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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### Lilesville Fire Department Receives \$155,000 in Grants

The Lilesville Fire Department will be receiving two grants totalling \$155,041. The grants are from the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, according to Lilesville Fire Chief Randy Henry. Assistant Fire Chief Marty K. Morton, Jr. applied for the grants.

"We are very proud and fortunate to receive this funding. While the Lilesville Fire Department is the direct beneficiary of these grants, all the citizens of Lilesville and Anson County are the true beneficiaries," stated Henry.

"We will be receiving an Operations and Safety Grant, as well as a vehicle acquisition grant," added Morton. "Both grants will be used to replace outdated equipment as well as our brush truck. These grants are critical to our department in order for us to continue providing fire protection for the citizens of Lilesville."

Both Henry and Morton wished to thank the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program as well as Congressman Robin Hayes for working with them.

### Hunting, Trapping, Fishing Proposals to Get Public Review in Norwood

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will hold a public hearing for comments on proposed changes to 84 hunting, fishing and trapping regulations on Thursday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m., at South Stanly High School in Norwood. After collecting and reviewing all public comments, the 19 members of the state Wildlife Commission will meet in March and vote whether to adopt the revised rules. If approved, the revised rules will go into effect July 1, 2008.

A proposal of interest to catfish anglers is the implementation of a one-fish creel limit on blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length in Lake Norman and Badin Lake that would protect older and larger fish while allowing anglers to harvest the smaller ones.

Deer hunters may be interested in the proposed regulation to move those portions of Richmond and Moore counties currently in the Moderate Either-Sex Deer Season to the Maximum Either-Sex Deer Season. The Commission also proposes increasing the either-sex season to Maximum in Hoke County. These changes will give deer hunters in the Sandhills more opportunity to harvest does.

Other proposed hunting, trapping and fishing rules changes include:

- Clarifying the definitions of natural and artificial bait when used in public mountain trout waters;
- Eliminating the harvest of largemouth bass less than 14 inches long from the South Yadkin River;
- Eliminating regional trapping seasons for mink, muskrat, nutria, otter, skunk, weasel, bobcat, opossum, raccoon, coyote and groundhogs and establishing one statewide season, Nov. 1 through the last day of February, with exceptions;
- Implementing a two-buck bag limit for counties and parts of counties in the Eastern Deer Season that currently have a four-buck bag limit;
- Adding several species to the state's list of Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern species while removing others from the list.

To view full text of all the proposed regulations, visit the Commission's Web site, [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

Comments can be submitted by:

- Attending a public hearing;
- Mailing comments to 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1701;
- Visiting the Commission's Web site, [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

### SPCC Education for Entrepreneurs Starts Jan. 8

Entrepreneurship seminars for prospective and current business owners begin Tuesday, January 8, in Monroe and Thursday, January 10, in Wadesboro at South Piedmont Community College. The first seminar instructs prospective business owners on how to start their business successfully.

REAL (Real Entrepreneurship through Action Learning) classes will start at SPCC's Continuing Education Center in Monroe for eight weeks twice a week, beginning Tuesday, January 15. Wadesboro's REAL course meets once a week for 14 weeks, beginning Monday, January 28.

The REAL course is designed to help prospective business owners develop or improve an idea that will provide an adequate income for the owner(s). Current business owners will learn strategies to improve or expand their operations, resulting in better profit margins. The course includes topics in all facets of business, including marketing, research, financials, operations, and writing a business plan. REAL is also offered as a credit course. Seminars focus on one particular area of business and accentuate the material in the course.

"Upon successful completion of the course, a student should be able to start and operate their own successful business," said Vince Holloman, one of SPCC's certified REAL instructors. "Past REAL graduates have had an 87 percent success rate in this area, as opposed to the national average of less than 25 percent." Holloman also noted, "While not everyone is cut out to be a business owner, for those that are, it's a great alternative to just getting another job. With your own business, you have greater control over your own destiny."

Holloman noted that seminars give a lot of information in a short time, and the REAL course gives students time to practice and discuss the seminar material. "This combination gives the business owner all the tools needed for success," he added.

For a detailed seminar schedule and more information on REAL, go to [www.spcc.edu](http://www.spcc.edu) and click "small business centers" or call Vince Holloman at 704-272-5453. Registration for the REAL course is \$95, which includes materials. Seminars are \$5 each. You may also visit REAL's website at [www.ncreal.org](http://www.ncreal.org).

### Harvest Ministry's Christmas Blessing Reaches Over 650 People



Pictured above, from left, are Pastor Tim Adams, Sheriff Tommy Allen, Michael Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thacker.

Sunday December 23, 2007, was a great day for many Anson County residents. Over 650 people enjoyed a remarkable display of Christmas. Many local community leaders were on hand to serve meals, greet guests, and distribute toys and more! Some of those were on hand were Wadesboro Mayor Bill Thacker and his wife, District Attorney Michael Parker and his son, Sheriff Tommy Allen, and W.A.D.E. Radio.

This event is now five years old, and, according to Harvest Ministries Senior Pastor Tim Adams, this year was the biggest yet. Adams said, "The community's support and assistance has made this a record year. To have our community support this event and our local dignitaries and leaders partner to serve and bless the people of this county, it just added so much more to this day. What you see here today is a real, genuine representation of what Christmas is all about...and that's giving others an opportunity!"

Pastor Adams shared that last year Harvest Ministries Outreach Center, through the help of many generous businesses and people of Anson County, distributed 48 brand new bicycles to children. This year however, was absolutely amazing!

