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

### Applications Being Accepted for No-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

The Sandra Harmon Clive Memorial Fund is currently accepting applications for their January Spay/Neuter Clinic. Qualified applicants are offered the services at no cost thanks to the generosity of the late Mrs. Clive. So far over 75 cats and dogs have participated in the program.

This program is offered to low income citizens and senior citizens in Anson County. You can find applications at Brown Creek Animal Hospital, the Anson County Health Department and on all library bookmobiles.

### Families Urged to Practice Safety on Thanksgiving

Parents should keep their eye on the stovetop and children out of the kitchen

Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin reminds families that safety in the kitchen is always important, but it is especially so on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at the home. According to the National Fire Protection Association, Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

"With so much going on, I want to make sure that families take precautions to make the holiday a happy one," said Goodwin. "One way to do that is to keep some safety tips in mind while preparing that big Thanksgiving meal."

Goodwin recommends the following safety measures:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay at home when cooking your turkey, check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay three feet away.
- Keep kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Organize activities that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children (up high in a locked cabinet).
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

In addition, the North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal strongly discourages the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers that immerse the turkey in hot oil. These turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures, and units currently available for home use pose a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process. The use of turkey fryers by consumers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries and the destruction of property.

### Sheriff Allen Offers Tips for Safe Shopping During the Holiday Season

"The holiday season is right around the corner and shoppers are crowding malls, shopping centers and discount stores to buy the latest gadgets and find the best deals," said Sheriff Tommy Allen of Anson County. But sometimes shoppers are neglecting their safety according to Sheriff Allen, "This time of year attracts more shopping-related criminal activity because of the larger crowds and the extended store hours. These factors and the usual distraction of shopping, creates a more favorable environment for thieves and other offenders."

The Sheriff reminds all Anson County residents to follow these shopping safety tips:

- A single shopper is the best target for theft. Always shop with a friend or relative.
- When going shopping, tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you to return. Also, make sure they know what you are wearing, as well as the type of vehicle you are driving.
- Shop during daylight hours. If you shop at night, park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
- Dress casually and comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry. If carrying cash, keep it in a pocket rather than in a purse or wallet. This makes it much more difficult for a pickpocket to remove. Also store car keys in a pants or jacket pocket. If your purse is stolen, you will still be able to drive home.
- Pay careful attention to your surroundings and avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- When returning to your vehicle, check around it and in the back seat. Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Have your car keys in your hand to avoid spending unnecessary time unprotected from the security of your vehicle.
- If you feel uneasy returning to your vehicle alone, find a security guard and ask them to walk you to your car.
- Store purchased items in a trunk or back storage area of SUVs where they cannot be seen.

More shopping safety tips can be found on the Sheriff's web page at: [ansonsheriff.com](http://ansonsheriff.com) including tips about gift cards as well as using credit cards.

Sheriff Allen warns shoppers to be careful so that they don't become the victim of criminal activity. "Unfortunately, when shopping, people have a tendency to let their guard down. However, paying attention and taking precautions can help reduce their chances of being a victim," Sheriff Allen said. "The Anson County Sheriff's Office wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season."

### Schools Have Early Dismissals

Anson County Schools will have early dismissal on the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 21
  - Thursday, December 6 (Wadesboro Christmas Parade)
  - Thursday, December 20
- Dismissal times will be as follows:
- All Elementary Schools 12:30 p.m.
  - Anson New Tech and Anson Early College 1 p.m.
  - All other secondary schools 1:30 p.m.

### Anson County Government Holiday Closings

The Anson County Government offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

County government offices will also be closed Monday to Wednesday, December 24-26 for the Christmas holiday.

And, county government offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

### Local Cowgirls Excel in Recent Barrel Horse Competition



A group of local young ladies competed in the National Barrel Horse Association South Carolina State Show on October 12-14. It was held at the Hippodrome in North Augusta. Those attending and competing are pictured here. They are, from left, Abbey Hutchinson, Kate Ingram, Liberty Wright, Betsy Sellers, Amber Morton, Brianna Gordon and Pam Helms.

On Saturday in the Youth Jackpot Amber Morton placed First and Kate Ingram placed Second in the 2D. Abbey Hutchinson placed Second in the 3D division in the Open Jackpot.

On Sunday, for the SC State Youth Finals, Kate Ingram placed First and Amber Morton placed Third in the 3D Division. Pam Helms placed First in the 3D Senior Finals. Pam, from Chesterfield, is the girls' trainer.

### A "Thankful For" Thanksgiving All Year Long

Today, on the eve of Thanksgiving, you may be busy preparing your food for tomorrow's family feast. Maybe you're one of many who have been counting down each day in November by listing something you are thankful for in anticipation of tomorrow, which is many Americans' favorite holiday.

