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Wadesboro Police Chief Schutz Addresses New Sweepstakes Law

In a release from Wadesboro Police Chief Janie Schutz: Essentially the new sweepstakes law that came into effect December 1, 2010, making illegal the popular sweepstakes or internet video poker operations is just what we needed to ensure that people and families don't continue to get caught up in the "gambling drama." The sweepstakes enterprises were simply a loophole in the law that some businesses took advantage of.

The problem was that they not only took advantage of that one time loophole, but they essentially were taking advantage of people. I hope with the passage of GS 14-306.4, that we will see an end to anyone trying to take advantage of another person's hope, dream or wish of getting rich. Getting to the point of becoming financially sound and being able to buy things that you might want has a lot more to do with determination and hard work and much less to do with the chance possibility of spending \$50 with the hope of making thousands.

The Wadesboro Police Department plans on enforcing the new law to the fullest extent possible.

Wadesboro High School Class of 1959 Enjoys Recent Reunion



The Wadesboro High School Classes of 1955-59 held a joint reunion on October 15 and 16. Pictured here is the class of 1959.

Class members are, from left, front row: Myra Treadaway McRae, James Taylor, Hilda Maner, Jane Martin Treadaway, Harriet Rivers Brower, Elaine Martin Gardner, Pat Brower Forbes and "Bobbi" Kendall Bullock. Back row: Louise Marsh Lyons, Fairfid Caudle, Ann Bowman Shuman, Vic McGee, Robert Brower, Rodney Russell, J. W. Polson, Bob Jordan and Ben Huneycutt.

Board of Elections Meets for Recount

The Anson County Board of Elections meets today, Wednesday, December 15, at 10 a.m. to begin a recount in the race for the Court of Appeals Office, candidates Thigpen and McCullough.

Friday is Last Day to Sign Up for Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is currently accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The last day to sign up for funding consideration for this fiscal year is December 17, 2010. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and agricultural production. Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive technical help and up to 90% cost share assistance to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. Practices include but are not limited to waste storage facilities, mortality incinerators, wells, stream fencing, watering troughs and prescribed burning.

Eligibility includes producers engaged in crop, livestock or forestry production.

For more information please go to www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/index.html or contact Mark Ferguson, District Conservationist, at 704-233-1621 extension 3.

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is currently accepting applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The last day to sign up for funding consideration for this fiscal year is January 7, 2011. CSP is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial assistance to agricultural and forestry producers to maintain and improve existing conservation systems and to adopt new ones. Eligibility includes producers engaged in crop, livestock or forestry production.

For more information please go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html#extend or contact Mark Ferguson, District Conservationist, at 704-233-1621 extension 3.

Feeding of the Homeless

The faith-based Center of Hope, Prayer Warriors, along with the assistance of concerned citizens of Anson and Richmond County will feed the homeless, needy, sick and shut-in on Saturday, December 18, beginning at 11:30 a.m. This event will be held at the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church located on Salisbury Street in Wadesboro.

Everyone is invited to participate. Come prepared to minister to their physical and spiritual needs. If you, your church or business would like to contribute to this needed cause, you may contact Vancine Sturdivant (704) 848-4412, Ester Lindsey (704) 848-8452 or County Commissioner Claude Spencer (704) 848-4119.

HOLLA! 100 Reasons to Achieve Program Essay Deadline is January 7

HOLLA! is sponsoring the 100 Reasons to Achieve initiative again this year with some additional incentives. Thanks to the United Way they are able to re-instate the savings bond component of the program this year. This initiative is provided to give teachers an incentive tool to help improve discipline in the classroom.

Holla's mission is to find ways to encourage children to attend school, work to the best of their abilities and respect the rights of others to learn.

The details of this project are as follows:

- This year's program will commence on September 7, 2010 and end on May 27, 2011.
- Students who attend class and have not chosen a Step 4 from September 7, 2010 to May 27, 2010, will qualify to win a \$100 savings bond.
- A student in each grade at each school will be drawn from all qualifiers to win the savings bonds!
- Students who attend class and have not chosen a Step 4 from the beginning to the end of each nine-week period of learning will qualify to receive a HOLLA! Award. These awards may be in the form of cash, certificates and/or other incentives.
- Qualifiers at the middle and high school levels will be invited to compete in an essay contest. The winner of the essay contest entitled, "The Cause and Effect of a Wiser but Weaker Generation" will be awarded a \$1000 savings bond. The essays must be turned in to school principals no later than Friday, January 7, 2011, at 12 noon. The essay winner will be recognized on Saturday, February 7, 2011, during the HOLLA!/Hampton B. Allen Literary Festival at the Hampton B. Allen Library.