Pastor Ed Kivett, Associate Pastor and Event Coordinator, stated that, "This year over 90 brand new bicycles were donated and given to children who probably would not have had a Christmas without this event. Kivett added, "The generosity of this county allowed us to make sure every child left with a gift. We had over 400 toys and gifts this year.

Adults weren't left out - gift cards, prizes, and two tickets to the Charlotte Bobcats were given!"

This truly was a historic day for Harvest Ministries Outreach Center and many people.

Throughout the event, which lasted from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., seven buses ran to the entire county bringing in over 275 children and families. Guests were treated to a delicious holiday meal, Christmas carols, and door prizes.

Pastor Tim Adams made this observation, "More than 650 people were able to smile today through the generosity, love, and spirit of our county. We thank everyone who helped make this day possible."

Harvest Ministries would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who supported this year's event: Bill Thacker, Commissioner Anna Baucom, Tommy Allen, Michael Parker, Leavitt Funeral Home - Harvey Leavitt, Carpenter's Alternator Service, Anson High Principal Dr. Boothby, Wadesboro Lumber - Doc Donahue, Larry and Gloria Carpenter, Leon Gatewood/Holla, Don and Hazel Kaull, Pastor Don Rodenburger, WADE Radio, Forestville AME Zion Church, Essence of the Cross Ministries - Monroe, Morven Mayor Carolyn Solomon, Jay Wright, Anson Women's League, Cray Incorporated, Grady Kindley, Allen Lyon, and the many volunteers and supporters of this event!

For more information on next year's event feel free to contact Harvest Ministries at 704-695-1655 or visit [www.harvestmin.com](http://www.harvestmin.com).

### Retiring, Carl Lee Jackson Passes on Fifty Year Community Trade



From left, Carl Lee Jackson takes time to visit with long-time patrons of his community store. Donald Horne and Boyce Davis both said they had spent many hours in the store and have even more fond recollections of their shared times with Carl Lee.

On Monday, December 31, at 6:00 a.m. Mr. Carl Lee Jackson opens his community store for the last time. For at day's end, his retirement begins after a fifty year stint as one of our area's friendliest proprietors. The store will not close, but rather pass on to its next owners, Mr. Buck Meeks and Mr. Carey Davis, both from the vicinity.

Remembering myself what a charming store Carl Lee's has been since I was a young girl, I couldn't help but reminisce about my comings and goings there. My mom often stopped in to top off her gas tank and get a coke for the road trip up Highway 218. In later years, I took my young nieces and nephew over for nearby treats. "I remember your niece, little Melanie Nance, ever since she could walk," said Carl Lee. "She would jump out of the car and run in for bubble gum. She has grown up here and comes in just to aggravate me. I aggravate her too," he chuckled gleefully.

Behind the counter I saw a man who appeared younger than his almost 78 years. Apparently, owning a neighborhood store, hangout, or friendly meet and greet is just the ticket to living a great life, and enjoying that life to its fullest. "I will miss seeing my friends every day the most," said Jackson. "But living right around the corner will make it easy for me to come over and visit and not have to get up and wait on customers."

During our morning conversation a young lady came in and asked if she could use the facilities. "You sure can," said Jackson without hesitation as he pointed her in the right direction. I looked at the front door and noticed there were no signs posted as you often see nowadays reading, no restrooms or restrooms for customers only. I remarked,

"Well you don't see that much anymore Carl Lee." He replied with an open arm gesture which all of us who know him completely understand. These small acts of kindness and openheartedness have helped keep Jackson in business for fifty plus years. People came and went while I was there, filled their own tanks and paid for it afterwards. They often came inside not only to pay, but to say hello and chatter awhile. That is something that his customers, I'm sure, will miss. And speaking of filling the tank, I spied \$2.94 for a gallon of regular gasoline on Jackson's pump. "When I opened gas was very inexpensive. Then the gas wars drove the price even lower back in the '70's. Today it is just outrageous," said the long-time store owner.

Customers like Mr. Donald Horne and Mr. Boyce Davis, who have been patrons of the store for most of their lives, were on hand for my morning chit chat session with Jackson. "I've been coming over to Carl Lee's since I was thirteen," said Davis. "It was the place to go on a Saturday night and there were always some good political discussions going on," he laughed. Horne said, "I've been inside this store everyday almost since 1963 when it opened. Now that Carl Lee is retiring I guess we'll meet in here and talk like old times. The only difference is that he'll just be one of the boys like me."

Marilyn, Carl Lee's wife, was busy sweeping and readying the store for their final days. "Oh I have plenty to keep Carl Lee busy. But the one thing I'm absolutely sure of is this; he'll definitely learn to sleep later in the mornings!" Jackson interjected that he had opened each morning at 6:00 a.m. except for Sunday's. "I slept in on Sundays until about 8:00 or so. Then I'd go to church," he said proudly.

On Friday morning I spent some real quality time with a real quality kind of guy, his customers and his wife. They each made me feel as welcomed as one of the regulars who visit every day. We had great conversation about days gone by, about how Carl Lee plans to spend time with his bunches of grandchildren, with his family and friends, and doing yard work with his wife. "I'm going to do whatever comes natural. I believe I'm about old enough now to retire and pass this place on to the next owner," said Carl Lee. It was a morning to remember for me. One of those times in your life you stop and realize just how great things used to be and how everything eventually changes. It's not often you see community stores like this one anymore. And it's not often you meet a guy as genuine, happy go lucky and warm as Mr. Carl Lee Jackson. Congratulations on your fifty year run and best of luck in your new found retirement. Enjoy, find joy. You deserve it! Photo and story by Melanie Morse

Look inside for these special inserts

- IGA
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