

Extension Notes Proceed with Caution on Social Networking Sites

Sometimes I really hate Facebook. The social networking site is all the rage with many of our friends and neighbors. Even in business settings, we have seen the marketing opportunity and embraced it. In fact, Facebook is a great tool to keep in touch with friends, promote upcoming events and advertise promotions.

But, Facebook is also a wide-open arena of unknown faces, secret accounts and hidden agendas. Users of social media sites would be wise to use a bit of caution and post with care. You never know who is out there watching and waiting.

My husband has put a ban on anyone photographing him and posting it on Facebook. He has read the "big brother" articles about facial recognition and future uses of those types of software. Identity theft is bad enough as it is.

In my line of work I have found the opportunities that Facebook provides by setting up event and project pages. You cannot beat the ease of sharing information and watching it spread through the contacts. But, since it is part of work, I have linked those pages to my work email account and need to be open to requests and messages that come from those pages. I mean, really, stirring up interest is what I am trying to do, right? And then comes the crazy messages from someone on the other side of the country wanting to be my friend, or sending a personal message. I didn't ask for that. That type of attention can only be someone up to no good.

And now Facebook has made yet another change to its search platform so that more people's accounts will be available for others to see. Facebook's long announced change for its graph search has now launched. You used to be able to decline to have your information available for graph search, but Facebook has taken that option away from users. So now is the time to go in and review your privacy settings and update them.

Settings on Facebook is the little lock with the three lines on the right-hand side of the blue strip at the top of page. When you click on it, you will get a page that says "Privacy Settings and Tools". The first area is "Who can see my stuff". Mine says "friends" but you'll also have the option to choose "everyone", "only me" and "custom." Custom allows you to specifically limit who can see your "stuff." You can choose to opt out of Granny, your co-workers and other people who you are friends with.

You can go down through the options and change the settings. I discovered I had not changed my setting under the "Who can look me up?" category for my email address or phone, and as a consequence, everyone had access to that information. There is also a box to opt out of allowing Google and other search engines to access your Facebook page. That is extremely handy to do if you do not want some future employer looking to it as a reference on your activities. I wonder if that is where some of my unwanted friend and message requests came from?

Anyway, be cautious with your postings and review your privacy settings. Remember, you never know who is looking at your profile and why. *By Janine Rywak, County Extension Director*

Operation Medicine Drop Collects Nearly 20,000 Doses



The Anson County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the Wadesboro Police Department and Anson County Safe Kids, conducted its fall "Operation Medicine Drop" on Saturday, October 26th. Officers collected 19,269 dosage units of medicines, including 2,132 narcotics-controlled drugs such as oxycodone and hydrocodone which would have an illegal street value of over \$21,000. This was 48.5 pounds of drugs, and brings to a total of over 94,000 units taken in during the seven Operation Medicine Drops conducted over the past several years.

Deaths from prescription drug overdoses have been growing at an alarming rate nationwide. Since 2011 there have been more overdose deaths from prescription medications than from all other illegal drugs combined. Another reason for encouraging citizens to bring in their no longer used or needed medicines is to properly dispose of them and discourage citizens not to flush them down toilets or put them in trash bins to go to landfills. They will eventually get back into the environment and can cause environmental damage.

The Anson County Sheriff's Office, the Wadesboro Police Department and Anson County Safe Kids would like to thank the many individuals who participated in this event. The next Operation Medicine Drop will be scheduled in the spring of 2014 and will be published in the local papers.

Pictured from left are Justin Clark, JR Horne, Kris Tiffany and Kim Wilson.

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Attention: **Betty Huntley** or submitted electronically to **wadesborohousing@windstream.net**.

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