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

Recount on District 4 Commissioner Vote Confirms Jim Sims as Winner

Steve Adams, Elections Director for Anson County, called a meeting of the Board of Elections to recount the ballots in the District 4 County Commissioner race. The recount took place on Wednesday, November 14 at the Board of Elections office. This was the race between Democrat Jim Sims, the incumbent, and Todd Moore, who ran as unaffiliated. The ballots are from Peachland, Polkton, White Store, Provisional Votes and Absentee by Mail votes. The recount confirmed the original vote count which decided the race in favor of Jim Sims. The totals were: Jim Sims 589 (50.47%) and Todd Moore 578 (49.53%).

Free Tobacco Cessation Sessions Offered at Health Department

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Worldwide, tobacco use causes nearly 6 million deaths per year, and current trends show that tobacco use will cause more than 8 million deaths annually by 2030. The Anson County Health Department is now offering free one-on-one tobacco cessation sessions for Anson County residents who are interested in quitting.

The nicotine in cigarettes is a very powerful and addictive drug. For most people, quitting isn't easy. Current statistics show that it can take a person 30 attempts before becoming successful in quitting, and 1 in 20 smokers attempting to quit are successful without some form of help.

Smokers may have a much better chance of quitting with a support program. Smoking cessation sessions are intended to help individuals quit smoking. Smoking cessation programs combine several methods and targets the fears and problems people have when quitting. They also provide ongoing support for staying away from tobacco.

It doesn't matter how long an individual has been a smoker, quitting is always beneficial. Not only does it lower the risk of getting various cancers, including lung cancer, it also reduce the chances of having heart disease, a stroke, emphysema, and other serious diseases. Quitting also will lower the risk of heart disease and lung cancer in nonsmokers who otherwise would be exposed to secondhand smoke.

The Anson County Health Department is offering free one-on-one tobacco cessation sessions provided by their Health Educator and Certified QuitSmart leader, Dinikia Savage. QuitSmart success rates are high and are proved to be more effective than other methods. QuitSmart also produced impressive quit rates in published research studies, such as the V.A. Medical Center in Durham North Carolina with a 51% quit rate over a 6 month period. With QuitSmart, tobacco users are assured of high quality professional help.

The QuitSmart tobacco cessation sessions will be scheduled on a monthly basis. For more information or to schedule a QuitSmart smoking cessation session, please contact Dinikia Savage at 704-994-3342.

The Anson County Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

Drake Gallery will be Open for Black Friday and Shop Small Saturday

Special holiday hours for Christmas

The Drake Gallery at the Anson County Arts Council will be closed this week, but open this Friday (Black Friday), from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday for Shop Small Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for 20% off!

Come support your local gallery and choose from beautiful local art, pottery, jewelry and more!

The Drake Gallery holiday hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They are open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is located at 110 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro, next door to the Ansonia Theatre. The telephone number is 704-694-4950.

Anson County's September Unemployment Rate Was 3.8%

Anson County's unemployment rate for September was 3.8%, much lower than August's 4.7% rate. Statewide unemployment rate was 3.1% in September, slightly lower than August's 4.7% rate.

Anson's total labor force in September was 10,237. Of that number 9,845 were employed and 392 were unemployed. In August the total labor force was 10,253 with 9,770 employed and 483 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 100 of North Carolina's counties in September. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.2 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 2.4 percent.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 4.6 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 2.5 percent. The September not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.1 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in September by 37,135 to 4,802,395, while those unemployed decreased 42,173 to 152,408. Since September 2017, the number of workers employed statewide increased 24,079, while those unemployed decreased 58,899.

Shop with a Cop Fundraiser at Walmart

The Wadesboro Police Department will be offering to wrap your presents at Walmart this Saturday, November 24, starting at noon. Gifts purchased at Walmart can be wrapped by local law enforcement for a donation to the Shop With A Cop program.

Come out and let your law enforcement officers do the wrapping and help us help local, less fortunate children by providing them with a Christmas they may not otherwise have.



Top Ladies of Distinction Charters New Chapter in Lilesville

This is a release from TLOD: The members of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) are proud to announce the establishment of the newest chapter to Area IV. The Sandy Pines North Carolina Chapter of TLOD was chartered and inducted fifteen new members on Saturday, October 13 in Lilesville. TLOD National President Lady Drema Lee Woldman, along with National Area IV Director Lady Crystal C. Pittman, presided over the induction and chartering ceremonies. Following the induction and chartering ceremonies, the newest members were congratulated by fellow ladies of TLOD at an elegant reception.

