

Dignity, Sympathy
and Respect

Our reputation is
based on competence
and caring. Every
detail is taken care of.



704-694-2524
Visit Us On-Line At
leavittfuneralhomewadesboro.com

Equestrian Center Makes The Move To Anson County

When Barry and Jennifer Hutchens made the decision to swap their Norwood address for one in Anson County, it created a series of complications, not the least of which was the name of their well-established business, Lake Tillery Equestrian Center. "We discussed changing the name, but we had invested so much in our brand and gaining name recognition that we just didn't want to start over, and the new location is only eight miles from the lake, so we just went with it."

Ironically, it was that name recognition and the success of their business that prompted the move in the first place, as the Hutchens had outgrown their former Stanly County location. The new site, just two miles outside Ansonville on Ansonville-Polkton Road, is almost 30 acres and provides ample room for the Hutchens, their three dogs, nine horses and half-dozen goats. The "business" end of the operation offers services such as riding lessons and camps, horse training, birthday parties, mounted archery clinics, horse shows and horse hauling and transport, but perhaps closer to the Hutchens's heart is their nonprofit organization, Riding With Grace, which offers a PATH certified Therapeutic Riding Program for children and adults with mental and physical issues.

"As prey animals, horses are amazingly perceptive of their environment and forge an immediate bond with humans they sense are troubled or distressed. For the riders, horses seem to have a calming influence that is really quite magical. And there are actual physical benefits, as well. Because of the way horses walk, with one foot off the ground at all times, their gait creates a circular motion for the rider which causes them to alternately tense and relax all their muscles, and since a horse's body temperature is slightly higher than a human's, they feel pleasantly warm. The result is almost like getting a massage."

In addition to offering equestrian services, the Hutchens plan to hold events at their expanded Ansonville location. "The people who originally built this farm set it up to be used for events, so there is a parking area, ADA compliant restrooms, an arena with an announcers' booth and even food truck electric and water hook-ups. "One thing we are definitely planning for next year is a big Kentucky Derby Party; extravagant hats, colorful dresses, the works." Which, of course, begged a question about this year's controversy. "Maximum Security was the winner. Technically, he may have strayed out of his lane, but he didn't impact the outcome of the race. If he had been owned by someone with more influence in the sport, he would have never been disqualified for that."

And there you have it, right from the horse's mouth.
Anson Economic Development Partnership is pleased to welcome lake Tillery Equestrian Center to Ansonville. You can learn more about Lake Tillery Equestrian Center at their website, www.laketilleryequestrian.com, or on their Facebook page, @carolinaequinecenterprisesllc.
Story and photo courtesy of AnsonEDP

Letter to the Editor

A Thank You to All Who Helped After a Wreck

At about noon on Tuesday, April 23, my husband and I were 3 hours into a vacation from Wilmington to Huntsville, AL, having started with prayers for safe travels. We have driven Highway 218 for well over 20 years, though usually in a car. We were in our 30 foot motor home and towing a car.

A big 18 wheeler going east crossed the double line, and my husband moved right, onto the soft shoulder, then abruptly headed left and went across the road and into a farmer's newly plowed field. The RV took out a telephone pole and then laid over on its side.

The rest of that day was made bearable through the kindness and help above and beyond from the people of your community. A mother and daughter stopped. They watched as we pushed the windshield forward in order to get out. They petted our dog and hugged me.

The farmer and the volunteer firemen were there to lend more than a hand. The lady had a leash, a bowl and water for our dog. The man who rents U-Hauls (behind McDonald's in Wadesboro) was there in ten minutes. All the men, including a telephone repair man, went into our RV and began the work of salvage. The telephone man had a chain saw and effortlessly removed a portion of the pole so the wires would be out of the way during the tow truck process.

Absolutely professional and calm were the EMT team, as well as the state troopers taking the report and the staff at the Emergency Room at Atrium Hospital.

We know we have experienced a miracle, and we wanted everyone who helped that day to realize their place in our hearts.

Sincerely, Debbie Scheu.
P.S. Our pooch Missy spent the afternoon with the ladies in the Wadesboro U-Haul Office ♥

Ladies Out at Grace Center

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

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

Catching Up With AnsonEDP's John Marek

If you want to catch up with Anson Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP) executive director John Marek these days, you'd better be wearing running shoes, because the county's chief business recruiter and champion has been a blur of activity for the past couple of months. We finally managed to track him down at Allen's Restaurant in Peachland and joined him for a cup of coffee and a brief Q&A session.

