Extension Notes Healthy Holiday Eating



Food is everywhere during the holiday season, making it tough to stick to your healthful eating and exercise habits. With a little attention, however, you can make it through the holidays without losing track of your healthy lifestyle.

"They" say that the average person gains 5 pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. People often do gain weight during the holidays, but how much weight? One 2000 study of 195 adults showed an average holiday weight gain of between three quarters and one pound. However, 14% of those studied gained five pounds or more. In this study, those who were overweight or obese gained more holiday pounds than those who were normal weight. This research showed that holiday weight gain explained over half of the annual weight gain for those who were in the study.

So, while most people gain less than a pound during the holidays, this weight gain is probably one cause of weight that creeps up from year to year. If you have been losing weight successfully and are dreading the holiday season because you think you will gain weight, here are some ideas to help prevent it.

• The best advice is to change your mindset. Rather than focus on continuing to lose weight during this 6-week period, focus instead on not gaining weight. Consider yourself successful if you continue to exercise regularly and do not gain any weight.

• Remember, the holiday season should be enjoyable, and fine food is one of the pleasures of the season. Instead of depriving yourself, allow yourself to splurge on those foods that make vour holidav season meaningful.

• Enjoy your favorites in small amounts, and try to cut back in other ways. And make an effort to keep your exercise schedule on track. There are many ways to keep your calorie intake under control during the festivities. Try the following tips and see which ones work for you.

• Survey the entire table before you take any food. Decide what foods are worth eating and what can be ignored, and then stick to that decision. Why waste calories on foods that do not bring you pleasure?

• Eat a snack before you leave home. If you arrive at a party starving, you will be more likely to overindulge. Eat your calories instead of drinking them. Stick to lower calorie or caloriefree drinks (diet sodas, water, light beer, or wine spritzer) instead of punches, eggnogs, and mixed drinks that can have up to 500 calories per cup.

• Sip a large glass of water between every alcoholic drink or non-alcoholic punch or egg nog. This will help keep you hydrated and you will drink fewer calories by the end of the night.

• Try not to hang out near the food. Find a comfortable spot across the room and focus on people instead of eating.

• Watch your portion sizes. Do not cover your plate completely with food. In most cases, especially when it comes to holiday sweets and alcoholic beverages, less is better. Drop out of the "clean plate club". Leave a few bites behind every time you eat, especially if you are eating something you do not really care for.

Enjoy your favorite holiday treats but take a small portion, eat slowly, and savor the taste and texture of the wonderful foods of the season. By Janine B. Rywak, County Extension Director

Newport Federal Bank Announces Scholarship in Former Ansonian's Name

Wadesboro, prior to the

Wadesboro Tour of Homes.

Free & open to the public

Deadline to Register

Christmas

Workshop offered by 4-H to

be held Dec 22, 9am-1pm.

You don't have to be enrolled

in 4-H to attend. Register at

Cooperative Extension, 501

Tour

McLaurin St in Wadesboro

Tour of Homes

Arts Council. \$10

DECEMBER 6

come

Christmastime

Craft

of



For

Newport Federal Bank has announced the establishment of the Richard and Margaret Harwood Scholarship. NFB President Chris Triplett, right, made the announcement Monday. Shown with Triplett and the Harwoods, at left, is Dr. Rich Lloyd, Cocke Education County Foundation President.

Events

OVEMBER 25 & 26 <u>Big Game Hunt</u>

Sponsored by Anson County Chamber of Commerce. Over \$5,000 in prize money. Info & enter 704-694-4181 **NOVEMBER 26**

Genealogical Society

Meets 2pm in Historical Society Office, 206 E Wade Homes, 4-7pm, beginning at St in Wadesboro w/Cecil Stegall speaking on Harmony **DECEMBER 5** Community Church. Info **Deadline for Contest** 704-475-8857

NOVEMBER 28 Free Movie

Once Upon a Christmas at Hampton B. Allen Library, 10am. Info 704-694-5177 **DECEMBER 1**

Christmas Parade

In uptown Wadesboro, 4.45nm

ONGOING EVENTS

Every Tuesday, 1-4pm in Olde Mill Gallery in Lockhard-Taylor Center. Bring your supplies. Free, donations accepted. 704-694-4950

Childcare Association Meets every 3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30pm. Info 704-695-1666

Women's League Meets The second Tuesday of each month from noon to 1pm at Twin Valley Country Club. Attendees enjoy lunch & speaker. Cost is \$7.50 & all Anson women invited. RSVP Cathy Moore at 704-272-5300





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2006 - 2007 @ 6 1/2% for 63 months; 2004 - 2005 @ 9.9% for 54 months. \$1,800 cash or trade WAC; certain conditions apply; 760 or higher Beacon;

does not include tax, tag, title & \$169 doc fee. * Based on Ford certified used car credit.

DECEMBER 2 Zimmer Friends

Meet at Lady Bug Restaurant, 6pm

DECEMBER 3

<u>Christmas Party</u>

Woodmen of the World at Lodge Hall, 6pm w/special guest singer Tony King. Tickets available at WOW office, 205 W. Morgan St **DECEMBER 4**

Anson Singers

Perform at 3pm at First United Methodist Church in

DECEMBER 8 <u>Senior Citizen</u> <u>Christmas</u> Luncheon, 11am in Ingram Lockhart-Taylor Room at in Wadesboro. Center Register 704-694-6616 **DECEMBER 16** Youth Basketball Registration

Library or 704-694-5431

Bluegrass Christmas

Deadline. Register at Little Park, M-F, 8:30am-5pm. Ages K-12, boys & girls, \$25 per player. 704-694-5868

Day Friday - All You Can Eat Calabash Shrimp **Country Style Fish** Shrimp Fish \$799 **599** SEAFOOD KITCHEN 126 West Caswell Street in Wadesboro



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