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

Board of Education Regular Meeting Scheduled for March 25

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, March 25 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. The meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the Closed Session. Open Session should begin at about 5:30 p.m.

Forgivable Loans Available for Criminal Justice Education

This past summer the N.C. Criminal Justice Fellows Program (CJFP) was passed by the North Carolina legislature. The mission of the Criminal Justice Fellows Program is to recruit talented high school seniors and graduates into the criminal justice profession. Each year this program will fund fellowships for high school seniors and graduates in eligible counties who have exhibited high academic achievement, a history of service to the school and community, and a desire to serve the state of N.C. in a field within the criminal justice profession.

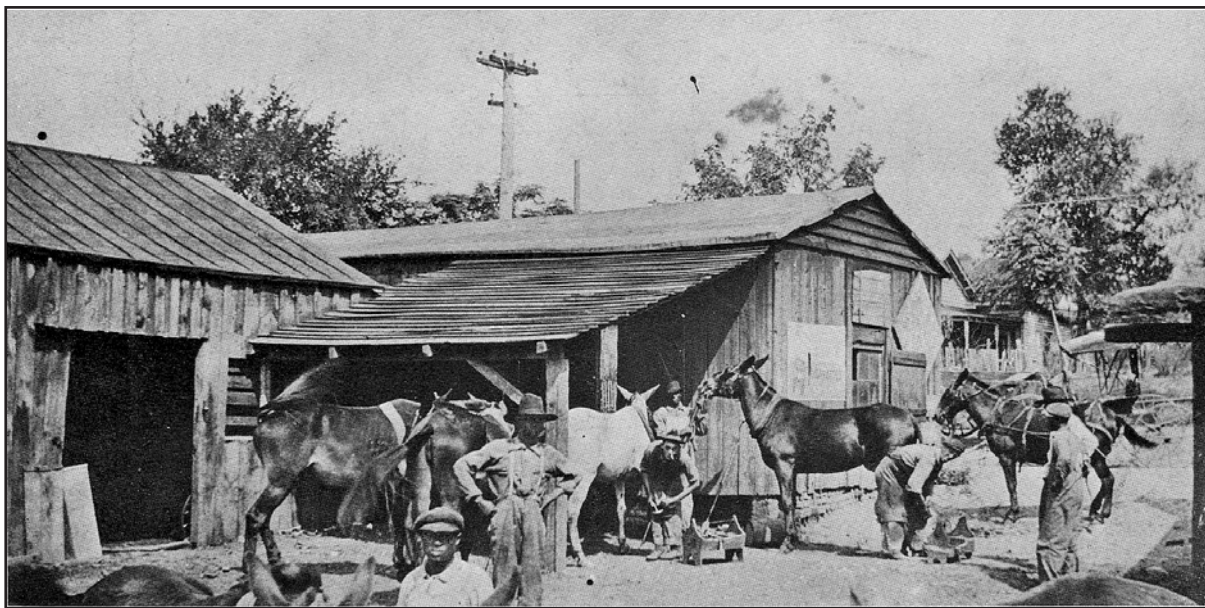
Anson County is one of the 65 eligible counties. The Criminal Justice Fellows Program will provide forgivable educational loans for high school seniors and graduates in eligible counties who agree to enter a criminal justice profession in an eligible county in N.C. This fellowship will fund an Applied Associate Degree in Criminal Justice or Committee approved related field of study, from any North Carolina Community college. Students who receive the educational loan would have 5 years to repay, though it would be forgiven if they enter and remain in a criminal justice profession within N.C. for 4 years in an eligible county. The types of jobs that the fellows can go into include: state and local sworn law-enforcement officers, state correctional officers, sworn sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, detention officers, state juvenile justice officers, and telecommunicators under the direct supervision of a law enforcement agency and other correctional officers maintained by local governments and juvenile justice agencies. One hundred fellowships will be awarded each year, and the first class will begin in the fall of 2019. The closing date for the application for the Criminal Justice Fellows Program is April 30, 2019. Full eligibility requirements, forms and a FAQ are available at: ncdoj.gov. Click "About DOJ" then "Law Enforcement Training and Standards" and "Criminal Justice Fellows." You can also call (919) 662-4609.

