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August is Back to School Safety Month: Know the Rules of the Road

Violating the school bus law can cost you

August is Back to School Safety Month, and North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey who also serves as the Chair for SafeKids NC, reminds students, parents, and motorists to use extra caution as students walk, drive, or ride the bus to school.

"Passing a stopped school bus can result in the motorist adding four insurance points and seeing an 80 percent increase in auto insurance premiums," Commissioner Causey noted. "More importantly, making such an ill-advised and unsafe move could result in injury or death to one of our precious children."

While students on traditional calendars will go back to school in late August, students at year-round schools have already started boarding buses and have headed back to class.

On a typical day, more than 14,000 school buses carrying nearly 800,000 students operate on North Carolina roads. Commissioner Causey encouraged all motorists to watch for children walking to school or waiting by the roadside for a school bus. And he advised motorists to understand the rules of the road when a school bus is stopped picking up passengers.

"In most cases, vehicles must stop in either direction if the school bus stop sign is out, red lights are flashing, and the bus is stopped to load or unload passengers," Commissioner Causey said. "In some cases, where a median or physical barrier divides the traffic going in different directions, or where a center turn lane separates a four-lane road, motorists traveling the opposite direction from the school bus are not required to stop."

Commissioner Causey also offered National Safety Council tips as students and teachers head back to school.

- For pedestrians:**
- Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you must walk in the street or road, walk facing traffic.
 - Before crossing the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
 - Never dart out in front of a parked car.
 - Parents: Practice walking to school with your child, crossing streets or crosswalks when available.
 - Never walk while texting or talking on the phone.
 - Do not walk while using headphones.

- For bike riders:**
- Always wear a helmet that is fitted and secured properly.
 - Children need to know the rules of the road: Ride single file on the right side of the road, come to a complete stop before crossing the street and walk the bike across.
 - Watch for opening car doors and other hazards.
 - Use hand signals when turning.
 - Wear bright-colored clothing.

- For bus riders:**
- Teach children the proper way to get on and off the bus.
 - Line up six feet away from the curb as the bus approaches.
 - If seat belts are available, buckle up.
 - Wait for the bus to stop completely before standing.
 - If you must cross the road, walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus.

- For motorists, in addition to obeying the stopped school bus law:**
- Don't block crosswalks.
 - Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and take extra precaution in school zones.
 - Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
 - Stop far enough back from a school bus to allow children room to safely enter and exit the bus. The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children.

For more information on how to keep children safe during Back to School Safety Month or throughout the year, visit the website SafeKidsNC.org.

Stride with Pride Tennis Shoe Giveaway is this Saturday

As you know, it's getting closer to back to school time. The Shaundasia T Smith Foundation's 'Stride with Pride' program will be giving out shoes this Saturday, August 11 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The event is free and will be held in the auditorium of Harvest Ministries Outreach Center, located behind Pizza Hut in Wadesboro. There will be hot dogs for the kids.

Parents are asked to bring their children who need shoes with them, to be fitted with the correct shoe size.

It's a busy and exciting time for our students and the whole community wants them to be ready. Some students need our assistance with getting prepared for the upcoming school year, and you can help. If you would like to support this event with a donation of shoes or with a monetary donation, please contact Patti Poulcott at 704-694-8386 or Sheriff Landric Reid at 704-695-7771.

Back to School with Pride Donations Accepted At Walmart Entrance

Anson County Commissioner and Faith Based Center of Hope Director Vancine Sturdivant will be set up at the entrance to Walmart this Friday and Saturday, accepting donations for the upcoming 'Back to School with Pride' school supplies giveaway for all Anson County schools on August 18. If you can find it in your heart to make any size donation, it will make a big impact on less fortunate students who otherwise may not have the basic school supplies such as pencils, notebooks, paper, book bags, etc.

They will be at Walmart on Friday and Saturday, August 10 & 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information you can call Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Jennifer Tarlton at 704-694-3115.

Reception for Ansonville Senior Citizens Set for August 26

Are you a nonagenarian? Then you are invited to a reception in Ansonville. What is a nonagenarian? That is someone between the ages 90 to 99.

This reception will be held on Sunday, August 26 at 3 p.m. at the Ansonville Historical Society Museum.



Volunteers Needed - Anson County Day of Caring Set for September 22

Volunteers will show they care throughout Anson County by raking leaves and washing windows during the 14th annual Day of Caring being held Saturday, September 22nd. The Day of Caring is a community-wide service project that serves as the official kickoff to the Anson County United Way campaign.

"Last year, more than 200 volunteers worked at 30 project sites to help our neighbors and community," Caroline Goins, Day of Caring chair said. "We are hoping to have the same success this year but we need everyone in the county to help out."

