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

Over Two Million Dollars Awarded to Anson County Schools!

Anson County Schools has been named one of only 24 national recipients of the competitive and coveted Youth Career-Connect Grant. Only 18 states received awards, and Anson County was the only grant recipient in North Carolina. The school system will receive up to \$2,247,373 over a four year period, beginning with the upcoming 2014-15 school year.

Anson County Schools Superintendent Mr. Michael Freeman said, "This is the result of a wonderfully talented team of grant writers who were able to collaborate with my staff to develop a plan which aligns with President Obama's high school redesign initiative. I felt that Anson County encompassed all the criteria needed to qualify and we did." Mr. Chad Murphy, Anson High School Principal, along with several staff members were also among the "movers and shakers" surrounding this collaborative effort.

This grant funding will enable Anson County Schools to initiate a "Career-Connect: STEM Academy" at Anson High School, the only comprehensive high school in the district. The Anson High School program will provide opportunity for participating students to focus their high school studies in four highly skilled and in-demand career areas: 1) Advanced Manufacturing, 2) Pre-Engineering, 3) Information Technologies, and 4) Pre-Med and Biomedical Sciences. In the first year there will be only 20 student seats available in each career area for a total of 80 freshmen in the program. Then, each subsequent year, an additional 80 entering freshmen will be added, for a total of 320 students at the end of four years.

The Youth CareerConnect Grant is a part of President Obama's major High School Redesign Initiative. The intent is to help students develop knowledge and skills in high school that will prepare them to successfully complete a college degree or immediately enter the workforce after graduation. To accomplish this, the Anson High plan is to provide an innovative setting for students who have an idea that they will become engineers, doctors or nurses, computer specialists, web designers, plant or medical lab technicians, or dozens of other potential careers in the four STEM areas. Career-Connect students will be immersed in a career-based environment that emphasizes real world learning, problem solving, and teaming. They will also make connections to business partners, work briefly in the career industry, and earn college credits that result in a credential that leads to a college degree or employment. Students will have the opportunity to graduate from high school with at least 18 hours of community college credit and one or more certificates recognized nationally by business and industry.

Five excellent business partners have helped design the Anson program, and they will actively participate in helping students and teachers foster success in the real-world career areas. Those partners are South Piedmont Community College, Anson County Chamber of Commerce, Carolinas Healthcare System, Columbus McKinnon, Hornwood, and Schaeffler USA.

Superintendent Freeman expressed great anticipation for the impact this grant-funded program will have. "This is an important step in our vision for high school education in Anson County," said Freeman. "We are truly excited about the opportunities this funding and design will open up for our students. We anticipate that our graduates will be in demand after graduation, fully ready to continue studying in college or enter the workplace, with national credentials that make them highly marketable."

The school district and Anson High School will release more information about this new program over the next few weeks. Further information will be posted on the school website and the Anson Career-Connect Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ahscareerconnect.

For additional information related to this grant initiative, please contact Michael Freeman at 704-694-4417 or freeman.michael@anson.k12.nc.us.
By Melanie Lyon

High School Application Timeline

There will be an Open House for eighth grade parents, guardians and students on Wednesday, April 9. It will be held at Anson County Early College from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

High School Application and Information Packets will be delivered to Anson Middle School and Anson County Schools (ACS) Administrative Offices on April 9. On Thursday, April 10 the packets will be distributed to AMS students, and will be available to non-AMS students at the district office.

Also on Thursday, April 10 there will be an Open House for eighth grade parents, guardians and students at Anson High School from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 22 High School Application Packets should be turned in at Anson Middle School or the Anson County Schools Central Office by 3:30 p.m.

On April 28 and 29 The High School Selection Committee will meet to determine student high school placement.

On June 6 High School Student Placement letters will be mailed to students.

On June 9-16 Students/Parents/Guardians may request a reconsideration of high school placement. Please refer to The Process for Review and Reconsideration document on Page 4 of the High School Application Packet.

On June 19 The High School Selection Appeals Committee will meet to determine student high school placement based on appeal information and requests.

On June 30 Appeal decisions for high school student placement will be mailed for everyone who requested an appeal.