Anson County's January Unemployment Rate Up to 5.3%

Anson County's unemployment rate for January was 5.3%, up from December's 4.5% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate was 4.5% in January, up from December's 3.8% rate. Anson's total labor force in January was 10,406. Of that number 9,858 were employed and 548 were unemployed. In December the total labor force was 10,367 with 9,905 employed and 462 unemployed. Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in all 100 of North Carolina's counties in January. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 13.3 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.4 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 6.0 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.6 percent. When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 67 counties, increased in 17, and remained unchanged in 16. Nine metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year, one increased, and five remained unchanged. The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in January by 13,492 to 4,767,612, while those unemployed increased 40,189 to 225,345. Since January 2018, the number of workers employed statewide increased 77,071, while those unemployed decreased 7,482.

Today is "Kick Butts Day"

March has arrived, and this month the Anson County Health Department is collaborating with Anson County Early College High School in supporting the youth by participating in the national "Kick Butts Day" today, Wednesday, March 20. This event was created by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids organization. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is represented all over the United States and in other areas of the world. The Anson County Health Department and Anson County Early College are supporting The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, and the national Kick Butts Day event. A visual display created by students will be ready to view on March 20. The ACHD will have a visual display set on the front lawn of the Health Department. The powerful displays will help our children and our community realize the deadly consequences of tobacco use. The public is encouraged to come by the Anson County Health Department to view the display. Anson County Kick Butts Day has its own filter from the social media mobile application Snapchat. The filter will be available at Anson County Early College, Anson Academy, Anson High School, and ACHD on Wednesday, March 20, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feel free to participate and join the fun. For more information about The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids or Kick Butts Day, please visit their website at KickButtsDay.org. The visual display of the deadly consequences of tobacco will be available for viewing Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 20-28. The Anson County Health Department is offering free 1 on 1 tobacco cessation sessions provided by their Health Educator and Certified QuitSmart leader, Dinikia Savage. QuitSmart success rates are high and are proved to be more effective than other methods. QuitSmart also produced impressive quit rates in published research studies, such as the V.A. Medical Center in Durham North Carolina with a 51% quit rate over a 6 month period. With QuitSmart, tobacco users are assured of high quality professional help. The Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.



Early 1900's Blacksmith Shop at Location of Express Newspaper Building

The picture above, taken in the early 1900's, is Will Phillip's Blacksmith Shop which was located at 205 West Morgan Street in uptown Wadesboro, current site of the Express Newspaper building, formerly Moore Funeral Home. The blacksmith shop moved to the current location of ReStore in Wadesboro (former location of Sears) in 1929. In the basement of the Express building there is a date of 1907 imprinted in the concrete. Perhaps that was done when the concrete was put in for the blacksmith shop. Also, many relics and remnants of the shop have been found buried around the property.

Six Months After Florence Made Landfall, North Carolina Continues Work to Rebuild

Six months after Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina, storm survivors are getting help to recover and work is underway to make homes, businesses and infrastructure more resilient. However, much work lies ahead and North Carolina and its recovery partners are committed to helping people and communities rebuild, Governor Roy Cooper said on Tuesday, March 12. "Hurricane Florence was a devastating storm that swamped homes, businesses, farms, schools and entire communities. But the devastation was quickly followed by amazing acts of bravery and kindness from first responders, volunteers, and neighbors helping neighbors, and impressive cooperation among local, state and federal partners to get help to those in need," Governor Cooper said. "People hit hard by Florence are determined to recover and we're determined to rebuild North Carolina stronger and smarter." The governor traveled to Craven County and Jones County recently to check on recovery progress. North Carolina's wettest storm on record, Hurricane Florence moved slowly across the state for days, dropping more than 8 trillion gallons of water according to the National Weather Service. Some areas got as much as 35 inches of rain. As a result, many communities experienced catastrophic flooding. The storm took the lives of 44 people in North Carolina. Many more lives were saved by the heroic work of first responders. During and after the storm, 5,214 people and 1,067 animals were rescued and evacuated by first responders, including local law enforcement and firefighters, State Highway Patrol troopers, Marine Patrol Officers, 2,800 National Guard soldiers and 70 swift water rescue teams. North Carolina suffered an estimated \$17 billion in damages from Hurricane Florence. More than \$1.2 billion in state and federal help is already approved for North Carolina, and Gov. Cooper is pushing for more recovery help from Washington. To lead the state's efforts to rebuild smarter and stronger the wake of Hurricane Florence, Gov. Cooper established the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency, or NCORR, in the wake of Hurricane Florence. The office provides disaster recovery coordination with services that include oversight of recovery funding, processing of program applications, construction and vendor management, and public outreach and education, among many other responsibilities. With NCORR up and running, North Carolina is now on the road to recovery with a team of state, federal and volunteer partners dedicated to helping communities rebuild to be more resilient and better prepared to weather future storms.

