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Toys for Tots Needs Your Support

Toys for Tots is a wonderful organization that makes sure that many kids who otherwise might not have a Christmas instead find gifts waiting for them on Christmas day. This makes a world of difference in their lives. If you can help Toys for Tots with a donation of any amount, you will know that 100% of your contribution will be used to help Anson County children.

"We are asking all businesses, churches, community leaders, government officials and anyone else who wants to help to please contribute to Toys for Tots," said Director Vancine Sturdivant. "The need is great. The need for toys is greater than ever. We have receive so many applications and I do not want to turn anyone down. How do you tell a child they will not get anything for Christmas? With the great executive board we have, along with terrific community support this will never happen."

To learn more or to contribute, please contact Vancine at 704-848-4412.

Sweet Potato Pie's Home Grown Christmas Program

The Ansonia Theatre has another great show in the wings. On Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. the popular band Sweet Potato Pie will bring their Home Grown Christmas show to our local stage. Sweet Potato Pie is an all female band specializing in bluegrass, country and gospel music. Playing traditional bluegrass instruments, the Pie is best known for their vocal harmonies and original music. Earning the nickname the "Sweethearts of Bluegrass," these girls know how to entertain.

Tickets (\$15) are on sale now at the Anson County Arts Council in Wadesboro, Monday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. (This event is included in the 2014-15 season ticket series.) Tickets will go fast, so get yours today! Info at 704-694-4950.

Carey Maner Recognized for Her Video

Congratulations to Carey Maner and her fellow students on having her video chosen as the first place winner in the North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) Every Child's Chance...Every Community's Future video contest. Additionally, Miss Maner was recently recognized at the Board of Education's November meeting for having the same video chosen as Honorable Mention in the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) What's Super About Public Schools video contest.

Her work is an excellent example of the vision and skill level of Anson High students. Thanks to their efforts and the leadership of their teacher Mr. Rusty Baldwin, people across the state and nation will have access to a fine example of student work accomplishments in Anson County.

To find that video and other videos by Carey, go to YouTube.com and search "Carey Maner."

ECU's B. J. Tyson is Leading from the Bench

East Carolina University's leading scorer this season has yet to start a game. Freshman guard B. J. Tyson from Wadesboro is averaging 16 points on 48.2 percent shooting in 24.9 minutes per game, which ranks fourth on the team. B. J. earned American Athletic Conference Freshman of the Week honors last week after a pair of 20-point performances. He scored 22 in ECU's win over Fresno State and scored 24 on Hawaii the following night. 6-foot-3 Tyson enrolled at ECU last year but was not on the roster.

Don't Miss Your Layaway Deadline!

Layaway plans have made a comeback over the past couple of years because it is an affordable way for families to make small payments each month on holiday gifts. If you have gifts on layaway remember not to miss your final layaway payment and pickup deadline.

December 15 is the deadline at Walmart for when you must pay the final balance on your Christmas layaways and pick up your merchandise. If your layaway is at Toys R Us, you have 90 days from the date you put items on layaway to pay for and pick up your purchases. K-Mart offered eight and 12 week layaway plans with deadlines that varied.

If you miss this deadline, the merchandise that you have on layaway will likely be returned to stock. Depending on the terms and conditions of your layaway plan, you may or may not be able to obtain a full refund of the money you have paid.

Tracking Santa around the World on Christmas Eve

Thanks to advances in technology, Santa can be tracked online as he travels around the world on Christmas Eve. If your children want to follow Santa's route, you can find many websites that will track his trek across the globe.

"Some of these websites are nice, but some are naughty, so it's important for parents to monitor your children's activities online," said Better Business Bureau President Tom Bartholomy.

The most popular Santa tracking website is NORAD with 22 million people following Santa's trip last Christmas Eve. NORAD has a new downloadable app to follow Santa on your smartphone or on Facebook, Twitter and Google+. NORAD has partnered with Microsoft to offer Santa tracking in 3-D this year.


"NORAD has also announced that Santa will be escorted by two fighter jets," said Bartholomy. "If children are concerned for Santa's safety, parents should be prepared to explain how the military escort makes his trip faster."

Google also has a Santa tracker that uses Google Maps. All websites directed at children should have a privacy policy. For more information visit bbb.org. 877-317-7236

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