• **There has been a flurry of activity from AnsonEDP over the past few weeks, five announcements in six weeks. What is the story behind that?** Ideally we would like to spread things out a little more, but they happen when they happen. We've been working on the winery project for two years, and yesterday's Loba-Wakol announcement for eight months, it's just a coincidence that everything came to a head around the same time.

• **So we shouldn't expect this pace to continue throughout the rest of the year?** As much as I would love to do 50 announcements this year (laughs), no, there's nothing in the pipeline that I expect to announce in the next 30-60 days, so the news wire will be settling down. Of course, you never know about these things and there are still plenty of promising projects on the board; any one of them could break loose at any time.

• **The Loba-Wakol announcement yesterday, that was a pretty big deal, wasn't it?** It was, for a lot of reasons. When JJ Haines announced they were relocating their distribution operation last year, there was some misinformation circulated about how that went down and significant concern about the loss of one of the county's larger employers and having a big empty building right at the entrance to town. Putting a new tenant in that facility was a major point of emphasis for the county, the town and my organization. And we hoped to be able to do that without displacing the 40 remaining Haines employees, which, honestly, was a pretty tall order. We were very fortunate to find exactly the right partner to make it happen.

• **The county, the town and AnsonEDP are giving Loba-Wakol more than \$250,000 in incentives to locate here. How do you respond to criticism that you "bought the business?"** Our incentive policies are completely consistent and transparent. They are posted on the AnsonEDP website. Loba-Wakol is getting exactly the industrial tax grants from the county and the town they qualify for based on their level of investment and job creation. Any company that meets those criteria would get exactly the same assistance. The \$20,000 building upfit grant from AnsonEDP is tied specifically to the building, not the project, and anyone who purchased that building and opened a new business there would have received that same amount. Our incentive policies are designed to allow us to compete with surrounding counties. We don't buy business—we don't need to—but we certainly offer competitive programs to assist new and expanding industry.

• **Because of everything that has happened since, it seems like a long time ago that you announced the REV Uptown project, but it's really only been a little over a month; how is that going?** It has been every bit as much of a challenge as we thought it would be. Anytime you refurbish a building that has been vacant for ten years you are going to run into some unexpected issues. Actually, you expect them, you just don't know what they are going to be. The building has a few "quirks," and one of contractors who has been doing some work there at night claims maybe even a few ghosts. Ultimately, though, the incubator portion of the building was ready on May 1st, as promised, and the remainder of the space will be open by the end of the month. We have a seminar program scheduled for the Boardroom next Wednesday and we will be ready for that. Speckled Paw Coffee will probably be opening the week of the 20th. We are more or less on schedule.

• **You mentioned the incubator space. Tell us more about Borgstena, the company that is going to be locating there.** Borgstena happened very quickly. They contacted us around the first of the year looking for some temporary office space. We had several meetings with them and it became clear that they were a perfect candidate for the incubator space at our proposed REV Uptown project. Fortunately, we had already done some of the planning and legwork on that, and were in a position to be able to meet their very aggressive timetable. They are an automotive textiles company; specifically, this division makes headliners the padded fabric on the interior roof of the car. They currently supply several assembly plants in the U.S. and Mexico. Their plan is to start off with a technical sales and service center here and eventually move toward manufacturing product here. The timetable on that depends on several factors, but could be as soon as a year.

• **And they would locate that manufacturing plant here in Anson County?** Well, we hope so. At the very least we hope to be on their short list of potential locations. Clearly, having their offices here is a plus. And they have looked at a couple of existing manufacturing buildings in the county which might fit their long-term needs.

• **The winery and the equestrian center; two sort of similar projects on opposite ends of the county.** Yes, again, it just worked out that way. Agri-tourism is one of those sectors where Anson County can excel. The Vineyard at The Old Place and Lake Tillery Equestrian Center have similar business models in that they plan to supplement a core business, winemaking and equestrian services respectively, with a tourism component, and that is great for Anson County.

• **Any big vacation plans for the summer?** I wouldn't say "big" plans, but once REV Uptown is up and running, my wife and I plan to take a week in the mountains; hiking, fishing, kayaking. There's a Taste of Scotland Festival in Franklin in mid-June, and we'll probably head to Murphy and stray over the Tennessee line for a day or two.

'Baby, It's Hot Inside': Commissioner Mike Causey Launches Summer Campaign to Prevent Ragedies in Hot Cars

As the summer season quickly approaches, Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey and Safe Kids North Carolina are reminding people of the dangers of leaving children in cars by launching a statewide summer safety campaign: "Baby, It's Hot Inside." 2018 was the worst year on record for child vehicular heatstroke deaths with 52 children dying, including a seven-month-old boy from Raleigh.