Youth Fishing Rodeo is Saturday

The Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge is hosting its annual Youth Fishing Rodeo this Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to noon. Children 12 and under may enter the rodeo, but all ages are invited to participate. The event will take place on Sullivan Pond at the refuge.

This free event will feature prizes awarded to youth for the largest fish, the smallest fish and the most fish caught.

Fishing rods, tackle and bait will be available if you do not have your own, so come on out for this great outdoor event and help celebrate National Fishing and Boating Week. A hot dog lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Pee Dee NWR following the fishing activities at 11 a.m. Other goodies will also be provided.

The refuge is located on Highway 52 North, approximately 7 miles north of Wadesboro on the right. Look for the brown Refuge signs. When you turn into the refuge continue straight, 1/2 mile past the office to Sullivan Pond. For more information call 704-694-4424.



Wadesboro Primary School Terrific Kids

These Wadesboro Primary School students were recently recognized for character traits of caring and fairness: Angelily Dollente, Xenobia Leak, Jennifer Espada, Chelsea Burr, Faith Grant, Jocelyn Parker, Niyah Lindsey, Gage Campbell, Kimora Harrington, Mya Mungo, Aleah Powe, Dream Sturdivant, Tyler Swaney, Aylisa Lett, Travis Neal, Carson McNamara, Mehki Felder, Ebony Gaddy, Katie Pierre, Dawn Carter, Isaiah Haynes, Jasmine Little, Gavin Williams, Hunter Hildreth, Ny'Aisah Reaves, Zamiyah Horton, Joseph Davis, Chloe Scarborough, Juleeyah Moore, Kaylie Burries, Kaitlyn Sims, Mariah Sturdivant, Jarrell Watson, Saniyah Polk, Maddie Martin, Evan Parsons, LaBrian Bowen, Kaiyah Parsons, Conner Parker, Zharria McCrorey, Timothy Smith, Jon Nora Hall, Nichya Pemberton, Jayln Little, Carter Calaci, Janiyah Broady, Qua'Shawn Byrd, Travon Edgeston, Aishah Campbell and Tiffany Pulliam.

April is National Library Month - Late Fees Forgiven

To celebrate National Library Month this April, Hampton B. Allen Library will offer overdue fee forgiveness. Now is a great time to turn in those items that are sitting around!

Library Manager Donald Perkins said, "We started the forgiveness period on Monday, April 7 and it will end on Saturday, April 26. During those three weeks any items (books, audio-books, DVD's, etc.) returned to us will have all fines forgiven!"

Benefit for Ronnie Gainey to Feature Delicious Food

A benefit fundraiser will be held for Ronalt "Ronnie" Gainey on Saturday, April 12 at his home, which is located at 118 Threadgill Street in Ansonville. They will begin serving at noon. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy all kinds of delicious food and fellowship.

Ronnie is in need of and in await for a new heart. The money raised will be go towards his medical bills and the related expenses of transportation to doctor appointments, etc.

On offer will be fish plates (\$8), half chicken grilled plate (\$8), barbecue plate (\$8), fish sandwiches (\$5), hot dogs, cakes and drinks.

Donations of any kind are gratefully accepted. If you have any questions please call 704-826-8842 or 704-474-7891.

Young Leaders Advisory Council Formed by Sen. McLaurin

In a release from Sen. Gene McLaurin: I am pleased to announce the formation of the Young Leaders Advisory Council for Senate District 25. I have been impressed with a number of young people in our district who are actively involved in their communities and in making a positive impact. As your state senator, I want to hear from you. What I envision is an informal meeting to share your thoughts on issues relevant to young people, young families, and your communities. The Young Leaders Advisory Council is not an exclusive group, nor is it a partisan group. Instead this will be an opportunity to engage one another, to network, and to help foster growth in our rural region.

Our first meeting will be held in Anson County at Southern Medley Wine Cellar on Tuesday, April 15th at 6 p.m. Elizabeth Schafer runs Southern Medley Wine Cellar, located at 118 North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The website is www.southernmedley.com.

