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

## A Christmas Story Extended for One Performance!

Due to popular demand, *A Christmas Story* will be extended for one final performance on this Friday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m.

The Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro has been packing in the crowds for their hit run of the beloved Christmas classic. Even winter storm warning couldn't keep theatre goers from seeing their favorite characters brought to life by the fantastic team at the Ansonia.



The super talented cast is led by newcomer, eight year old Caleb Wilson as Ralphie and Chip Long as adult Ralph who narrates the story. Ralphie's mother and Old Man are played to perfection by Terra Medlock and Mark Traywick, with the adorable Tyson Leavitt rounding out the family as little brother Randy. Greyson Helms and Austin Taylor play Ralphie's hilarious best friends Schwartz and Flick, and his other classmates include Lela

Chaney as Helen, Cali Green as Esther Jane and Isaac Clarke as the ultimate bully Scut Farkus. Elizabeth Pfeifer plays double duty as both Miss Shields and Mrs. Schwartz. Don't miss this show that folks can't stop talking about. Get your tickets now at [ansoniatheatre.com](http://ansoniatheatre.com) or by calling 704-694-4950.

## Christmas Miracle Meal 2018 for Families in Need

A \$40 donation can provide a family of five a Christmas dinner plus leftovers

The Anson Crisis Ministry, working with Wadesboro IGA and First Baptist Church, is preparing for this year's Christmas Miracle Meal project. Other churches and individuals in the county are invited to participate.

A Christmas Miracle Meal is a box of food that will feed a family of five a Christmas dinner, plus enough for leftovers. These boxed meals will be handed out to 100 needy families in the county.

For a \$40 donation, you can supply a box that includes a 12-14 pound turkey, dressing, potatoes, yams, cranberry sauce, green beans, rolls, sugar, brown sugar, butter, eggs, cornbread, gravy, onions, bread and more.

Families receiving food have been identified through the Anson Crisis Ministry. However, any church in the area can also refer families to be added to this list. Please contact Margot Barnes at the Anson Crisis Ministry at 704-694-2445 to refer families.

Churches are encouraged to partner in this project by referring families, donating funds, and even helping with the packing and distribution. Boxes will be packed with non-perishable food items on Thursday, December 20 and again on Saturday, December 22 with perishable items.

Boxes will then be available for pick-up by identified families at First Baptist Church on Lee Avenue, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. that Saturday. Volunteers are needed for both packing days and distribution.

If you would like to help feed a Christmas meal to a needy family, checks can be made payable to First Baptist Church and delivered to the church office at P.O. Box 423 or 309 Lee Avenue in Wadesboro.

The 2018 goal is \$4,000. If more funds are received, more meals can be purchased for more families. Christmas is coming. Consider sharing blessings with an Anson County family in need this year.

## Town of Wadesboro Christmas Holiday Schedule

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 to 26 to celebrate the Christmas Holiday. There will be no garbage collections on these days.

The normal Monday and Tuesday garbage collection routes will be picked up on Thursday, December 27. The normal Wednesday and Thursday garbage collection routes will be picked up on Friday, December 28.

The Town of Wadesboro appreciates your consideration in allowing our employees time with their families during this holiday season. As always, you will still be able to leave your utility bill payments in the night deposit box at Town Hall. If you have an emergency, please call Dispatch at 704-694-2167.

## Martin Farms Named 2018 Outstanding Farm of the Year

The Anson County Cooperative Extension Agency has selected Martin Farms in Ansonville as the Outstanding Farm of the Year for 2018. Martin Farms is a multi-generational family farm managed by brothers Jimmy and Fincher Martin, along with Fincher's wife

Lynetta and two daughters Akela and Lynlee Martin. Jimmy and Fincher Martin have farmed for as early as they can remember. They started with chickens, eggs and cattle. Then, in the late 1960s and early 1970s they began working with their father J. E.



Martin and diversified with corn, soybeans, wheat and grain sorghum. In the late 1990s they added cotton. Today they still raise these row crops, plus beef cattle.

Fincher's wife Lynetta Martin is a teacher at Ansonville Elementary, but also helps in all aspects of the farm business: planning, purchasing, maintenance and repairs, planting, harvesting and selling crops. Their oldest daughter Akela is active in Anson High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) organization as the 2018-19 Chapter President, having even established her own corn research plot this year, comparing fertilizer sources. Her younger sister Lynlee enjoys riding the combine and tractors during the harvest and shares her mother's passion for teaching.

The Martins feel it is important for youth and adults to have an understanding of how food and fiber is produced. Fincher Martin has shared his knowledge and experiences farming with third grade classes for many years, teaching them about cotton, and he currently serves on the FFA Alumni Advisory Committee. He has hosted farm visits with Leadership Anson groups to discuss agricultural issues, and is a current member of the Anson Cattleman's Association.

Jimmy and Fincher have planted test plots for Anson Extension and NC State University, on and off, for more than 40 years. Just last month the two families hosted a NC Agromedicine Institute workshop on Grain Bin Safety/Grain Rescue for 25 first responders who had an opportunity to train with specialized equipment, and practice hands-on rescue scenarios. The Martins are also active members of Red Hill Baptist Church.

