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

## Fred Thompson Earns Award for Excellence in Healthcare Management



**Dr. Fred G. Thompson**

Fred G. Thompson, Ph.D., FACHE, President of Anson Community Hospital, received the American College of Healthcare Executives Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Regent's Award at the Winter Meeting of the North Carolina Hospital Association in Cary on Friday, February 21.

The award was bestowed on Thompson by John Roberts, ACHE's Regent for North Carolina. The Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Regent's Award recognizes ACHE members who are experienced in the field, and have made significant contributions to the advancement of healthcare management excellence and the achievement of ACHE's goals.

Members are evaluated on leadership ability; innovative and creative management; executive capability in developing their own organization and promoting its growth and stature in the community; contributions to the development of others in the healthcare profession; leadership in local, state or provincial hospital and health association activities; participation in civic/community activities and projects; participation in ACHE activities; and interest in assisting ACHE in achieving its objectives.

Thompson has served as President of Anson Community Hospital since 1995. Prior to this, he served as a Vice President with LaGrange Memorial Health System in LaGrange, Illinois.

Thompson is board certified in healthcare management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, demonstrating a commitment to professional excellence. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of South Piedmont Community College, and is the Chairman of the Board of the Anson County Partnership of Children.

Thompson received a Ph.D. in Health Services from Walden University, Minneapolis, MN, and a master's degree in Business Administration from Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

The American College of Healthcare Executives is an international professional society of more than 40,000 healthcare executives who lead hospital, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE offers its prestigious FACHE® credential, signifying board certification in healthcare management. ACHE's established network of more than 80 chapters provides access to networking, education and career development at the local level. ACHE works toward its goal of being the premier professional society for healthcare executives dedicated to improving healthcare delivery. For additional information, visit [www.ache.org](http://www.ache.org).

## Heavy Rains Cause Sewer Spill

The Town of Wadesboro sewer system experienced a sewer overflow on Friday, March 7. The overflow was caused by heavy rains, with over 3 inches. The sewer spilled into Lampley Branch on Burns Street. Lampley Branch is part of the Pee Dee River Basin. The spill did not cause a fish kill.

Wadesboro Town Clerk Cindi Pope said, "The Division of Water Quality has been notified of the spill, which totalled approximately 21,360 gallons."

For more information contact Nick Griffin or Hugh James at 704-694-5171.

## Arts and Crafts Workshop Every Tuesday at Arts Council Office

The Arts Council invited you to join them each Tuesday at the Arts Council office for art and fellowship. Local amateur artists, whether it is crocheting, painting, sewing, drawing or other, get together every Tuesday from 1 to 4 p.m. to share ideas and get tips. Come join in the fun.

There is no registration and no cost, but bring your own supplies. Also starting April 1st, Clinton Harward will be giving drawing lessons. These are also free, but please bring supplies.

Contact the Anson County Arts Council for additional information at 704-694-4950.

## Lilesville's Catfish Stew Cookoff is Saturday

The Town of Lilesville has issued a challenge to anyone and everyone who cooks catfish stew. Bring it on and find out who the real champion will be this year. There will be a panel of judges to make the decision. Lilesville will hold their fourth annual Catfish Stew Cookoff on Saturday, March 15. This year they are adding another category called Stew of Your Choice contest too. This event is open to anyone who would like to enter, and everyone is invited to come sample the stews too. Prizes are:

- Catfish Stew \$250 to winner, \$100 for 2nd, and \$50 for 3rd
- Stew of Your Choice \$100 to winner, \$75 for 2nd, and \$50 for 3rd. Entries judged by patrons.

"We would like to invite all cooks who enjoy a challenge," said Lilesville Town Clerk Lynn Whitlock. "Come join us and let's find out who is really the best, because we are going to crown a champion!" Whitlock added that the catfish stew will be judged by a new select panel of judges.

If you're not cooking, you can join the fun and root for your favorite team. You can also try your hand at being a judge, for \$5, pick up a bowl and spoon and get a taste of each entry and compare your selection with that of the official judges.

Once again there will also be the crowning of Miss Catfish and Master Catfish. This contest is open two age groups - girls and boys from Kindergarten through 3rd grade (winner has best colored picture of a catfish using outline provided by town hall), and girls and boys from 4th through 6th grade for best colored picture of an original drawing of a catfish. Rules and entry forms are at town hall.

There will be special singing, t-shirts for sale, giant slides, a cornhole tournament, and lots of fun for all ages. There will also be vendors. If you would like to be a vendor contact town hall for information by March 12. 704-848-4711

This event will take place at Hatcher Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The judging will take place from 1 to 2 p.m. To enter the cookoff you can pick up forms at Lilesville Town Hall, Scotty's Bait and Tackle, Whit's Convenience at all 3 locations, and the Old Store. There is no cost to enter, the deadline is March 12.

The Town of Lilesville plans to have lots of fun on Saturday, March 15. Don't mess around and miss this fun-filled event. You will definitely be sorry you did. Lilesville wants YOU to cook up some STEW! *By Melanie Lyon*



## Ansonville Elementary School Cafeteria Staff Rewards Students

The Cafeteria Staff at Ansonville Elementary donated items to create a "Classroom Basket" to a deserving class within the school. Each and every day for over a month AES students earned credit for eating breakfast in the cafeteria. The classroom with the most students to eat breakfast throughout the month won the donated basket.

This contest was held to encourage AES students to eat hot and healthy meals prepared by the wonderful cafeteria staff. Congratulations to Mrs. Conklin and Mrs. Holly's kindergarten class. Also, a special thanks goes out to Ansonville's Cafeteria Staff - Mrs. Carolyn Rorie, Mrs. Rosa Lindsey, Mrs. Shelia Wright and Mr. Lorenza Byrd - for organizing such a wonderful contest for the students.

