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Wadesboro Christmas Parade is Chilly and Bright...and Lots of Fun!

Wadesboro's annual Christmas Parade on Thursday, December 3, was a chilly and bright occasion both for those watching the merriment and for those who helped to make the merriment by participating! In the days prior Anson County had experienced rainy, foggy, dreary conditions, but thankfully the sun peeked through on parade day and the sky remained bright with just a bit of chill in the air. Everyone snuggled in to watch and enjoy the fantastic parade, brought to us by the Wadesboro Chamber of Commerce. And, the chill helped make it feel more like the arrival of Christmas for all. The town looked lovely with the streets and trees aglow with Christmas lights, made more beautiful by the beaming faces of children watching and waving and shouting Merry Christmas!



Anson Has New County Manager

After conducting an extensive search for a county manager since the retirement of Lawrence Gatewood, the Anson Board of Commissioners unanimously selected Ms. Megan M. Garner of Vass in Moore County, NC for the job during their December 1 board meeting. Garner is a graduate of East Carolina University where she earned a BS in Political Science and a Masters of Public Administration. In addition, she holds certificates from the NC School of Government in Municipal and County Administration, Clerk's Certification Institute, and Budgeting and Financial Planning, Annual Budget Preparation and Enactment. Garner currently is the Administrative Services Manager in the Public Works Department for Moore County. She also has experience as a Grants Administrator. The new county manager expects to start work on Monday, January 4. Anson Board of Commissioners Chairman Anna Baumgardner said, "We ask our community to join us in welcoming Megan Garner to Anson County government."

Open Enrollment Period for Health Insurance Ends December 15

Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin reminds North Carolinians who purchase individual health insurance coverage to take advantage of the open enrollment period to compare plans and choose coverage. The open enrollment period for 2016 coverage began on November 1 and ends January 31, 2016. In order to have coverage effective January 1, 2016, you must enroll by December 15, 2015. "I encourage people to take action during the open enrollment period," Goodwin said. "Look at your options and decide if it's in your best interest to keep the plan you had last year, switch to another plan or change insurance companies." If you do not get health coverage through your employer or Medicare, you can buy coverage in the individual market on the federal exchange at www.healthcare.gov. The exchange also determines if you are eligible for any subsidies, cost-sharing reductions or coverage through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. If you purchased individual health insurance last year, you will be auto-enrolled in the same or similar plan unless you select a different plan. However, you should still verify your information, confirm your subsidy eligibility and look at the available policies. There may be a new option that is less expensive or better suits your needs. When choosing a plan, it's also important to check to see which medical providers (physicians, hospitals, labs, pharmacies, etc.) you may visit to receive covered care. You may also purchase individual coverage off the exchange through an agent or broker or directly from an insurance company, but you will not be eligible for subsidies. If you have questions about health insurance, contact the North Carolina Department of Insurance at 855-408-1212 or learn more at www.ncdoi.com. For questions related directly to enrollment through the federal exchange, contact 1-800-318-2596 or visit www.healthcare.gov/contact-us.

Anson Parks and Recreation Men's Basketball & Men's Wiffle Ball

Anson County Parks and Recreation would like to know who is interested in Men's Basketball and a new program, Men's Wiffle Ball. If you are interested in participating in one or both sports, contact Jeff Waisner 704-695-2550, Wendell Small 704-695-2782 or Morris Gatewood 704-694-5751.

Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo games are held every third Tuesday of the month at Grace Senior Center at 1 p.m. All seniors are invited to attend for fun and fellowship. For more information or to register to play call the center at 704-694-6616.

