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

Public Invited to Community Forum on School Safety on March 5

In response to recent violence on school campuses in our nation, Anson County School Superintendent Michael Freeman is hosting a community forum to provide updates on current Safe Schools Plans developed for each public school governed by the Anson County Board of Education. Mr. Freeman will be joined by Sheriff Landric Reid, Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer, Emergency Management Director Rodney Diggs, and Wadesboro Fire Chief Marc Sessions.

The public is invited to attend this forum which will be held on Monday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ingram Room at the Lockhart-Taylor in Wadesboro.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet March 6

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6.

The Commissioners meet on the first Tuesday of each month 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.

Special Meeting of Anson County Board of Elections Today

The Anson County Board of Elections will hold a special meeting today, Wednesday, February 28, at 12 noon.

- The agenda for the meeting is:
- Call to Order/Invocation 12 noon
 - Approval of Minutes (if applicable)
 - Candidate Filing Update / Approvals
 - Other Concerns and Matters
 - Important Dates

To appear on a meeting agenda you must provide notice in writing by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the next meeting. The meeting will take place at the Board of Elections office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

Reading Rock-A-Thon at Morven Elementary School

This week, February 26 to March 2, is declared National Reading Week in America. In observance of this week, Morven Elementary School will have an activity each day for their students.

On Friday, March 2 they will have a Reading Rock-A-Thon between the hours of 10 a.m and 1 p.m. They are inviting teachers, students, parents and community leaders to come join them as we read in rocking chairs. You are requested to read for 15 minutes. There will also be a decorative box located within the proximity of the chairs for a donation to Morven Elementary School.

Sylvia McLendon, Media Specialist at MES, said, "Thank you in advance for joining with us to make our children better readers. We truly want them to catch the vision of how important it is to read. Please let us know what time you can read to our students on Read Across America Day. You may bring a book of your choice or choose on of ours at MES."

Free Tax Help at Grace Senior Center

Free income tax assistance will be available for Anson County Residents sixty years of age or older of low or moderate income needing help in preparing their income tax returns. The assistance is a program sponsored by AARP and Grace Senior Center.

Volunteer counselors trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service will be at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, March 7 and Wednesday, April 4. This free assistance is designed to help taxpayers fill out forms 1040EZ, 1040A, 1040 and the North Carolina return.

Persons using the service should bring a picture ID, this year's tax package, age and earnings statements (forms W-2) received from employers, interest statements from banks (form 1099-INT), a copy of last year's tax return, and any other relevant information concerning income and expenses. Electronic filing of returns will be available.

If you are interested call Grace Senior Center to register and for additional information at 704-694-6616 or 694-6217.

Early Voting Dates and Times Released

Steve Adams, Anson County Director of Elections, has released the schedule for early voting in the May election.

"You will see where our board did due diligence to extend the hours each day to allow for voters who work later to have the opportunity to cast their ballot," Adams said. "In addition, an extra Saturday was added as well."

Also, Absentee by Mail Voting will be available beginning Monday, March 19.

APPROVED EARLY VOTING PLAN FOR MAY 8, 2018 PRIMARY ELECTION

| DAY | OPEN | CLOSE | TOTAL HOURS |
|---------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| THURSDAY 4/19/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| FRIDAY 4/20/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| MONDAY 4/23/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| TUESDAY 4/24/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| WEDNESDAY 4/25/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| THURSDAY 4/26/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| FRIDAY 4/27/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| SATURDAY 4/28/2018 | 8:30 AM | 1:00 PM | 4.5 |
| MONDAY 4/30/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| TUESDAY 5/1/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| WEDNESDAY 5/2/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| THURSDAY 5/3/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| FRIDAY 5/4/2018 | 8:30 AM | 6:30 PM | 10 |
| SATURDAY 5/5/2018 | 8:30 AM | 1:00 PM | 4.5 |
| TOTAL HOURS | | | 129 |



4-H youth who were recognized and in attendance at Achievement Night

Anson 4-H Holds Achievement/Recognition Banquet

Thirty-seven proud relatives, friends and supporters were in attendance at the annual 4-H Achievement Night, held Tuesday, February 20 at the Cooperative Extension Center. The event was held to honor Anson County 4-H'ers, 4-H Volunteer Leaders for their accomplishments over the last year, and Volunteer Leaders who have given of their time to help with programs in 4-H. Youth and adults were recognized and awarded ribbons, certificates, and medals.

Deserving young 4-H'ers earned scholarships for club project work. These scholarships, provided through program fundraising efforts, will be used toward 4-H trips, camps and 4-H project area supplies.