## HOLLA! Evening of Culture, An Evening of Excitement Announces M.R. Bell Excellence In Achievement Award

It was an evening of celebration filled with Afro-American Culture, excitement and emotion as HOLLA! had its annual Evening of Culture Celebration at the Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro. The event was hosted by Miss Amanda McCoy, the reigning Miss Black USA. Miss McCoy set the initial tone of the program with her original, award-winning monologue on the right to vote. From that point on the audience experienced an evening of excellent entertainment and valuable cultural and historical information.

"We use this night to celebrate our rich history, as well as to pay tribute to those who have paved the road to freedom and opportunity for the rest of us, said Kimberly Harrington, HOLLA! board member. Ms. Harrington presented A Tribute to Mandela, an impressive and moving tribute to Nelson Mandela during the program which included actual pictures and interviews from her recent visit to South Africa.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the HOLLA! Community Impact Award. It was awarded to Mrs. M.R. Bell, posthumously for her dedication to education and her service to the community. Two of her children, Attorney Asa Bell, Jr. and Norvita Bell, were present to receive the award.

HOLLA! also announced the initiation of the M.R. Bell Excellence in Achievement Scholarship.

The scholarship which is funded by the Bell Family, will award two \$500 scholarships annually to students who exemplify the character of Mrs. M.R. Bell. The scholarship has a 3.0 GPA requirement. "Thankful for Mr. Leon Gatewood and all those who serve within this wonderful organization! May God continue to bless the works of your hands," said Norvita Bell.



HOLLA! used the evening to present awards to several people they consider to be 'heroes' of the organization. The list included the HOLLA! Board of Directors, Linda Hyatt, Linda Gatewood, Tamara Garris, Johnie Pettiford, Sue Newton, Weaver Knotts Thomas, Joletha Felder, Debra Rosebud, Alex Gaddy, Marilyn Bennett, Winnie Bennett and Ginger Sturdivant. "These people have carried the weight of this organization on their shoulders this year," said Subrina Hough, Programs Director for the organization." The recipients were serenaded to the tune of Hero, by Jazz Recording Artist Connie McCoy Rogers, who is the mother of Amanda McCoy.

NAACP HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) coordinator Minister Curtis E. Gatewood gave a powerful charge to the group. "We must continue to stand up for what we know is right, we must continue to champion for the children and the less fortunate," he said. The program ended with music from the local band, The Mix.

"Thanks to all who made this program successful, including the Anson County Arts Council for co-sponsoring this event," said Leon Gatewood. "Our village is coming together, which will make things better for us all. And because of that, I am thankful," he added.

Pictured is HOLLA! Director of Programs, Subrina Hough presenting the HOLLA! Impact Award to Asa Bell, Jr. and Norvita Bell.

## 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 14 at Twin Valley Country Club in Wadesboro. The cost of this event is \$30 per person in advance and \$40 at the door.

New this year is 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, did we mention that all proceeds go towards programs for youth in Anson County!

The Clover Crawl will run from 7 p.m. until midnight. 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!

## Champion for Children Nominations Requested

### Partnership for Children seeks nominations for Champion for Children Award

Do you know someone who is helping make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child? Acknowledge their excellence by nominating them for the Champion for Children Award to be presented at the Week of the Young Child evening performance of "Too Many Frogs" by the Tarradiddle Players on Tuesday, April 8. A reception will be held prior to the performance to recognize the finalists for this award.

Presented by Anson County Partnership for Children, this award will recognize an individual who:

- Champions the well-being of children.
- Demonstrates commitment to providing a better future for children.
- Works with others to raise awareness about children's issues.
- Believes in building strong families.
- Demonstrates leadership on behalf of children in the community.

Nominees could be a professional, such as a doctor or teacher, a business or organization, a community member, neighbor or parent -- anyone who does their best to make life better for Anson County children.

Nomination forms are available on [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org) or by contacting the Partnership at 704-694-4036. All nominations must be returned to the Anson County Partnership for Children no later than Friday, March 21, at 5 p.m.

## Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have lost a child of any age, meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 13 in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-8774 or 704-475-5005.

## Carolinas HealthCare System Offers Free Prostate Screenings Thursday

Carolinas HealthCare System's Levine Cancer Institute is offering free prostate screenings on Thursday, March 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. The screenings will take place at CMC-Union in the Outpatient Pavilion.

Pre-registration is required. To register, call 704-993-3265. For more information, visit [CarolinasHealthCare.org/Levine-cancer-institute](http://CarolinasHealthCare.org/Levine-cancer-institute).

## Play Called Getting Pass Ugly to be Presented Saturday

Everyone is invited to come out for an entertaining play that will be presented by local talent. *Getting Pass Ugly* will be presented Saturday at Harvest Ministries. It stars Lucille Gaddy, Rachel Melton, Shanel Willoughby and Armani Willoughby. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the show starts at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$10, and are available at Awesome Touch Beauty Shop. Or you can call Lucille Gaddy at 704-475-3371 or email [Lucille1236@yahoo.com](mailto:Lucille1236@yahoo.com).

## Burnsville VFD BBQ is Saturday

This Saturday, March 15 you are invited to come to the Burnsville Volunteer Fire & Rescue BBQ. They will be serving the best pork and chicken barbecue you could ask for from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Served with slaw, beans, roll and a dessert, the plates are \$10. They will also have an all you can eat buffet which also includes hushpuppies and tea. The costs are: \$11 adult, \$8 senior citizen (65+), \$8 active military and \$5 child (2-8). They will offer takes too. They are located at 13380 Highway 742 North.