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

Board of Education Meeting Scheduled for December 16

Board meets at different time for December

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its next meeting on Monday, December 16 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. The regular meeting will begin with an Open Session at 3:30 p.m. Closed Session begins at 3:45 p.m.. Open Session should begin at about 4:30 p.m.

Free Blood Pressure Testing at Grace Senior Center

Free blood pressure tests will be offered at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, December 18 at 10:45 a.m. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA. The telephone number is 704-694-6616.

Animal Shelter is Open Again

The Anson County Animal Shelter was closed for cleaning and repairs from November 21 to December 9, but is now open.

During the time the shelter was closed staff and volunteers made necessary changes in the floor to meet North Carolina Department of Agriculture standards. Also, repairs were performed on the kennels. Money received from the Petco Grant was used to make these changes.

For information on volunteering at the shelter, how to donate food or funds, or to adopt a pet, please contact Maureen Lett, Animal Shelter Director, at (704) 994-2738 or mlett@co.anson.nc.us. The Anson Animal Shelter is located at 7527 US Highway 74 West in Polkton, at the entrance to the Field of Dreams. You can find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ansoncountyanimalshelter.

Community Christmas Event is Sunday

The community is invited to Harvest Ministries Outreach Center for their annual Community Christmas Blessing. This event partners with Toys for Tots to give away hundreds of toys, prizes, bicycles and much more. One lucky person will leave with \$200 in cash or a "special prize!" There's a free Christmas goody bag for each family too! The event will take place this Sunday, December 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., after area church services. For a free ride call 704-695-2879.

The event is co-sponsored by Poisson, Poisson & Bower Law Firm.

Harvest Ministries is located at 1134 East Caswell Street (Highway 74) in Wadesboro, behind Pizza Hut.

Spectacular Christmas Shows to be Presented at the Planetarium

Also a program celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing

The Wadesboro Rotary Planetarium and Science Center is proud to present a variety of shows for the Christmas season. These free programs are projected onto the planetarium dome with breathtaking effects.

"The Star of Bethlehem" is a full dome planetarium show that takes us back to the little town of Bethlehem of long ago where the birth of Jesus was announced to the humble shepherds by "a multitude of the heavenly host" and to the people of Israel by the arrival of the Wise Men.

Guided by the light of the "star that they saw in the east" they traveled far from their lands to "come and worship him." In our endeavor to investigate what this "Star" might have been, we present all the historical and scientific facts we have today in order to unravel this 2,000-year old enigma in a special audiovisual show that fills the audience with a sense of wonder and an air of innocence.

The Season of Light, a 35 minute full dome video projected on the planetarium dome, is an elegant and sophisticated program about the coldest and darkest of seasons - a time which holds some of the warmest and brightest celebrations of the year. This presentation traces the history and development of many of the world's most endearing holiday customs, all of which involve lighting up the winter season - from the burning Yule log, sparkling Christmas tree lights and candles in windows, to the lighting of luminaries in the American Southwest and the traditional ritual of the Hanukkah Menorah.

The Capcom Go! The Apollo Story will also be presented during December to celebrate this year's 50th anniversary of man walking on the moon. An immersive, historical documentary that showcases the achievements of the Apollo program and what it took to put the first human on the Moon. This 26 minute program brings back memories of sitting in front of the black and white tvs watching Neil Armstrong touch foot on the moon.

A Tour of the Animal Room is also included in the visit to the Science Center.

These programs were made possible by a generous donation from the James R. Braswell and Bonnie L. Braswell Trust Fund. There is no cost for admission, but donations are accepted to help fund science activities for our Anson County students at the Science Center.

Please call for a reservation since seats are limited to 20 per show. Please call 704-694-4417 Ext 1005 and leave a message to make a reservation. Be sure to designate time, date and number of seats.

Show times are as follows:

- Friday, December 20
- 10:00 am *Apollo Story*
- 2:00 pm *Star of Bethlehem*
- Saturday, December 21
- 2:00pm *Season of Light*
- 4:00 pm *Star of Bethlehem*
- Monday, December 23
- 10:00am *Apollo Story*

Marshville Christmas Parade is Saturday

Everyone is invited to come enjoy the Marshville Christmas Parade this Saturday, December 14 at 2 p.m.



A Perfect Day for a Christmas Parade in Uptown Wadesboro

Wadesboro won the "Best Day for a Christmas Parade" award on Thursday, December 5. Participants and onlookers didn't even need a jacket with glorious blue skies and the 60 degree temperature, which made the event even more of a special occasion. The parade featured lots of entries, and the many folks in attendance were entertained and happy.

Kids enjoyed visits with Santa before and after the parade. Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. offered trophies for the Best Homemade Float and the Best Christmas Window display for uptown businesses. And, after the parade attendees gathered on the Square for a Christmas tree lighting and delicious hot chocolate.

Anson County school students even got out of school early! Aren't parades festive and fun? We think so!



Miracle on 34th Street Extended for 2 Shows!

The Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro has been packing in the record breaking crowds for its production of *Miracle on 34th Street*. The show was originally scheduled for 6 performances, but due to popular demand they have added 2 more shows - Friday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 22 at 3 p.m.

The show runs this weekend, December 13-15. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Group rates are available for parties of 10 or more. Buy tickets online at ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950.

Director Tommy Wooten said, "The audience response has been incredible! Please get your tickets and come and join in the holiday spirit. Give us a call at 704-694-4950 or get your tickets online at ansoniatheatre.com."

Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment on HealthCare.gov

Time is running out to enroll in affordable, comprehensive coverage on HealthCare.gov.

Last day to enroll is December 15.

NC Navigators are here to help! North Carolinians can call 1-855-733-3711 (toll-free) or visit ncnavigator.net to schedule a free appointment or find a free enrollment event

Sunday, December 15 is the last day for North Carolinians to enroll in affordable, comprehensive health coverage for 2020 on HealthCare.gov, the Health Insurance Marketplace established by the federal Affordable Care Act.

North Carolinians who have questions or want help enrolling or re-enrolling in 2020 coverage can call 1-855-733-3711 (toll-free) or visit ncnavigator.net to schedule a free, in-person appointment with an NC Navigator near them, or to find a free enrollment event in their area.

"We have a lot planned for the last week of open enrollment," Mark Van Arnem, Director of the NC Navigator Consortium, said. "We want to make it as easy as possible for consumers to get help. Call us, visit our website, come to one of our events. We are here to help. Time may be running out, but it's definitely not too late to enroll."

The NC Navigator Consortium, the state's only navigator organization, is holding multiple enrollment events across the state between now and the end of this year's open-enrollment period.

NC Navigators will be available at the enrollment events to hold free, confidential, one-on-one meetings with consumers. The enrollment events are completely free and open to the public. No appointment or prior registration is required.

NC Navigators are trained to help consumers enroll in coverage on HealthCare.gov. They can help consumers understand the details of the plans available on HealthCare.gov, complete the enrollment process and determine their eligibility for financial assistance. Last year, nine in 10 North Carolinians who enrolled in coverage on HealthCare.gov received financial assistance.

After December 15, North Carolinians can only enroll in 2020 coverage on HealthCare.gov if they qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. Consumers can qualify for a Special Enrollment Period if they experience certain life changes, like getting married or divorced, having a baby or adopting a child, moving, or losing health coverage. Learn more about Special Enrollment Periods.

• NC Navigators are available throughout the year and can help consumers determine if they qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.

• North Carolinians who are already enrolled in a HealthCare.gov plan should log into the website to make sure their information is up to date. There are new plans available that might better fit their needs and budget.

The NC Navigator Consortium is a group of six health care, social service and legal aid organizations that helps North Carolina consumers enroll in affordable, comprehensive health insurance plans on HealthCare.gov, the Health Insurance Marketplace established by the Affordable Care Act. Members of the consortium are Access East, Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Cumberland HealthNet, HealthNet Gaston, and Legal Aid of North Carolina, which leads the consortium. The consortium is funded in part by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and Cone Health. Learn more at ncnavigator.net.

Legal Aid of North Carolina is a statewide nonprofit law firm that provides free civil legal help to low-income and vulnerable North Carolinians. www.legalaidnc.org

Wi-Fi Will be Available on Some Anson County School Buses

Anson County Schools is excited to announce their partnership with the Sandhills Regional Library and Kjeet Smart Bus Company. This partnership will provide 13 wi-fi systems for the longest bus routes in the district. As a result, students will be able to complete homework, projects, and laptop research.

This will give students additional time to maximize their learning while going to and from school.

Please contact the Curriculum Division with Anson County Schools for further information at 704-694-4417 ext. 1607.

Partnership for Children Board Meeting

The Anson County Partnership for Children will host their Board of Directors meeting and NC Pre-K Task Force on Thursday, December 12. The meeting is open to the public. It will begin at 9 a.m. at the Partnership, located at 117 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

For more information contact Caroline Goins at 704-694-4036 or caroline.goins@ansonchildren.com.

Veterans Christmas Supper is Friday

The Anson County Veterans Council invites all veterans and their spouses to come and enjoy supper and live Christmas music this Friday, December 13. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Woodmen of the World Lodge, located at 2549 Highway 74 West in Wadesboro, just past Atrium Health.

This will be a time for fellowship, and an opportunity to thank all of our veterans for the service.

If you have any questions about this event please contact Ed Parker, Anson County Veterans Council President, at 704-694-6770.

Auditions for New Play

Auditions for the Ansonia Theatre play *Little Shop of Horrors* will be held on Tuesday, December 17 at 6 p.m. at the theatre. Participants are asked to prepare a song to sing. This show will run March 13-22, 2020.

For more information call 704-694-4950.

Storytime Every Tuesday

The Hampton B. Allen Library features Storytime for children every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This program is free and an enjoyable learning experience for children.

For more information call 704-694-5177.