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

Sheriff Announces Officers of the Year

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen announced the names of individuals receiving the 2012 Deputy Sheriff, Detention Officer and 911 Telecommunicator of the Year Awards. Sheriff Allen said that the awards were based on recommendations to him from fellow officers and senior administration staff. "These individuals were recommended by their peers and supervisors. We have many who deserve these awards, but these three individuals exhibited that little extra that their fellow officers have noticed," Allen said.

The criteria for receiving the award was based on the offices presence and demeanor with their fellow employees as well as the public; their work ethics and experience; and generally how well they did their job and how they got along with both the public and the other employees.

- Receiving the Telecommunicator of the Year Award for 2012 was Holly Mullis. Holly is the Director of the 911 Center, a position she has held for three years. She began as a dispatcher and has worked for the 911 Center for ten years. "Holly is a great asset to this county. She is dedicated to her job, to her staff and to the people of this county," Sheriff Allen said.

- Receiving the Detention Officer of the Year Award for 2012 was Officer Mae Medley. Ms. Medley has been employed with the Jail for thirteen years and is currently a shift supervisor. Sheriff Allen said that Mae was a very dedicated employee and a team player. "She is a loyal employee, dedicated to her job and deserving of this recognition," Allen said.

- Receiving the Deputy Sheriff of the Year Award for 2012 was Detective Captain Timmy Watkins. Captain Watkins has been with the Sheriff's Office seventeen years. He had worked in the jail; then became a patrol deputy; later moved to detectives and was promoted to Captain over the Sheriff's Detective Bureau. "I am fortunate to have someone of his caliber in this organization. He is well respected by his peers and the public. He has those special 'people skills' that make an excellent deputy sheriff and detective," Sheriff Allen said.

Each officer received an engraved plaque for their recognition.



From left, Mae Medley, Timmy Watkins and Holly Mullis.

Toys for Tots Gratitude Banquet to be Held on January 11

The Toys For Tots Gratitude Banquet will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro on Friday, January 11th at 6 p.m. Guest speaker for the event will be Lilesville Mayor Pro-Tem Rev. Dr. Bernice Bennett. Bennett is Grace Senior Center Director and the Toys For Tots Assistant Coordinator.

"The banquet is to bring all the parents and sponsors together to thank them for helping make some unfortunate child's Christmas better," Toys for Tots Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant said. "Because of the outpouring of generosity of the citizens of Anson County and local and state leaders we were able to bless over 3,000 children this year."

The proceeds from the Gratitude Banquet will begin the 2013 Toys for Tots Campaign. The goal is to become better and help more children each year. Tickets for the banquet are \$10, and you pay at the door. For more information please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Jennifer Tarlton at 704-694-3115.

Sheriff's Office Makes Lots of Kids Happy with Bikes

This year deputies from the Sheriff's Office collected and delivered bicycles to boys and girls around the county. This was the seventh consecutive year the Sheriff's Office has undertaken this project. Captain Billy Dunn heads up this project. He is assisted by other deputies throughout the year.



Deputy Evan Carville (left) and Deputy Shane Drake are shown delivering a bike to three year old Kelvin Coxe of Polkton.

The Sheriff's Office collects bicycles throughout the year. A local business has given the Sheriff's Office both new and some slightly damaged bikes or bikes with missing parts and Individuals have given some slightly used bikes. Donations and funds from the Sheriff's Annual Skeeet Shoot and Motorcycle Ride go to purchase parts for repair and more new bicycles.

Captain Dunn does all the repairs and replaces damaged parts, tires, pedals, fenders and such. He cleans them up, sometimes with a little touch-up paint to be good as new. He then supervises the delivery of the bikes all over the county to kids who may not otherwise get something like that for Christmas.

"This is Captain Dunn's project from start to finish. Billy is hauling, hunting and fixing bikes all year long. By the time Christmas gets here he's ready. I can't tell you how much we appreciate his efforts. But when you see the smiles on these kids' faces, well that's just priceless," Sheriff Allen said.

On Wednesday, December 19th the Sheriff's Office delivered twenty-three bicycles to boys and girls. Often deputies chip in and buy other toys and items that the kids could use. "Now that's what Christmas is all about," Allen concluded.

Board of Education Personnel Meeting

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.

Anson High School Students Visit CMC-Union Hospital



Anson High School sophomores and juniors in the Health Science 1 course were eligible to participate in a visit to CMC-Union in Monroe on Thursday, December 13. These students had the opportunity to visit three departments within the hospital. They were able to visit the Cancer Center, Radiology and Rehabilitation. Students were able to see first-hand the expectations and requirements of the health professionals in those departments. They used some of the physical therapy equipment as well as view and analyze x-ray and MRI charts of fractures and muscles. Students viewed the chemo treatment area as well. This learning experience was a vital opportunity for students to relate careers with their classroom activities.

NC Poet Laureate Joseph Bathanti to Speak at Champions for Children Reception

NC Poet Laureate Joseph Bathanti will do a reading of his poetry at the Champions for Children reception, prior to the Barn Blast fundraiser, on Friday, January 25. Bathanti is a professor of creative writing at Appalachian State University, as well as the director of the Writing in the Field program and the current writer-in-residence for Appalachian's Watauga Global Community. An award winning author and advocate for Literacy, Bathanti was named North Carolina's seventh poet laureate (2012 - 2014) by NC Governor Beverly Perdue in August.

