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

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet December 4

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4 at 6 p.m. The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

North Carolina's Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) gives families a one-time vendor payment to help pay their heating bills. Families must meet all of the following: 1) an income test, 2) be responsible for its heating bills and 3) include a US citizen or an eligible alien. To apply for the program the following information is needed: name, date of birth, and social security numbers for each household member; household's income; savings and checking accounts; and property, stocks, bonds, and other assets. Applications will be taken for a household member age 60 and above or disabled person receiving a service through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) beginning December 1. All other households may apply beginning January 1. Applications are available at the Grace Senior Center, Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center, and Polkton and Morven meal sites. Also, applications can be accessed through dhhs.gov. It is important to have a valid phone number and signature on the application. This program will end March 31, unless funds are exhausted. For more information contact Anson County Department of Social Services at 704-694-9351.

Janice Ratliff Receives Award



Janice Ratliff was selected by the session of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro and the Presbytery of Charlotte to receive the 2018 Legacy Award. She is an Elder in the church, and wears many hats in service to her church and community. Ms. Ratliff has served as Clerk of Session, Sunday School teacher, organist, Youth Advisor, and as a member of multiple committees. She is an encourager, showing others the importance

of putting God first in everything they do. She is also a giving person, willing to offer her last to someone in need. Ms. Ratliff has been instrumental in numerous collections for Toys for Tots, food drives, back-to-school supplies, and food baskets to distribute.

Since her retirement from teaching in Anson County Schools, she founded and led the BOSE (Builders of Self Esteem) program for youth, and she remains involved in the development of local youth in other ways.

For her outstanding service to her community, Ms. Ratliff was given the honor of being Grand Marshall for the 2016 Octoberfest Parade.

Ms. Ratliff is a woman of strong faith, and was presented with a plaque and silver key ring at the Legacy Award Banquet held in Charlotte at Cook's Presbyterian Church.

New Medicare Cards Have Been Mailed to NC Residents

Here's what to do if you haven't received yours yet

Have you received your new Medicare card? If you haven't, North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey advises senior citizens to contact Medicare, either by phone or online, to check on the status of their new card.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has finished a round of mailing out new cards to North Carolinians. The Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and North Carolina Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) encourage Medicare beneficiaries who haven't received their new card to contact CMS by:

- Signing into MyMedicare.gov to see if your card has been mailed. If so, you can print out an official card. You'll need to create an account if you don't already have one.
- Calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), where CMS will verify your identity, check your address, and help you get your new card.

The new cards will no longer have the beneficiary's Social Security number. Instead, it will have a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) consisting of both numbers and letters.

"Having Social Security numbers removed from Medicare cards helps fight identity theft and will protect your medical and financial information," Commissioner Causey said.

SHIIP and SMP remind people with Medicare that they can still get care using either their former Social Security number or their new MBI for all Medicare transactions through December 31, 2019.

For more information about Medicare, including open enrollment, please call SHIIP at 855-408-1212. You can also call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

Joanne Huntley Retiring as Register of Deeds, Greg Eudy Appointed to Position



The Honorable Joanne S. Huntley, Anson County Register of Deeds, is retiring effective November 30. She has been the Register of Deeds for Anson County since 1999.

Anson County Deputy Register of Deeds Greg Eudy has been appointed to fill her remaining term, effective December 1. Eudy has been Deputy Register of Deeds since 2016.



Fall Festival Was Fun for All Ages

Photos courtesy of Don Altieri



Practice Fire Safety With Christmas Trees and Electrical Cords During the Holiday Season

This holiday season NC Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey is reminding North Carolinians to stay focused on fire safety, especially when it comes to the Christmas trees standing in their homes.

"A Christmas tree can be a beautiful addition to a home but if not handled properly, they can dry out quickly and turn into a dangerous fire hazard," said Commissioner Causey. "As everyone gets busier during the holidays, it's easy to become careless and that's when home fires are more likely to occur."

According to the National Fire Protection Association, each year U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 200 structure fires ignited by Christmas trees. Nearly half of them are caused by electrical problems, and one in four resulted from a heat source that was too close to the tree. Between 2011-2015, Christmas tree fires caused an annual average of six civilian deaths, 16 civilian injuries, and \$14.8 million in property damage.

Commissioner Causey offered the following safety tips to keep your family safe during the holidays:

- Make sure the tree you select is fresh; the trunk should be sticky to the touch and branches should not easily snap when you bend them. Shake the tree and make sure not too many loose needles fall off as a result. (Tip: Before bringing your tree indoors, make a 1/2 fresh cut on the bottom of trunk and let it stand in a bucket of water outside for 12 hours before bringing indoors and placing in its stand.)
- Check the water in the tree stand daily, make sure your tree isn't blocking any exits and keep it at least three feet away from heat vents or other heat sources.
- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it's labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory, and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use.
- Make sure all decorations are flame-retardant or flame-resistant.
- Do not overload extension cords and electrical outlets.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini-string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.
- After Christmas, get rid of the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or placed outside the home.
- Check your town or city's waste management website for information about tree recycling.
- If a fire does occur in your home, make sure that you have working smoke alarms that will give everyone in your home the time needed to get out safely; be sure that family and overnight guests know the sound of your alarm and have practiced your home escape plan.

For more information about fire prevention and safety, visit the North Carolina Department of Insurance and Office of State Fire Marshal website, www.ncdoi.com/OSFM, or to the National Fire Protection Association website, www.nfpa.org.

Wadesboro Christmas Parade is Saturday

The Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. (UWI) and the Town of Wadesboro Christmas Parade will be held this Saturday, December 1, starting at 2:00 p.m.

The parade route will remain the same – starting on Morven Road and proceeding up Washington, Martin and Greene Streets, ending at the Ray Shelton ball field.

For more information contact Uptown Wadesboro at (704) 695-1644 or email uptownwadesboro@windstream.net.

Free Groceries for Families in Need December 5

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Mobile Food Pantry and CHS Mobile Health Unit will be at Bethel Community Center, located at 5180 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on Wednesday, December 5. Please arrive and register between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m.

- Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food.
- Arrive between 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food.
- If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445.
- You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email tshumpert@wnc-cumc.net. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.

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