Locally Grown Industrial Hemp Now Available

Bountiful Harvest Farm is pleased to announce that their 2018 Industrial Hemp crop is now available for sale to the local community. Industrial hemp was made legal to grow in the US with the 2014 Farm Bill and NC legalized the production of hemp in 2017. NC farmers have to be licensed to grow hemp by applying to the NC Hemp Commission for participation in the NC Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program. Hemp has a rich history in the US as it was considered essential for survival of early colonists. Several of our founding fathers grew hemp on their farms. North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky led the country in production back in the day. As the popularity of this crop continues to soar, NC is poised to be a leader again. The industrial hemp plant has many uses such as food, fiber, and health benefits. Hemp seed can be used for human consumption as well as animals once approved by FDA. Fiber and hurd from the stalks of the hemp plant can be used for textiles, construction products, bioplastics, automotive industry (Henry Ford made a car out of hemp and ran on hemp oil), and the list goes on. Plus, the extraction of phytocannabinoids was just another tool for medicinal purposes by early physicians. Just as it played a big part in the lives of Americans centuries ago, those same benefits and more are available to us today. Bountiful Harvest Farm is a family farm in the Burnsville community. As a founding member of the BioRegen Cooperative which now has over 100 farms in NC working together in seeking alternative crops for production. Bountiful Harvest Farm owner Gary Sikes has served as President of BioRegen Cooperative for nearly two years. Early on it was seen that CBD from the hemp plant was the best opportunity for farmers because of the value, rising demand, and available infrastructure to process the crop. The cooperative is actively seeking partnerships and processing facilities for fiber and grain in order to offer alternative crops with more substantial acreage in the state. For Sikes, the moment the farmers had the ability to take the crop from field, to processing, formulating, and bottling giving the local farmers the opportunity to sell in their communities has been a dream come true. There is great potential for this crop to become an economic opportunity for farmers and rural areas across the state. While there's not as much research in the US as we would like to see, the benefits of CBD and other phytocannabinoid use is booming because of the benefits experienced by users. Gary Sikes will talk about the benefits of this crop in two presentations: On Sunday, March 24 at 3 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center; and Monday, March 25 at 7 p.m. at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center in the Burnsville Community. Come out and have your questions answered about the country's newest and most exciting crop. Full spectrum tincture bottles, muscle rub and skin cream will be available for purchase. For more information go to bountifulharvestfarmnc.com or call Kelly Sikes at 704-293-9248.

Community Parent Resource Fair to be Held at Wadesboro Elementary School on March 28

Anson County Schools are excited to announce its First Annual "Community Parent Resource Fair." The theme is "Yes! It is necessary. Parent Resource Fair!" We would be delighted if you and your child would attend. This fair is designed with the purpose of connecting parents with resources to help with education, community involvement and independent living. Vendors will be there to share information about resources that are available for your child. Agencies are scheduled to be in attendance. Door Prizes will be given away. Supper will be provided. Please plan to attend on Thursday, March 28 at Wadesboro Elementary School, from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. in Room 113.

Kite Flying, Trail Hiking, Games & More Saturday!

Anson County Parks & Recreation is hosting an event they call Spring Takes Flight this Saturday, March 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event is for all ages, and will include kite flying, trail hikes, fun games and healthy snacks. Come out to Little Park, located at 845 Airport Road in Wadesboro, and join in the fun!

Free Movie is Finding Neverland

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie, *Finding Neverland*, to be shown on Monday, March 25 at 10:00 a.m. in the Little Theatre. Award winners Johnny Depp (*Pirates of the Caribbean*), Kate Winslet, Dustin Hoffman and Julie Christie star in a magical tale about one of the world's greatest storytellers and the people who inspired his masterwork, *Peter Pan!* *Finding Neverland* has been hailed as one of the year's best motion pictures! Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the movie. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For information call 704-694-3516.

Retired School Personnel Meeting March 29

The North Carolina Retired School Personnel (NCRSP) unit of Anson County will meet on Friday, March 29 at 11 o'clock in the Pritchett Room of the Hampton B. Allen Library. All members and any other retirees of the Anson County schools are invited to attend. Your attendance and support are greatly needed and appreciated.

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