Thanksgiving, a day of giving thanks and spending time with those you love, while enjoying fabulous food and mealtime chats, does make for a relaxed and festive holiday event. And, it is easy to see why so many of us enjoy, enjoy, enjoy.

The older one grows the smarter one gets, supposedly. And for me, realizing the importance Thanksgiving truly is, is a huge blessing in itself. Those who I am most thankful for hold a special place in my heart, which leaves me feeling warm and satisfied, not only on holidays but each day of the year.

Coming across and reading many of your "thankful for" lists over the previous 20 days has been enjoyable. They included some well thought out entries like faith, family, friends, health, home and happiness. Personally I didn't make a list, it was just too difficult for me to whittle down to thirty "thankful fors." But had I done so my list would be very similar to yours.

Our thankfulness seems to intersect each other with many of the same things. At least that is my hope. If we practice the art of thankfulness, then we can rest in knowing that we are living our lives on the right path...not only for the thirty days in November and on the Thanksgiving holiday, but for 365 days all year long.

As you enjoy Thanksgiving fellowship with family and friends and as you bring your "thankful for" lists to a holiday conclusion, be happy in all that you have and all that you do each day, every day. Because true thankfulness can only be measured if we possess a thankful, loving, caring and forgiving heart all the days of our lives.

By Melanie Lyon

### Holiday Craft Workshop for Kids

The Anson County 4-H Program and 4-H Youth Promise is offering a Holiday Craft Workshop. The program is offered to all interested participants ages 5-11. Youth do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to attend. The workshop will be held on Friday, December 21, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Center, 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. Cost is \$7. Youth will need to bring a bag lunch. Drinks will be provided.

The deadline to register is Friday, December 7. To register come by the 4-H Office on McLaurin Street. There is a limit of 25, so registration is on a first come first serve basis. No phone call registration is accepted.

Youth will be making a variety of ornaments and crafts. Don't miss out on this fun filled workshop and make some really neat crafts too! 4-H programs are offered to all youth regardless of sex, race, religion, national origin or handicap.

### Christmas Card Winners Recognized at School Board Meeting

The Anson County School Board met on Monday night, November 19, and among their most difficult duties for the night was choosing the winner of the student Christmas Card Contest.



Here's how the process worked: At all the Anson schools students created Christmas cards, and each school chose their top three cards. Then those winners were submitted to Superintendent Dr. Greg Firn, and his central office staff narrowed the entries down to the top four. Those top four were

submitted to the board members to determine the winner. Well, try as they might, the board could not choose a winner because they thought all four were as great...so they chose all four cards as First Place winners! Each youth received a recognition certificate and a gift of art supplies.

Congratulations to the winners. They are pictured here from left, Holly Yang, Anson Early College High School (10th Grade), Theresa Sommerville, Wadesboro Elementary School (6th Grade), Maci Lane Sellers, Wadesboro Primary School (3rd Grade), and Tracey Brewer, Anson Early College High School (11th Grade).

### Anson Singers to Present Christmas Concert December 2

The Anson Singers, a choir made up of singers from across Anson County, will present a concert of holiday music on Sunday, December 2, at 3 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church of Wadesboro. The choir, directed by Emily Litaker Privette, will sing a program of sacred and secular music for the Christmas season. The hour-long concert will immediately precede the Wadesboro Tour of Homes.

The concert is free and the public is cordially invited to attend. The Anson Singers is a non-profit organization, supported entirely by donations. A free-will offering will be received to help support the Singers for the Spring season.

### Chamber Big Game Hunt Deadline is Today

The 2012 Chamber of Commerce Big Game Hunt dates will be held this Friday and Saturday, November 23-24. Late registrations will be accepted through today, Wednesday, November 21 at the Chamber office.

For more tournament information, call the Chamber of Commerce at 704-694-4181 or visit [www.ansoncounty.org](http://www.ansoncounty.org) for tournament rules and a printable entry form.

### Town of Wadesboro Holiday Schedule

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

There will be no garbage pickup on either day. All routes will be serviced on Monday, November 26.

### Red Cross Blood Drive

The Wadesboro Civitan Club will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, November 28, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. All donors will automatically be entered in a drawing for a \$1,000 gift card.

If you wish to make an appointment you may visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter the sponsor code "wadesborocommunity" or call Yates Almond, President of Wadesboro Civitans, at (704) 475-1239, or Rick Beam, Vice President, at (704) 694-3050.

Give the gift of life this holiday season by coming by to donate!

### Zimmer Friends to Meet

Zimmer Friends will have a get together on Friday, December 7 at 6 p.m. at the FarmHouse Restaurant on Highway 52 in Ansonville.

Look inside for special inserts from **Family Dollar Tractor Supply H W Little & Co Badcock**