Essay Contest Rules

- 1) Creative writing in the form of rap, poetry, essay, etc.;
- 2) (Typed) Not more than 500 words;
- 3) Order of the report - (Center of cover page) a. Essay Title (The Cause and Effect of a Wiser but Weaker Generation); b. Name; c. Phone/Email Address; d. School; e. Grade.

Schools' Release for Christmas Holidays

Here are the early release times for the Christmas holidays for various Anson County Schools on Friday, December 17.

- Wadesboro Elementary and Wadesboro Primary Schools - 12:30 p.m.
- All other elementary schools - 1 p.m.
- Anson County Early College and Anson New Tech - 1 p.m.
- Anson High and Anson Middle Schools - 1:30 p.m.

Anson County Pet Lovers, Like Nowhere Else on Earth

For six weeks and a day my world has spun around on its axis a bit out of sync, like a yo-yo with a knotted string, a spinning top with a dented base. Life as I knew it then took a sudden and tragic turn as I joined ranks with the many of you who have suffered the loss of beloved pets. On several occasions we've shared the origins of how I found and rescued my dog, Slim. You know of our special bond, and how parallel our lives were, intersecting with precision at a time we both needed something magical. "God places Angels in our paths at precise moments," and with that belief, perhaps I can begin a healing that will probably take whatever is left of my lifetime, from the loss of my Angel, Slim, taken far too soon.

As a realist I understand that many of you will never identify with my suffering, but that's your prerogative. I too have walked in your shoes, another story already shared. For that reason I consider myself a rescue, while discovering the unconditional love and companionship a pet can bring to life, my tattered and torn, abused American Foxhound tugged his way into my heart and melted away a lifelong layer of ice. He taught me the true meaning of pet love and just like the story, "How The Grinch Stole Christmas," inspired my heart to grow to at least twice its size. For me, Slim did that and more, much more, and I consider him one of my greatest teachers.

As I continue on my pet-loving path through life, many caring, wonderful people, also friendly pet protagonists, have revealed their journeys. You see, by living in a small community we get to know its citizens and learn of their stories. Often I hear, "I wish I didn't live in such a small town because everyone knows everything about your life." But for me, I say, "I'm thankful everyone knows mine." It is through that small town concern that I have had hundreds of encounters with people I know and people I don't, who empathize and sympathize rather than criticize, people who have made a point to embrace and comfort me, while sharing their own stories of grief, sadness and joy. The experience has been overwhelming, yet awe inspiring, as I meet so many kind and thoughtful citizens living here in Anson County, willing first to share in my grief, and secondly, for narrating their own pet loss and pet love stories. With flowers, cards and letters, emails, facebook posts, telephone calls and texts, from people in the grocery store, the post office or around any corner, the stories continue to reach out and touch my heart.

The neighborhood knew Slim from our daily walks. Most everyone loved Slim and his friendly nature and have mourned his death alongside me. Yet, so many kind words and sympathetic ears were unexpected. June Witherspoon honored Slim through Domestic Violence with a donation made in his name. You see, Slim was abused prior to his life with me, and only a small town neighbor would know how best to honor him. John Livingston, who not only found Slim after his death but moved him out

of further harms way, also carried out the fateful task of delivering the bad news with emotion and concern. He, my small town neighbor, knew how much suffering would result, but did the neighborly thing by delivering the painful report of what happened to Slim. And as awful as that was I have often questioned what I would have done without that news? Would I still be wondering where he was, if he was suffering, or even if he were still alive? Even though the news was heart wrenching, I'm thankful to John for knowing the truth.

