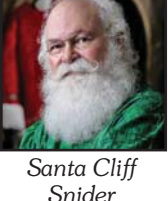


## Back Porch Stories Returns for an Evening of Fun and Fellowship on April 5

A program of music and storytelling suitable for the whole family will be presented at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 5 at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall. Tickets for Back Porch Stories will be sold at the door for \$5, children 10 and under free. Complementary coffee, tea, soft drinks and cookies will be served in a cozy, "coffee house" atmosphere.



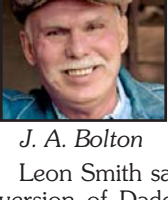
Brenda Gilbert



Santa Cliff Snider



Leon Smith



J. A. Bolton

On the playbill are storytellers Brenda Gilbert, Santa Cliff Snider, Leon Smith and moderator J. A. Bolton. Gilbert first appeared at Back Porch Stories in 2014 and is returning by popular demand. She studied music at Greensboro College and theatre at East Carolina University, and has performed in many theatrical productions over the years. She spent over 25 years as the Director of School-Community Relations for Scotland middle schools. Gilbert began telling stories in 1980 when a middle school librarian invited her to tell stories to her students. Since then Gilbert has told stories to tens of thousands of students in the Scotland County and surrounding school systems.

She is the founder of the Story Spinners Storytelling Guild, co-founder of the Storytelling Festival of Carolina, chairs the board of the Storytelling and Arts Center of the Southeast, and is a member of the North Carolina Storytelling Guild.

A 1995 graduate of the Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School, Santa Cliff Snider also has a Doctor of Santa Claus degree from the International University of Santa Claus. His book, "Santa's Journey" chronicles his personal story of his Santa ministry.

Snider has been featured on the Christian Broadcasting Network's "The 700 Club," on the Billy Graham Evangelistic Society's website and in "Guideposts" magazine. In August of 2012 he was awarded by the governor "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine," North Carolina's highest award for a citizen of the state for his fifty years of service to the children of North Carolina as Santa Claus. Also in 2012, he was inducted into the International Santa Claus Hall of Fame in Santa Claus, Indiana.

Snider has been featured in over sixty paintings of Santa Claus. Through paintings, fine-art photographs and manufactured gift products his image has become America's most recognized Santa Claus.

Leon Smith says he began writing stories in song in the 90's with the earliest version of Daddy Songs. In December 2015 he began offering a couple of stories per month to the now defunct Marshville Home News, and in 2017 began writing a weekly column for the Anson Record.

Smith grew up in Polkton and attended Polkton High School, then Wingate Junior College. He left home for UNC-Chapel Hill, Clemson, and Ohio. While living at home he raised hogs, planted pine trees, and worked at the Shred Factory through high school and Wingate. Following graduate school he produced TV shows in Ohio and Virginia, and from time to time taught communications classes at Clemson-at-Greenville, Kansas and Wingate, from which he retired in 2018.

Smith says he has been accused of having a photographic memory. "What memory I come from comes from useful advice, such as Daddy's, 'Son if you'll listen to the other fellow, you'll know what you know and what he knows too.' I got a lot of experience in listening to him. At Clemson, where I worked on Masters in English, Dr. Harriet Holman said keep a pen and pad with you at all times, and 'be one of those people on whom the prosecutor is paid to risk my life in those Appalachian hills spying out illegal junkyards. He said put a date on everything. I have followed his advice. Writing stories and singing songs does more for memory than truth serum, and now and then brings forth a message worthy of giving away, which I pray will happen at Back Porch Stories."

J. A. Bolton returns to reprise his role as moderator for the event. Bolton started telling stories at a young age "when the fellas at the local store would buy me a drink and a candy bar to tell 'em a story." He soon found that telling stories was a good way to take a break from hard work on the farm, too. Since then he's gone on to tell some pretty tall tales that include huntin', fishin', and workin' on the farm. His motto is "Live, Love, Laugh." Bolton is the author of "Just Passin' Time" and co-wrote "Just Passin' Time Together" with his wife Azalea Bolton.

Back Porch Stories is sponsored by the Anson County Writers' Club and the Anson County Tourism Development Authority.

## March Mobile Food Pantry Information

Margot Barnes, Director of Anson Crisis Ministry has released statistics from the March Mobile Food Pantry which was held on Wednesday, March 6.

Barnes said, "Celebrating the March Pantry! Thank you to the 32 volunteers!"

- Total Families: 137
- New Families: 10
- Children & Youth Under Age 18: 82
- Youth & Adults Ages 19-64: 122
- Adults Over Age 65: 68

"Anson Crisis Ministry brought home 1,050 lbs. of undistributed food," added Barnes. "Thank you! A great deal of food was distributed!"

Anson Crisis Ministry is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-2445, email is [ansoncrisisministry@windstream.net](mailto:ansoncrisisministry@windstream.net) and the website is [ansoncrisisministry.org](http://ansoncrisisministry.org).

RESPONSIVE • QUALITY • SUPPORT

**William H. Josey, CPA, PLLC**

INDIVIDUAL TAX RETURNS  
CORPORATE TAX • BOOKKEEPING

411 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro  
704-694-4385 • [www.joseycpa.com](http://www.joseycpa.com)

Tue, Th & Fri 8-5  
Mon & Wed 8-7  
Sat 9-12

# DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION

**SATURDAY MARCH 23**  
**Hampton B. Allen Library**  
**Breakfast 8:30am Convention 10am**

*"We Believe in Equality, Opportunity and Prosperity for ALL"*

**All Precinct Officers & Concerned Citizens are Invited to Attend**

Information 704-848-4412



NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
NCDP.ORG

# BACK IN STOCK



Serta Blue Sofa, Loveseat & Matching Recliner

WE FINANCE  
EZ TO APPLY OWN IT NOW!



SAME OR NEXT DAY DELIVERY!

We have **HEATERS**  
KEROSENE • GAS  
ELECTRIC • WOOD

**WICKS**  
FOR MOST  
KEROSENE  
HEATERS



## MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET

Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-3185

VISIT OUR SLEEP SHOP

# BBQ

## Burnsville Volunteer Fire & Rescue

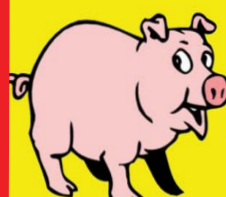
13380 Hwy. 742 N. \* Polkton, NC 28135

**THIS SATURDAY!**  
**MARCH 16 11AM - 7PM**

The best pork & chicken BBQ you could ask for served alongside slaw, beans, roll, & dessert!

### Eat-In

Includes all of the above, plus tea & hushpuppies.



Adult: \$12.00  
Senior Citizen (65+): \$8.00  
Active Military (w/ proper ID): \$8.00  
Child (ages 2-8): \$6.00



### Take-Out

Pork or Chicken  
All Take-Out Plates \$11

Dessert donations are greatly appreciated!

THE ANSONIA THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS

# All Shook Up

HURRY! Tickets are going fast!

**DUE TO DEMAND... EXTRA SHOW ADDED!**  
**THIS THURSDAY, MARCH 14 7PM**  
**FRI & SAT 7:30PM SUN 3PM**

Directed By Tommy Wooten

**MARCH 14-17**

The Story is All New  
The Hits are ALL ELVIS!!!

704-694-4950  
[ansoniatheatre.com](http://ansoniatheatre.com)