Thank you Martin Family for your community involvement, FFA participation, agromedicine research, and willingness to share Martin Farms' story with younger generations and the non-farming community. It's a great way to honor Anson's agricultural heritage.



## Wadesboro Police Department Needs a Shave!

The goal of No Shave November is to grow awareness and show empathy for many cancer patients that typically lose their hair during treatment. Citizens display such empathy and support by embracing the growth of their own hair and allowing it to grow wild and free. During November, which has been selected as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, citizens voluntarily donate the money they would typically spend on shaving and grooming towards the education, research and lifesaving efforts of Pancreatic Cancer programs.

The Wadesboro Police Department decided to lay down their razors to raise awareness and solidarity for Pancreatic Cancer. The Wadesboro Police Department has continued this loving show of support and not only fought crime, but also fought for cancer awareness -with beards.

Throughout the month of November officers of the Wadesboro Police Department who voluntarily refrained from shaving have selected to donate at least \$10 each towards Pancreatic Cancer programs. All the collected donations will be submitted as a whole to an accredited Pancreatic Cancer research program approved by Chief of Police Thedis Spencer. Under his direction 1st Sergeant Ephraim Davis has made contact with Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and arranged for the donations raised by the officers of the Wadesboro Police Department to be donated to this organization.

Pancreatic Cancer has touched many families and altered the lives of surviving family members. This bitterness of death and hardship of Pancreatic Cancer known to many has not escaped the attention of the Wadesboro Police Department, being that Chief of Police Thedis Spencer's father passed away in 1996 from Pancreatic Cancer. In remembrance of him and all who have struggled and continue to struggle with Pancreatic Cancer, the Wadesboro Police Department offers its support.

Chief Thedis Spencer said, "I would like to thank every officer who participated in the 2018 No Shave November program. In today's changing society, Wadesboro Police Department officers are always looking for new inventive ways to not only protect, but also serve their community."

## The Ryan White Program at the Anson County Health Department

Throughout the cold winter month of December, the Anson County Health Department is participating in World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day is used to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, encourage people to get tested, and take action to support people living with HIV.

World AIDS Day is a worldwide benefit to raise awareness, fight prejudice, and improve education about HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. World AIDS Day is each December 1.

Around the world, about 37 million people are living with HIV. In the United States, about 38,500 people get infected with HIV every year. The only way to know if you have HIV is to get tested. It's important that everyone ages 15 to 65 gets tested for HIV at least once. Some people may need to get tested more often.

Some people living with HIV may have little to no access to health care resources than others living with HIV. This may be due to:

- No health insurance
- Fewer financial resources
- Fewer health care resources available in the area
- Less access to transportation
- Lack of housing
- Lack of emotional or physical support
- Fear of telling their family about their HIV

This is why it is important to create awareness amongst HIV/AIDS and inform those about the resources that are available such as the Ryan White Program. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides primary medical care and support services for people living with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured. The Program works with cities, states, and local community-based organizations to provide HIV care and treatment services to more than half a million people each year. The Program reaches approximately 52% of all people diagnosed with HIV in the United States.

The Program serves as an important source of ongoing access to HIV medication that can enable people living with HIV to live close to normal lifespans.

The Ryan White program covers people affected by HIV in Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Union Counties, North Carolina; and York County, South Carolina. The program provides resources such as:

- No health insurance
- Medical, dental, and vision care
- Health insurance assistance
- Transportation
- Child care and family services
- Mental health and substance use
- Housing
- Food, clothing, and financial assistance
- Employment assistance

The Ryan White program is offered in Anson County. For more information about the program or assistance getting started, please call Dinikia Savage at 704-994-3342. The Anson County Health Department also offers free HIV and STD testing.

The Health Department's hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The walk-in hours for the STD clinic are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. For more information on HIV and STDs, symptoms, or treatment contact STD nurse Lori Burr at 704-994-3340.

The Anson County Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

Learn more about the Ryan White Program at [hab.hrsa.gov/about-ryan-white-hiv-aids-program](http://hab.hrsa.gov/about-ryan-white-hiv-aids-program).

## The Drake Gallery Offers Local Arts & Crafts for Christmas

The Drake Gallery & Gifts has beautiful art from local, talented artists - as well as unique pottery, classic art-themed painted vintage furniture, jewelry, wood work, snowman and Santa Claus gourds, Rae Dunn pottery and more! Pick up a gift certificate from the Ansonia or the Drake! Everyone is invited to come visit and shop for the holidays!

The Drake Gallery is located in the Anson County Arts Council office, at 110 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro, next door to the Ansonia Theatre. The telephone number is 704-694-4950.

The holiday hours are: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They are closed on Sundays and Mondays.

## Christmas Movies Featured this Week at the Library

Hampton B. Allen Library announces a series of free Christmas movies showing Wednesday, December 19 through Friday, December 21, each day at 10:00 a.m. in the Little Theatre. On Wednesday they will be showing *The Christmas Chronicles* with Kurt Russell. On Thursday it is *The Polar Express* and on Friday *Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas*. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy these special holiday movies.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)