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

## Neighborhoods are Quieted by Snowy White Blanket



Anson County was dusted by a small but scenic white snowfall on Saturday, and like usual, the blanket of flakes managed to hush the neighborhoods and lull them into a shimmering, silvery sleep.

Our community is certainly picturesque in the snowy moonlight, but by morning most of the precipitation was a mere splash of white in the shaded soil. *Photo/Story by Melanie Morse*

## Local Schools Begin Recycling Project

The Rotary Planetarium and Science Center, in conjunction with the Anson County Waste Water Treatment Plant, is sponsoring a recycling competition between Wadesboro Primary School and Wadesboro Elementary School. The Anson County Utilities Department received a Recycling Education Grant from the North Carolina Department of Prevention and Pollution. Along with covering the costs of the recycling competition, this grant is supplying funds for the creation of two recycling displays at the Planetarium. The competition is also laying the groundwork for a school and county-wide recycling program.

The two schools are recycling plastic bottles, aluminum cans, newspapers, and mixed paper. The school recycling the most materials (by poundage) will receive a \$500 cash prize.



Pictured with school recycling bins and recyclable items are Mrs. Denise Hunter, WPS third grade teacher, and WPS third grade students, Bethany Vaughn and Brionna Ingram.

Anyone wishing to donate recyclable items to Wadesboro Primary or Wadesboro Elementary can bring them to the schools between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., or contact Misty Harris at 704-694-5293 or Holly Walters at 704-694-7016. The competition ends May 30.

## Tomorrow is Compliment Day

Tomorrow, January 24, is "Compliment Day," and what better time to tell those you know and love something you might not ordinarily say. Of course you compliment your family, friends and loved ones, but make a special point to say something extraordinarily complimentary. Rather than the usual, "You look nice today or I like your new shoes," say something of even greater value. "You are the nicest person I've ever known, you are the rock of our family, you are one of God's greatest creations, and you have a sincere warmth that makes everyone feel at ease." These stretch the limits of matter of fact compliments and are sure to make the persons you are showering with your sincerity feel exceptional.

But the truest test of "Compliment Day" will be in the sincere sentiments you say to those you wouldn't otherwise say them to. You know, there are those you may not particularly like or feel close enough to share your cheerful greetings. For this one day, try and make the effort to say something positive, sincere and complimentary to everyone you meet. This day was probably created to give you a shove in the right direction. "If you can't say anything nice then don't say anything at all." My mom has said that for as long as I recall, leaving me surprised not to find her name on the founders list of this special occasion!

Your goal is to give at least five compliments to five friends, and at least five to others you would not normally flatter. "Your hair looks nice, you have pretty eyes, you are good at your job, your children are precious, you have beautiful penmanship, that fragrance you're wearing is very pleasant, you look young, that color is lovely on you, you are kind, you are thoughtful, you are smart, you are a good cook," are all common praises that shouldn't cause you too much tension. Afterwards, I'll bet you'll have a new friend; someone you once thought didn't like you or vice versa. And one can never have too many friends. So go out and shower the community with sincere compliments and reap the wonderful benefits ye shall sow. *By Melanie Morse*

## Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Terrific Kids



Peachland-Polkton Elementary School is proud to announce their Terrific Kids for the third and fourth 6 weeks.

They are pictured here, from left, front row: Ashlyn Watts, Markella Allen, Caroline Thacker, Caleb Henry, Brianna McCollum, Jaylin Maske, Destiny Barrett, Kaveon Maye, Makayla Little, Hailey Adams, Brooke Baucom, Dylan Threatt, Savannah Tarlton, Cameron Maske, Cody Nestor, Dalton Godwin, Karsyn Mobley, Blake Nix, Hannah Harward and Trevor Flake. Second row: Odessa Tanner, Erin Immonen, Presleigh Huneycutt, Ian Spivey, Luke Bricken, Madison Leak, Nathan Fulks, Ken McCormick, Kelsey Baxley, Adrian Helms, Mallory Martin, Danielle Jolly, Cameron Dutton, Alexis Baker, Jordan Wright and Vince Gilmore. Back row: Will Edwards, Erin Thomas, Timothy Kelly, Jasmine Leak, Alicia Moore, John David Kelly, Laine McDonald, Alexis Pafford, Miranda Wright, Rebecca Watkins, Rosie Murray, Chance Broadway, Jacob King and Brandon Hagin.

## Massive Winter Bird Count Just Weeks Away

Bird watchers across North America are poised to take a real-time snapshot of where the birds are during the 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, February 15-18. This year's event calls on birders to "Count for Fun, Count for the Future." Anyone can count birds wherever they are and enter their tallies online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). These reports contribute valuable information for science and conservation, spotlighting changes in bird population and distribution from year to year. The count is led by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participation is free and no registration is required.

Overall, bird watchers submitted a record-breaking 80,000 checklists during the four-day event in 2007, reporting 11 million birds and 613 species. Count results over the years show how species such as Eurasian Collared-Dove and Red-bellied Woodpecker are spreading into new areas. They also show declines in some species, such as the American Crow and Northern Pintails.

