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

## Toys for Tots Kicks Off New Season

Anson County held their 2015 Toys for Tots campaign kick-off on Tuesday evening, October 13 at Grace Senior Center. "Because of economic problems, each year the need grows larger," stated Vancine Sturdivant, founder of Anson County's Toys for Tots Program.

The Toys for Tots 2015 campaign will be housed at Harvest Ministries Outreach Center, which is located behind McDonald's and Pizza Hut in Wadesboro.

Applications for toys for your children can be obtained at Grace Senior Center, the Department of Social Services, the Anson County School System, Kam McDonald, Jennifer Tarlton (704-694-3115) and Anson County Health Department. Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant will have applications at Harvest Ministries daily.

To donate toys or give monetary donations, please contact Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

"We need your support in order to bless our youth," Sturdivant concluded.

Present at the opening Kick-off were: Jennifer Tarlton,



Child Support Agency; Jake Barbee, Anson County Government; Kam McDonald, Anson

County School System; Rev. Bernice Bennett, Council on Aging, Grace Senior Center; Debra Rosebud, Executive Board member; Donna McAllister, Lanesboro Correctional Institution; Jennifer Cole, Poisson, Poisson & Bower Law Firm; Vancine Sturdivant, Toys for Tots Coordinator; Brian Jenkins, Anson County Sheriff's Office; Wanda Talbert, Grace Senior Center; Debra Funderburke, Executive Board member; Henry Pratt, Executive Board member; Rosa Little, Toys for Tots Treasurer; Nikki Leviner; Bill Huntley, Poisson, Poisson & Bower Law Firm; Fred Poisson, Attorney; Danny Pearson, Pearson Trucking Service; and Tracy Little, Little's Trucking Company.

## Five Tips to Keep Your Kids Safe this Halloween Season

Costumes, candy and treats, oh my! Halloween is a fun-filled time for kids and parents alike. But did you know that on average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween as on any other day of the year? Holly Stegall, MD, family medicine physician at Carolinas Primary Care, part of Carolinas HealthCare System Anson shares five safety tips to help make this year's festivities fun and safe for all the trick-or-treaters in your family.

- 1) Make costumes safe. It's important to make sure your child's costume fits appropriately so they don't trip and fall. Children should wear well-fitting masks that allow for adequate vision, as masks that don't fit or have small eye holes pose a risk for kids tripping down steps and not seeing traffic.
- 2) Be visible. It's a good idea to have children wear light-colored costumes and decorate their costumes and candy bags with reflective material to help make them more visible at night and easily noticeable to drivers.
- 3) Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Don't allow children to enter neighbors' homes that you don't know or trust. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult, and children 12 and younger should always be accompanied by an adult when out trick-or-treating. If driving from home to home, please be careful and be mindful of any fellow trick-or-treaters that may be walking.
- 4) Inspect all candy and treats. Make sure to inspect all candy and treats before eating, and examine for any potential choking hazards. Though rare, parents should look closely to see if any wrappers have been opened or tampered with. Throw away any candy that is unwrapped, has a torn wrapper, or spoiled. It's also a good idea to avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- 5) Walk safely. Always walk on sidewalks or well-lit paths whenever possible, and remember to look both ways before crossing the street. To avoid injuries, make sure to walk and not run from house to house. And don't forget to bring a flashlight with you while out trick-or-treating!

"And most importantly, be sure to have fun and don't eat too much candy," says Dr. Stegall.

Holly Stegall, MD, sees patients at Carolinas HealthCare System Anson. For more information, visit [www.CarolinasHealthCare.org/anson](http://www.CarolinasHealthCare.org/anson).

## Library Urges Ansonians to Participate in Their Online Survey

**Hampton B. Allen Library developing plan to meet needs of community.**

**Survey participants have a chance to win an iPad Mini.**

The Hampton B. Allen Library is conducting a Community Needs Assessment, trying to learn more about what the needs of Anson County are in order to form the best strategic plan to meet those needs and serve the community. As part of the assessment they have prepared an online survey for the people of Anson County. The link to the survey is [www.surveymonkey.com/r/srslscommunitysurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/srslscommunitysurvey).

