

Tickets for the 10th annual Barn Blast fundraiser are available now at the Anson County Partnership for Children! The 2016 Barn Blast will be held on Friday, January 29, from 5 to 11:30 p.m. in the Ingram Room at SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. This fundraising event features dinner, dancing, drinks, silent auctions, a live auction and lots of western themed fun.

General admission tickets are \$60 each. After January 1 general admission tickets will not be sold. Be sure to purchase your Barn Blast tickets early before they sell out!

All profits from the Barn Blast are used in Anson County for the Partnership's many programs for young children. These programs include Dolly Parton's Imagination Library which mails a book each month to over 1,100 children in Anson County and the new ReadyRosie program that provides daily videos that model literacy and math activities.

For tickets or more information about the 2016 Barn Blast, please call or come by the Anson County Partnership for Children, located at 117 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. The number is 704 694-4036. www.ansonchildren.org

How Concerned Should You Be About Kissing Bugs?

Here's what NC State experts have to say

Recent news reports that a "deadly" bug has been found in North Carolina seem to be causing unnecessary alarm, according to NC State University entomologists. That's because many people are getting the disease-carrying triatomine bug, or kissing bug, confused with other bugs. The kissing bug is known to carry a parasite that causes Chagas disease, which affects millions of people a year, mainly in Central and South America, says Dr. Matt Bertone, with NC State University's Plant Disease and Insect Clinic. But, he adds, "In North Carolina, you have almost no chance of contracting the disease from these native bugs."



Bertone and Dr. Michael Waldvogel, a professor and specialist with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at NC State, say they've been inundated with calls and messages concerning the kissing bug, and the main thing they want people to know is that using pesticides to guard against the bug is unnecessary. As Bertone explains in a blog post at ncsupdicblog.blogspot.com, cases in the United States are rare, and most have been diagnosed from people who traveled here from outside the country.

Instead of using pesticides, Waldvogel recommends the following strategies for keeping kissing bugs from entering homes, especially in rural areas where there are more mammal hosts:

- Reduce the amount of debris and vegetation directly around the home; wood and leaf piles, stacked rocks and other habitats that attract rodents can also harbor the bugs.
- Repair cracks and gaps in homes; use weather stripping on points of entry such as windows and doors, and make sure window screens are intact and holes are repaired.
- If you suspect kissing bugs are in your home, inspect racks and tight spaces, specially in bedrooms
- Because lights will sometimes attract kissing bugs, minimizing the amount of lights on at night will help to "cloak" homes.

But as Bertone points out, "Although these preventive measures will help reduce the chances of coming into contact with kissing bugs, in reality it is very unlikely you would ever come into contact with one of these insects anyway."

In his blog post Bertone explains there are two species of kissing bugs that are native to the state and feed on the blood of vertebrate hosts. Their name comes from the fact that when the bugs feed on humans at night, they prefer the face, specially the lips and eyes. Their bites don't initially hurt but often become itchy, swollen and sometimes painful.

Kissing bugs are around one inch long when fully grown and somewhat flattened when not fed. They don't have mandibles or chewing mouthparts, but instead they have a long, straw-like rostrum used to suck liquids. The sides of their abdomen and thorax are striped, alternating black and orange/red (sometimes even pink in hue), Bertone writes. "The legs of kissing bugs are thin compared to most assassin bugs, likely because they do not need to grab prey but instead must be able to move quickly."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommends that if you think you've found a kissing bug, to not touch or squash it. Instead, place a container on top of the bug, slide the big inside and fill the container with rubbing alcohol or, if alcohol is not available, freeze the bug in the container. Then you can take it to your county Cooperative Extension center, health department or university lab, such as NC State's Plant Disease and Insect Clinic.

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Anson County Health Department

Job Posting

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Description of Work Reporting to the Animal Services Director, these positions are responsible for caring for and feeding animals at the Animal Shelter; cleaning kennels, cages, etc.; and clerical duties as instructed by the Animal Services Director.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Excellent interpersonal skills, reliability, and the ability to perform physically and mentally demanding work are essential for success in this position. Minimum knowledge, skills and abilities include:

- Handling animals humanely, caringly and safely
- Cleaning of kennels and cages
- Answering telephone (always with a smile)
- Preparing and maintaining accurate records
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with the public and other employees
- Operating/using safely and accurately department approved equipment and devices
- Using fax machine, copier and computers.
- Promoting quality customer service
- Working well in a team oriented work environment

Minimum Training and Experience Requirements Graduation from high school.

Candidate must have a valid North Carolina driver's license and a good driving record. The animal services department is a 7 day-a-week operation that will require weekend, holiday and variable shift hours to be worked.

The ideal candidate understands the value of personal responsibility, mutual respect and teamwork, honesty and integrity, positive communications, punctuality and exemplary attendance, and is motivated to deliver excellence in overall performance.

An Anson County Government Application must be completed and sent to:

Anson County Health Department
PO Box 473
Wadesboro, NC 28170

PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG / ALCOHOL TESTING
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Anson County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of service.

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