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

## Ralph Jackson to Head Anson Bearcat Football

Ralph Jackson has been named Head Football Coach for the Anson High School Bearcats. Jackson, who is from neighboring Stanly County, began his new journey in Anson County on March 2 with a team visit. AHS coaches and players are very enthusiastic about his vision for the team and what lies ahead for the Anson Bearcat football program. A standout athlete for West Stanly High School, Jackson currently holds the record for career rushing (3,591 yards). He has served as the Head Coach at North Stanly High School for the past five years, where he led the Colts to their first winning season in sixteen years.

Jackson said, "I have planned the next five months at Anson to include much emphasis in the weight room. Also, we already have several youth camps in the works. My vision for the Bearcats includes a focus for our athletes to grow stronger and faster."

Coach Jackson is married to Tanya, and they have three children, Ladaria, RJ and Kayla. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me and I am excited to be a part of the great football tradition here at Anson," he said. "I hope to be a positive role model here, and believe we can do great things with football as well as the lives of these student athletes."

After visiting in the weight room, where Jackson is currently stationed, AHS Athletic Director Terry Mabry said, "One football player came up to me and said, 'We're going to win the state championship Mrs. Mabry!' It is great to see and hear that kind of excitement from the players."

## Morven / McFarlan Community Meeting

The Anson County Sheriff's Office will have a Community Meeting on Thursday, March 12 at the Morven Fire Department at 6:30 p.m. All Morven and McFarlan citizens are encouraged to come out and voice their concerns on crime and crime prevention.

Sheriff Landric Reid is focused on Community Policing, and building stronger communications between the citizens and his office. Sheriff Reid believes in improving the quality of life in all communities in Anson County - by preventing crime, not just responding to crime. The Sheriff understands that providing protection for you and your family through the enforcement of criminal and civil laws are a priority.

Please join Sheriff Reid and his staff for this important meeting. Your voice matters!

## 4-H Clover Crawl is this Friday!

The sun is shining and spring is right around the corner. (We hope!) What better way to kick off spring than with laughter and good times at the local Clover Crawl. Anson County 4-H is hosting its annual social and dance this Friday, March 13 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. The cost of this event is \$30 per person in advance and \$40 at the door.

Again this year they will have the "Clover Dance Competition" that you will not want to miss. Where else can you go and have drinks, great food, and entertainment while never leaving the county? Plus, all proceeds go towards programs for youth in Anson County!

The Clover Crawl will run 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. This is a 21 and over event. Although tickets are going fast you can still get yours at the Extension Office on McLaurin Street and Lacy's in Wadesboro. If you have any questions feel free to call 704-694-2915.

So let your shamrock and clovers dance and come out and have a St. Patrick's weekend eve celebration at the Clover Crawl. Hope to see y'all there!

## Mobile Election Machine Demonstrated this Friday

This Friday, March 13 at 1 p.m. a device called the Mobile Election Vehicle will be at the Anson County Board of Elections for the general public to see. The purpose of this is to demonstrate to the public, the voters, and elected officials the most recent state certified voting equipment for North Carolina. The machine is called the DS200.

Director of Elections Steve Adams said, "As voting is vital to our process of government, we want to allow Anson County voters an opportunity to see the newest technologies and equipment available. This demonstration is free and open to any citizen of Anson County. Light refreshments will be available."

The Anson County Board of Elections is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-994-3223.

## Anson County Woman Accused of Making False Car Insurance Claim

NC Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin announced the arrest of Brittany Lemay Clark, 34, of 1724 NC Highway 742 South 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 Clark of filing a fraudulent claim with National General Insurance Company reporting that her vehicle was struck by a deer on December 22, 2014. Investigators allege that Clark was not driving during the alleged accident and that the vehicle had not been struck by a deer.

Clark was arrested on March 5 with the assistance of the Anson County Sheriff's Office and was placed under a \$4,000 bond.

The Department of Insurance employs 20 sworn state law enforcement officers dedicated to investigating and prosecuting claims of insurance and bail bonding fraud. Since Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin took office in 2009, criminal investigators have made more than 1,000 arrests, resulting in more than 500 criminal convictions with more than 200 cases currently pending court. These efforts have delivered more than \$61 million in restitution and recoveries for victims.

