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

Board of Education Budget Development Workshop is April 23

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a budget development workshop on Thursday, April 23 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro at 10 a.m.

Sandhill Regional Library System eCard

Due to Governor Cooper's Stay at Home order, all of the Sandhills Regional libraries are closed. In Anson County the Hampton B. Allen Library is a part of the Sandhills Regional Library System. They believe it is in the public's best interest to continue to provide the community with resources and information, and an excellent resource is the eCard. The eCard gives full free access to all online resources, with no overdue fees and same day access! Visit www.srls.info.

Sign up for a free digital eCard and gain access to online resources including NC LIVE, Hoopla, Overdrive, Freading, Open Library, and RB Digital. You will receive an email with your card number and PIN within 24 hours. Digital cards (eCards) are good for two years and feature No Overdue Fees! Access Digital Magazines, Hoopla, NC Live, and eBooks today. To check out physical items and more, visit a Sandhill Regional Library System location and receive a library card once the libraries reopen to the public.

Fill out the Online Borrower Registration with the required fields and choose the library location you use most often as your Home branch. Enjoy the benefits of your new SRLS eCard!

If you have a physical card, you already have access to Online Resources from the library. Just use your card number and PIN. There is no need to sign up for a digital library card. You can call the Hampton B. Allen Library at 704-694-5177.

4-H Recognizes Youth and Volunteers

On Tuesday, February 18 more than thirty proud relatives, friends, and supporters attended the annual 4-H Achievement Night held at the Cooperative Extension Center. The purpose of Achievement Night is to honor and recognize Anson County 4-H'ers, 4-H Volunteer Leaders for their accomplishments from the previous year, and Volunteer Leaders who have given their time and efforts to assist with 4-H programs. Youth and adults were recognized and received certificates and ribbons for their accomplishments. 4-H alumni, Commissioner Lawrence Gatewood, was present to give the greetings. Several, well deserving 4-H'ers earned scholarships for the effort and hard work they put into their club project work. These scholarships are funded through program fundraising efforts and will be used toward 4-H trips, camps, and 4-H project area supplies.

This year's Cloverbud (5-7) project participant was Zoë Martin. The Junior Division (8-12) project winner was Andrew Martin. The Senior Division (13-18) project winners were LaMaia Smith-Maxwell and Cameron Tillman. Quenton Cromartie and Keyshawn Tillman submitted portfolios which are three years of project work in one specific project area.

Our 4-H Volunteer Leaders were recognized with years of devoted service to the 4-H program. They were: 1st year Volunteer Leaders Ashley Cole and Justin Jones, Leslie Smith 4 years, Natasha Duncan 10 years, Carrissima Martin 10 years, Debra Ratliff 14 years, Addie Richardson 14 years, Hannah Dunlap 19 years, Kim Bennett 28 years, Ada Moore 32 years, Betty Garris 36 years, and Pearl Blount 37 years. Each Leader was given a certificate and a gift of appreciation. Three community clubs were recognized for renewing all of their paperwork to receive their charter seals. Those clubs receiving charter seals 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 Pamela Layfield, Janet Gilreath, and Roshunda Terry.

The evening was capped off with the recognition of the 2019 4-H Leaders Association Officers: Carrissima Martin- President, Natasha Duncan- Vice President, Pearl Blount-Secretary, and Hannah Dunlap- Treasurer and the installation of the new officers Ashley Cole-President, Leslie Smith-Vice President, Pearl Blount-Secretary, and Hannah Dunlap-Treasurer.

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

Robert Mitchell, Convicted of Murder in 1989, Approved for Parole

The North Carolina Post Release Supervision & Parole Commission issued this notification to media on April 8: Re: Robert Mitchell #0285654

County and Court: Anson County Superior Court
Crime and Sentence: 1st Degree Murder and Conspiracy to Commit 1st Degree Murder; Life
Conviction Date: 08-17-1989
Dear News Editor:

In complying with North Carolina G.S. 15A-1371(3), the state Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission is notifying you that it has approved the above-referenced case for parole via the Mutual Agreement Parole Program (MAPP). MAPP is a scholastic and vocational program that is a three-way agreement between the Commission, the Division of Prisons and the offender. Under the agreement, the offender's parole release date is 04-15-2020.

