

Those who have felt the warmth of a fire and enjoyed it's friendly glow understand that fire is not always a devastating blaze. Our ancestors considered fire to be a basic element, the same as air, water and earth. Long ago, they learned to use fire and to control it. Fire was, perhaps, their first tool.

Most of us are careful with fire. We build fires in the right places, at the right time. We keep a fire at the proper size and put it out before leaving it. Some of us don't, which can result in catastrophic wildfires. Wildfires can do terrible damage. With North Carolina's growing population and wildland urban interface, wildfire risk also grows. You are the best defense against wildfire.

The following practices can help prevent wildfires.

• Debris Burning Check for any burning bans or fire restrictions that may be in effect for your area. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours while others forbid it entirely. Make sure to get a valid burn permit. Contact your NCFS county ranger's office for the names and locations of the nearest local permitting agent or use our online burning permit system.

Keep an eye on the weather. Don't burn on dry, windy days. Consider alternatives to burning. Some types of vegetative debris, such as leaves, grass and stubble, may be of more value if used for compost.

It is always illegal to burn household trash or anything other than natural vegetation.

• Burning Agriculture Residue and Forestland Litter Be fully prepared before burning off your field or garden spot. To control the fire, you will need a water source, bucket, a steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. If possible, a fire line should be plowed around the area to be burned. Large fields should be separated into small plots for burning one at a time. Never leave your fire unattended. Be sure to stay with your fire until it is out. Before burning in a wooded area, contact your NCFS county ranger. The ranger will weigh all factors, explain them to you and offer technical advice.

• Using Lanterns, Stoves and Heaters Cool a lantern, stove or heater before refueling. Before filling, place it on the ground in a cleared area. If fuel spills, move the appliance to a new clearing before lighting it. Recap and store flammable liquid containers in a safe place. Never light lanterns and stoves inside a tent, trailer or camper. If you use a lantern or stove inside a tent or trailer, be sure to have adequate ventilation. Always read and follow instructions provided by the manufacturer.

• Spark arrester Several types of equipment and vehicles are required to have spark arresters. Chainsaws, portable generators, cross country vehicles and trail bikes -require spark arresters if used in or near grass, brush or wooded areas. To ensure a spark arrester is functioning properly, check with the dealer or contact your NCFS county ranger's office.

• Smoking Grind out your cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco in the dirt when smoking outdoors. Never grind it on a stump or log. It is unsafe to smoke while walking or riding a horse or trail bike. Use your ashtray while in your car. Never dump used cigarettes out the window.

• Charcoal briquettes After burning charcoal briquettes, douse them thoroughly with water. Don't just sprinkle water over the coals. When the coals are soaked with water, stir the coals and soak them again. Be sure they are out. Carefully feel the coals with your bare hands to be sure they are extinguished and out cold!

• Building and putting out campfires Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass and leaves. Pull any extra wood away from the fire. Keep plenty of water handy, and have a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control. Start your campfire with dry twigs and small sticks. Add larger sticks as the fire builds up. Put the largest pieces of wood on last, pointing them toward the center of the fire, gradually pushing them into the flames. Keep your campfire small. A good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat. Scrape away litter, duff and any burnable material within a 10-foot (3 meter) diameter circle around the fire. This will keep a small campfire from spreading.

After lighting a campfire, be sure your match is out. Hold it until it is cold and then break it so you can feel the charred portion before discarding. Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze could quickly cause a fire to spread. After use, drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers, coals and sticks are wet. Move rocks because there may be more burning embers underneath. Stir the remains. Add more water and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been extinguished and is cool. If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix enough soil or sand with the embers. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool. Feel all materials with your bare hand. Make sure that no roots are burning, and do not bury your coals. They can smolder and ignite.

• Burn Bans Check for any current local and state burn bans that may restrict outdoor burning. Contact your fire department or NCFS county ranger's office to make sure you are not violating any open burning regulations.

We all have a part in preventing wildfires. We can be more careful. We can influence others to be more careful. Remember, a little extra care takes only a few minutes of your time, and it could prevent a wildfire.

Cheraw Arts Commission Guitar Concert on May 26

The Cheraw Arts Commission presents Guitarist Jacob Johnson on Thursday, May 26 at Kevin Lear's Courtyard. The outdoor concert begins at 7:00 p.m. \$10 advance tickets are available at the Cheraw Community Center, located at 200 Powe Street. Attendees should bring lawn chairs.



Jacob Johnson is part virtuoso and part storyteller. Some say that Jacob does with a guitar what Gene Kelly did with dance. Although his songwriting has won awards and his guitar-playing has put him on stage with Tommy Emmanuel and Phil Keaggy, his ability as an entertainer is what has won fans throughout the southeast. He refers to himself as "a ham that just wants to be on stage" but he's much more than that. Jacob is an amazingly talented guitarist and songwriter which, combined with a bit of a personality, makes for a wildly impressive stage performance. (jacobjohnsontunes.com)

Jacob will also present a free Guitar Workshop the afternoon of May 26 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Registration is required for the workshop.

Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission 843.537.8420 x 12 to register and for additional information about the workshop and concert.



Jacob Johnson

2022 Anson County Annual Health Expo Drive Thru

Event:
Anson County Health Expo Drive Thru

Date:
Thursday, May 26, 2022

Time:
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location:
Grace Senior Center
199 Highway 742 South
Wadesboro, NC 28170

Who Should Attend:
Anyone who is not vaccinated or needs COVID-19 boosters including older adults, service providers who work with older adults and more.

Need Transportation?

Contact Anson Senior Center Today!

704-694-6616

Questions:

704-694-6616

Church

THE CHURCH CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE SPONSORS

MAY 15
Missionary Program
At Divine Unity House of Restoration Ministries, 2pm with Pastor Mary Little of Greater Outreach Apostolic Church in Cheraw

MAY 23
Reformation Service
At New Beginning Church, 416 Mooreville Rd, off Mayesville Rd, Morven, 3pm. Pastor Bennie Gaddy, Associate Pastor J.C. Gaddy.

JUNE 5
99th Year Homecoming
at North Wadesboro Baptist Church with speaker Rev. Wayne Williams. Everyone is invited.

JUNE 16 - 19
Breath of God Ministerial Alliance
Theme: The Tip of the Spear - Pastor Renwick V.E. Fisher, Kannapolis NC. Thu-"The Measure of a Godly Man" Pastor Anthony Hall, Divine Unity 7pm; Fri-"The Whole Duty of a Man" Pastor John M. Scott, West Deep Creek 7pm; Sun-"The Responsibility of a Righteous Man" Pastor Terry Little, West Deep Creek 9am

ONGOING Tutoring Program
After school, 2:30-6pm by Project Success at Henderson Grove Church in Lilesville. For Kindergarten through 6th grade. Info 704-475-1776

HOPE Grief Support Group at Harmony Community Church, meets Tuesdays at 6:30pm offering help for those feeling grief or loss. Free & confidential. Info & register 704-272-7127 or 704-242-2499. Located at 1984 Pulpwood Yard Rd in Peachland

Bible Study
On book of Revelation Sun nights at 6pm at Mount Beulah Baptist Church

Bible Study
Wed & Sat 7:30pm at Church in the Name of Jesus Christ

Bible Study
Wednesday nights for youth & adults, 6pm at Church of God of Prophecy, 8477 Hwy 52 S, Morven

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Events

MAY 13 - 15
Ansonia Play Alice in Wonderland: Down the Rabbit Hole, a modern-day adaptation of Lewis Carroll's trip to Wonderland, in which the restless birthday girl chases after a very busy bunny and ends up in a bizarre world. Fri & Sat 7:30pm, Sun 3pm. Show info & tickets ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950. Tickets sold at the door also.

MAY 17
Play Auditions For upcoming Ansonia Theater play, Ghost the Musical. 6pm at the theatre. Be prepared to sing and read from the script. Location: 112 S Rutherford St in Wadesboro.

MAY 20 - 22
Ansonia Play Alice in Wonderland: Down the Rabbit Hole, a modern-day adaptation of Lewis Carroll's trip to Wonderland, in which the restless birthday girl chases after a very busy bunny and ends up in a bizarre world. Fri & Sat 7:30pm, Sun 3pm. Show info & tickets ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950. Tickets sold at the door also.

ONGOING EVENTS
After School Program Kid Cafe Mon-Fri from 2:30-5:30p.m. at the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, 704-826-8737

Writers' Club Meets Fourth Sunday each month at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, 3pm (except July & Dec). Open to public, new members of all ages invited. Info 704-694-5211 or sandybruney@gmail.com

Lions Club Welcomes New Members The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at Papa Joes Restaurant the 2nd & 4th Thursday each month at 6:30pm For more info or to purchase a broom please call Jim Chandler 910-571-1448

Senior Box Program at Feed My Lambs starts the third Tuesday each month for seniors only. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820

Food Pantry Free food every Wed, 9-11am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr. 704-826-8182

Free Food Distributed by Anson Crisis Ministries Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8am-1pm. It is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. Telephone is 704-694-2445

Free Food Distribution at Feed My Lambs every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 1-4pm. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820

Direct and Counter Cyclical Program Sign-ups Call the Farm Service Agency Office at 704-694-3516 ext. 2 to complete eligibility forms



Re-Elect
MARILYNN BENNETT
Anson County School Board
Member At Large

Vote For... Experience Proven Successful Leadership, and Commitment to the Education of Children

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Marilynn Bennett

The Compassionate Friends Meet Every Month

Next meeting is this Thursday, May 12

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings who have lost a child of any age, welcomes you to attend their monthly meetings. They meet on the second Thursday each month, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. "We need not walk alone."

For more information call Ken Caulder at 704-694-2524.