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Obituaries

Mr. Charles Curtis "Chuck" Bowers, Jr.

Mr. Charles Curtis "Chuck" Bowers, Jr., 61, died Monday, November 12, 2018, at his home.

Funeral services were held on Friday, November 16, 2018, at Hopewell United Methodist Church with Rev. Patrick Ledford officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

Chuck was born Janu-

ary 22, 1957, in Anson County, a son of the late Charles Curtis Bowers and the Ellen "Gay" Helms Bowers.

He was a graduate of Bowman High School and North Carolina State University. He worked with Anson County Schools for more than 25 years, teaching the Career Explorations which later became Technologies. He was also the director of the driver's education program for the school system.

Surviving are his daughter and son-in-law, Brittney and Michael Thomas of

Myrtle Beach, SC and his son, Drake Bowers of Norwood; his brothers, Darryl (Kristin) Bowers of Charelastown, WV and Derrick Bowers of Polkton; and his niece and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hopewell United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o, Susie McSwain, 424 Pork Rd., Peachland, NC 28133.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

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Library Now Offering Internet Backpacks for Checkout

You can now check out the internet from your local library! The Hampton B. Allen Library has received internet backpacks to loan to the general public. The backpacks are equipped with a Chromebook, wireless hotspot and charging cords for both. Patrons with accounts in good standing will be eligible to check out a backpack for two weeks. The library hopes these backpacks will help families and individuals, especially students, without reliable internet at home. For more information you can call the library at 704-694-5177 or stop by in person at 120 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Christmas Miracle Meal 2018 for Families in Need

For a donation of \$40 you can provide a family of five a Christmas dinner plus leftovers

The Anson Crisis Ministry, working with Wadesboro IGA and First Baptist Church, is preparing for this year's Christmas Miracle Meal project. Other churches and individuals in the county are invited to participate.

A Christmas Miracle Meal is a box of food that will feed a family of five a Christmas dinner, plus enough for leftovers. These boxed meals will be handed out to 100 needy families in the county.

For a \$40 donation, you can supply a box that includes a 12-14 pound turkey, dressing, potatoes, yams, cranberry sauce, green beans, rolls, sugar, brown sugar, butter, eggs, cornbread, gravy, onions, bread and more.

Families receiving food have been identified through the Anson Crisis Ministry. However, any church in the area can also refer families to be added to this list. Please contact Margot Barnes at the Anson Crisis Ministry at 704-694-2445 to refer families.

Churches are encouraged to partner in this project by referring families, donating funds, and even helping with the packing and distribution. Boxes will be packed with non-perishable food items on Thursday, December 20 and again on Saturday, December 22 with perishable items.

Boxes will then be available for pick-up by identified families at First Baptist Church on Lee Avenue, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. that Saturday. Volunteers are needed for both packing days and distribution.

If you would like to help feed a Christmas meal to a needy family, checks can be made payable to First Baptist Church and delivered to the church office at P.O. Box 423 or 309 Lee Avenue in Wadesboro.

The 2018 goal is \$4,000. If more funds are received, more meals can be purchased for more families. Christmas is coming. Consider sharing blessings with an Anson County family in need this year.

Where Do We Go From Here?

(Now That All Of The Children Are Growin' Up)

By John Marek, Executive Director of the Anson Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP): The bright future of Anson County was clouded a little last week as voters defeated a referendum which would have legalized alcohol sales in unincorporated areas. As stated in previous posts, Anson County was in an unprecedented position for transformational growth spurred by combination of factors - the opening of the Monroe Expressway, an unusually robust national economy and the rapid growth of the Charlotte region - which are unlikely to occur again in the same combination anytime in the near future.

There was a very narrow window of opportunity to completely change the lives of Ansonians in a positive way and, unfortunately, that window has now closed. So, where do we go from here? While the sort of transformational change we had hoped for in new hotels, stores, restaurants and homes in the western part of the county is almost certainly out of the picture now, there are still some positives. So far in 2018, the county has added more than 100 new manufacturing jobs and companies have invested more than \$30 million in new facilities and equipment. Those are very good numbers for a county of just 26,000 residents, and I believe numbers in that range should be sustainable on a year-in, year-out basis if the economy remains strong.

Utility upgrades at the Wadesboro Industrial Park made possible by a \$1.7 million state grant should help our efforts to bring a major employer, perhaps in the Food & Beverage sector, to Wadesboro, and we are currently securing the funding for an AnsonEDP-owned shell building in the park which would further enhance that opportunity.

We also have strong preliminary interest in the 100-acre site adjacent to the landfill, and believe that a new company could be locating there in the very near future. And the purchase price of that land, which is owned by the AEDC, would go toward funding the shell building project and beginning the process of developing the Atlantic Gateway Logistics Park along US 74 in the eastern part of the county.

So, in short, no, we aren't going to be getting the Holiday Inn Express, Applebees, Lidl or QT we had hoped for in the Peachland area, and there won't be a boom of \$300,000 houses (and the tax revenue they generate) going up off White Store Road, but there are still a lot of positives to be found in the local economy. Although we muffed the chance for a transformational change, we are still chugging along in a positive direction, and there are certainly worse fates than that.

Tips for a Better Black Friday

The day after Thanksgiving was originally dubbed "Black Friday" as a negative due to traffic, crowds and hostile behavior. It's now a positive for many people who get excited about the lines, the crowds and especially the deals. Now, it's the single busiest shopping day of the year. American consumers plan to spend an average \$1,007.24 during the holiday shopping season this year, according to National Retail Federation's survey conducted by Prosper Insights.

Retailers are gearing up for the big day, especially the "big box" stores that sell name brand appliances, housewares, electronics, and other popular gift items. News-wapers are stuffed with sale flyers, commercials are promoting the "door buster" deals, and online ads promise the best bargains.

Better Business Bureau offers these tips to make your Black Friday shopping experience productive:

- **Learn about advertising tricks and gimmicks.** Check it out at bbb.org/adtruth to learn how to identify the most common schemes and cons.
- **Do your research.** Read product reviews, check out bbb.org for Business Reviews, look at the sales flyers and ads, compare prices, look for early promotions and "flash sales."
- **Read the fine print.** Some stores only honor sale ads during a certain time frame, or on certain days. Some stores may only allow you to purchase one item, particularly large, popular and/or deeply discounted products. Make sure you understand the sale policies.
- **Know the advertiser.** Some of the best deals are only available online, but be careful. It's easy for a fake site to mimic a famous retailer's website, so make sure you are shopping with a legitimate site.
- **Sign-up for email alerts.** Many stores release their best Black Friday deals to people who have signed up to receive their emails. Just make sure it's the real business and not a scammer.
- **Ask for gift receipts and save warranty information.** Be sure to pass along any information about returns, exchanges, repairs, and warranties to the person who will use the item.

Check out bbb.org to look up a business.

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