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## Harvest Ministries Offers Free Clothing and Free Groceries

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center in Wadesboro operates two programs to benefit those people in need in Anson County. The Community Clothes Closet LightHouse offers free clothing and the Helping Hands Community Food Pantry offers free groceries.

The hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. No documentation is required.

Harvest Ministries is located at 1134 East Caswell Street (Highway 74) in Wadesboro, behind McDonalds. The telephone number is 704-695-2879.

## Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Workshop

A Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Workshop will be held at the Hampton B. Allen Public Library, located at 120 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Karen Baucom with Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition will be the guest speaker. Resources and lunch will be provided free.

Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995 or by email at [connectionsfsfp@gmail.com](mailto:connectionsfsfp@gmail.com) for more information.

The deadline to register is February 11.

## East Polkton School Alumni Black History Month Celebration

The East Polkton School Alumni will host their 2019 Celebration of Black History Month on Saturday, February 23 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. The event will take place from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Nathel Hailey, President of the Union County NAACP.

Tickets are available from East Polkton School Alumni members. Contact Cynthia Myles for additional information at 704-408-2729.

## Wildlife Commission Offers Free Turkey Hunting Seminars Statewide

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the National Wild Turkey Federation are offering 11 free turkey hunting seminars across the state in March. The seminars, which will be held from 6 to 9 p.m., are open on a first-come, first-served basis and participants 16 years old and younger will need parental permission to register. Pre-registration is required and participants must register online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

Topics will include biology, hunting methods, calls and decoys, firearms and ammo selection, camouflage clothing, and turkey processing and cooking techniques. Each seminar will conclude with a Q&A session and a brief overview of R3 (hunter recruitment, retention and re-activation) initiatives.

"Since 2015, the National Wild Turkey Federation has partnered with us to offer these seminars to increase participation in hunting while also maintaining conservation of wildlife and their habitats," said Walter "Deet" James, the Commission's hunting heritage biologist. "Although open to all skill levels, this "all-in-one" seminar is specifically created for those who are interested in turkey hunting, but don't know how to get started. It's especially suited for people who lack an existing hunting mentor."

The closest seminar to Anson County will be held on Thursday, March 14 at the Richmond County Extension Center, located at 123 Caroline Street in Rockingham. More dates and locations are available at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

The statewide season for male or bearded turkey only is April 13 through May 11, with a youth-only week from April 6-12. Regulations and restrictions on turkey hunting, including information on youth season, are available in the 2018-19 Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest, available at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

## Auto Insurance Companies Ask for 7.6% Rate Increase

The North Carolina Rate Bureau (NCRB) submitted its annual auto insurance filing with the N.C. Department of Insurance and is requesting an overall statewide average increase of 7.6 percent, announced Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey. The NCRB represents the state's insurance companies and is a separate entity from the N.C. Department of Insurance.

By law, the NCRB must submit auto rate filings with the Department every year by February 1.

The filing will be reviewed and if the Department does not agree with the need for the requested rates, it can negotiate a settlement or call for a hearing.

In 2017, the NCRB requested a 13.8 percent increase, but Commissioner Causey negotiated a 2.2 percent increase – which saved N.C. consumers more than \$1 billion. The settlement also included an agreement the NCRB would not make a filing in 2018.

North Carolina is one of the least expensive states for car insurance. In 2018, Business Insider, Forbes and Insure.com ranked N.C. as the tenth least expensive state in the nation for auto insurance.

## Arts Council Puts Spotlight On Gina Clarke

*This is a release from the Anson County Arts Council:* It's hard to imagine the Ansonia without Gina Clarke. Her first production here was as Sally in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* in 2012. The following year she was cast as Jessie Mae Watts in the critically acclaimed *A Trip to Bountiful* by Director Tommy Wooten. That show went on to be nominated for 5 MTA awards in Charlotte, including a nomination for Gina as Best Supporting Actress.

Gina and Wooten formed a bond that has lasted to this day. She helped launch the Summer Youth Program, now in its sixth year. She wears many hats here at the Ansonia, including actress, choreographer, assistant director to directing our runaway hit *Smoke on the Mountain*. With the exception of two shows, she has played a vital part of every single production here. She is currently in rehearsals for *All Shook Up*, where she will play the lead role of Natalie.

Gina recently directed *On Golden Pond* with the Uwharrie Players, and this summer she will be directing for them once again.

Gina is wife to Jason Clarke and mother to Isaac, Caden and Ava, who have essentially grown up in the Ansonia Theatre. She is a homeschool mom, and is proud to be passing her love for theater to her three children.

We love you, Gina! Thank you for all you do! The spotlight is on YOU!



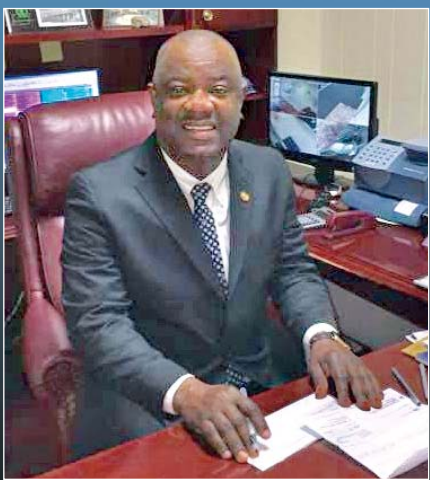


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## Storytime Every Tuesday at Partnership for Children

The Anson County Partnership for Children offers Storytime in the Early Childhood Resource Center each Tuesday at 4 p.m. for children ages 3 to 8. For more information call 704-694-4036.

## BBB Releases Top 5 Scams of 2018

The Better Business Bureau serving Southern Piedmont and Western North Carolina has identified the top five scams of 2018. Skyrocketing to the top, unsurprisingly, are scams that include online purchases. Helping escalate these scams are fake websites that continue to evolve and pop-up everywhere touting deeply discounted prices and too-good-to-be-true offers.

According to experts, 1.4 million fake websites are created every month, with criminals replacing some of these websites every few hours. By doing this, cyber criminals make it difficult for web crawlers to find their fraudulent pages and block them.

"We consistently warn consumers about fake websites and shopping online, and remind them that if a price looks too good to be true, it probably is," says Tom Bartholomy, president of the Better Business Bureau serving Southern Piedmont and Western NC. "Scammers have been doing such a great job building fake websites with enticing offers, that often times it's difficult to tell that it's fraudulent at first glance."

Below is a look at the top five scams of 2018.

1. **Online Purchases** Feature a convincing website or online offer that leave customers spending lots of money without the product(s) they ordered.
2. **Employment Scams** Offers to work from home might sound great, but oftentimes they're not. Receiving checks in the mail and being asked to forward them on to another address, or playing a middle-man of sorts, is also very common.
3. **Fake Checks /Money Order** A victim receives a check in the mail for much more than expected and is then told to cash the check, keep some of the money and send the rest back or to another person. In reality, the check is fake, and the victim is on the hook for the entirety of the funds.
4. **Phishing** Includes a series of fake emails requesting money or personal information.
5. **Tax Collection** Scammers pretend to be from the IRS. They call and say the victim will be arrested if they don't pay their back taxes immediately.