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

Sheriff Tommy Allen Announces His Retirement



Seven-term Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen announced on Monday that he will retire at the end of this current term, which ends December 2014. He spoke to his staff late Monday afternoon regarding his decision.

Allen was first elected Sheriff in 1978, the youngest Sheriff in the state. He served four terms to 1994. Allen stayed out of law for eight years, then ran for Sheriff in 2002 and won. He has been re-elected twice since then.

Sheriff Allen said that up until the past couple of weeks he felt he would run one more time, but several opportunities have come up and he said he felt he should take advantage of them. He would not elaborate as to what those opportunities were other than so he wanted to have more time to do a few other things while he was still young and healthy. Allen will be 65 years old at the end of this term.

"It would not be fair to the citizens of this county to run and then only serve a year or so of the next term and then step down," Allen said. "This way the entire county has the opportunity to elect their Sheriff for the next four years. It has been a great privilege to serve as Sheriff for 28 years (at the end of this term). I want to personally thank every citizen in this county for the support over these many years. You have stuck with me through both good times some difficult times. I've always said that the Sheriff's job is one of the most rewarding jobs. True, when it's bad it awful, but when it's good it's great."

The Sheriff said he would hope the next Sheriff would come in and not make many changes as he believes he has a great Sheriff's Office, Jail and 911 Operation - and a staff he said was second to none.

Allen's 28 years as Sheriff is the longest in the history of Anson County by twice and one of the longest in the state of North Carolina.



Faith-Based Center of Hope Donated Supplies to ACEC

The Faith-Based Center of Hope donated school supplies to Anson County Early College students. Principal Deborah Davis said, "On behalf of ACEC faculty, students, staff and parents we thank you. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated."

Pictured here, from left, front are: Adrian Sturdivant, Tymeshia Melton and Jacob Simpson. Back: Lawrence Parsons, Annie Parsons, Amber Thomas, Naly Lor, Ava Thuleen, Temara Murphy and Jamila Marsh.

Don't Miss the Boat: the Medicare Annual Election Period is Here

Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin and SHIIP want to make sure that Medicare beneficiaries don't miss the boat! The Medicare Part D Annual Election Period takes place through December 7, and SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, can help Medicare beneficiaries compare plans.

"Now is the time to compare and evaluate your choices. You may be able to improve your coverage, save money or both," said Goodwin. "As always, SHIIP is here to help, over the phone or in person, at counseling sites all across the state. Let us help you find the best Medicare prescription plan for you or your loved one."

Assistance is available for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers:

- Get free one-on-one help from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, by calling 1-800-443-9354, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare your current coverage with all of the options that are available in your area, and enroll in a new plan, if necessary.
- Locally you can call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616. Or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Review the 2014 Medicare & You handbook mailed to people with Medicare in September.

SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and can assist anyone with questions about Medicare Part D coverage information and enrollment. Trained SHIIP counselors are available for one-on-one counseling appointments in all 100 North Carolina counties. For more information, contact SHIIP at 1-800-443-9354 or visit www.ncshiip.com.

Polkton Leaders in Support of New Animal Shelter

The city government of Polkton recently expressed their full support of the new county animal shelter to be established in the former location of Brown Creek Animal Hospital on Highway 74 in Polkton. Here is a letter they sent to the Anson County Board of Commissioners, dated October 11, 2013

Dear Commissioners, The Polkton Town Council along with the Polkton Police Chief Matt Norris would like to take this opportunity to express support for the proposed animal shelter in Polkton. The suggested site at the former Brown Creek Animal Hospital would not only serve the Town of Polkton well, but also all other municipalities in Anson County.

For some time Polkton has had issues with stray dogs within city limits. It is because of those issues that on March 4 of this year the Polkton Town Council, following a public hearing, voted unanimously to pass an updated animal ordinance that requires all dogs in the town limits be properly cared for (including up to date rabies and parvo/distemper vaccinations), properly restrained and registered with the Town of Polkton annually. To date there are over 100 dogs registered. Many of these dogs received their first rabies shots ever at a clinic sponsored by the Town of Polkton and Brown Creek Animal Hospital in June.

