

SANTA DAY SATURDAY

December 6 9am to 12 noon



Come out to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus for free pictures with Santa...and a TOY for every good girl and boy!!!

Event takes place at Ma's Restaurant
6430 Highway 52 in Morven

Church NOVEMBER 25

Community Giveaway

Co-sponsored by Divine Unity House of Restoration Ministries & Faith-Based Center of Hope, 12 noon-4pm at Divine Unity Fellowship Hall, 3760 Hwy 109 S, Wadesboro. **Free clothes, food & games for everyone!**

DECEMBER 6

Celebrating Members' Birthdays

At Henry Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 5pm. Everyone is welcome.

DECEMBER 7

Building Fund

Program At Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 3pm with Pastor Eddie Maye of Pee Dee MBC. Everyone is invited.

Church Anniversary

At New Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 11am with Pastor Sharon Lockhart.

DECEMBER 12

Christmas Play

At Bethany Freewill Baptist Church on Old Lilesville Rd in Wadesboro, 7pm.

DECEMBER 13

Christmas Caroling

Concert At Sandy Plains Christian Fellowship, 1154 Cason Oldfield Rd, Morven, 5pm featuring southern gospel worship group 2nd Chance Ministry. Festive Christmas celebration after concert. Bring your favorite finger foods, snacks & desserts to share.

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Morning

Service At Sandy Plains Christian Fellowship, 1154 Cason Oldfield Rd, Morven, 9am. Join us for around the tree singing, worship & communion.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE SPONSORS

C&M AUTO SUPPLY
Your locally owned Auto Parts Store
Hwy 74, Wadesboro • 704-694-5167

Williamson Wrecker Service
Since 1972
704-694-4545

Henry's Body Shop
704-848-4989
4225 Stanbackferry
Ice Plant Rd • Lilesville
Owner: Robbie Henry

PIEDMONT FLOORING
All Major Brands of Floor Covering
Serta & Orderest Bedding
214 West Main Street in Marshville
704-624-2211
MAYTAG • FRIGIDAIRE • CROSLEY

Papa Joe's PIZZA
Anson Station Shopping Center
Wadesboro • 704-694-6666

UWHARRIE BANK
704-694-2122
Member FDIC

From Your Friends At PARSONS DRUG
Serving Anson County for over 100 years
"On The Square"
Wadesboro • 704-694-2218

Glenn Trexler & Sons Logging, Inc.
"Freedom of Worship is a Precious Commodity"
WADESBORO

ADVERTISE HERE! Call The Express to find out how...704-694-2480

HOUSER ROOFING



Specializing in tear off & installing your shingles and repairing leaks.

ALL TYPES OF GENERAL CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE WORK TOO!

FREE ESTIMATES!

704-465-8154

Events

NOVEMBER 24

NAACP Meeting

They invite you to attend. 6:30pm at Ebenezer Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury St. in Wadesboro. They welcome everyone. Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month. For info: Sinic Marsh mrs6@yahoo.com or 704-254-0630.

DECEMBER 1

Board of Commissioners Meet 6pm in Board Room, Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. There are two regular monthly meetings, with the second November meeting on November 18. Meetings are available online at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

DECEMBER 6

Santa Day!

9-11am at Ma's Restaurant, 6430 Hwy 52 in Morven (Morven Truck Stop). Come visit Santa and Mrs. Claus for free pictures and a toy for every good girl and boy!

DECEMBER 16

Board of Commissioners Meet 6pm in Anson County Courthouse, 114 N. Greene Street, Courtroom #1, Wadesboro. Meeting involves Duke Energy and the proposed massive solar facility in Anson County. Meetings are available online at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

Fun Dates to Celebrate as the Holidays Approach

From Sweet Treats to Space and Cybersecurity

The end of November and beginning of December bring a mix of lighthearted observances to brighten the season. Whether you're baking, shopping, or simply looking for a reason to smile, here's what's on the calendar.