Taking part in the GBBC is easy. You don't even have to know a lot about birds and you can find helpful identification tips on the web

site at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Participants watch birds for as little as 15 minutes on one or more days of the event, counting in their yards, city parks, nature centers, or wherever they like. They enter the highest number of each species seen at one time on the GBBC web site. Participants can explore maps and charts showing what others are reporting in their area or across the continent. Visitors to the web site can also see winning photos from the 2007 photo contest and get inspired to send in their own digital images during the 2008 GBBC. Every photo submitted is considered for the contest.

In addition to digital photos, you can also shoot video of birds and bird watchers during the 2008 count. Upload your video to YouTube and tag it "Great Backyard Bird Count." Some of the best clips will be posted on the GBBC web site!

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a free event, sponsored in part by Wild Birds Unlimited. Everyone who participates will be entered in a drawing to win bird-related prizes. For more information, visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

## Barn Blast is this Friday

The Anson County Partnership for Children will host the second annual Barn Blast Friday, January 25 at the Wadesboro National Guard Armory. The 6:00 until 11:00 p.m. event will feature dinner, drinks, dancing and lots of fun, with all proceeds benefiting children's literacy activities in Anson County. Entertainment will be provided by popular country band "Spur of the Moment," featuring Cameron Jones, a finalist in "Gimme the Mike" Charlotte.

A live auction will feature a water color painting by local artist June Rollins, a hand sewn quilt created by Cynthia Little, a weekend condo getaway in Ocean Drive, and a round of golf at the Country Club of North Carolina in Pinehurst. You must be present to bid on these items, so buy your tickets now.

Tickets are still available for a tax deductible \$30 per person. Each ticket sold will cover the cost of books for one Anson County child (ages 0-5) for one year. To reserve tickets, call the Partnership at 704-694-4036 or come by the Partnership's office at 117 South Greene Street in Wadesboro.

## Bingo Every Wednesday at Grace Center

Grace Senior Center is sponsoring bingo every Wednesday morning, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. All seniors are invited to come out and join in the fun.

Call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register or receive more information.

## Bowman Class of 1973 Reunion

The Bowman High School Class of 1973 is planning its thirty-fifth year reunion. Anyone who is interested in assisting with the planning, please meet at the Hampton B. Allen Library at 4:30 p.m., this Sunday, January 27.

## 25th Anniversary of Valvano's Historic Championship Coincides with Cancer Research

Who could forget the amazing race through March Madness and the outrageous outcome of the 1983 National College Basketball Championship? It would be the North Carolina State Wolfpack, coached by Mr. Jim Valvano proving victorious at game's end. Valvano's Wolfpack overcame all odds by defeating Houston's Phi Slamma Jamma, as they were nicknamed. Remembering the game as if it were played yesterday, it is hard to believe twenty-five years have passed. The images are still vivid, clear and electrifying to recall. The end of that game is still considered one of the most famous in college basketball history. Not only did NC State's Lorenzo Charles manage a dunk as the final buzzer went off, but Coach Valvano's run down the court in disbelief is also considered to be one of the greatest moments in sports.

The "Cardiac Pack," as they were commonly referred to that season, trailed in seven of their last nine games with less than one minute to play. In the championship game, an arching 30-foot pass from Dereck Whittenburg provided Charles the perfect element he needed to complete that final buzzer-beating dunk to win the NCAA Championship, 54-52 and allowing Coach "V" as he was called, to make the down-court run, now a staple in tournament coverage. Many agree the game was one of the biggest upsets in college basketball history, and even one of the best in any sport anywhere in the world. What a great game to fuel great basketball memories.

Coinciding with the anniversary is a very worthy event, the V Foundation for Cancer Research's seventh annual "Show Your Spirit" fundraising campaign. This program raises funds for cancer research, a disease that took Valvano's life far too early.

March 20 and 21 are the dates for companies, organizations, schools and the like, to unite in the fight against cancer. Participants are asked to contribute at least \$5 which earns them the right to wear their favorite team apparel to work, school, etc. on "Show Your Spirit Day. Not a big basketball fan? That shouldn't make a difference. Everyone will one day be faced with someone in their life who has cancer. Statistically speaking, "Cancer will strike one of every two American men and one of every three American women."

So making a contribution shouldn't come from being a sports fan, but rather from the desire to find a cure for cancer. "In the fight against cancer, we all play on the same team," said Jim's brother and V Foundation CEO, Nick Valvano. "What a powerful force we'd be if millions of people across the country would join together against this common foe. Every single Show Your Spirit contribution will help make a difference in the fight against cancer, a disease that will eventually affect every American family." To register, visit the V Foundation website at [www.jimmyv.org/showspirit/](http://www.jimmyv.org/showspirit/) to begin the process or call 1-800-4JIMMYV.

I plan to join in the fight against cancer and make a donation to this worthy cause. On "Show Your Spirit" day I will be in my "loyal to royal" Duke Blue jersey while cheering on all who joined with me in this quest to stamp out one of America's largest killers. Come on and join in the fight for a cure!

*By Mel Morse*



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