

Anson County Writers' Club Welcomes New Members

The Anson County Writers' Club meets on the fourth Sunday of each month, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, except in July and December. All meetings are open to the public. New members of all ages are welcome. For more information call Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211 or email sandybruney@gmail.com.

Better Business Bureau Warns About "Juice Jacking"

Just in time for the holiday season, scammers have found a new way to get your tinsel in a tangle. It's called "juice-jacking." As if the stress and chaos of shopping and traveling isn't enough, this new scam is popping up in airports, hotels and shopping malls. The scam is tied into our dependence on our smartphones. Say, after a long day of traveling and surviving the hustle and bustle of gift searching, you take a glance at your phone to notice your battery is drained. A dead cell phone is pretty much useless and is a nightmare when you are away from home trying to get things done.

The Better Business Bureau warns holiday travelers and shoppers about "juice jacking." This is how it works: your phone is dead but, lucky you, there's a convenient USB charging station nearby. You plug in to charge up — and breathe a sigh of relief watching the battery power increase bit by bit.

But, what no one can see is what's on the other end of the USB cable. USB cables allow for smartphones to charge up, but they also allow for the transfer of data. This is risky business when that data ends up in malicious hands. Con-artists have developed a way to convert these charging stations into data-transfer ports. Malicious devices may be hidden behind the kiosk.

In "juice jacking" two things can happen once you've plugged in:
 • First, malware can be injected into the device. Malware is a virus that can affect phones in many ways, including locking up your phone and holding it hostage. It also gives hackers access to the personal data stored on your phone.
 • Alternatively, but equally harmful, personal information can be extracted. When plugging in via USB, your phone will want to sync with the device you're connected to. The process of pairing means copying over your personal data which includes, photos, contacts and account information.

Neither one of these outcomes is good news for you or your phone. But have no fear, here's what you can do to avoid it:

- When in public, charge your phone from a wall outlet using the power adapter. Avoid charging via USB cables, especially those connected to charging stations.
- Consider purchasing and bringing a personal power charger with you for long travel days. This keeps everything in your own hands.
- Pay attention to alerts popping up on your phone. Once you plug in, you may get asked "Trust this computer?" With the tap of a button you can block or allow access to your data.
- Make sure you are updating your phone's software. Often, these updates include security patches that make your device more secure.

Holiday Travel Safety Tips

This is the season for cheerful giving, but travel safety is important for any time of the year. According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), last year more than 112 million Americans were expected to travel for the holidays. This year that number is anticipated to increase by at least 2 million.

To keep you safe on the roads during your end-of-the-year celebrations, the North Carolina Department of Transportation encourages all drivers to:

- Never drink and drive. Always have a designated driver, use a ride sharing service, or call a taxi if you do plan to drink.
- Map your route in advance and be prepared for busy roads. If possible, consider leaving earlier or later to avoid heavy traffic. DriveNC.gov is an excellent resource for real-time travel information.
- Don't drive distracted. Put the phone away. Disconnect and drive. Avoid behaviors such as eating, applying make-up and adjusting the navigation system.
- Have your roadside assistance contact information on hand in case an incident occurs on the road. The NCDOT State Farm Safety Patrol is also available to provide free assistance regardless of your insurance provider.
- Keep a cell phone and charger with you at all times, in case of emergency.
- Obey traffic safety laws: Wear your seatbelt. Don't speed. Drive according to the weather and road conditions.
- With more traffic, expect delays and incidents on the side of the road. Obey the Move Over Law which states:

The law requires motorists slow down and approach cautiously when an emergency vehicle is stopped on the shoulder of the roadway with its lights flashing. Motorists are required to move over to another lane away from the emergency vehicle on a multi-lane highway or slow down on a two lane highway and can do so safely. Motorists must slow down while maintaining a safe speed.

- Be patient. Understand that everyone is in a hurry to get to their destination. Use turn signals and give drivers space.

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Afterschool

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center offers professional afterschool care daily at the Kid's Cafe from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Children enjoy activities, hot meals and help with homework if they need it. Drop-ins are welcome.

For more information contact BRLC. They are located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

Expecting a Drone This Holiday? Fly Safe and Legal with These Tips

Drones are a popular holiday gift, but it's important new drone owners take time to know how to safely fly an unmanned aircraft.

More than 30,000 North Carolinians now own and operate drones for recreational use. With this number growing, the N.C. Department of Transportation is reminding drone pilots to follow safety precautions because drones can be dangerous to others if they are not operated properly.

