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

Hampton B. Allen Library is Now Open on Wednesdays

In an effort to better serve the people of Anson County, the Hampton B. Allen Library is changing its hours of operation. Until recently, the library has closed at noon on Wednesdays in order to stay open later in the evening on Tuesdays and Thursdays. But, starting on Monday, March 6 the library will be open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

The change comes as part of the library's new 5-Year Strategic Plan which was written with the help of Dr. Anthony Chow of the University of North Carolina Greensboro, following a six-month community needs assessment project. Since the adoption of the plan in June 2016, library staff have been monitoring the foot-traffic in the library throughout the day, and found that very few people were taking advantage of the library's late hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. So a new weekly schedule, suggested by Library Technician Kit Brewer, was presented to the library's local Advisory Board who voted unanimously to move forward with it.

"I'm thrilled about this," said Aaron Mehaffey, Director of the Hampton B. Allen Library. "Not only are we making ourselves more available to the public, but it gives us more opportunities to present new programs, especially when we get closer to Summer Reading."

The change is also greatly supported by Anson County Manager Megan Garner who approved and reported the change in hours to the Board of Commissioners at their February Meeting.

Anson County Woman Accused of Insurance Fraud

On Wednesday, February 8 North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey announced the arrest of Amy Jo Blackmon, 51, of 104 Springer Road, in Wadesboro. She is charged with one count each of insurance fraud and attempting to obtain property by false pretense.

Department of Insurance criminal investigators accuse Blackmon of providing false statements regarding vandalism to a vehicle in order to receive payment from Progressive Insurance Company in October 2016. Investigators allege the damage was preexisting when the vehicle was purchased.

Blackmon was arrested on January 24 in Stanly County and released under a promise to appear in court.

An estimated 10 cents of every dollar paid in premiums goes toward the payment of fraudulent claims. The Department of Insurance employs 20 sworn state law enforcement officers dedicated to investigating and prosecuting claims of insurance and bail bonding fraud. To report suspected fraud, contact the Department of Insurance Criminal Investigations Division at 919-807-6840. Callers may remain anonymous. Information is also available at www.ncdoi.com.

Wadesboro Town Council's Annual Retreat is Saturday

The Wadesboro Town Council's annual budget retreat will be held Saturday, February 18, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Carolina Healthcare Systems Anson Community Room, located at 2301 Highway 74 West in Wadesboro. The following topics will be discussed:

- Annual retreat workshop
- Economic Development Policies – Mr. John Marek – Anson Economic Development Partnership
- 2017 People Fest
- Annexation Study Proposals
- Limb Truck Financing and Potential Purchase and Related Budget Amendments
- New Fire Department Building Changes
- Security Lighting on Private Property

Shamrock Shuffle 5K Run/Walk

This is a release from the Chamber of Commerce: The Anson County Chamber of Commerce will host its first ever 5K Run/Walk, called the Shamrock Shuffle, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. All Shamrock Shuffle proceeds help support ongoing Chamber programs, activities and community events.

The race will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 17. The starting point will be at the uptown Wadesboro Town Square. Runners and walkers will travel down North Greene, to make a large loop in and out of Old Town Estates located on Morven Road. The race will conclude at the starting point.

The pre-registration fee is \$35 for adults, \$30 for individuals less than 21 years of age. Day of race registration is available, however registration fees will increase to \$40 for adults, \$35 for individuals less than 21 years of age. No refunds will be given. Participants can register at www.runsignup.com, surcharge will apply. Entry forms available are available at www.ansoncounty.org and at the chamber office, located at 107 A-East Wade Street in Wadesboro.

The registration fee includes a race t-shirt, and one free glass of beer to participants 21 years of age and older. Photo ID will be required on race day (no exceptions). T-shirts are guaranteed only if you are registered by March 3. Additional beer will be available for purchase (cash only) for \$5 per cup. There will be a band on the Wadesboro Town Square stage and vendors on the streets. All activities will conclude at 9 p.m.

Chamber Director Shelby Emrich said, "Sponsorship opportunities are still available. We would like to thank our 'JOGGER' sponsors: Carolina Title Company, Inc., Kiker Resource Management LLC, and Anson Health and Rehabilitation. Come join us for a fun Friday night in uptown Wadesboro!"

Participants will pick up race packets at the Chamber office on March 16 and 17 until 3:30 p.m. Packet pick up will also be available before the race from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. Parking is available at the following locations: Ray Shelton Ball Field and Anson County DSS.

There will be numerous fun awards for the top finishers in each category.

For more information about the Chamber's Shamrock Shuffle, contact the Anson County Chamber at (704) 694-4181, ansonchamber@windstream.net or visit www.ansoncounty.org.



2017 Leadership Anson Kicks Off With All-Day Retreat

The 2017 Leadership Anson Class began on Tuesday, January 31 with an all day retreat at Griffin Hill Lodge in Wadesboro. This is the 21st year for the Leadership Anson Program. The program was implemented in 1997 by the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. The program, with the assistance from South Piedmont Community College and Hornwood Inc., was designed to develop a commitment to community through leadership.

Pictured above are this year's nineteen participants. They are Shelby Emrich, Anson County Chamber of Commerce; Jacqui Rubio, Anson County Health Department; Pam Gathings, Anson County Schools; Alexandra Harrington, Anson County Partnership for Children; Dale Rivers, Anson County Schools; Anita Sturdivant, Hornwood, Inc.; Jill Lucas, Carolinas Healthcare System-Anson; MaryBeth Kiser, Anson County Schools; Jennifer McLaurin, Anson County Schools.; Aimee Colf, Anson County Cooperative Extension; April Watkins, SPCC; Rashaun Durden, SPCC; Brian Tice, Anson County Sheriff's Department; John Willoughby, Town of Wadesboro; John Marek, Anson Economic Development Partnership; Josh Bricker, Uwharrie Bank; Kyle Eudy, Uwharrie Bank; Julian Swittenberg, Uptown Wadesboro Inc. Bradley Davidson, Wadesboro Police Department. Also pictured are Scott Collier and Scott Rivers of SPCC.