During the mid 1980's Bathanti and his wife Joan lived in Anson County while he served as a poet and writer with the North Carolina Visiting Artist Program, a collaboration between the NC Arts Council and the NC Community College System, running from 1971 to 1995, which brought a diverse range of artists to small towns and rural communities across the state. He wrote a non fiction book about the program, *They Changed the State: The Legacy of North Carolina's Visiting Artists 1971-1995* on the 25th anniversary of the program.

Bathanti is the author of six books of poetry: *Communion Partners*; *Anson County*, *The Feast of All Saints*, *This Metal*, *Land of Amnesia* and *Restoring Sacred Art*. His first novel, *Eat Liberty*, was published in 2001 by Banks Channel Books in Wilmington and his latest novel, *Coventry*, was the winner of the 2006 Novello Literary Award. His book of nonfiction, *They Changed the State: The Legacy of North Carolina's Visiting Artists, 1971-1995*, was published in early 2007, and his collection of short stories entitled, *The High Heart*, was published by Eastern Washington University Press in 2007. Books of poetry and creative nonfiction are forthcoming from Mercer University Press, as well as a forthcoming volume of poetry from Jacar Press.

Presented by Union County Community Action, the Champions for Children reception will honor four local champions for children and is being held in the Olde Mill Gallery at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, January 25. The four finalists are HOLLA! (Helping Our Loved ones Learn and Achieve), Gail Litaker, Charles Riddle and Vancine Sturdivant. The winner of the 2013 Champion for Children award will be announced at the reception.

The seventh annual Barn Blast fundraising event, presented by Anson Bank and Trust and Poisson Law, takes place on Friday, January 25, from 6 to 11 p.m. in the Ingram Room at SPC's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Proceeds from the 2013 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; Motherread; 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 both the Champions for Children reception and the Barn Blast. Champions for Children reception tickets are \$100 each, which includes early admission to the Barn Blast dinner and auction. Barn Blast tickets are \$40 each. After January 11th, Barn Blast tickets will be \$50. All tickets are available for purchase at the Partnership offices or by calling 704-694-4036. Tickets can also be purchased via the Partnership website at 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, Child Care Accessibility, Child Care Affordability, Health, Literacy and Family Support. For more information, contact Ashley Haynes at 704-694-4036.

Make 2013 a Healthier Year with New Program

Did you make a New Year's resolution to eat healthier, exercise more, lose some weight, or a combination of these? If so, Cooperative Extension may have just the program for you! Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less, a weight management program developed by the NC Cooperative Extension and the NC Division of Public Health, will be offered starting in January. Classes will meet at the Cooperative Extension Center during the lunch hour. Janine Rywak, County Extension Director, will instruct the class. Cost for the 15-week program is \$30.

Eat Smart Move More Weigh Less explores behaviors and strategies to help you achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Each session will include an educational component, stretch time, personal weigh-in, and a weekly challenge. The program uses strategies proven to work and stresses personal dedication to become healthier. Participants will meet in a friendly, supportive environment and receive resource materials to help in their individual goals. Each lesson informs, empowers and motivates participants to live mindfully as they make choices about eating and physical activity. The program provides opportunities for participants to track their progress and keep a journal of healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.

A free orientation about the program will be offered on Thursday, January 24 at 12 noon at the Cooperative Extension Center at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. Class details and guidelines will be shared at that time, as well as proposed meeting schedules.

To sign up for orientation or register for the 15-week program contact the Cooperative Extension Center at 704-694-2915. Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less is part of the Eat Smart, Move More...NC movement to increase opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity wherever North Carolinians live, learn, earn, play and pray. Find out more at www.EatSmartMoveMoreNC.com.



Anson County Early College put on a Variety Show at the Ansonia Theatre on Friday, December 14. Audience members were wowed by the talent and energy of the performers. Pictured here throwing down are, from left, Naly Lor, Chesley Greene, Holly Yang, Parker Layfield, and Chelsea King.

Anson Women's League Meets January 8

The Anson Women's League (AWL) invites all interested citizens to join them for their monthly meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 8. The meeting will feature speaker Michael Lutes with Carolinas Healthcare System who will share information about Anson County's new hospital.

The meeting will take place from noon to 1 p.m. at Twin Valley Country Club. Lunch is provided at a cost of \$8.50. If you would like to attend please contact club President Angela Smith at 704-386-9327 or email ansonwomensleague@gmail.com.

The AWL also invites any women who have an interest in becoming involved with the organization to attend or call for information.

Trip to the Amish Country

Grace Senior Center will sponsor a trip to the Amish Country May 22 to 24. The tour package includes two nights lodging, two breakfasts, two dinners (including a family style dinner and Shad Maple Smorgasbord), performance of "Noah" at the Millennium Theatre, guided tour of the Amish Countryside Craft Farm and a bake shop, Kitchen Kettle Village, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes, meal gratuities, and motorcoach transportation.

Price per person, based on double occupancy, is \$303. A deposit of \$100 per persons is due by January 25. Persons interested should call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register and for additional information.

BRLC Offers Free Food Every 4th Tuesday

The Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center holds their USDA food commodities the fourth Tuesday of every month for anyone in Anson County who qualifies. The time is 9 a.m. until all items are distributed.

For more information call Carol Smith at 704-826-8182 or 826-8737. In accordance with Federal Law and US Department of Agriculture policy BRLC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

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