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a drawing for a free iPad Mini from the Sandhill Regional Library System.

For more information about the survey or the library contact Aaron Mehaffey, Branch Director, at 704-694-5177 or [aaron.mehaffey@srsls.info](mailto:aaron.mehaffey@srsls.info).

## Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon

Anson County's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 3 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Because of limited seating capacity the luncheon will be held on two days, serving 250 seniors each day. The festivities will start at 11 a.m. each day. The luncheon is free of charge.

Anyone interested in attending should call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register their preferred day. Registration deadline is November 30.



## Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Terrific Kids

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School held its Terrific Kids Celebration for the first nine weeks on Tuesday, October 20. Pictured are the students who were recognized for this honor.

From left, front row: Camille Hyatt, McKenna Clarke, Adamaris Miranda Gomez, Landon Chaney, Bella Osborn, Tyheim Rushing, Laina Williams, Adam Brock, JaNiah Williams, Hannah Griffin, Jackson Harris and Ayanna Fisher. Second row: Kyla Jackson, Kaleah Houston, Wisdom Her, Jesse Horne, DeStye Chatmon, Jackson Stinson, Hannah Austin, Titus Mongo, Evan McLaurin, Fernando Flores Garcia, Brennan Jackson, Sahniyah Pickett and Brandon Gomez. Third row: John Thao, Jessica Laney, Kaegan Chambers, Morgan Oglesby, Willie McLendon, Elizabeth Jones, Jalil Oglesby, Maddie Burr, Kinsey Martin, Prince Vang, Caroline Austin and Marcus Jackson. Back row: Jayla Sturdivant, Addie Taylor, Zackery Echols, Elmer, Rangel-Cortez, Adrian Hough, Kyle Vang, Jeremiah Hicks, Ireangel Crawford, Sheneeka Allen, Destrory Horne and Adrianna Anastas. River Pearson is not pictured.

## Anson Turkey Queen Beauty Pageant Returns!

On Monday, November 16, in the Wadesboro Primary School Gym at 6:30 p.m., Anson County will be taken by storm when some of the areas most talented and intellectual 'beauties' join hands on stage to vie for the 2015 Turkey Queen crown! Oh what a night of entertainment this is sure to be. Did we mention that this is a *womanless* beauty pageant?!

Each of the contestants will model in "Ladies Choice" evening wear, showcase their skills with a spectacular talent routine, and have a chance to prove their intelligence with one question from the distinguished panel of judges.

You do not want to miss this, the most hilariously funny event to come to Anson County since the last Turkey Queen Pageant...way back in 1984!

Come see for yourself and make it known who YOU believe will be the best representative of the evening. Watch the showdown between the Anson County Sheriff's Department and the Wadesboro Police Department as Sheriff Landric Reid challenges Police Chief Thedis Spencer! And as K-9 Officer Sgt. Donald Jenks goes head to head with WPD Detective Shane Drake! Throw Lilesville Police Chief Bobby Gallimore into the mix and what an impossible prediction to make! What is for sure is that it will be a face-off (*using that term loosely*) to the finish!

Representing Anson County Schools, who will reign supreme between Anson High School Principal Chris Stinson, Anson Middle School Assistant Principal Kevin Adams or Wadesboro Primary School Assistant Principal Fred Davis? Surely these guys will be among the smartest and most intellectual, but how will they survive the talent and evening portions? We just can't wait to find out!

And who among Anson's finest businessmen could perhaps go home victorious? Will it be Steve Whitlock, Tracy Little, Charlie Lockhart or Matt Starling? You guessed it folks. The only way to find out is to come and see it for yourselves! These contestants are busy strategizing with hopes of taking home the big win and the very big crown!

Get your tickets today! Advance tickets are \$5 and \$8 at the door. Purchase your tickets at Whit's Convenience Stores (3 locations), The Express Newspaper, Lilesville Town Hall, or from any of the Majorettes by Melanie Twirly Girls, who will also be special guest performers. Call 704-695-2247 for further details.