An estimated 10 cents of every dollar paid in premiums goes toward the payment of fraudulent claims. 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](http://www.ncdoi.com).

## The Ansonia Theatre Presents *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, produced by the Anson County Arts Council, will be performed at the Ansonia Theatre on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 20, 21, 22 and 27, 28, 29. This community production, based on Frank Baum's magical book, written by Michele L. Vacca, and further adapted by local director Tommy Wooten and his talented staff, is not the movie or the Broadway play, but instead a very charming and delightful adaptation. It promises to be total entertainment for the entire family!

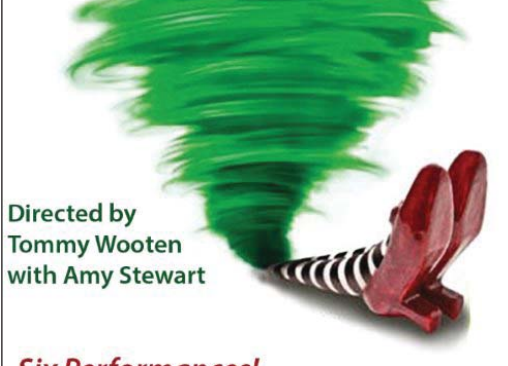
Tickets are currently on sale at the Arts Council or Lacy's. Call 704-694-4950 for more information. The presentation is reserved seating so make plans early. Get your groups, friends or family organized now. It is very likely that this will sell out before opening night. You don't want to miss it!

The cast is: Dorothy-McKayla High; Scarecrow-Gaige Robinson; Tin Man-Steve Lear; Lion-Mark Traywick; Glinda-Terra Medlock; and Witch-Gina Clarke. Other members of the cast are: Glenn Caulder, Dakotah Caulder, Hallie Scholar, Gage Tarleton, Kianna Ellerbe, Destiny Blackwelder, Caden Clarke, Isaac Clarke, Katherine Lee, Kayla Little, Mason Medlock, Marissa Medlock, Lindsay Thomas, Trinity Trexler, Tripp Trexler and Kennedy Ramseur.

The Director is Tommy Wooten, with Amy Stewart. The crew are Gina Clarke, Catherine Crandell, Donnie Lewis, Jodi Davis, Savannah Tarlton, Elizabeth Watts-Brittany Clark, Faye Castle, Caroline Traywick and Emilibess Crooke.

Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro NC Proudly Presents

*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*  
by Michele L. Vacca



Directed by  
Tommy Wooten  
with Amy Stewart

Six Performances!  
March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, & 29

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at 704-694-4950 and at Lacy's or visit [www.ansoniateatre.com](http://www.ansoniateatre.com)

Produced by special arrangement with CLASSICS ON STAGE! of Chicago



## Community Celebrates Solar Farm with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Recently

**Pee Dee Electric becomes one of the first electric cooperatives in North Carolina with solar power**

The community solar farm located at Pee Dee Electric's headquarters is now operational, and is supplying a total of 100 kilowatts of electricity. Representatives from the NC Electric Membership Corporation; as well as Pee Dee Electric's Board of Directors, Wadesboro Mayor Bill Thacker, Chamber Director Lynn Edwards and many others gathered on Friday, March 6th to celebrate this achievement with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Pee Dee Electric is one of the first electric cooperatives in the state to bring a community-shared solar farm to its members. This concept allows cooperative members to buy the energy output of up to 15 panels at the solar farm. Members who chose to participate contributed a one-time investment of \$525 per panel, and now the solar energy produced by the panels is being credited back to their monthly electric bills.

"This model opens up renewable energy as an option to many people who wouldn't normally have an opportunity to participate in solar energy production," said Donnie Spivey, CEO of Pee Dee Electric. "There are significant barriers that people have to clear when they want to add solar to their homes, affordability and maintenance being two of the main hurdles. By grouping solar panels together in this community solar farm, costs are shared and power output is maximized."

Pee Dee Electric worked with Hannah Solar, a company with offices in North Carolina, to build the solar installation, and the cooperative will take care of maintaining the arrays. The total output produced by the system is expected to be approximately 150,000 kWhs of electricity annually.