Top Ladies of Distinction is a nonprofit, educational, professional, humanitarian organization, organized in Tyler, Texas in 1964. Members of the organization focus on five programmatic thrusts which are: Top Teens of America (TTA), senior citizens, status of women, community beautification, and community partnerships. Our motto is "Serving Youth and Adults." The charter members of the Sandy Pines North Carolina Chapter are: Lady Carmen Casasola, Lady Deirdre Hendrix, Lady Erica Barnhill, Lady Erica Harris, Lady Fannie Ratliff, Lady Gloria B. Smith, Lady Jacqueline Wray, Lady Jeriah H. Bogan, Lady Kaia Collins-Frye, Lady Kimberly A. Murray-Floyd, Lady Natalie Sharpe, Lady OnJerya T. Smith, Lady Teresa A. Smith, Lady Veronica Richardson and Lady Vikki Andrews. The Chapter Organizer is Lady Teresa A. Smith.

The Sandy Pines North Carolina Chapter is now accepting applications for teens ages 13 to 18 to join the Top Teens of America (TTA) Chapter. If you have a child or know of a child who would be interested in Top Teens of America, please contact Lady Fannie Ratliff at sandypinestopteens@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.tlodinc.org.

A Christmas Story Opens at the Ansonia Theatre on December 7 for Two Weendends. Get Your Tickets Now!

The Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro is preparing for its run of *A Christmas Story* opening Friday, December 7 and playing through Sunday, December 16. This beloved holiday classic is based on the movie of the same name. The memoir, written by Jean Shepherd, tells the story of nine year old Ralphie Parker and his quest to get his dream gift from Santa, a genuine Red Ryder BB gun. Despite warnings from his doting mother, teacher and friends that "he'll shoot his eye out" Ralphie is determined to make his wish come true, all while dealing with his cranky dad and the usual childhood challenges – school, bullies and, UGH, girls.

Caleb Wilson makes his stage debut as Ralphie in what promises to be a dynamite performance. The story is told by grown-up Ralphie, played by Chip Long. Mark Traywick and Terra Medlock of Marshville play Ralphie's parents, and Tyson Leavitt of Wadesboro plays brother Randy.

His best friends, Schwartz and Flick, are played by Greyson Helms of Wadesboro and Austin Taylor of Rockingham. Those ugh! girls are played by Lela Chaney (Helen Weathers) and Cali Green (Esther Jane Alberry). Isaac Clarke plays the infamous bully Scut Farkas. Ralphie's teacher, Miss Shields, is played by Elizabeth Pfeifer. Elizabeth is new to Wadesboro, having just moved here from the District of Columbia area.

This play, which takes place in Hohman, Indiana in the 1940's, has become an American Christmas staple, bringing back Norman Rockwell nostalgia. Come join the wintry exploits with Ralphie as he struggles to make it to Christmas Day with his glasses and his hopes intact.

There are only six performances: Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. There are group rates for parties of 10 or more, so gather your friends and make it an evening out together. Tickets are selling fast so get yours before it's too late! Tickets can be purchased online at ansoniatheatre.com or by calling the box office at 704-694-4950.



Pictured above are Caleb Wilson as Ralphie, Terra Medlock as Mom, Mark Traywick as The Old Man and Tyson Leavitt as Randy.

Wadesboro Christmas Parade is December 1. Entry Forms Due by Tuesday, November 27.

Wadesboro Christmas Parade entry forms are due by Tuesday, November 27. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 1, starting at 2 p.m.

Participant entry forms are available at Wadesboro Town Hall or the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. Vendors must obtain permits from the Town of Wadesboro in order to participate.

For more information or to request an entry form, contact Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. at (704) 695-1644 or email to uptownwadesboro@windstream.net.

Town of Wadesboro Thanksgiving Holiday Schedule

The Town of Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23 to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday.

There will be no garbage pickup on Thursday, November 22 or Friday, November 23. The garbage collection routes for Wednesday and Thursday will be picked up on Wednesday, November 21. The normal collection schedule will resume on Monday, November 26.

The Town of Wadesboro appreciates your consideration in allowing our employees time with their families during this holiday season. As always, you will still be able to leave your utility bill payments in the night deposit box at Town Hall. If you have an emergency, please call Dispatch at 704-694-2167.

Lilesville's Third Annual Christmas in the Park Event is December 11

The Town of Lilesville invites everyone to come to Hatcher Park in Lilesville for the town's annual Christmas in the Park. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, December 11, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Among the activities will be a tree lighting, singing by the Community Children's Choir, train rides for the kids, free hot chocolate and cookies, a live nativity scene and an opportunity to visit with Santa with pictures. We will also have food vendors again this year featuring hot dogs, hamburgers, hot wings, drinks and col-lard sandwiches.

New this year will be different groups of carolers throughout the evening and a Christmas craft for the kids to make and take home.

There will be lots of fun for all ages, and a chance to visit with other members of the community.

The Town of Lilesville invites all kids to join the Community Children's Choir. Practices will be scheduled and posted on Facebook. For more information please contact the Lilesville Town Hall at 704-848-4711.

Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon

It's that time again senior citizens of Anson County! Grace Senior Center's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, and Thursday, December 5 and 6. Both days will start at 11 a.m. and last until 1 p.m. Choose what day you would like to come, then call Grace Senior Center at (704) 694-6616 to register.

Merry Christmas to all from Grace Senior Center!