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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE! ENJOY LETTERS TO SANTA IN THIS EDITION.

## Wadesboro Police Department's Annual Shop With A Cop Event

On Thursday, December 20, a dozen area children will arrive at the Wadesboro Police Department for the annual Shop With A Cop Christmas event. The children were chosen with the help of school counselors and each will receive approximately \$150 for Christmas shopping.

The children will be released early from school on Thursday and are scheduled to arrive by 12:30 p.m. to begin their day of fun, shopping and lunch, all with their favorite "cop."

Sergeant Ray said, "This is an annual event which has grown in popularity, and it is always nice to watch the kids shopping and making choices of their own. They really like it and have a lot of fun."

Enjoy your day kids and cops as well! Merry Christmas!  
By Melanie Lyon

## Ensure a Safe Holiday Season, Follow the 12 Days of Holiday Fire Safety

Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin is using social media and the Internet to promote "12 Days of Holiday Fire Safety," a campaign intended to help families prevent fires and injuries around the home during the holidays. "Education is one of the most powerful ways to avoid tragedy this holiday season," said Goodwin. "And what better way to connect with people of all ages than through the power of social media and the Internet."

Adults and children can follow along with the Commissioner's 12 Days of Holiday Fire Safety program by "liking" any of the Department of Insurance Facebook pages ([www.facebook.com/ncdoi](http://www.facebook.com/ncdoi), [www.facebook.com/ncosfm](http://www.facebook.com/ncosfm), [www.facebook.com/ncsafekids](http://www.facebook.com/ncsafekids)) or by going to [www.ncdoi.com/ez/holiday](http://www.ncdoi.com/ez/holiday) to view safety tips that are updated daily. The program culminates on the twelfth day with an online quiz created by the National Fire Protection Association to reinforce the valuable safety messages.

The following is a sample of some simple precautions families can take to help keep their homes and families safe during the holidays and all year round.

**Holiday Trees**  
• Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.  
• Place your tree in a stand filled with water, add water daily.

• Ensure the tree is at least three feet away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, heat vents, candles and lights, and make sure it isn't blocking any exits.  
• If you are using an artificial tree, make sure that it is flame-retardant.

**Holiday Lights**  
• Use only lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory on them.  
• Make sure to select the correct lights for the area, as some lights are intended only for indoor or outdoor use.

• Replace any string of lights that has worn or broken cords, or loose bulbs connections.  
• Turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

**Candles**  
• Light candles carefully and keep them at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, including decorations.  
• Whether using one candle or more than one in a candelabra, kinara, or menorah, make sure that the candle holder is sturdy and always place it where it cannot be knocked over.

• Keep candles out of reach of children and pets, and never leave a child alone in a room with burning candles. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach.  
• Do not place lit candles in windows where a blind or curtain could catch fire; make sure an adult is watching any candle placed on, or near tables, altars, or shrines.

**Cooking**  
• Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires, and most cooking fires involve the stovetop. Create a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food and drink are prepared or carried.  
• Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

• If you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling, check the food regularly and remain in the home while food is cooking. Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.  
• Keep a lid nearby when you are cooking to smother small grease fires. Slide the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop carefully. Leave the pan covered until it is cooled and NEVER try to pick up or carry a hot or burned pan. Never put water on a grease fire.

• For an oven or microwave fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.  
For more safety tips that will keep you safe and warm in the cool weather months, go to the Safe Kids North Carolina website at [www.ncdoi.com/ez/holiday](http://www.ncdoi.com/ez/holiday) or to the National Fire Protection Association website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

**Merry Christmas From The Express**  
To the tune of Up On The Housetop

Up on the housetop reindeer pause  
Out jumps good ole "Clayton" Claus  
All through the streets of ACO News in The Express you need to know

Ho Ho Ho--they love to buy  
Ho Ho Ho--give it a try  
Up on the housetop click click click  
Reading The Express with Ole Saint Nick

From her comfy corner Melanie writes  
For those who say they take delight  
Ed McBride's Remembering is just the thing  
To make your Christmas jing-A-ling!

Ho Ho Ho--oh don't you know  
Ho Ho Ho--oh don't you know-oh  
Up on the housetop click click click  
Reading The Express with Ole Saint Nick

All through her territory Beth will sell  
Oh my dear she sells it well  
Allen lays the paper out page by page  
All for the adverts latest rage!

**Wishing Everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season**

By Melanie Lyon

## Ansonville Elementary School Cafeteria Staff Rewards Students



Recently the Cafeteria Staff at Ansonville Elementary donated items to make "Classroom Baskets" to give to two classes in the school. Each and every day for over a month, AES students were given tickets for eating breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. The tickets were collected throughout the contest, and then counted after the contest ended. The two classrooms that collected the most tickets for eating in the school cafeteria won the two donated baskets.