I believe there is great value in hearing from young people in our district. There is also great value in young people getting to know one another and building relationships across county lines. I hope you will come and bring a friend. If you know of someone who may be interested, please forward this message to them.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email Katie Stanley in my Raleigh Office. Please RSVP by emailing mclaurinla@ncleg.net or calling 919-733-5953.

Carolina Farm Credit to Issue Patronage Checks

In April member-borrowers of Carolina Farm Credit will receive patronage refunds checks for 2013, Vance C. Dalton, Jr., CEO, announced. The amount of patronage to be paid and revolved in the future for borrowers of Carolina Farm Credit will total \$18.1 million. Borrowers will receive a refund of 25% of the interest that accrued on their loans in 2013. A cash refund of \$5.4 million will be paid, and the remainder will be placed in allocated capital accounts for future revolvment.

"Carolina Farm Credit had another successful year in 2013. We're pleased to be able to share our success with our borrowers by putting our profits in their pockets," said Mark Bray Chairman of the Carolina Farm Credit board. "This is the 26th consecutive year we've paid a patronage refund. In addition, the board of directors plans to continue to retire the allocated surplus according to their plan in the fall of 2014. Since 1988, Carolina Farm Credit has declared patronage totaling more than \$403 million to be paid to its member-borrowers through patronage refunds and retirements of allocated surplus."

"When we distribute our profits to our borrowers, it reduces their effective cost of borrowing," Vance C. Dalton, Jr. stated, "and it proves that there are distinct financial benefits in doing business on a cooperative basis."

Grant Provides Foreclosure Prevention Offers Help for Homeowners Statewide

The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency has been awarded a \$2 million grant that will enable an additional 8,000 households statewide to receive foreclosure prevention counseling. The \$2,009,013 award, from NeighborWorks America under the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling (NFMC) Program, is the second-highest award nationwide, and the eighth NFMC award won by the North Carolina agency.

So far, NFMC grants have enabled the Agency to pay for foreclosure prevention counseling services for more than 40,000 homeowners in North Carolina. The assistance is available statewide through 28 HUD-approved counseling agencies, and is provided to homeowners at no cost.

Also available to homeowners at no cost is the N.C. Foreclosure Prevention Fund, which makes mortgage payments for up to 36 months for qualified unemployed homeowners while they look for a job or retrain. Nearly 16,000 North Carolinians have received assistance so far. The N.C. Housing Finance Agency received funding for this effort from the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury because of North Carolina's high unemployment during the recession.

For information and a list of local counseling agencies offering assistance, homeowners can go to www.NCForeclosurePrevention.gov or call 888-623-8631.

The N.C. Housing Finance Agency, a self-supporting state agency, has financed more than 221,000 affordable homes and apartments statewide since its creation in 1973.

HOLLA! Parent Summit at SPCC on April 13

Holla will host a Parent Summit at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center on Sunday, April 13 starting at 2 p.m. For more information call 704-851-3144.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic to be Held Saturday

The Spring Rabies Vaccination Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 12 at Brown Creek Animal Hospital, on Highway 74 in Polkton, from 2 to 5 p.m. All dogs, cats and ferrets four months of age must have a current rabies vaccination that is administered by a licensed veterinarian. This is the perfect opportunity for you to vaccinate your pet.

Democratic Party Monthly Meeting is April 17

The Anson County Democratic Party will hold their monthly meeting at the Hampton B. Allen Library on Thursday, April 17 at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Meet & Greet the Candidates April 20

A "Meet & Greet" the candidates event, presented by the Democratic Party, will be held on Sunday, April 20 at the Hampton B. Allen Library at 3 p.m. All elected officials and candidates are invited. Citizens will be given opportunity to ask questions. For information contact Gareltha Pratt 704-848-4619.

Anson County Historical Society's Spring Social

The Anson County Historical Society will hold their Spring Social event on Thursday, May 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the garden behind their office. Their office is located at 206 East Wade Street in Wadesboro.

Senior Health Fair is May 20

Grace Senior Center is sponsoring their annual Senior Health Fair on Tuesday, May 20, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Seniors can come out and learn of available resources in Anson County and the surrounding counties. This event is free to seniors 55 and older. Free lunch will be served to exhibitors and attendees. For more information and to register call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.