We are very pleased that citizens are registering their dogs. However, there are many more that, unfortunately for the dogs, are not registered. These are the dogs that the potential new shelter would serve. Any unregistered dogs found roaming in the town limits of Polkton are, and will continue to be, picked up by animal control. We would like nothing more than for all such strays to be adopted by families who will care for them as they've never been before. Although adoption of these less fortunate dogs is the greatest hope, we would like to see that the shelter will serve these animals well by placing at least a 72 hour hold prior to humanely euthanizing them if, for whatever extenuating circumstances, the dogs cannot be held longer for possible adoption.

We would like to thank each of you for your efforts to provide an animal shelter in Polkton that will not only serve the citizens of Anson County but also the animals that, through no fault of their own, are lost or have been discarded. We look forward to hearing the outcome of your proposed project. Signed, Henry Furr, Mayor; Johnny Faulk, Mayor Pro Tem; J. Charles Allen; Jimmy Hildreth; Sissy Stegall; Lindsay Wallace; and Matt Norris, Police Chief.

Wadesboro Police Department's Shop with a Cop Program

In a release from the Wadesboro Police Department: The Season of Giving is just around the corner. Christmas trees will twinkle, lights will shine, and the thought of Santa will be on every child's mind. The Wadesboro Police Department would love to help Santa this year! So it is with great joy that we get to inform you that the Wadesboro Police Department will once again host the program Shop with a Cop! We would like to bring happiness to as many children as possible this year. And we need your help in order to fulfill as many dreams as we can.

Shop with a Cop is a program designed especially for children. On a special day this December children will get a chance to ride in a police patrol vehicle, enjoy a good meal, then go shopping and pick out what will make them happy this season. They will do so with an assigned officer of the Wadesboro Police Department.

Each child receives a dollar amount that they can spend. However, the dollar amount depends greatly on you. All donations will go to the children selected. The number of children selected will be divided into the dollar amount. This will ensure an equal amount for all.

"The Wadesboro Police Department is asking for your help," said Sgt. Ray. "No amount is too great or too small. We understand that it has been a hard year for most. Please reach into your hearts and help us spread the joy of Christmas this year."

For further information please feel free to contact Sgt. Ray or Sgt. Cannon at the Wadesboro Police Department at 704-694-2167. Please mail all donations to: Wadesboro PD, Attn: Shop with a Cop, PO Box 697, Wadesboro NC 28170. Make checks payable to: Town of Wadesboro (memo: Shop with a Cop). Or feel free to drop a donation off at the department. You can donate an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots at the Wadesboro Police and Fire Department.

Thank you in advance for your generosity! Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you! "If we do not care, we cannot be helped. If we do care, we cannot be stopped!"

Dispose of Your Unused, Expired Prescription Drugs Saturday

The Anson County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with Safe Kids Anson County, is pleased to announce the Operation Medicine Drop planned for Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Food Lion in Wadesboro. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

This take-back event gives community members the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the US are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines - flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash - both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information on the upcoming event please contact Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188.

Forestville Ingathering Ends After 56 Years

This story submitted by Forestville United Methodist Church: Forestville United Methodist Church's Ingathering began in 1957 when Rev. Robin Hurley was minister of the Lilesville church. He, Mrs. Grace Downer and Elizabeth "Gene" Wall knew of other churches that had Ingatherings.

The original concept of Ingathering was for all members to have a yearlong project that would raise money. On the Ingathering Sunday each person would take their project proceeds to the altar. The Ingathering idea was sold to the congregation.

Grace Downer headed up the first one, and on the Saturday of Ingathering weekend the projects were brought to the church and the doors were opened to anyone who wanted to come in, look, buy and eat. There was a craft room that offered handmade place mats, stuffed toys, sunbonnets, dish towels, food holders, aprons and other items made all during the year in preparation for this day. In the bake sale / pantry room were cakes, pies, cookies, jam, jellies, pickles and many more goodies. Catherine Neal always made 50 jars of dill pickles which sold for \$1 each. Outside was fresh produce. Lindsey Wall, Jack Hildreth and David Vaughn, Sr. always had plenty for the public to buy. A meal was served similar to the way it is done today, only on a smaller scale.

Tickets for the meal were sold by church members and turned in before the Ingathering. People were seated by the waitresses who would then take their order to the kitchen to be filled. Today the meal is served as a buffet and patrons can get any item on the buffet line. This worked out great because we had little waste.

