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

## Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet March 5

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m. The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

## Flu Shots Are Available at the Anson County Health Department

Winter is still here, and with the lower temperatures flu season is upon us. The Anson County Health Department wants to inform the public about influenza (flu) and how the department can help prevent the deadly virus. In the United States flu is detected year-round, however, it is most common during the fall and winter months. Influenza activity often begins to increase in October and November. Flu activity peaks between December and February and can last as late as May. Flu is a transmittable breathing illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year. Flu is different from a cold and can come on suddenly. Flu symptoms involve:

- fever • cough • sore throat • runny or stuffy nose
- body aches • headache • chills • fatigue
- sometimes diarrhea and vomiting

Although fever symptoms are included, not everyone may have a fever when catching flu. Research shows that flu is spread through tiny droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These tiny droplets can land on people nearby. People with flu are most contagious the first 3-4 days.

The Center for disease control (CDC) recommends everyone over the age of 6 months should get the flu vaccine each season. It is especially important for the following high risk groups:

- pregnant women
- children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- people 50 years of age and older
- people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- people who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- people who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu fatigue
- healthcare workers
- household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
- household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age.

The Health Department offers appointments for flu shots but will also provide walk-in times from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The health department accepts the following primary insurance for the influenza vaccination: Medicare, Medicaid, Medcost, Aetna, Cigna, and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Children without insurance coverage who are ages 6 months through 18 years of age may receive a free influenza vaccination.

Please bring in all insurance cards for verification of primary insurance coverage. The costs for individuals without active primary insurance coverage are: Influenza \$48; High Dose Influenza \$93; and Pneumonia \$83.

The Anson County Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment please call Anson County Health Department at 704-694-5188 or 704-994-3321. For further information contact Dinikia Savage at 704-994-3342.

## Aid Efforts Help So Many People

**Would you like to volunteer or donate to help those in need?**

On Thursday, February 7 Faith Based Center of Hope along with Harvest Ministries Outreach Center joined together to pass out sweaters, coats, warm clothes, hygiene bags and blankets at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church on Salisbury Street Wadesboro.

Faith Based Center of Hope CEO Vancine Sturdivant said, "My husband and I began this program in 1998 while helping a friend in Richmond County feed the homeless under a bridge. I began to wonder about how the citizens in my own county are doing. This is how my Warm Coats, Warm Hearts program was started. At no time did I ever imagine there was such a need in Anson County. As the program grew and the need became greater, I reached out to my friends and the citizens in Anson County."

Sturdivant continued, "Because we are such a giving county, we are able to supply hygiene bags, warm clothes and blankets to our brothers and sisters in need. The things most of us literally take for granted such as toiletries, soap, toothpaste and lotion, they do not have. Each month I partner with our local Walmart and purchase toiletries for not just the homeless, but also the elderly, sick and shut-in who live on a fixed income. I cannot imagine how it feels to have to choose between paying for medications or purchasing food or hygiene products. Most families have more than they will ever need or use. For this reason, I ask you to please look in your closets and donate warm clothing, sweaters, coats, scarfs, gloves. There is always a need for financial donations too, in order that we may continue to purchase items to help others."

Faith Based Center of Hope is a nonprofit 501C-3 organization that conducts several programs during the year:

- Back to School with Pride, school supplies
- Feeding the Homeless at major holidays
- Warm Hearts, Warm Coats
- Feeding the sick and shut-in
- Transporting seniors to physicians

For several years Faith Based Center of Hope has partnered with Apostle Tim Adams and Pastor Steve Adams at Harvest Ministries. For more information you can contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704 848-4412 or Harvest Ministries at 704-695-2879.



Pictured above are the Anson County Writers' Club contest winners. They are, from left, front row: Isabella Osborn, Trebor McQueen, Chase Taft, Ellie Melton. Back row: Charles Kaska, Kaye Ratliff, Corra Covington, Zoha Ali and William Rocky Moore.

## Writers' Club Announces Contest Winners

The Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC) held its 30th annual Awards Ceremony in the Little Theatre of the Hampton B. Allen Library on Sunday, February 24, recognizing winners of the 2018 contests in prose and poetry. The first contest was held in 1989, the year the club was organized.

The contests are divided into Youth (grades 3-6, 7-9, and 10-12) and Adult. Judges were members of the Union County Writers' Club, who read the anonymous entries and returned the results, which were matched to names held by the contest committee. The winners were notified the second week in February. The contest committee was composed of Kaye Ratliff, Beverley Getzen and Randy Tarlton.

ACWC President Ratliff welcomed the winners and their families and friends. "The Anson County Writers' Club's mission is to foster the art of writing and to promote the love of reading and learning in Anson County," she said. First Place in Youth Poetry, grades 3-6, went to Isabella Osborn, Peachland-Polkton Elementary School, for "Sunset in Summer." Trebor McQueen, Morven Elementary School, won Second Place for "The Sun." Also, in grades 3-6, Ellie Melton, Ansonville Elementary School, won First Place in Youth Prose for "A Strange Key" and Chase Taft, Ansonville Elementary School, won Second Place for "The Haunted House."