- Tuesday, November 25 – Shopping Reminder Day: A friendly nudge for anyone who hasn't started buying gifts yet — there's still time, but not much!
 - Wednesday, November 26 – Cake Day: The perfect excuse to indulge in a slice (or two) of your favorite cake. Calories don't count when it's an official holiday, right?
 - Friday, November 28 – Buy Nothing Day: After Black Friday's frenzy, this day encourages everyone to pause spending and enjoy the things money can't buy.
 - Friday, November 28 – Red Planet Day: Celebrate Mars and the wonders of space exploration — no telescope required.
 - Saturday, November 29 – Electronic Greeting Card Day: Send a cheerful message online to someone you've been meaning to reconnect with — it's fast, free, and festive.
 - Sunday, November 30 – Computer Security Day: A timely reminder to update passwords, run antivirus checks, and protect your data before the new year.
 - Monday, December 1 – Eat a Red Apple Day: A crisp, healthy start to December — and an easy way to balance out all those holiday sweets.
 - Tuesday, December 2 – Fritters Day: Whether apple, corn, or savory veggie, today's the day to fry up your favorite fritters.
 - Wednesday, December 3 – Make a Gift Day: A celebration of creativity and generosity — handmade gifts often mean the most.
- From shopping lists to security lists, there's something for everyone to enjoy this week.

Discovery in the Streams: The Solstice Creekmussel Emerges as a Completely New Species

Tiny mussel, big conservation story - new species found only in NC streams

Biologists with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) have uncovered a remarkable find—a completely new genus and species of freshwater mussel found only in a few short miles of central North Carolina streams. Named *Ligodonta obscura*, or the solstice creekmussel, the tiny mussel's discovery represents both a scientific breakthrough and a call to conservation action.

The story began in 2016 during a routine mussel survey on the Little River, when researchers noticed one specimen that didn't quite match the traits of the familiar green floater. Further genetic testing confirmed what no one expected: the mussel was not only a new species but unique enough to warrant its own genus. "We noticed that some of the shell characteristics, particularly the internal teeth, did not align with those of the green floater," explained Landscape Conservation Coordinator Brena Jones. "We were able to use genetic analysis to confirm that [this mussel] was indeed a unique species in its own taxonomic group."

The mussel, nicknamed the solstice creekmussel for its winter spawning season, is currently found only within about eight miles of two small watersheds in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River system. Today, its known population is confined to just a four-mile stretch of one stream—making *L. obscura* "microendemic," meaning it exists nowhere else on Earth. "This species was likely always relatively rare, but now we can only find it in one section of one stream on the entire planet!" said Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Coordinator Michael Perkins. "It's special and unique to only here, and the value of that is difficult to overstate."

Freshwater mussels like *L. obscura* play an essential role in maintaining clean waterways by filtering water, cycling nutrients, and supporting river ecosystems. "Mussels are like canaries in a coal mine," said Inland Fisheries Assistant Chief Rachael Hoch. "They thrive in clean water, so their health tells us a lot about the health of our rivers."

Because the solstice creekmussel is so rare and confined to such a small area, protecting its habitat has become an urgent priority for NCWRC. Jones added, "If our populations of native aquatic species are declining or lost, it means our water supply is also degraded—and we need to take action to protect and restore both for the future of human and wildlife communities."

Residents can help by avoiding moving aquatic species between waterways, maintaining streamside vegetation, and supporting conservation funding and cleanup efforts through organizations like River Keeper and Wildlife Diversity.

Biologists Brena Jones, Heather Evans, Sierra Benfield, and Michael Perkins led the discovery effort, confirming that even well-studied regions still hold hidden wonders. "Every animal, no matter how big or small, how common or rare, has its place in the world," said Perkins. "It's amazing to still discover species in a place that's been inhabited for so long."

For the full scientific description and genetic analysis of *Ligodonta obscura*, visit the open-access journal ZooKeys ([zookeys.pensoft.net/article/152952](https://www.zookeys.pensoft.net/article/152952)). The solstice creekmussel's emergence reminds us that discovery isn't over—it's just getting started in North Carolina's own backyard.



TANK LEARY'S TRACTOR SERVICES

- Driveway Maintenance
- Bush Hogging
- Garden Work
- Lifting & Hauling
- Lawn Care
- Trench Work



- Tree & Hedge Trimming
- Lawn Aeration
- Leaf Cleanup
- Gutter Clean
- Pressure Washing
- Pavement & Patios

704-475-7024

Happy Thanksgiving

We are thankful for our patients



ANSON
FAMILY OPTOMETRIC
DR. HOLLY ALLISON KIKER

Accepting New Patients
We Accept Most Insurances

Call for an appointment today

704-694-3618

Mon-Tues-Thu 8:30-5
Wed 8:30-4

1134 Holly Street in Wadesboro (On Hwy 74 across from CVS)



Holly Allison Kiker, OD