Members of Pee Dee Electric who are interested in learning more about the Community Solar Farm are asked to contact Todd Moore (704-694-7607), or can email their questions and interest to [solar@pdemc.com](mailto:solar@pdemc.com). Members are also encouraged to visit Pee Dee's website at [www.PDEMC.com](http://www.PDEMC.com).

Pee Dee Electric and the other electric cooperatives in North Carolina incorporate renewable energy into a diverse power portfolio that ensures cooperative members receive reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity.

Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. Pee Dee's service area consists of Anson, Richmond, Union, Stanly, Montgomery, Moore, and Scotland counties. For more information about Pee Dee Electric, please visit [www.pdemc.com](http://www.pdemc.com).

## And The Oscar Goes To...

On the evening of Sunday, February 22, I did something I rarely do - watched television. More specifically, the Academy Awards. There are few things I like about TV these days, but something pulled me in the direction of the Oscars telecast.

The show was pretty mundane and I had just about chalked up the time spent watching to time wasted. There were a couple of moments that sparked my interest, but far too few for the number of hours invested.

It would be the acceptance speech of J. K. Simmons, winner of the Best Supporting Actor, which stuck in my brain. And his words have reverberated inside my head since that moment. What he said was this, "Call your mom, call your dad. If you're lucky enough to have a parent or two alive on this planet, call 'em. Don't text. Don't email. Call them on the phone. Tell 'em you love 'em, and thank them, and listen to them for as long as they want to talk to you. Thank you. Thank you, Mom and Dad."

That night's Oscar was the first for Simmons, and he chose to speak on behalf of all "forgotten parents" during his time in the spotlight. J. K. Simmons became something of a hero for me that night.

Maybe you watched the show and dismissed what he said. Maybe you watched the show and felt ashamed. Maybe you watched the show and took his advice. Maybe you watched the show and felt glad that you and your parents have real conversations every day...no texts, no emails.

Simmons' speech urged children who have seemingly forgotten about their parents during their living years to communicate with each another. It sounds like such a simple act, but for so many American families it has become an arduous task. If this sounds like your family, fear not, for you are not alone. That overwhelming fact may be exactly the reason for J. K. Simmons' urgent message during the Academy Awards worldwide telecast. Millions of families are in crisis. And you thought it was just YOUR family.

This story began with a television broadcast and ends with a thought. Perhaps one day there will be an award for "Best Supporting Parent." And, as they say on TV, "The Oscar goes to," ...you guessed it, my mom! If you were thinking your parent deserves the award, wouldn't it be nice if you told them?

By Melanie Lyon



## Bowman Class of 1975 40th Reunion Planning Meeting March 14

Classmates of the Bowman Senior High School Class of 1975 are asked to please plan to attend and bring your ideas for the upcoming planning meeting for the 40th reunion. The meeting will be held at Welika Seafood Restaurant this Saturday, March 14 at 4:30 p.m. Welika is located at 265 Haileys Ferry Road in Lilesville, right off Highway 74.

For more information contact Cynthia Harrington Cash at 901-484-8384, Joletha Gordon Little at 704-465-0659 or Karen Burney Nash at 704-219-0978.

## Healthy Living and Eating Seminar March 15

Pathway to Peace Ministries presents ANEW-START, healthy living seminar and cooking class on Sunday, March 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. Learn how to cook plant-based foods that will heal you. Learn how to lose weight, have more energy, reduce cholesterol, reverse diabetes, lower blood pressure, and much more.

Interested? Come! Seminar and cooking class is FREE! It will be held at 11775 Highway 109 South in Peachland. For more information call 704-695-1441.

## Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo games are held every third Tuesday of the month at Grace Senior Center at 1 p.m. All seniors are invited to attend for fun and fellowship.

For more information or to register to play call the center at 704-694-6616.

## Welcome to Medicare Seminar

There will be a seminar entitled "The Road To Medicare: Planning Your Drive" held at Grace Senior Center on Thursday March 19th at 2 p.m. This seminar is for those individuals interested in information concerning Medicare. It is important for everyone becoming eligible for Medicare to get accurate information about coverage and delivery options, including supplemental health insurance, Medicare health plans and prescription drug coverage.

Persons interested should call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register or for additional information.