

Holiday Play to be Presented at the Ansonia December 6

Octavia Plays is excited to announce the upcoming performances of the holiday play entitled *What Really Happens the Night Before Christmas?* These performances will be held at the Ansonia Theatre in uptown Wadesboro on Saturday, December 6. To kick-off the holiday season, two shows will be presented - a matinee performance at 2 p.m. and an evening performance at 6 p.m.

This unique play was written, produced and directed by Lilesville native and Wadesboro resident, Charlette Rhue Bennett. In it, she offers intriguing insights into the lives of ordinary people by revealing what they are doing at exactly 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Bennett said, "As I was thinking about the poem *The Night Before Christmas* God posed an awesome question to me. That question was this: 'What really happens the night before Christmas?' He did not say 'nights' or 'weeks.' He specified 'night.' Singular. That, to me, denoted some sort of urgency ... an urgency that only those who would understand. I knew immediately what my objective would be for this Christmas play. God wanted me to glimpse into the lives of various fictional families and friends to reveal the struggles, the fears, the sorrows, the joys, the triumphs and other situations that engulf real people. If we only knew what other people go through, not only the night before Christmas, but the night before their dawn. What are they doing? What are they thinking? Where are they going? No one knows what goes on behind closed doors. But just this evening, let us imagine that we do."

Bennett, a graduate of Wake Forest University, is owner and operator of Rhue's Too! Beauty Salon which she founded in 1986. She has an eye for all things creative, and upon writing a Christmas play for her church, realized that she had a passion for writing - creating characters and situations to tell stories familiar to many. She has shared several plays.

Tickets are \$10 and available at Lacy's, Trendsettaz, Nu Expressions and Rhue's Too! Beauty Salon. For more information call 910-997-2559.

A Golden Christmas at Reed Gold Mine December 6

Take a candlelight tour during daylight hours at the Reed Gold Mine at "A Golden Christmas" celebration Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. See how miners in the early 1800s would have celebrated the holidays and the Germanic origins of some holiday traditions that have lasted through today. The free program will include locally produced crafts, refreshments from the Cabarrus County Extension and Community Association, and a chance to make donations to help those in need in the community.

John Reed arrived in the area in 1782 as a Hessian deserter, and found a familiar language and culture since many German families settled in Cabarrus County. Many of the miners shared this ancestry and the program will explore some of the social aspects of their lives. Cornish and Scotch Irish traditions also were prevalent and will be part of the program.

In addition to celebrating local history, local artisans will be featured. Visitors can support local craftsmen and shop for items including quilts, lace, toys, and other products. Food donations are being accepted also in partnership with Cooperative Christian Ministry to help neighbors experiencing difficulties. Donations of plastic bags, peanut butter, rice and paper towels are being accepted.

"A Golden Christmas" will celebrate old and new traditions, local crafts, and a community that helps its neighbors. The free program is supported by The Fresh House and Reed Expansion Committee.

Reed Gold Mine will be closed Dec. 24-26.

Reed Gold Mine preserves the site of the first documented discovery of gold in the United States. Restored mine tunnels are shown to visitors by interpreters who share the story of that first discovery and the work of the miners to retrieve gold. Reed Gold mine further interprets the history of North Carolina's mining heritage through exhibits, special events and off-site presentations.

For additional information, please call (704) 721-4653 or email reed@ncdcr.gov. Reed Gold Mine is located at 9621 Reed Mine Rd., Midland. It is 12 miles southeast of Concord, 25 miles east of Charlotte and 18 miles west of Albemarle. Reed is part of the Division of State Historic Sites within the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

Anson Writers' Club Contest Now Accepting Entries

The Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC) is pleased to announce its Twenty-Fifth Contest in Prose and Poetry. The ACWC will award over \$400 in prize money to the winners of the annual writing contests.

First, second and third place winners in the adult prose and adult poetry categories will receive \$50, \$30 and \$20, respectively. Youth winners (grades 10-12) will receive \$20, \$15 and \$10, respectively. Grades 3-6 and Grades 7-9 will compete separately in the children's division. Prizes are \$15, \$10 and \$5, respectively, for prose and poetry winners in both categories.

All winners will receive a certificate suitable for framing and will be honored at a reception for friends and family on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015. Winning entries of the contests will be published in an anthology, *Anson Pathways IX*, which will be released in 2016. Previous issues of *Anson Pathways*, which has been published every three years since 1991, are available at the Anson County Arts Council.