This contest was held to encourage AES students to eat hot and healthy meals prepared by the wonderful cafeteria staff.

Congratulations to Mrs. Holly's kindergarten class and Ms. Preslar's fourth

grade class for collecting the most tickets. Also, a special thanks goes out to Ansonville's Cafeteria Staff for organizing such a wonderful contest for the students. They are Mrs. Carolyn Rorie, Mrs. Rosa Lindsey, Mrs. Dakota Beachum, Mr. Lorenzo Byrd and Mrs. Jennifer Owens.

## Anson Women's League Invites New Members

Organization offers interesting programs, provides many services to the area

In a release from the Anson Women's League: Anson Women's League offers personal and professional growth opportunities for members who provide humanitarian service to the community. In other words, AWL members stay busy learning and helping others.

Anson Women's League meets at Twin Valley Country Club on the second Tuesday of the month for a noon lunch meeting. Each month the members enjoy guest speakers who motivate and inspire them.

So far this fall AWL members have been fascinated with Dave Arey's masterful storytelling skills, and they learned about the Community Blood Center of the Carolinas from Meredith Morgan. October's enlightening and entertaining guest speaker was Dr. Michael Lincoln from Wadesboro Family Medicine. Dr. Lincoln spoke to the members about ways to improve their lives through changes in exercise and diet. Dr. Lincoln warned the group that heart disease and strokes are major killers of women.

AWL's presence was seen at PeopleFest where they held a \$100 gas card raffle. Steve Whitlock donated \$50 towards this card, and AWL matched that amount. The lucky winner of the card was Ms. Cindy Gatewood. Profits from the raffle will go towards college scholarships that are given yearly for high school seniors.

Members of Anson Women's League are especially proud of their Samaritan Inn project. They furnished women's dorm with beds, sheets, towels and curtains. Later they hosted a community shower that added even more items to the Inn.

Other projects completed by AWL include buying and packing suitcases for children who are removed from their homes by Child Protective Services, providing Christmas gifts for foster children, and serving meals to the Hands for Hope - Bridges and Circles group. In February AWL hosts a Soup Luncheon to raise money for scholarships and other projects, with delicious vegetable soup and toasted cheese sandwiches.

On Tuesday, November 13 Dr. Jerry E. McGee addressed the AWL. Dr. McGee is a native of Rockingham, and is currently President of Wingate College. He is quite active in community service, and was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of East Carolina University. In 2006 Dr. McGee received North Carolina's highest civilian honor, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, in recognition of his extraordinary service to the state.

In December Anson Women's League hosted a Community Blood Drive at Southside Baptist Church. Also in December members provided Christmas gifts for 20 families in our area.

AWL extends a sincere invitation for interested women to join us at noon on the second Tuesday of the month at Twin Valley Country Club. Call President Angela Smith at 704-385-9327 for more information.



AWL members Jewel Deese and Ross Huntley enjoy sharing information about the Women's League at People Fest.

## Veterans Asked to Attend Meeting January 15

Anson County Veteran Services is holding a meeting for all veterans and spouses on Tuesday, January 15 at the Hampton B. Allen Library, from 6 until 8 p.m. Ted Ward, Anson County Service Officer, encourages all veterans and their spouses in Anson County to attend. This will be very informative and enlightening to all present.

Any questions feel free to contact Ward at 704-694-4418 or [tward@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:tward@co.anson.nc.us).

## Board of Education Personnel Meeting Called

There will be a called Board of Education Meeting regarding personnel on Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center located at the Board of Education Offices at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

## Early Release Times for Schools

Anson County Schools will have early release for students on Thursday, December 20th. The early release times are listed below:

- All Elementary Schools release at 12:30 p.m.
- Anson New Technology High School and Anson Early College High School release at 1 p.m.
- All other secondary schools release at 1:30 p.m.

## Anson County Government Holiday Closings

The Anson County Government offices will be closed Monday to Wednesday, December 24-26 for the Christmas holiday.

And, county government offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

## Wadesboro Town Hall Holiday Schedule

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed Monday through Wednesday, December 24-26 for the Christmas Holiday. There will be no garbage pickup on those days. Normal routes will resume on Thursday, December 27.

Also, the Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2013, for the New Year Holiday. There will be no garbage pickup that day. Normal routes will resume on Thursday, January 3.

Look inside for special inserts from Forbes Jewelers Family Dollar Tractor Supply