The state's current sentencing law, Structured Sentencing, eliminates parole for crimes committed on or after October 1, 1994. However, the Commission has the responsibility of paroling offenders who were sentenced under previous sentencing guidelines.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact the Commission at 919-716-3010.

Stay Home, Save Lives

Help stop coronavirus 1) STAY home as much as you can 2) KEEP a safe distance 3) WASH hands often 4) COVER your cough 5) SICK? Call ahead

Town of Wadesboro Enacts Curfew for People 18 and Younger

On Thursday, April 9 the Town of Wadesboro issued a proclamation of a municipal state of emergency to take effect the following day, Friday, April 10. The proclamation, signed by Mayor Bill Thacker, enacted a curfew in the town limits of Wadesboro for people 18 years old or younger, from 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. The proclamation stated the following:

Section 1: Pursuant to the Town of Wadesboro State of Emergency Ordinance and Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, as well as Article 36A Chapter 14 of the General Statutes. I have determined that a State of Emergency, as defined in the Town State of Emergency Ordinance, does exist in the Town of Wadesboro.

Section 2: I, therefore, proclaim the existence of a State of Emergency in the Town of Wadesboro.

Section 3: I hereby order all Town law enforcement officers, employees, and any other emergency management personnel subject to my control, to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of the Town State of Emergency Ordinance which are set forth below.

Curfew. Unless a member of the Town's law enforcement agency or the emergency services, or determined to be an essential employee as defined by Governor Cooper's Executive Order 121, every person under the age of 18 years who is located within the incorporated area of the Town of Wadesboro is to be inside a dwelling from the hours of 9:00 PM until 6:00 AM. This curfew shall not apply to those persons under the age of 18 who are seeking emergency medical attention, or are otherwise directed to be outside a dwelling by state, local, or federal government personnel.

Section 4: This proclamation is for the incorporated areas of the Town of Wadesboro.

Section 5: This proclamation shall become effective on Friday, April 10, 2020. Proclaimed this the 9th day of April, At 10:50 a.m. This proclamation, once effective will supersede and replace the proclamation enacted on March 20, 2020.

Anson Has 12 Reported Cases of COVID-19 as of April 14

On Tuesday, April 14 the Anson County Health Department reported that Anson County has 12 reported cases of COVID-19, with 6 of those cases active. Two of the cases are from community spread, meaning that the patient does not know where they came in contact with the virus, and the individual had no risk factors.

As of Saturday, April 11 the Health Department reported ten cases of COVID-19 in the county.

One case involves a healthcare worker who was caring for confirmed cases in another county.

Six cases have been discharged. Discharged means the individual has maintained the following guidelines: At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

The Health Department advises everyone to please continue to observe the following:

- 1- You should assume EVERY person you come in contact with is potentially infected. Regardless of where you go (down the street or to another zip code, grocery store or fast food).
- 2- You should assume EVERY surface is potentially contaminated.
- 3- You should cough into your elbow or your sleeve, NOT your hand (see reason #2).
- 4- You should be following the governor's stay at home order.
- 5- You should be following proper hand hygiene.
- 6- Practice social distancing (6ft)
- 7- If you exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, body aches, WITHOUT shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or chest discomfort- you are asked to stay home and recover, you do NOT need to be tested, you can self isolate at home, which reduces exposure to others.
- 8- If you have been around a positive case and have no or even mild symptoms, you do NOT need a test. A positive test result is going to do NOTHING for you. You will only be exposing more persons by seeking this test.
- 9- Consider Atrium Health's online virtual assessment for COVID-19 and the FREE virtual visit. If a doctor's note is what you need to stay home from work, they can provide you with one, pending that a note is necessary and you are symptomatic.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like Anson County Public Health, CDC, and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). For more information, please visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and NCDHHS website at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus, which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

NC Insurance Commissioner Causey Helps Insurers Offer Discounts to Policyholders

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey is working with insurance companies so they can provide financial assistance to consumers during the COVID-19 health emergency. Many automobile insurers are announcing rebates and discounts due to the "Stay at Home" order, but, by law, rebates are not allowed in North Carolina and discounts must be filed in advance with the Department for approval. As an alternative, the Commissioner has developed a filing mechanism that will quickly allow companies to legally offer discounts to help their policyholders.

