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

Ansonia Theatre is in the Running for Several Broadway World Awards

You can vote for our local theatre!

The Ansonia Theatre is nominated for eight different awards in the Broadway World Charlotte Awards.

Broadway World is the largest theatre site on the internet, covering Broadway, the West End and beyond to 100 US cities, 45 countries and in 12 languages worldwide. The site has over six million monthly visitors.

You can vote for the Ansonia at: broadwayworld.com/charlotte/voteregion.cfm. Don't forget to confirm the email once you have voted!

Tommy Wooten Director of the Ansonia Theatre wrote, "We are honored to be nominated amongst many talented people from all over our big region! Please vote."

Here are the categories the Ansonia is participating in:

- Best Costume Design Of A Play Or Musical - Britany Price *Into the Woods*
- Best Direction Of A Musical - Tommy Wooten *Into the Woods*
- Best Ensemble - *Into the Woods*
- Best Musical - *Into the Woods*
- Best Performer In A Play - Amanda Traywick *Pageant Play*
- Best Supporting Performer In A Musical - Tyler Willis *Into the Woods*
- Best Supporting Performer In A Musical - Lauren Wilson *Into the Woods*
- Favorite Local Theatre - Ansonia Theatre

Statewide Holiday 'Booze It & Lose It' Enforcement Campaign

This holiday season, the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program joins local and state law enforcement to urge drivers against impaired driving. The statewide "Booze It & Lose It" campaign, which began Monday and ends on January 1, aims to raise awareness and deter people from driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs and all impairing substances.

"Festivities this time of year often involve alcohol consumption, which unfortunately leads to an increased risk of impaired driving," said Mark Ezzell, director of GHSP. "More than 25 percent of all N.C. crash fatalities in 2022 involved drivers who were under the influence of alcohol."

According to the N.C. Department of Transportation, 471 alcohol related crash fatalities occurred in 2022. The "Booze It & Lose It" campaign is a sobering reminder that there are severe consequences for reckless behavior. Now until Jan 1., law enforcement agencies throughout the state will increase the number of sobriety checkpoints and patrols in heavily trafficked areas. These checkpoints reinforce the message that there is a zero-tolerance approach toward driving under the influence.

"The most important thing is to have a transportation plan before consumption of alcohol or drugs," said Jennifer Lichtneger, executive director of NC Mothers Against Drunk Driving. "It is essential to plan a safe ride before heading out. If you wait until after you've been drinking, you will already be too impaired to make the right decisions."

Plenty of options are available to help drivers arrive safely at their destination, like designating a sober driver or calling a taxi or rideshare service. Visit this webpage to search for all available public transportation in any North Carolina city or county.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets December 19

The Anson County Board of Commissioners now meets two times per month. The second regular meeting for December will be held on Tuesday, December 19 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Once Again...Perfect Weather, Happy People for the Wadesboro Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Village

The Morven Elementary School float pictured below is just one of many floats and other festive participants in the 2023 Wadesboro Christmas Parade that was held on Thursday, December 7.

Look for lots more parade pictures in the Wednesday, December 27 Express!



REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PETS WARM. BRING THEM INSIDE OR PROVIDE SHELTER.

covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.

- Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls rather than metal; when the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.
- Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.
- The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe the feet with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates his/her mouth.
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that may attract animals and children. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze (and all household chemicals) out of reach. Better yet, use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol; if swallowed in small amounts, it will not hurt pets, wildlife, or your family.
- Probably the best prescription for winter's woes is to keep your dog or cat inside with you and your family. The happiest dogs are those who are taken out frequently for walks and exercise but kept inside the rest of the time. Dogs and cats are social animals who crave human companionship. Your animal companions deserve to live indoors with you and your family.

Protect Your Pets from Winter Woes

In many areas, winter is a season of bitter cold and numbing wetness. Help your pets remain happy and healthy during the colder months by following these simple guidelines.

- Don't leave dogs and cats outdoors when the temperature drops. Most dogs, and all cats, are safer indoors, except when taken out for exercise. Regardless of the season, shorthaired, very young, or old dogs and all cats should never be left outside without supervision. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks.
- No matter what the temperature, windchill can threaten a pet's life. A dog or cat is happiest and healthiest when kept indoors. If your dog is an outdoor dog, however, he/she must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his/her body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center's Community Christmas Blessing Event is this Sunday, December 17

Harvest Ministries is focused on their 19th annual Community Christmas Blessing event which will be held at Harvest on Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m. At this event every child will receive a Christmas toy, as well as many other prizes and opportunities for families to receive a Christmas Blessing.

For more information or to donate to this cause please contact Pastor Steve Adams at 704-695-2879.

Partnership for Children Barn Blast Set for January 26

Get your tickets now for an evening of fun!

Caroline Goins, Executive Director of the Anson County Partnership for Children said, "We are excited to invite you to the annual Barn Blast fundraiser in support of the children of Anson County. This event promises to be a night of fun and entertainment, all for a great cause."

The evening will kick off with a live auction featuring a wide range of exciting items up for bid. From unique experiences to valuable collectibles, there's something for everyone. Following the auction, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Jon G's. And of course, no fundraiser is complete without some dancing! So, put on your dancing shoes and get ready to groove the night away.

The event will be held at the SPCC Lockhart-Taylor Center on Friday, January 26, from 6 to 11:30 p.m.

Your contribution will make a significant impact on the lives of Anson County children and families, providing them with educational resources, programs, and much-needed support.

Goins concluded, "Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at the Barn Blast!"

You can get more information and purchase tickets by visiting: www.AnsonChildren.org or calling 704-694-4036.

Sgt. Tamika Nolen is Wadesboro Police Department Officer of the Year

On Friday December 1 the Wadesboro Police Department held its annual Christmas party. The highlight of this festive event was the recognition of Sergeant Tamika Nolen as Officer of the Year.

In a release, the Wadesboro Police Department said this, "Sgt. Nolen embodied leadership, integrity, empathy and attention to detail throughout the year. These principles define what a police officer should be and we're proud that Sgt. Nolen represents Wadesboro."



Veterans Christmas Party

All veterans and guest are invited to the Veterans Christmas Party to be held on Friday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. at Empowering Word Ministries, located at 1168 Highway 52 South.

For information contact Judy Cox at coxjudy@windstream.net.

Beginner Beekeeping Class Offered

The Anson County Extension Office is offering a Beginner's Beekeeping class starting on Tuesday, January 30. The 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. classes will be held every Tuesday through March 5 at the Anson County Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro.

The cost is \$35 for individuals, \$40 for families. For information about the class, to register and to make payment, please contact Aimee Colf at 704-694-2915.

For more information about the Anson County Beekeepers, visit their Facebook page, "Anson Beekeepers Association."

Sittercise Class at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a sittercise (chair exercise) class on Thursday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m. with instructor Sheila Raye. The class will be in the library's Pritchett room.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177!

COVID-19 Information

To stay up to date on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit covid19.ncd-hhs.gov or text COVIDNC to 898211. Call 2-1-1 (or 888-892-1162) for general questions or for help finding human services resources in your community.

For a national perspective, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.

For a world-wide perspective, visit the World Health Organization website at www.who.int.