Typical chores include cutting grass, pruning shrubs, trash pickup, window washing, and cleaning gutters at the homes of elderly and disabled citizens. Other projects include sprucing up non-profit agencies and organizations. Volunteer teams can consist of two to ten people and must pre-register so they can be given an assignment.

Day of Caring volunteers will gather for the 7:30 a.m. kickoff and a continental breakfast at the Wadesboro Town Square. Teams from a variety of businesses, churches and civic organizations will scatter across the county to pre-terminated sites. First Baptist Church of Wadesboro has partnered with United Way to complete community service projects as well as serve lunch to volunteers.

Anson County raised over 75,000 dollars through United Way of the Central Carolinas, last year. United Way in Anson County funds programs through nine health and human service agencies that serve individuals and families that need a helping hand. They use United Way dollars to help solve the issues these individuals and families face each and every day.

In conjunction with United Way's Day of Caring, canned goods are being collected for families in need. Canned goods will be distributed by Anson Crisis Ministry. Donations can be dropped off at the Crisis Ministry, located at 117 North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro, and Grace Senior Center, located at 199 NC Highway 742 South in Wadesboro (just past IGA), the week before the event. There will also be collection barrels on the Square at the Kickoff on October 7th.

If you would like to register to volunteer or request help from volunteers, contact Ivy Allen with the United Way office at 704-694-2600 or ifallen@uwcentralcarolinas.org. Team and Project Site Applications are available at the Anson County Partnership for Children's office, located at 117 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, September 7th.



Anson Ag Fair Set for End of September

Community members of all ages are invited to participate

Anson County Cooperative Extension is pleased to announce plans for the 2018 Anson Ag Fair, set for Saturday, September 22. The 2018 Fair Rules and Regulations Booklets have arrived and are now available at the Cooperative Extension Center at 501 McLaurin Street.

The fair book is also available online at anson.ces.ncsu.edu. Click on the 2018 Anson Ag Expo & Fair link, and the book can be downloaded in pdf format, complete with registration forms. Information is also available on the Anson County Cooperative Extension Facebook page.

If you have a green thumb, an artistic eye, or a flair for crafts, now is the time to start planning items to enter into this year's county fair. Set aside a jar of canned goods that turned out better than you planned. Finish up a craft project you have been working on.

The County Fair portion of the fourteenth annual Anson Ag Expo and Fair will be held Saturday, September 22 at the Extension Center on McLaurin Street in Wadesboro from 9 am until 2 pm. It will be here sooner than you think. Crafts, canned goods, ag products, photography, art and handicrafts will be welcomed for competition. Take down your vacation photo from the fridge and frame it. Add fertilizer to that favorite plant. Then bring them all down to the Extension Center and enter them in the fair!

Remember that fair participation is open to youth as well as adults. Age groups available for competition consist of: Pee Wee - 0 to 5 years, Pre-teen - 6 to 12, Teen - 13 to 19, and Adult - 20 and up. Now is the time to be planning to show off your talents at the fair!

Registration for all entries will be taken in on Thursday, September 20 from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm. The fair will be judged on Friday and open to the public for display on Saturday from 9:00 am through 2:00 pm.

Items can also be entered into the "In Memoriam" and "Blast from the Past" categories. Items made by deceased loved ones can be entered in "In Memoriam" while items made prior to 2002 and never shown in a fair can be entered in "Blast from the Past".

Cash premiums will be awarded from \$5 for first through \$2 for third in over 200 categories. Last year's county fair showcased 248 entries from 53 fair exhibitors, and \$873 was paid out in fair premiums. Class ribbons are awarded for all entries, with Best of Show and Juror's Choice ribbons awarded for each competition area per age division.

For additional information, contact the Anson County Cooperative Extension Service at 704-694-2415. Come out and join the fun. There is something for everyone. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Gospel Music Program

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, August 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre with the Davis Family & Curt Love. The Davis family (Caroline-fiddle, Maddy-stand-up bass, Joanna-vocals, Samuel-mandolin and Carson-guitar) with Curt Love-banjo will be presenting a program of gospel music. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the music of these talented young people. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Burnsville High School Reunion

A reunion for everyone who attended Burnsville High School anytime from 1948 to 1960, including those who were in first to eleventh grades, will be held on Saturday, September 8. The event will take place at Twin Valley Golf Club in Wadesboro at 5 p.m.

The cost is \$22 per person. For information contact Ann T. Tarleton at 704-289-3765.

Please send payment to: Ann T. Tarleton, 1822 East Roosevelt Blvd., Monroe NC 28112.

Wadesboro Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at the Papa Joe's Restaurant and the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about these meetings or becoming a member, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

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