Candidates Who Have Filed for Office as of December 4

- US SENATE (REP) - Paul Wright, Dudley NC & Richard Burr, Winston-Salem
- US SENATE (DEM) - Deborah K. Ross, Raleigh
- US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 08 (REP) - Richard Hudson, Concord
- NC LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (DEM) - Linda Coleman, Knightdale NC
- NC ATTORNEY GENERAL (DEM) - Josh Stein, Raleigh
- NC AUDITOR (DEM) - Beth A. Wood, Raleigh
- NC COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE (REP) - Steve Troxler, Summit NC
- NC COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE (DEM) - Walter Smith, Yadkinville NC
- NC COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE (REP) - Mike Causey, Greensboro & Ronald (Ron) Pierce, Charlotte
- NC COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE (DEM) - Wayne Goodwin, Raleigh
- NC COMMISSIONER OF LABOR (REP) - Cherie Berry, Newton NC
- NC COMMISSIONER OF LABOR (DEM) - Charles Meeker, Raleigh
- NC SECRETARY OF STATE (REP) - A. J. Daoud, Pilot Mountain NC
- NC SECRETARY OF STATE (DEM) - Elaine Marshall, Lillington NC
- NC SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (REP) - Mark Johnson, Winston-Salem & Rosemary Stein, Snow Camp NC
- NC SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DEM) - June Atkinson, Raleigh & Henry J. Pankey, Durham
- NC TREASURER (REP) - Dale R. Folwell, Winston-Salem
- NC TREASURER (DEM) - Ron Elmer, Cary NC
- NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 25 (REP) - Tom McInnis, Ellerbe
- NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 055 (REP) - Mark Brody, Monroe
- ANSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 (DEM) - Bobby Sikes, Wadesboro
- ANSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (DEM) - Ross Streater, Morven
- ANSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 6 (DEM) - Jarvis T. Woodburn, Wadesboro
- ANSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 7 (DEM) - Harold C. Smith, Wadesboro
- ANSON COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS (DEM) - Joanne S. Huntley, Wadesboro
- ANSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 1 (DEM) - Shane Drake, Wadesboro & Mike Turner, Wadesboro & Patty Williams, Polkton
- ANSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 3 (DEM) - Beulah Pratt, Morven
- ANSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 6 (DEM) - Frank Liles, Wadesboro
- ANSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 7 (DEM) - Carol Ann Gibson, Wadesboro
- NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE (STEPHENS) - Linda Stephens, Raleigh
- NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE (DIETZ) - Richard Dietz, Winston-Salem & Vince Rozier, Raleigh
- NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE (ZACHARY) - Valerie Zachary, Yadkinville & Abe Jones, Raleigh & Rickye McKoy-Mitchell, Charlotte
- NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 16A (STONE) - Michael (Mike) Stone, Raeford NC
- NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 16A (THACKER) - Lisa Blue Thacker, Polkton
- NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 16A (WILSON) - Amanda L. (Amy) Wilson, Rockingham

The Compassionate Friends Invite You to Their Worldwide Candle Lighting Service

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for those who have lost a child of any age, cordially invites you and your family to their annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Service. This event unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit at 7:00 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon. May their light always shine. Now believed to be the largest mass candle lighting on the globe, the 19th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. This event started in the United States in 1997 as a small internet observance, but has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance. Hundreds of formal candle lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten. The Compassionate Friends and allied organizations are joined by local bereavement groups, churches, funeral homes, hospitals, hospices, children's gardens, schools, cemeteries and community centers. Services have ranged in size from just a few people to nearly a thousand. Locally the event will take place at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro, located at 308 West Wade Street this Sunday, December 13 at 7 p.m. Please bring a photograph of your child, your family and friends, and party refreshments to share for the fellowship that will follow the candle lighting. For more information call Ken Caulder at 704-694-2524.

School Board Meeting is Monday, December 14

Please note that the meeting times are changed for this meeting. The Anson County School Board will hold its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, December 14 at the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. The meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m. with a short Open Session. Closed session will begin at 3:45 p.m. Open Session to the public begins at 4:30 p.m.

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Christmas Music by John Tyson

Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, December 14 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. There will be a program of Christmas music presented by John Tyson, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church. You are invited to come, bring a friend and enjoy the wonderful music. For more information call the library at 704-694-5177.

Brown Bag Book Club Meets December 21

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, December 21 at noon in the Pritchett Room at Hampton B. Allen Library for a covered dish lunch and author talk. The author is Annette Reynolds, a "South Carolinian by birth and by choice." She has written a book, *Trudy and the Bahá'ís' spiritual Path in South Carolina*. This is a free event, and everyone is invited to attend, bring a dish, a spouse and/or friend and enjoy the fellowship. For more information call the library at 704-694-5177.

Raffle in Support of the Anson County Animal Shelter

Help support the Anson County Animal Shelter by purchasing a raffle ticket. There are prizes from several businesses in Anson County, Bojangles, IGA, KFC, Lady Bug Restaurant, Lacy's, H.W. Little & Company, Tractor Supply and La Fogata. One ticket costs \$1 or you can get 6 tickets for \$5. The drawing will be held on December 31. Tickets can be purchased at the Animal Shelter or at the Anson County Health Department. For more information call 704-994-2738 or 704-694-5188.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com