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

All of Anson County Experiences a 36 Hour Natural Gas Outage

Residential and business customers of Piedmont Natural Gas in Anson County lost service Friday evening at about 9 p.m. The service was off until Sunday, over 36 hours later for most gas customers. According to a Piedmont Natural Gas spokesman, the problem was caused by human error with a pressure valve.

Many citizens shared that this was the first natural gas outage they could ever remember.

Crews from all around the region arrived on Saturday. They had to manually turn off the gas meters at every customer location, residential and business. The company spokesman said this was done because if customer meters were on when the gas flow was restored in the main line, the sudden pressure increase could damage the meters' pressure reducers. Once all the meters were turned off, the gas flow was restored, then the crews had to return to each customer location, going door to door to turn the meters back on. Also, at every location a crew person would be sure that pilot lights were relit.

The outage affected every restaurant in Wadesboro. All had to close except for a few that operated with limited menus.

Saturday was Cinco de Mayo, the Mexican holiday, and the gas situation spoiled a planned celebration at La Fogata Restaurant. They have rescheduled the event for this Saturday evening, May 12.

"We're very, very fortunate that it is the summer season, and people are not needing our services to heat up their homes," said Piedmont Natural Gas Communications Manager Phillip Morgan. "But obviously you have other uses."

As of press time on Tuesday, Piedmont Natural Gas trucks were still seen working in the area.

Relay for Life is Friday

It's about being a community that takes up the fight! Everyone is invited to come to the Anson High School Stadium this Friday, May 11 and participate in the Anson County Relay for Life event. It runs from 6 to 11:59 p.m. Register today at Relayforlife.org/ansonnc.

Relay For Life is the ultimate team fundraiser for the American Cancer Society that brings communities together to fight cancer. It's an opportunity for us to remember loved ones lost and honor survivors of all cancers. Traditionally, Relay events last anywhere from six to 24 hours with teams of survivors, caregivers and supporters taking turns walking around a track or designated path. But today, communities are giving events their own unique spin. Events can range from a block party atmosphere to more of a local pep rally, complete with fun games and activities, food, music and more! But every Relay For Life event shares the same goal - to take down our biggest rival, cancer.

What can you expect at a Relay for Life event? A standing ovation is in order. Survivors and people currently battling cancer take a lap as they're celebrated and cheered on by their biggest fans. After sunset Luminaria are lit to honor lives lost to cancer, celebrate survivors, and to show those impacted by cancer that they are not alone.

Nationwide nearly 1.3 million Relay participants team up at over 2,000 events to raise money that helps the American Cancer Society attack cancer from every angle. Here are a few ways Relay donations helped cancer patients last year.

- \$406 million was raised, funding potentially life-saving cancer research grants.
- 1.2 million calls and chat from patients and caregivers seeking information and support.
- 456,000 nights of free lodging provided to patients at Hope Lodge (info at www.relayforlife.org)

For more information about Relay for Life visit their website, www.relayforlife.org.

Annual Compassionate Friends Balloon Release is this Thursday

The Compassionate Friends is a support group for anyone who has experienced the death of a child. They cordially invite you to their annual Balloon Release and Covered Dish Meal. This is a special time as everyone joins together to remember our children are no longer with us.

This event will take place this Thursday, May 10 at 6 p.m. at the Polkton Depot. Please bring a photograph of your child, a well filled picnic basket, and your family and friends. Everyone is welcome.

The Compassionate Friends meet the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric, located on Highway 52 North in Wadesboro. For more information call Irvin Thompson at 704-694-8774.

'Stamp Out Hunger' Food Drive is Sat.

Every second Saturday in May, letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America, including Anson County, collect the goodness and compassion of their postal customers who participate in the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive - the largest one-day food drive in the nation.

Carriers collect non-perishable food donations left by mailboxes and in post offices. All the food collected in Anson County stays in Anson County to benefit those in need. The foods are distributed through the Anson Crisis Ministry.

To donate, just place a box or can (or cans) of non-perishable food next to your mailbox before your letter carrier delivers mail this coming Saturday, May 12. The carrier will do the rest. The food is sorted, and delivered to Anson Crisis Ministry where it is available for needy families.

"The food drive's timing is crucial," said Wadesboro Postmaster Jesse Flowers. "Food banks and pantries often receive the majority of their donations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. By spring many pantries are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies at a time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need. Thank you in advance for your support of this important food drive."

With 49 million people facing hunger every day in America, including nearly 16 million children, this drive is one way you can help those in your own town who need help. Led by letter carriers, with help from rural letter carriers, other postal employees and other volunteers, the drive has delivered more than one billion pounds of food the past 24 years.



Pictured above is the cast of the play *Smoke on the Mountain*. They are, from left, Teri Brown, Maggie Gibson, Ayla Perkins, Karlie Russell, Tommy Wooten, Carolyn Munn, Steve Clyburn, Paige Mercer, Felicia Xavier and Mark Traywick.

Play *Smoke on the Mountain* Begins Two Weekend Run this Friday

The hit comedy musical, *Smoke on the Mountain* opens at the Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro this Friday, May 11 and runs through May 20, with performances each Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday matinees.

