horn. That rat-a-tat-tat, a bright uniform; the sight of a drill will give me a thrill." Yes, I do love a parade, and I'm sure we can all join together in being extra thankful this year for clouds without rain and perfect temperatures even for Santa himself.

Anson County knows how to put on a parade, and rain or shine the show must go on. "Get ready for me, love, 'cause I'm a comer, I simply gotta march, my heart's a drummer. Nobody, no nobody is gonna rain on my parade!" *By Melanie Lyon*



Shop with a Cop Polar Bear Run & Christmas Festival is Saturday

This Saturday, December 14 the Wadesboro Police Department will be hosting a Polar Bear Run and Christmas Festival in uptown Wadesboro to benefit the department's Shop with a Cop program. The event will begin at 8 a.m. and last until noon. Those interested in participating in the race can register through the WPD website at www.wadesboropolice.com.

Immediately following the race there will be a Christmas Festival uptown at the courthouse. The Anson County Arts Council will be at the festival to provide free ornament painting for all the children in attendance. In addition to the race and ornament painting, Santa Claus will be there to hear what each child wants for Christmas, and to take a free digital photo which is being provided by Forever & Always photography.

All those who come out to the event will get to enjoy live Christmas music as they join together with the Town of Wadesboro to celebrate the spirit of giving and Christmas.

In the Shop with a Cop program, each year several children in the Anson County community are selected through an application process administered by Anson County Schools to participate in the program. The selected children get to ride with Wadesboro officers in their patrol cars to a store where each child is paired with an officer and store associate who assist them with shopping for their gifts. Each child receives a budget which is dependent completely on money raised by the department through annual fundraisers. This year the department is starting its first ever 5k and 8k runs to help raise funds for this program.

"Our presenting sponsor, Poisson, Poisson, & Bower, and all of the other local businesses sponsoring the event have become a part of making this Christmas a very special one for kids in our community," said Officer Joshua Leviner, who is the director of the event. "Chief Thedis Spencer has made community policing a guiding principle for our department since being appointed Chief of Police last year. This event and the participation of many different community businesses and organizations is a perfect example of how this policing philosophy helps make communities stronger."

Chief Spencer said, "Christmas is always a favorite time of the year for many kids because of the gifts they receive, but the sad truth is that not all get to share in this excitement. Programs like this one and Toys for Tots help to ensure that all kids get to share in the spirit of Christmas, which is why my department and I feel so strongly about this program. Everyone who donates and becomes a part of this community oriented program can do so with the full confidence that their charity and selflessness is helping make the life of someone else better. In my opinion, that's what being a community is all about, and as a member of this community, your police department is proud to have the opportunity to join with you to help make that a reality."

Anson County's October Unemployment Rate at 10.1 Percent

Anson County's unemployment rate for October was 9.1%, basically the same as September's 9% rate and an improvement over August's 10.1% rate. September's unemployment information was not released on schedule due to the Republican-led government shutdown. The state of North Carolina's unemployment rate for October was 7.5%, down from September's 7.6% and August's 8.3%.

In October 2012 Anson County's unemployment rate was 11.7%. Anson's total labor force in October was 10,945. Of that number 9,951 were employed and 994 were unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 56 of North Carolina's counties in October, increased in 30 and remained the same in 14. Six of the State's metro areas experienced rate decreases, while two increased and six remained the same.

Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 14.4 percent while Chatham County had the lowest at 4.7 percent. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 10.9 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville at 5.6 percent had the lowest. The October not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 7.5 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 14 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in October by 2,829 to 4,328,649, while those unemployed decreased 2,162 to 351,633. Since October 2012, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 13,663, while those unemployed decreased 83,309.

Please note that employment estimates for September 2013 were not released as scheduled due to the federal government shutdown. Unemployment rates in September (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 97 of North Carolina's counties and increased in three. All fourteen of the State's metro areas experienced rate decreases. The September not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 7.6 percent.

Healthy Living and Eating Seminar is Sunday

Pathway to Peace Ministries presents ANEWSTART, healthy living seminar and cooking class this Sunday, December 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. Learn how to cook plant-based foods that will heal you. Learn how to lose weight, have more energy, reduce cholesterol, reverse diabetes, lower blood pressure, and much more.

Interested? Come! Seminar and cooking class is FREE! It will be held at 11775 Highway 109 South in Peachland. For more information call 704-695-1441.

Harvest Ministries Christmas Blessing Event is Sunday

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center has announced their annual Christmas Blessing Event for 2013. They invite you and your family to come join in the fun and fellowship this Sunday, December 15, 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!" Also, 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, call 704-695-2879 and they will pick you up.

If you would like to help with this tremendous event, donations of gifts and money are graciously accepted. Your gift can make a real difference to someone less fortunate.

To donate, or if you need a ride, please call 704-695-2879. Harvest Ministries is located behind Pizza Hut in Wadesboro.

Twilight Concert Featuring Fleur de Lis Strings

The Cheraw Arts Commission will present a Twilight Concert on Friday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Old St. David's Church. The concert will feature 28 musicians with Fleur de Lis Strings.

Admission to the concert is \$8 for Cheraw Arts Commission members and students, with non-member tickets at \$10. Advanced tickets can be purchased at the Cheraw Community Center-200 Powe Street. For additional information contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843-537-8420 ext.12.