"This plan provides companies with an expedited way to bring economic relief to our residents," said Commissioner Causey. "I cannot ignore our laws that do not allow monies to be given to policyholders that are not tied to a decrease or cancellation of coverage. I can, however, assist companies in offering legal discounts," he added.

Insurers who would like to offer an assistance plan to consumers during the COVID-19 emergency must contact the N.C. Department of Insurance Property and Casualty Division at 1-855-408-1212.

Policyholders should contact their insurance carriers to see if their company is offering a financial assistance plan.

Monday Thunderstorms Result in Anson County Emergency Declaration

In a brief post on their Facebook page, Anson County Government stated the following: Due to the significant damage Anson County suffered during the thunderstorms on the morning of Monday, April 13th, 2020, a State of Emergency has been declared.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate was 4.5% in February

Anson County's unemployment rate for February was 4.5%. No unemployment figure for Anson County was released for January, but the December rate was 4.0%. Statewide the unemployment rate was 3.7% in February, down slightly from January's 4.1% rate.

Anson's total labor force in February was 11,098. Of that number 10,603 were employed and 495 were unemployed. In December the total labor force was 10,563 with 10,137 employed and 426 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 100 of North Carolina's counties in February. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 13.3 percent, while Buncombe and Orange Counties each had the lowest at 2.9 percent.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville had the highest rate at 4.9 percent and Asheville and Durham-Chapel Hill each had the lowest rate at 3.1 percent. The February not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.7 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 96 counties, increased in three, and remained unchanged in one. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in February by 55,157 to 4,933,849, while those unemployed decreased by 17,601 to 189,127. Since February 2019, the number of workers employed statewide increased 85,929, while those unemployed decreased 22,619.

License Plate Agency at the Anson County Government Center is Closed

The Anson County License Plate Agency is temporarily closed due to health and safety concerns. Online services are available at MyNC DMV.gov. The office is scheduled to reopen on Monday, April 20.

Meals are Ongoing for Anson County Students

Anson County Schools issued this statement on Monday, April 13:

This is a reminder that meals provided by Anson County Schools are being served at Wadesboro Elementary School from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day this week including today.

Game Land Users: Be Aware of Your Surroundings, Wear Blaze Orange

As turkey season ramps up, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission urges all game land users to be aware of their surroundings. The statewide wild turkey season occurs from April 11 through May 9.

Around 2,000,000 acres of public and private lands in North Carolina are managed by the Commission for public hunting, trapping, fishing and other outdoor activities. The Commission urges anyone who is using the game lands for an outdoor activity beyond turkey hunting to wear an article of clothing featuring blaze orange, which will alert any hunters to their presence.

Due to the spread of the coronavirus, the Commission also encourages the public to practice social distancing by maintaining at least six feet between yourself and others. For more information regarding coronavirus-related closings, event cancellations and postponements, visit ncwildlife.org/covid19.

For regulations and restrictions on turkey hunting, including information on youth season, refer to the 2019-2020 Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest at www.ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Regulations.

Tour North Carolina History at Home

Tour NC History @ Home allows you to explore and experience the rich history of our state wherever you are. You'll find virtual tours, hand-on activities, and opportunities to travel back in time.

These resources allow teachers, students, and every North Carolina citizen the chance to virtually visit all our NC Historic Sites. They invite you to open doors into the past and more fully understand the world we live in today with Tour NC History @ Home!

To take advantage of all the resources, visit historicsites.nc.gov/resources/tour-nc-history-home.

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