According to Safe Kids USA, nine children have died of heatstroke in vehicles in the United States so far in 2019, including one from North Carolina, a nine-month-old boy from Winston-Salem.

"We are all excited about the return of warm weather in our state, but with that also comes a very real danger of heatstroke," Commissioner Causey said. "Even the best of parents or caregivers can make the mistake of leaving a child unattended in a car even for a minute, and the end result can be more dangerous than people realize."

This year, Commissioner Causey and the Safe Kids North Carolina team is launching a campaign called "Baby, It's Hot Inside" to inform members of the media, families and school children that playing in or leaving children unattended in hot cars can be deadly.

Safe Kids North Carolina will host events across the state using a large digital thermometer that will simultaneously display the temperatures inside and outside of a parked vehicle, while Safe Kids staff members bake s'mores inside the car's interior to demonstrate how temperatures can quickly climb to dangerous levels. In addition to the s'mores, Safe Kids will serve up safety tips to prevent child heatstroke deaths.

Safety experts will be available to answer questions from the media and the public at the demonstrations:

- Wednesday, May 22, at 3 p.m. at Great Wolf Lodge, 10175 Weddington Road, Concord, N.C., 28027
- Saturday, May 25, at 11 a.m. at Johnnie Mercer's Pier, 23 E. Salisbury St., Wrightsville Beach, N.C., 28480

Across the country each year, about 35 to 40 children die as a result of heat exposure in cars. Last year, the worst on record, 52 children died when they were left unattended in vehicles and were overcome by heatstroke. This record number of deaths demands the increased education of all parents and caregivers that it is never safe to leave a child unattended in a vehicle. July is the deadliest month for cases of vehicular hyperthermia in children, but the danger spreads from March through November in our area due to the subtropical North Carolina climate.

For more safety tips and information about Safe Kids North Carolina, visit www.ncdoi.com/osfm/safekids.

Do You Have a Coat or Blanket You Would Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program throughout the year. They distribute coats and blankets to several of the churches and schools in Anson County as well as directly to those people in need. Now that winter is over, do you have a coat or blanket that you can contribute to this cause?

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

HOUSES FOR RENT
Crider & Crider Properties
704-694-3030

EVENT SPACE AVAILABLE

James Holbrook Building at 400 N Greene St in Wadesboro. Includes tables, chairs, linen, china & centerpieces. Find with Facebook! Call Kathy at Crider & Crider Properties 704-694-3030

FOR SALE

TIME TO GO FISHING
2016 BOAT & 2017 TRAILER PACKAGE
Includes Sun Dolphin Pro 120 boat with cover, EZ Loader trailer, Minn Kota trolling motor, marine battery (only used twice). \$2,500 negotiable.
Call Kenny 704-695-6938

HAPPY JACK®

Liqui-Vict: recognized safe & effective against hook & round worms by U.S. CVM.
At Tractor Supply (www.kennelvax.com)

BASIC FINANCE, INC.

Stop in to see us
or call 704-694-3619

Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:30pm
913 East Caswell Street • Wadesboro

Brakes/Mufflers

Catalytic Converters • Shocks
Custom Dual Exhaust • Tie Rods
Wheel Bearings • Drivetrain Repair
AND MORE !!! CALL or COME BY

EXHAUST WORKS Tracy Caudle
3971 Hwy 74 West
Across from School Bus Garage 704-694-5270

WE SELL APPLIANCE PARTS

MARTIN FURNITURE
FACTORY OUTLET

High Quality - Low Prices

1367 Highway 74 West
Wadesboro • 704-694-3185

W. RANDALL CLINE, D.D.S. & ASSOCIATES

General, Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry
6604 E. Marshville Blvd.
Marshville, NC 28103
704-624-6300
www.marshvilledentist.com

DANNY BEACHUM LANDSCAPING MATERIALS

All types of Rock & Mulch, Driveway Gravel, Topsoil, Sand & Base Material
Bag or Bulk on all Products
Perennials & Shrubbery

LOADER WORK • PICKUP or DELIVERY
Corner US Hwy 74 & 52 North
704-475-2625 or 704-694-2221
www.BeachumLandscapingMaterials.com

CAROLINA COMFORT INSULATING COMPANY

Spray Foam & Fiberglass Insulation
Radiant Barriers Attic Tents

FREE ESTIMATE FULLY INSURED

704-272-7776 or 704-488-6362