- This year's Cloverbud (5-8 years old) project participants were Andrew Martin and Zoë Martin.
- Junior Division (11-12 years old) project winners were Kendall Duncan and Cameron Tillman. Senior Division (13-15 years old) project winners were Quenton Cromartie, Keyshawn Tillman and LaMia Smith-Maxwell. Senior Division (16-18 years old) project winner were Alexis Smith and Akira LeGrand. Quenton Cromartie also submitted portfolios which are three years of project work in one specific project area.
- The Junior Outstanding 4-H'er was Cameron Tillman. He has done community service activities, from donating school supplies and backpack buddy supplies to cleaning the meeting facility and donating supplies to the women's shelter. His leadership activities include: Bronze District Presentation state winner, club reporter, District Bronze Project record winner, and assisting with programs for club cloverbuds.

Cameron wrote, "4-H helped me to become more social to others, including standing up in front of people and doing presentations. It helped me to believe in myself, because when I first started I didn't even want to do it because I thought it wasn't cool. 4-H gives me an opportunity to face my fears and share things other kids don't know."

Senior Outstanding 4-H'er was Akira LeGrand. Akira has been in 4-H for 11 years. She has led her teen 4-H club and teen training, assisted younger 4-H'ers, and led team building exercises. Some of her community service activities have included packing food bags for the homeless, donating supplies to backpack buddies, donating supplies to the local animal shelter, and taking personal care baskets to assisted living facilities.

In her statement Akira wrote, "4-H helped me to become a better person because it had made me a more open minded person. Being involved in 4-H has allowed me to grow mentally as well as socially, and without 4-H I do not think I would be the person I am today."

- 4-H Volunteer Leaders were recognized for their years of devoted service. They were Quantelya Dumas (2 years), Natasha Duncan (8 years), Carrissima Martin (8 years), Debra Ratliff (12 years), Addie Richardson (12 years), Hannah Dunlap (17 years), Sharon Edwards (21 years), Kim Bennett (26 years), Ada Moore (30 years), Betty Garris (34 years), and Pearl Blount (35 years). Each Leader was given a certificate and a token of appreciation.
- Three community clubs were recognized for renewing all of their paperwork to receive emerald charter seals in the county. Those clubs were Eager Beavers 4-H Club, RoboWolves 4-H Club and Busy Bees 4-H Club.
- Certificates of Appreciation were given to volunteers who gave their time during the past year to 4-H in the capacities of teaching a program, judging or helping structure programs. Those individuals were Katrina Martin, Janine Rywak, Janet Gilreath, Leslie Deese, Marion Young, Caroline Goins and Alex Hamington.

The evening was capped off with the recognition of the 2017 4-H Leaders Association Officers: Sharon Edwards-President; Carrissima Martin-Vice President; Betty Garris-Secretary; and Hannah Dunlap-Treasurer. Installation of new officers was held, and they are: Carrissima Martin-President; Natasha Duncan-Vice President; Pearl Blount-Secretary; and Quantelya Johnson-Treasurer.

For more information on the 4-H program in Anson County contact Roshunda Terry, 4-H Agent with the Cooperative Extension Service, at 704-694-2915.



Cameron Tillman Junior Outstanding 4-H'er.



4-H Volunteer Leaders who were in attendance and recognized

Third Annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics is March 24

It's time to take the plunge with the Anson County Sheriff's Office!

The Anson County Sheriff's Office will be hosting its third Annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics North Carolina on Saturday, March 24! This event is a unique opportunity for individuals, organizations and businesses to support Special Olympics athletes by jumping into our frigid winter bodies of water across the state. The fun starts at 11:30 a.m., and it will take place at Griffin Lodge, located at 2063 Redfern Road in Wadesboro.

Events like the Polar Plunge help support nearly 40,000 Special Olympic athletes in North Carolina. Special Olympic athletes around the world follow the oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

The plungers will consist of law enforcement, emergency services and individuals of all ages from the community. Each plunger is asked to either raise or donate a minimum of \$100.

Special guests include Anson County Special Olympics athletes, local leaders in the community and DJ Brandon Little.

New to the event this year will be an area designated for those participants who want to enter the water without jumping from the pier. Also, there will be prizes for best costume and most money raised.

This event is open to public - whether you are a plunger or not. The Sheriff's Office encourages everyone who can attend to come out and support this unique event, and have a lot of fun at the same time!

If you have questions or would like to make a donation you can contact Lieutenant Brian Tice at the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188

High School Selection Events Coming Up

There will be a Parent Forum for eighth grade parents, guardians and students about high school selection 2018 on Tuesday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Anson Middle School.

There will be an Open House for eighth grade parents, guardians and students about high school selection 2018 on Thursday, March 8 at the following schools:

- Anson Academy, 4-7 p.m.
- Early College, 4 - 7 p.m.
- Anson High School, 4-7 p.m.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com