The show takes place in 1938 at a Saturday Night Gospel Sing in Mount Pleasant. The Sanders Family Singers are back on the gospel circuit for the first time in five years. They are ready to spread the gospel through song and celebration, however on their way to the church they accidentally tip their bus over while stopping to look at all the stray pickles that have escaped from the local pickle plant. This lovable family of misfits finally make to the church, and we get to know each of them through their stories and songs.

Their approach to spreading the good word is just a little too progressive for some of the members of Mount Pleasant Baptist, and that is where the fun really begins. This show is rich in characters and humor, and is filled with many of your favorite hymns and some wonderful new songs as well.

The show features Teri Brown, Maggie Gibson, Paige Mercer, Ayla Perkins and Felicia Xavier from Anson County, and Steve Clyburn, Carolyn Munn, Karlie Russell, Mark Traywick and Tommy Wooten from Union County. The show is directed by Gina Clarke and Tommy Wooten. Tickets are \$16. Group rates are available for parties of 10 or more.

Please contact the Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or get your tickets online at ansoniatheatre.com.

Yard Sale of the Carolinas is this Saturday in Chesterfield

The annual "Yard Sale of the Carolinas" will be held in Chesterfield this Saturday, May 12. The event will be held from 7 a.m. to 12 noon in the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street (in front of the Chesterfield County Courthouse). The event is co-sponsored by the Greater Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce and Hospice of Chesterfield County's Sunshine Shoppe thrift and gift store.



The yard sale provides a great opportunity for individuals, families, civic groups and churches to raise funds by selling items. A booth space is available for \$15 (one parking space) and multiple spaces may be reserved. There are a limited number of spaces available.

Residents and organizations are also encouraged to have yard sales on their own property that day. The Town has suspended the yard sale permit requirement for the day of the event. Those having yard sales outside of the street sale are encouraged to register their yard sale as well. A list of yard sales within the town limits will be made available to those visiting the street sale.

Registration forms are available at the Hospice of Chesterfield County office, located at 700 West Boulevard, and the Sunshine Shoppe, located at 122 Main Street, both in Chesterfield. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, May 9.

For more information email jdouglashcc@hotmail.com or call the Hospice office at (843) 623-9155.

Chamber of Commerce Wins Excellence Award

The Anson Chamber of Commerce's rebranding campaign has won the Carolinas Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives Communication Excellence Award in the 'Campaign' category. The Communication Excellence Awards recognize outstanding communications efforts by chambers of commerce in North and South Carolina. Entries were judged based on originality, design/quality and results achieved during the past 18 months. The award was presented at the CACCE Staff Leadership Development Conference held in Hilton Head, on April 26.

One award was presented to the highest scoring chamber based on the following chamber sizes: Under 700 members, or Over 700 members.

The campaign was created to stay relevant in the community and to ensure the organization was living up to its mission. Megan Sellers, Membership and Marketing Director said, "Rebranding is not an end point. We are beginning yet another chapter in this organization's history. There is still work to be done. We see energy, momentum and enormous potential in Anson County, and we will continue to work each day to make it a desirable place to live, work and play."

Two scholarships were also awarded for staff to attend both the Staff Leadership Development Conference and the Annual Management Conference held in October.



Shelby Emrich (left) & Megan Sellers of the Chamber of Commerce.

SPCC Foundation's Annual 5K is Saturday, May 19

Annual 5K supports vital college programs

The South Piedmont Community College Foundation's Third Annual "Run the Course 5K" will be held on Saturday, May 19. The event, which challenges participants to walk / run a unique trail that traverses Dry Creek Disc Golf Course on the college's Old / run a unique trail that traverses Dry Creek Disc Golf Course on the college's walk / run a unique trail that traverses Dry Creek Disc Golf Course on the college's walk / run a unique trail that traverses Dry Creek Disc Golf Course on the college's walk / run a unique trail that traverses Dry Creek Disc Golf Course on the college's

All proceeds from the race will go toward meeting important equipment needs for student programs at South Piedmont Community College.

To learn more or to register, visit: runsignup.com/race/nc/monroe/runthecourse.

Patriot-level sponsors for this year's event include Brewer-Hendley Oil Company, Moser Commercial Real Estate Services and Jordan Family Dentistry of Midland. Blue sponsors include Commercial Piping and Fabricating, Edwards Wood Products, Circle S Ranch, Goulston, Greiner Bio-One, Helms Robison and Lee, PA, Locust Lumber, Robbins and Associates, Union Power Cooperative and Wiggins Construction.

Business After Hours Event at the Arts Council this Thursday

A Business After Hours event will be held this Thursday, May 10, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Arts Council office-Drake Gallery, located next door to the Ansonia Theatre. Drinks and light refreshments will be served, then attendees are invited to stay for a full dress rehearsal of the play *Smoke on the Mountain*, open to the public! This is your chance to mix and mingle in a casual atmosphere, enjoy the beautiful Drake Gallery and some yummy refreshments, thanks to the Anson Chamber of Commerce. Hope to see you there!

50+ Club Meets Monday, May 14 with Music Program

Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, May 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre. Ava, Isaac, Caden, Gina and Jason Clarke will be presenting a program of music. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the beautiful music of this talented family.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Senior Health & Information Fair

The Grace Senior Center Health and Information Fair will be held at Lockhart-Taylor Center on Tuesday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Various vendors will be present to answer questions as well as offer pertinent information beneficial to seniors. Lunch will be served. Doors will not open to the public until 10:45 a.m. If you would like to attend, please call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register and for additional information.

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