Hogs for the pork were purchased from Mr. Bill Waddell. After he butchered the hogs they were carried to Mr. Howard Teal and Stephen at Bowman's Restaurant to be cooked. The men of the church picked up the meat to be chopped. Howard and Stephen also cooked the turkeys. All the cabbage was cut with a small hand cutter by Mrs. Ruth Tucker, using her recipe for the slaw.

It would be impossible to name all the people involved. These are the families who have participated in the early years and also the present in making our Ingathering successful: Allens, Anderson, Bacon, Boggan, Clark, Carter, Dockery, Davidson, Downer, Griffin, Hildreth, McCormick, Miller, Moss, Neal, Parson, Pegram, Redmond, Sargent, Sheppard, Taylor, Tucker, Vaughn, Williams, Hodge, Honeycutt, Cornwell and Ratliff.

We have had dedicated members who have worked so very hard to keep our Ingathering going for 56 years. Friends and neighbors helped to make this possible. Among many, we had one special, loyal supporter who really stands out. Mr. Arthur C. Summers, former Superintendent of the Anson County School System was asked several months before his passing if he had ever missed an Ingathering. His reply was, "To my knowledge I only missed one." We are sorry he could not be here for the last one.

All proceeds from Ingathering are used for repairs and other needs of the church.

Thanks to all of you for your loyal support these past 56 years. We will miss you.

Hibbett Sporting Goods to Open Store in Wadesboro

Hibbett Sporting Goods, Inc., the national sporting goods retailer based in Birmingham, Ala., has announced the execution of a lease for a new store in Wadesboro. Hibbett Sports plans to open the new location this winter in the Dollar Tree shopping center adjacent to the Wal-Mart Supercenter. The store anticipates employing eight full and part-time team members. Currently Hibbett has 49 locations in the state of North Carolina alone.

Hibbett is a fast-growing operator of over 897 full-line sporting goods stores in small to mid-sized markets, predominantly in the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

The stores offer a large selection of quality branded athletic equipment, footwear and apparel, with a focus on knowledgeable, friendly customer service and providing customers with information they can't always get at other stores selling sporting goods. Hibbett Sports has a long history of focusing on the needs of local teams and leagues, with a variety of services to meet the needs of coaches and players alike.

Hibbett is the only sporting goods chain committed to serving small and mid-size markets. This strategy has proved to be a successful one for Hibbett as the company continues to expand its number of stores across the U.S.

Board of Education Meets Monday

The Anson County Board of Education will meet in regular session on Monday, October 28 at Anson Academy, located at the SPCC Lockhart-Taylor Center. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Anson High School Family Night

The Anson High School PTO and Parent University will sponsor Family Night tomorrow, Thursday, October 24, at 5:30 p.m. in the Media Center. The event will feature a presentation by AVID students and a mini-session from Connections Family Program presenting "Social Media and its Impact on Teens."

A sandwich meal will be served. Please call 704-694-7485 or email Montgomery.d@ansonschools.org to schedule seats for you and your family. PTO Memberships are available to everyone desiring to support the PTO.

Fall Festival in Uptown Wadesboro is Sat.

The annual Fall Festival in uptown Wadesboro will take place on Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Bring the kids to this family friendly event that is taking place in and around the town square. Among the events happening are a pumpkin painting contest from 10 to 11:30 a.m., a costume contest at noon, fortune telling, games with prizes, storytelling...and trick or treating at local businesses! Be sure to get a free book for your child from Anson County Partnership for Children too! Best of all, everything is free!

For more details call 704-695-1644 or visit www.uptownwadesboro.com. This event is sponsored by Uptown Wadesboro, Inc.

Military Career Expo is Nov. 8

On Friday, November 8, in honor of our nation's heroes, the Carolinas HealthCare System Talent Acquisition Team will host a special Career Expo for military service members, veterans and their spouses. If you are a military service member, a veteran, or the spouse of a service member interested in working for Carolinas HealthCare System, please call 704-631-0345 by Friday, November 1, to register for this special event.

The expo will take place in Charlotte. Specifics (schedule, location) will be given only to those who pre-register, so be sure to call today!

Book Sale is Today!

There will be a book sale to benefit the Auxiliary Volunteers at Anson Community Hospital on Wednesday, October 23. Come to the second floor of the hospital for great deals on books, and there will be recipes, toys, games and more.