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

## February 21 Board of Elections Meeting Postponed to February 22

The regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Elections meeting that was originally scheduled for Tuesday, February 21 was postponed to today, Wednesday, February 22 at 5 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Board of Elections office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

The meeting agenda is:  
 Call to Order/Invocation  
 Approval of Minutes (if applicable)  
 Elections Conference Feedback (February 13-14)  
 Upcoming Budget – (where are we, goals, etc)  
 Director Job Evaluation Timetable  
 Wadesboro Primary Precinct Location Update  
 Other Concerns /Matters

For more information contact Steve Adams, Elections Director, at 704-994-3223.

## This is the Last Weekend for Blood Brothers Play at Ansonia

“Did you hear the story of Johnstone twins? As like each other as two new pins. How one was kept and one given away. How they were born and they died on the self same day.”

These are the opening lines for the hit musical *Blood Brothers* at the Ansonia Theatre. It finishes its 2 week run this weekend with Friday, Saturday and Sunday performances. This is the heartbreaking story of twin brothers separated at birth when their mother can’t afford to keep them both. She decides to give one of them away to her wealthy employer who can’t conceive a child of her own. The two brothers grow up unaware of the other’s existence, until they meet by chance at the age of 7 and become best friends and “blood brothers.”

Director Tommy Wooten first saw the Broadway show at the age of 19 and it made a lasting impression. “It was my first trip to Broadway and I had never heard of the show, but got a discounted ticket and in I went,” Wooten said. “When I left the theatre that day, I was a changed human being! I ended up seeing the show 3 times that week. I couldn’t get it out of my head. The characters and the music stayed with me. The show was tragic, but more than that, it was joyful!”

“I had no idea that one day I would go on to direct the show myself. Being able to bring the show home to Anson County is a dream come true,” Wooten added.

This production has a cast of 19, and includes some Ansonia stage regulars as well as several newcomers. The cast is led by Gina Clarke who plays Mrs. Johnstone and Terra Medlock as Mrs. Lyons, the birth mother and the adoptive mother respectively. They are joined by Tyler Baucom and Jake Sessions as the brothers and Savannah Tarlton as Linda, the girl who eventually comes between the two brothers. Wooten himself serves as the Narrator for the piece. The rest of the cast includes Steve Lear, Mark Traywick, Connie Thomas, Lauren Sellers, Glenn Caulder, Paige Mercer, Tabitha Thomas, Mike Railton, Donnie Lewis, Ann Crescitelli, Kianna Ellerbee and Akela Martin.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or at [www.ansoniateatre.com](http://www.ansoniateatre.com).

## Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday, February 25

Also, free food products every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) Emergency Food Pantry will distribute free food products on Saturday, February 25 at 10 a.m. These foods are provided by the US Department of Agriculture through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. Individuals will be served until the food runs out.

The U. S. federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for each individual’s eligibility and food items will only be available to Ansonians who qualify. Individuals who have not registered before nor received food from the BRLC Emergency Food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. A neighbor who does not have the necessary documentations will not be served. Families that receive food stamp assistance automatically qualify. Each family will only be provided these commodities this month. Parents are asked not to bring small children. Neighbors, please park in parking lot behind center.

BRLC distributes free groceries to eligible families on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and at other times. You can contact them at 704-826-8182 for information. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

## Free Groceries for Families in Need March 1

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Mobile Food Pantry and CHS Mobile Health Unit will be at Marshville First Baptist Church, located at 1636 Old Highway 74, on Wednesday, March 1, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

- Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food.
- Arrive between 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food.
- If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445.
- If you have not yet done so, bring proof of your income to register.
- You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

This event is sponsored by Anson Crisis Ministry and local United Methodist and Baptist Churches. Interested in volunteering? Call Susan Rackcliff at 704-904-2969 or Rev. Cindy Lunsford at (828) 891-2753.

## Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo games are held every third Tuesday of the month at Grace Senior Center at 1 p.m. All seniors are invited to attend for fun and fellowship. There is not cost, but you must be 55 or older to play. For more information or to register to play call the center at 704-694-6616.



## Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Terrific Kids

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School held its Terrific Kids Celebration for the second nine weeks on Tuesday, February 7. Pictured are the students who were recognized for this honor. We are proud of these students for showing good character!

They are pictured here, from left, front row: Tyler Eddins, Jacorian Sturdivant, Timothy Johnson, Myasia Dennison, Alexis Brown, Justin Lawrence and Melicia Tanner. Second row: Chance Brower, Adam Brock, Aubree Brewington, Loralei Woodall, Gavin Johnson, Taylor Rogers, Jaycee Biggers, Caleb Leslie, Mark Blanchard, Denis Ponce-Casraneda, Kimberly Morales-Rueda, Ethan Kendall, Christopher Harrington, JerMyrion Cash and Christopher Navarro-Ruiz. Third row: James Martin, Alyssa Campbell, Logun James, ZyAana Strain, Skylar Faulk, Uriel Cajija-Mora, Anna Collins, Cody Reid, Maleah Goodwin, Haylee Martin, Kaylee Martin, Kayla Barrino, Summer Hardison, Elijah Britt and Tyler Tice. Fourth row: Jayden Sturdivant, Shikim Bivens, Elizabeth Bustard, Audrey Hyatt, Mia Estrada, Gavin Tarlton, Morgan Oglesby, Ricka Smith, Parker Griffin, Nathan High, Nathan Johnson, Chacoya Bivens and Kirsten Greene.

## Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class

A family caregiver is someone who assists a relative or friend with the things that he/she can no longer do because of an illness or have become frail. Most caregiving experiences start with taking them to the doctor or grocery store and gradually increases to doing housework, preparing meals and assistance with bathing and dressing. In most situations the care continues and as time goes by more and more of your time will be needed. Often caregivers neglect themselves while providing compassionate comfort and support for a loved one. Many studies have shown caregivers are twice as likely to develop a chronic illness due to the prolonged stress.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a free educational series designed to provide the caregiver with the tools needed to take care of themselves so they can continue to provide good quality care.

Classes consist of six 90 minute sessions held once a week. Lisa Ledford and Rita Short co-lead the series and both have experienced caregiving and have successfully applied the techniques they teach. Interactive lessons, discussions and brainstorming will help you take the “tools” you choose and put them into action.

Classes will be held at the Liberty HomeCare and Hospice office, located at 119 West Wade Street in Wadesboro. Sessions will be held each Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, March 7 and ending on Tuesday April 11.

For more information or to register contact Rita Short at 704-994-3494 or Lisa Ledford at 704-694-5992. Powerful Tools for Caregivers is provided by the Anson County Council on Aging and Liberty HomeCare and Hospice.

## Horse Industry Promotion Referendum is March 8

Horse and other equine animal owners/lessors will vote across the state on March 8 to determine whether to continue to voluntarily assess themselves four dollars per ton of commercial horse feed in order to provide funds to promote the interests of the horse industry.

The vote in Anson County will take place in the County Extension Center (located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. Any North Carolina resident who has reached his or her 9th birthday as of January 1, 2017, and who has complete or partial ownership or lease of an equine (horse, pony, mule, donkey or hinny) is eligible to vote. Individuals must sign a statement certifying eligibility at time of voting.

Since many horse owners work away from home during business hours, a provision has been made for absentee voting. Between the dates of February 20 to March 08, horse owners may visit or phone the County Extension Center and request a ballot and absentee registration form. These must be turned in to the Extension office by March 8, and will be counted along with others on March 9.

If the vote is favorable on March 0009, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will continue to receive the assessment funds from manufacturers and/or distributors of horse feed, and will remit the money to the NC Horse Council. The Horse Council has indicated that the funds will be used for 4-H and other youth and educational programs, trails advocacy, equine research, representation of horse interests in government, marketing programs, enforcement of horse laws, and improved public awareness of diseases and other threats to horses’ well-being.

Many other agricultural commodities have similar voluntary assessment programs. Horsemen may receive a refund of the assessment by writing to the NC Horse Council within a year of purchase and including proof of purchase. For more information on the referendum please contact Jessica Morgan, Anson County Agriculture Agent at 704-694-2415 or [Jessica\\_morgan@ncsu.edu](mailto:Jessica_morgan@ncsu.edu).

## Wadesboro Mayor Thacker Proclaims Cookie Weekend!

On Tuesday, February 21 Wadesboro Mayor proclaimed that this coming weekend, February 24-26, is ‘Girl Scouts Hornets’ Nest Council Cookie Weekend’ in Wadesboro.

A release from Girl Scouts Hornets’ Nest said: Hornets’ Nest Council Cookie Weekend is a time to bring awareness to the important work of the organization and the lessons it teaches girls. Through cookie sales, young female entrepreneurs learn essential business skills such as goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics that help shape their future as leaders.

The nonprofit serves 17,000 girls and adults in eight North Carolina and South Carolina counties including Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Rowan, Stanly, Union and York. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to Girl Scouts, visit [www.hngirlscouts.org](http://www.hngirlscouts.org) and follow them on Facebook, Twitter @GSHNC, Instagram and Pinterest.

## Free Tax Assistance for Seniors at Grace Senior Center

Free income tax assistance will be available for Anson County residents sixty years of age or older of low or moderate income who need help in preparing their income tax returns. This is through a program sponsored by AARP and Grace Senior Center.

Volunteer Counselors trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service will be at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, March 1 and Wednesday, April 5. Free assistance is designed to help taxpayers fill out forms 1040EZ, 1040A, 1040 and the North Carolina return.

Persons using the service should bring this year’s tax package, age and earnings statements (forms W-2) received from employers, interest statements from banks (form 1099-INT) a copy of last year tax return and any other relevant information concerning income and expenses. Electronic filing of returns will be available.

Persons interested should call Grace Senior Center to register and for additional information at 704-694-6616.

## ‘Taste of Soul’ Event Promises Delicious Treats

The East Polkton School Alumni celebrates Black History Month with their annual ‘Taste of Soul’ on Saturday, February 25 at 4 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center.

For more information contact 704-690-0528.

## Free Movie is I’m Not Ashamed

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie *I’m Not Ashamed* on Monday, February 27 in the Little Theatre at 10:00 a.m. The movie stars Masey McLain, Ben Davies, Kori Robertson, Terry Minton and Sadie Robertson. It is rated PG-13. It is the inspiring true story of Rachel Joy Scott at Columbine High School in 1999. Everyone is invited to come and see this powerful story.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

## BCSWCD Board Meeting is February 28

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-694-3516.

## Amateur Night at the Ansonia is Coming!

Calling all local talent in the Anson County area! The Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation will be sponsoring an Amateur Night at the Ansonia Theatre on Saturday, April 1 at 8:00 p.m. The event is open to all comedy acts, singers and dancers. Whatever your talent, you are invited to showcase it at this upcoming event. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places during the event. Spaces are limited, so register asap!

All proceeds benefit the nonprofit Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation. The foundation awards an annual scholarship, athletic award and aids in other areas concerning teen issues.

For more information and to register contact Cassandra Reid at 704-695-7097.