The adult contests are open to anyone residing in, having resided in, attending school in or working in Anson County; or members of the ACWC. There is a \$1 entry fee, which is waived for students at any institution of higher learning.

There is no entry fee for students. Entries will be accepted from students living in or attending school in Anson County. Rules and entry forms will be provided to all schools.

Deadline for the 2014 contests is 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 8. A complete copy of the rules and an entry form that must accompany each entry are available at the Hampton B. Allen Library, the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, or by writing to ACWC 2014 Contests, P.O. Box 363, Wadesboro, N.C., 28170 (enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope).

The contest co-chairmen urge writers to study the contest rules carefully. In past years, not follow instructions. For more information, call contest co-chairmen Kaye Ratliff at 704-694-5431 or Beverley Getzen at 704-694-7022.

Holiday Movies at the Theatre on the Green

The Cheraw Arts Commission presents three movies during the holidays. *The Polar Express*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* cartoon and National Lampoon's *Christmas Vacation* will be the featured selections.

The Polar Express will be shown on Friday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. A young boy rides a magical train to the North Pole. PJ's are the appropriate attire for the movie (G rating). A donation of \$2 per person is welcomed.

Who-Bulation is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at 11 a.m. The classic cartoon from the 60's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* will be featured. \$5 includes cocoa and cookie following the movie at the River's Edge Restaurant.

Havoc ensues as Clark Griswold plans the perfect Christmas as his family during National Lampoon's *Christmas Vacation*. Attendees are encouraged to wear tacky sweaters on Thursday, December 18- 7pm. Prizes will be awarded! Donation of \$2 per person is welcomed. This hilarious movie is rated PG-13.

Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission for additional information about the movies at 843-537-8420 ext. 12.

Celebrate the Season with Sweet Potato Pie's Home Grown Christmas

The Ansonia Theatre has another great show in the wings. On Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. the popular band Sweet Potato Pie will bring their Home Grown Christmas show to our local stage. Sweet Potato Pie is an all female band specializing in bluegrass, country and gospel music. Playing traditional bluegrass instruments, the Pie is best known for their vocal harmonies and original music. Earning the nickname the "Sweethearts of Bluegrass," these girls know how to entertain.

Their shows incorporate humor, stories and lots of good toe-tapping music. With their set of traditional songs mixed with their original music you have a delicious concoction that will please any audience. While the girls describe their music as "sweetgrass," their listeners just call it "lip smacking good!" No matter what you call it, one taste of Sweet Potato Pie and you'll be begging for more.

Tickets (\$15) are on sale now at the Anson County Arts Council in Wadesboro, Monday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. (This event is included in the 2014-15 season ticket series.) Tickets will go fast, so get yours today! Info at 704-694-4950.

Compassionate Friends

Candlelight Service is December 14

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for anyone who has lost a child of any age, will hold their annual Worldwide Candlelight Service at Calvary Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 14 at 7 p.m. This service is for honor children who have died from any cause.

For more information please contact Irvin Thompson at 704-694-8774.

Are You the Best Outdoor Christmas Decorator?

In the December 24 edition of The Express Newspaper we will unveil the winner of the "Best Outdoor Christmas Decorations in All its Christmases." Wouldn't you love to see your home pictured in all its Christmas glory? If you win, that is exactly what you will receive, full recognition in our Christmas Eve special edition.

A panel of judges will be looking for the most beautiful decorations throughout the county - in search of creativity and beauty as their chief criteria for winning. If you or someone you know would like to be considered, please contact The Express at 704-694-2480 by the deadline on Monday, December 22.

Good luck decorators! Remember, all judges' decisions are final, so don't be a scrooge and deck the halls, the porches and the yards! *By Melanie Lyon*

Veterans Christmas Party to be Held on December 12

A Christmas party will be held for veterans on Friday, December 12 at 6 p.m. at the National Guard Armory, located on Anson High School Road in Wadesboro. All veterans and spouses are invited.

Special recognition will be given to our oldest war veterans, those from World War II.

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FREE Visit with Santa

at Anson County Partnership for Children immediately following the parade. All children are invited to visit with Santa and receive a FREE Christmas book. Line-up will take place at Anson County Partnership for Children (across from the library). Parents are welcome to take photos of their children with Santa at NO CHARGE. Santa will mail a letter to your child's home address following their visit. We hope to see you there!

Thursday, Dec. 4th
Immediately following the parade



* Children will receive a free book and letter from Santa at ACPC only*

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