All proceeds will go toward helping the Twirly Girls compete in Florida. Come out and enjoy an evening of epic comedic proportions, guaranteed to make you laugh out loud! Who will be crowned the 2015 Turkey Queen? We cannot wait to find out!

## Fall Festival in Uptown Wadesboro is Saturday

**Bring the whole family uptown for a great time!**

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. will hold its Annual Fall Festival on Saturday October 31, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the square in uptown Wadesboro. The activities include trick-or-treating at uptown businesses, games with prizes, storytelling, costume judging at noon with prizes, pumpkin decorating from 10 to 11:30 a.m., fortune telling, cake walk, hay rides and many photo ops.

Supreme Dental will be giving away toothbrushes and toothpaste, Anson County Partnership for Children will be providing free books to the children, and US Forestry along with Smoky will be presenting free items. Please come join the fun and festivities.

For further information call 704-695-1644, visit [www.uptownwadesboro.com](http://www.uptownwadesboro.com) or call Wadesboro Town Hall at 704-694-5171.

## Food, Hygiene Products, Clothes and Shoes for Those in Need

Faith Based Center of Hope and Vancine Sturdivant, CEO and founder, along with Harris Chapel and Galilee A.M.E. Zion Churches will host "A Day of Blessings" on Saturday, October 31 at Harris Chapel in Morven beginning at 9 a.m. They will pass out food, hygiene products, clothes and shoes to those in need.

Sturdivant said, "We ask that our churches please contact us. You know among your congregation members who may need our support. We will also deliver, if needed."

Each month Faith Based Center of Hope, with the support of local citizens, passes out hygiene bags in Lilesville and Wadesboro. Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Wadesboro participates on Thursdays during their Soup Kitchen Ministry. Now Morven is included with the participation of Harris Chapel and Galilee Churches. For more information as to how you can contribute or volunteer, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412, Dr. Bernice Bennett at 704-694-6616 or Jennifer Tarlton at 704-694-3115.

Sturdivant concluded, "We are here to be a blessing to others."

## Domestic Violence Coalition Candlelight Vigil is Thursday

*In a release from Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition:* October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. According to the NCADV website, Domestic Violence Awareness month was first observed in 1987. Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center (ACDVC) participates in the Silent Witness program during the month of October to mourn those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

On Thursday, October 29 at 6:00 pm, a candle light vigil will be held at the front steps of the Anson County Courthouse. ACDVC invites anyone who has a friend or loved one represented here or if you have been or know someone that has been affected by domestic violence to come and join us during this special time of remembrance.

Our known victims include: Argatha H. Clark, Cindy B. McIntyre, Rebecca B. Morrow, Connie Newton, Laura Parker, Mary Polk, Danette Streater, Mary Jane Sues, Linda Kay Walters, Daisy Coleman Melton, Larry Thomas Lindsey, Jennifer Howell, Sherri Feely Marshall, Elnora Sturdivant, Doretha Smith, Deborah Annette Wall Smith and two unnamed victims.

For more information please contact the staff at Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center at 704-694-4499. The 24 hour crisis line is 704-690-0362.

## College Application Week Is Nov. 2 - 6

Anson High School, Anson Early College, Anson New Tech and Anson Academy will participate in the statewide College Application Week sponsored by College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) and the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO) during the week of November 2 through 6.

As a part of the CFNC-CACRAO college access initiative, high schools will work with seniors during this week to complete and submit online at least one college application each using the career and college information and planning site, [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org).

The goal of the program is to get more students applying to North Carolina colleges early in their senior year. During this event, students may apply to North Carolina community colleges, independent colleges and state universities, many of which will waive their application fees.

Students are encouraged to begin looking at applications in [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) for schools they are interested in applying to as there may be essay questions they need time to work on. Students may begin working on applications but should not submit them without assistance from a counselor until the week of November 2 through 6.

For more information about events at your school, please contact your school counselor.

## Anson County Commissioners Meet at Different Location November 3

There is a change in the meeting location of the Tuesday, November 3 Anson County Board of Commissioners meeting. The meeting will be held at the Anson County Cooperative Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro, beginning at 6 p.m.

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)