"It's amazing how much can be done with a drone these days," said NCDOT Director of Aviation Bobby Walston. "We've just got to make sure everyone is aware that they're more than just a toy and need to be flown responsibly."

As such, NCDOT's Division of Aviation has provided the following tips to help pilots make sure they're flying safely and legally:

- Always fly under 400 feet above ground level
- Never fly near airports
- Avoid flying over events or crowds
- Don't fly at night, even if your drone has lights
- Never fly directly over people
- Don't fly near or above prisons
- Respect people's privacy
- Always keep the drone within your visual line of sight

By following these guidelines, drone pilots can be more confident that their flights are safe and legal. Pilots should also take the time to learn about the state and federal laws governing drones (available at ncdot.gov), as well as local restrictions in their area, before taking off.

North Carolinians interested in flying a drone for commercial or government operations must obtain a permit from the N.C. Division of Aviation. Before applying, prospective users must pass NCDOT's UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) Knowledge Test (available at ncdot.gov).



The permitting system began in 2016 and is designed to help drone owners better understand restrictions on drone use through a simple and efficient online process.

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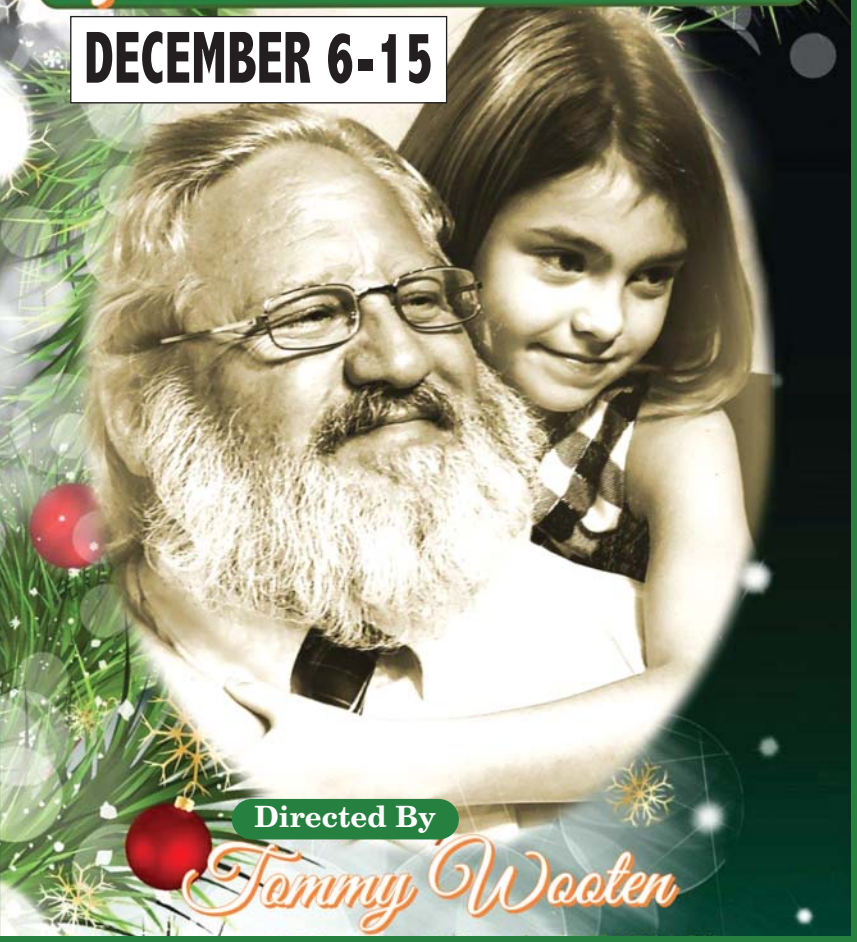
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BEST HOMEMADE FLOAT TROPHY

Thursday, December 5, 2019
Greene Street in Wadesboro, NC
Parade starts at 4:00 p.m.

BEST BAND TROPHY

UPTOWN WINDOW DECORATING COMPETITION

After the parade:

Hot Dog Plates for participants at the Ball Field
Christmas Tree Lighting & Hot Chocolate on the Square



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
7 PM Around the Globe



Bring a photograph and join the local chapter of the Compassionate Friends at Calvary Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 8 at 7 p.m. for the ceremony in honor of deceased children.