Warmth and caring are what give the words "small town" special meaning, serving as a reminder that we are not alone. One community ministry sent over a beautifully handmade prayer shawl. Imagine a hand knitted shawl to help me recover from the loss of my pet. Where else on Earth would such special things happen? The accompanying letter read, "As you touch this shawl and place it around you, please know that our arms are enfolding you, our love is reaching out to you. Above all, we pray that you will be able to rest in the Everlasting Arms, cradled close to His heart, and sheltered by His presence from all that troubles you." And, each time I swaddle myself in the softness of the shawl, I remember those words and find peace and am thankful for hometown heroes who genuinely care.

On Saturday I entered Fancy Crafts for a bit of Christmas shopping. I no sooner opened the door when I heard, "Oh my, I was just thinking of you." Becky Dill proceeded to tell how she had seen a book in a catalog and how it reminded her of Slim. We exchanged stories of pets no longer with us and shared tears, just as I have with so many others. In fact, by the time our stories were told there was a bevy of women standing within the confines of this local retail store, all who were in tears, sharing stories of pets, now gone but forever loved, offering comforting hugs, and understanding the mutual agony we now have in common. Again, where else on Earth but Small Town USA, or in our case, Anson County? I left Fancy Crafts with three gifts and many common threads shared with other pet lovers who have suffered loss. Each of the five shared their stories with me, and I never uttered one single word to prompt the conversation. Because everyone knows what's going on in the lives that knit us together in the spirit of community, I have found the most special of threads that will forever sew our souls together, the stitches of caring and comfort, of love and compassion and the bond that all pet lovers share.

Not a day passes that I am not reminded of Slim, his sweet, gentle spirit and his impact on my life. I read a poem, *The Rainbow Bridge*, and know I will see Slim again, as my hometown heroes hark, "All dogs go to Heaven." And in my dreams I watch him frolicking through the fields and forests he so loved, pausing just long enough for a big squeeze, and I find comfort. Life's lessons are sometimes hard ones and Slim taught me well. But you, the people in this community, this county, this tiny place we call home, have also taught me there are no others like you, anywhere else on earth. Thank you for not sitting quietly by, for making a point, for reaching out, for offering words of courage and wisdom. Thank you my home town, for making it your mission to help me and others like me find "Peace on earth, while witnessing your good will toward men."

Photo and story by Melanie Lyon



Slim enjoyed the neighborhood and lived a very pampered and nurtured life with us. As you can see, he was a very happy dog and was showered with love, affection and attention, as all dogs should be.

Create Your Own Christmas Wreath Workshops

Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center will offer workshops on creating your own Christmas wreaths through December 21. All the supplies and materials needed will be provided. The workshops take place each Tuesday morning, from 10 a.m. until noon. The sessions are coordinated by Betty Cole. There is a small registration fee per person.

If you are interested in participating please contact Vinnie Daniels at 704-826-8737 or Carol Smith at 704-826-8182.

Domestic Violence Memorial Tree Lighting Thursday

This is a release from the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition: Combating domestic violence takes more than fancy catch phrases. While we all agree that catch phrases often get people's attention and encourage a response, there are times in which we must step beyond the catch phrases and take action. The Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition along with the Anson County Sheriff's Office and the Wadesboro City Police Department are teaming together to sponsor a Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony to honor murdered victims of domestic violence. This 15 minute ceremony will be held in front of the Anson County Courthouse on Thursday, December 16 at 6 p.m. The theme for this year's event is "Shining a Light on Domestic Violence across North Carolina." The highlight of this effort is that many other agencies across North Carolina will light their tree the same time as we light ours thus creating a unified effect against domestic violence.

Although the December holiday season is a busy time for many of us, we hope that you will consider joining in this effort. This event will give each resident of Anson County the opportunity to take a stand and declare that domestic violence will not be tolerated in our community.

If you have any questions please call ACDVC at 704-694-4499. Our 24 hour crisis line is 704-690-0362.

AA Offers a Helping Hand

If you want to drink that's your business, if you want to stop there is help. Call Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) at 704-826-7378.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the AA Building located at 2111 Country Club Road in Wadesboro, next to Heritage Hills Assisted Living Center.

Dependent on Drugs? Help is Offered

If you are having a difficulty with street drugs, alcohol or unnecessary medications, there is local help offered for you. Chemical Dependency Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. on Thursdays at the AA Building located at 2111 Country Club Road in Wadesboro, next door to Heritage Hills Assisted Living Center.

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