Winner of Youth Poetry grades 7-9 was William Rocky Moore, Anson High School, for "A Grandma's Love." Zoha Ali of Anson Middle School won First Place in Youth Prose grades 7-9 for "Over" and Corra Covington placed Second for "Don't Sugar Coat It".

There were no winners in Youth Poetry or Prose in grades 10-12. Adult Poetry winners were: First Place, Kaye Ratliff of Wadesboro for "Goth" and second place, Mario Kersey of Raleigh for "The Poem Cried." Charles Kaska of Heath Springs, S.C. won first place in Adult Prose for his short story, "The Assignment."

A special award of an engraved plaque was given to Randy Tarlton in recognition of all he has done "behind the scenes" in making the Awards Ceremony go smoothly over the past years.

Following the awards of certificates, cash prizes, and a copy of "Anson Pathways X", an anthology of the winning entries from 2016, 2017 and 2018, the winners and their guests were invited to a reception of punch and finger foods.

For information about the Writers' Club and its mission and activities please visit [www.ansoncountywritersclub.org](http://www.ansoncountywritersclub.org). The anthology, "Anson Pathways X" is available for \$5 at the Anson County Arts Council.

## NC Insurance Commissioner Backs Ban on Handheld Cell Phone Use While Driving

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey is backing legislation that would ban handheld cellphone use while driving as a means of saving lives, preventing injuries and driving down automobile insurance costs. The Hands Free NC Act was introduced in the N.C. General Assembly on Thursday, February 21 as a means to cut down on the number of deaths caused by distracted driving. According to AAA Carolinas, more than 123 people died in 2018 as a result of distracted driving.

"I want to commend Rep. Kevin Corbin for introducing this legislation, and give kudos to the other primary sponsors, Reps. Jon Hardister, John Torbett and Garland Pierce for recognizing the dangers associated with distracted driving, especially from cell phone use," Commissioner Causey said. "Distracted driving also plays a role in automobile insurance premium rates, so passing this bill is a win-win for everyone."

The bill, called Hands Free NC, has bipartisan support. It would prohibit the hand-held use of a cellphone or other wireless communications devices but allow the driver to make hands-free calls. Drivers 18 years old and older would be able to use their cellphones if the phone is mounted in the vehicle and the call can be initiated or terminated by touching a single button.

Provisions are made for drivers who need to make emergency calls or for emergency officers and first responders using a phone in their official duty.

Drivers caught violating the Hands Free NC law would face a \$100 fine for the first offense, a \$150 fine and one insurance point for the second offense, and a \$200 fine and two insurance points for subsequent offenses.

The proposal, if approved by the General Assembly and signed into law, would become effective on January 1, 2020. Police officers would issue warning tickets during the first six-month grace period.

A recent study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety saw an increase in driver cellphone use, particularly manipulating a cellphone, from 2014 to 2018. The Institute estimates that cellphone use was a contributing factor in more than 800 crash deaths on U.S. roads in 2017.

"Distracted driving has become one of the leading causes of automobile accidents, along with speeding and driving while intoxicated. Unless we take corrective action now, we'll see accidents increase that will drive our automobile insurance rates higher and higher," said Commissioner Causey.

## Blankets, Hygiene Products and Coats Offered to Those in Need on Thursday

Faith Based Center of Hope held a big barbecue sale last Friday, February 22. The money raised from that event was used to purchase coats and blankets to help those less fortunate in our community. Volunteers will be on Orchard Street in Wadesboro this Thursday, February 28 at 11 a.m. passing out blankets, hygiene bags and coats.

Vancine Sturdivant who heads up this mission to aid those in need said, "We chose this area of Wadesboro for the giveaway because the need is great, and some of the citizens cannot walk all the way to Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, which is located on Salisbury Street."

Sturdivant added, "A special thank you goes out to District Overseer Iris Tillman who donated blankets, and to Walmart."

For more information or to donate please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704 848-4412.

## Library Offers Documentary Series on Wars

The public is invited to come to the Hampton B. Allen Library for their documentary series on American wars and world wars. The shows are presented every Thursday, from 10-11 a.m. in the Little Theatre. The library covers a different area each month.

This month the subject is the Gulf War.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

## Chair Yoga Offered at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library offers free chair yoga every Wednesday, from 10 to 11 a.m. You don't have to pre-register, just come and have fun!

For more information call 704-694-5177.

## Bowman Class of 1971 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman Senior High School Class of 1971 will meet at Golden Corral in Matthews on Saturday, March 2 at 1:00 p.m. Plans for the 48th reunion will be discussed.

Contact Patricia Little (704) 695-6724 or Winnie Brown (704) 475-0755 for details.