Play Blood Brothers Opens Friday at the Ansonia!

"Did you hear the story of Johnstone twins? As like each other as two new pins. How one was kept and one given away. How they were born and they died on the self same day."

These are the opening lines for the hit musical *Blood Brothers* opening at the Ansonia Theatre. It runs two weekends, February 17-26. This is the heartbreaking story of twin brothers separated at birth when their mother can't afford to keep them both. She decides to give one of them away to her wealthy employer who can't conceive a child of her own. The two brothers grow up unaware of the other's existence, until they meet by chance at the age of 7 and become best friends and "blood brothers."

Director Tommy Wooten first saw the Broadway show at the age of 19 and it made a lasting impression. "It was my first trip to Broadway and I had never heard of the show, but got a discounted ticket and in I went," Wooten said. "When I left the theatre that day, I was a changed human being! I ended up seeing the show 3 times that week. I couldn't get it out of my head. The characters and the music stayed with me. The show was tragic, but more than that, it was joyful!"

"I had no idea that one day I would go on to direct the show myself. Being able to bring the show home to Anson County is a dream come true," Wooten added.

This production has a cast of 19, and includes some Ansonia stage regulars as well as several newcomers. The cast is led by Gina Clarke who plays Mrs. Johnstone and Terra Medlock as Mrs. Lyons, the birth mother and the adoptive mother respectively. They are joined by Tyler Baucom and Jake Sessions as the brothers and Savannah Tarlton as Linda, the girl who eventually comes between the two brothers. Wooten himself serves as the Narrator for the piece. The rest of the cast includes Steve Lear, Mark Traywick, Connie Thomas, Lauren Sellers, Glenn Caulder, Paige Mercer, Tabitha Thomas, Mike Railton, Donnie Lewis, Ann Crescitelli, Kianna Ellerbee and Akela Martin.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or at www.ansoniatheatre.com.

The Ansonia Theatre Presents

WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD
Brothers

Directed By
Tommy Wooten

Music Directed
By **Gail Litaker**

February 17-26, 2017
704-694-4950
ansoniatheatre.com

Gina Clarke, Tyler Baucom, Jake Sessions, Savannah Tarlton, Terra Medlock, Tommy Wooten, Steve Lear, Mark Traywick, Connie Thomas, Lauren Sellers, Glenn Caulder, Paige Mercer, Tabitha Thomas, Mike Railton, Donnie Lewis, Ann Crescitelli, Kianna Ellerbee, Akela Martin

Get Healthy & Stay Healthy Cooking Series

A healthy lifestyle is just a decision away. Good health is a decision. You can choose a life free from debilitating diseases such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer, arthritis, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. There is a fat-busting and disease-elimination plan for you!

Attend the free Healthy Living and cooking classes at Pathway to Peace Ministries and learn how to live an abundant life. Come learn more at the next class this Sunday, February 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. You will also be able to eat a delicious dinner with them.

Pathway to Peace is located on Highway 109 South, 2 miles past Deep Creek Road going towards Mt. Croghan, SC. The address is 11775 NC 109 South, Peachland. For information call 704-695-1441.

Forum to Help with High School Selection Process is Next Tuesday

Anson County Schools will host a forum for high school selection process on Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Anson Middle School. This forum will provide information to help parents and students choose which high school to attend.

Anson County 4-H Clover Crawl Social is Back!

Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise are pleased to announce that the Clover Crawl is back. The event will be held Friday, March 10 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro, from 6 until 11 p.m. The Clover Crawl, an adult event 21 and over, will be sure to bring an evening of fun, food, dancing and great socializing. Heavy Hors D'oeuvres and drinks will be served. The DJ again this year is 4-H alumnus Ryan Short of Ryan Short Entertainment (www.ryanshort.net). Funds raised will be used to support ongoing 4-H youth programs in Anson County.

Advance tickets are \$30 per person. They can be purchased at the Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro, Lacy's, or from committee members and staff. Ticket price at the door will be \$40. Tables can be purchased, which includes eight tickets for \$300. Only 12 tables will be sold. If you are interested in purchasing a table please call the Extension Office.

The money raised from the Clover Crawl will support programs that address the well being of youth, families, and communities in Anson County. 4-H programs annually reach over 1,087 young people in the community. Youth participate in activities and programs such as school enrichment, summer camps, after school programming, community service and other year-round educational programs. Anson 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise also work with adults, volunteer leaders and youth to provide community projects, parenting skills and enhanced leadership abilities. All 4-H programming is available to any youth between ages 5-19.

"Our fundraiser has been a success in previous years. We are optimistic that we will have an even better response this year. 4-H programs have had much impact on the youth in this county through the years," said Anson County 4-H Agent Roshunda Terry. "With the public's help and support programs can continue to make significant contributions to their future, and the future of our county."

If you would like to learn more information about this event please contact Roshunda Terry at 704-694-2915.

Bowman High School Class of 1974 Reunion

Deadline to register is February 20

The Class of 1974 at Bowman High School will hold a class reunion on Saturday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. If you would like to attend, please register and pay by February 20. The cost is \$60 per person, \$100 per couple.

For information email 74bearcats@gmail.com.

Ladies Out at Grace Senior Center

Ladies Out is held every Monday at 1 p.m. at Grace Senior Center. To find out what that means, and to register, call 704-694-6616.