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

'Back to School' Community School Supplies Giveaway is Saturday

As you know, it is that time of year again....Back to School Time. While this is an exciting and busy time for families and students alike, it can be a burdensome time for many of our county's children and parents. Many of our students don't have the finances or resources to adequately prepare for the upcoming school year. It takes book bags, pencils, paper, crayons, markers and many other items to be successful in the classroom.

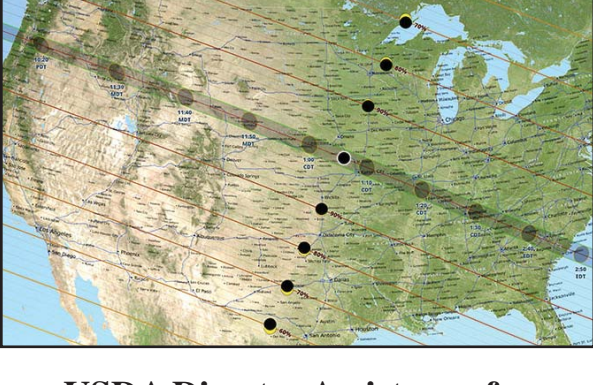
This year Vancine Sturdivant and the Faith Based Center of Hope, along with Harvest Ministries, HOLLA, Sheriff Landric Reid and Stride with Pride Shoe Drive, and others are sponsoring the annual "Back to School" Giveaway.

This free event will be held this Saturday, August 19, beginning at 11 a.m. in the auditorium of Harvest Ministries Outreach Center. There will be a huge celebration and giveaway complete with games, gift cards, tablets and much more for the community.

If you would like to support this event with a donation of school supplies or money, please contact Pastor Steve Adams at 704-695-2879, Vancine Sturdivant at 704-294-0480 or Leon Gatewood at 704-695-4968. Thank you.

Solar Eclipse is this Coming Monday

On Monday, August 21 we will experience an exciting celestial event, a solar eclipse. Please look on page 6 for plenty of information about viewing it.



USDA Disaster Assistance for Anson County Ranchers and Farmers

In response to a request from Lorraine Dillard, Farm Service Agency's (FSA) acting State Executive Director in North Carolina, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated Richmond County in North Carolina as a primary natural disaster area due to losses and damages caused by frost and freeze that occurred from March 16, 2017 through March 18, 2017.

Farmers and ranchers in Anson, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Scotland and Stanly counties in North Carolina also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

Farmers and ranchers in Chesterfield and Marlboro counties in South Carolina also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on August 3, 2017, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for FSA's emergency (EM) loans, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Other FSA programs that can provide assistance, but do not require a disaster declaration, include Operating and Farm Ownership Loans; the Emergency Conservation Program; Livestock Forage Disaster Program; Livestock Indemnity Program; Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program; and the Tree Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA service centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at disaster.fsa.usda.gov.

FSA news releases are available on FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov via the "Newsroom" link.

Performance Called Commencement Coming to the Ansonia September 15-17

Commencement - This is the story of three women drawn together in the grim aftermath of a high school shooting - the mother of the shooter, one of victims and the mother of one of the victims. This show "will leave you wringing your hands with empathy."

The Anson County Arts Council is so excited to bring this powerful piece of theatre to the Ansonia. Every parent, student and teacher needs to see this show! It will leave a lasting impression on you. The performance stars Gina Clarke, Savannah Tarlton and Terra Threatt Medlock.

There will be three performances of *Commencement* - Friday and Saturday, September 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, September 17 at 3 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 704-694-4950 or visit ansoniatheatre.com. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

'Eclipse' Diabetes and Obesity Class

It is time to "eclipse" lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer, arthritis, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. You or someone you love can be set free from disease through a smart and powerful plant based health plan.

Do you want to know more? Attend the next healthy living and cooking seminar at Pathway to Peace Ministries, Sunday, August 20, from 3 to 5 p.m. The seminar is free, and will feature new recipes! You will also be able to eat a delicious plant-based dinner there.

Pathway to Peace Ministries is located on Highway 109 South, 2 miles past Deep Creek Road as you go towards Mt. Croghan, SC. The address is 11775 NC 109 South, Peachland, NC. For more information call 704-695-1441.



Band Camp Has Begun for Anson Students

First football games are this week

While you were enjoying a cool dip in the pool or the comforts of your AC, these hard-working Anson band members and twirlers faced the heat and humidity during a week of band camp.

Come support all the Bearcats this Friday night at Monroe High School at 7:30 p.m. as we face off with the Red-hawks in our first football game of the season. GO CATS!

See the Inside Your Anson County Schools special section in today's paper for sports schedules, and lots of other good information.



Anson County's 4-H'ers Win Honors at State 4-H Congress

Anson County's 4-H'ers received honors during the recent State 4-H Congress. This year's 4-H Congress, held in Raleigh July 29 to August 1, attracted more than 500 young people and their adult leaders for activities including presentations on a variety of subjects, leadership and citizenship training, service opportunities, officer elections and more.

Katie Edwards, daughter of Dave and Sharon Edwards of Wadesboro, was inducted into the 4-H Honor Club, one of the highest honors a 4-H'er can achieve. New Honor Club members were tapped during a candlelight ceremony Saturday night, July 29.

Membership in the Honor Club is based on service to the 4-H program, leadership, moral standards, 4-H activities and project achievement. Less than one-half of 1 percent of North Carolina 4-H'ers are selected for membership each year. Members must be at least 16 years old and have a minimum of three years 4-H experience. Edwards is a rising senior at Windy Knoll Homeschool and a member of the Anson County 4-H Livestock Club. She has been active in the 4-H program for 11 years.

Keyshawn Tillman, son of Charles and Kishi Tillman of Marshville, won the 11-13-year-old division of the public speaking competition. Milayah Smith, daughter of Tavaris Ratliff and Shonda Smith, competed in the 11-13-year-old division of the health and fitness competition.

Katie Edwards was also a state winner in the AIRE competition. AIRE - Application, Interview, Resume and Essay competition - is a four-step process by which youth are chosen to attend national 4-H events including National Congress, National Conference and International Leadership Conference. Katie will attend National Congress.

4-H is North Carolina's largest youth development organization, equipping more than 247,000 young people each year with the skills to succeed and improve the world around them. 4-H programs and camps encourage young people to "learn by doing," helping them to develop into active, contributing citizens.

NC State Extension and the Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University coordinate 4-H programs statewide.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday

Free USDA foods will be distributed this Saturday, August 19, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Due to changes with the BRLC distribution schedules, USDA Commodities will only be given out on Saturdays. Neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution Division provide these food items through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for individual's eligibility. The food items will only be available to Ansonians. Individuals who have not registered or received food before from the BRLC Emergency food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. Those families that receive food stamp assistance will automatically qualify. Parents are asked not to bring children due to limited seating space. Neighbors are asked to please park in parking lot behind center.

The USDA prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political belief, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Not all prohibited bases will apply to all program and activities.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8182 for information. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

Extension Notes Grill Safely This Summer

Summer is the time our grills and outdoor barbecues get used the most. While food just seems to taste better cooked on a grill, it is good to remember some safety tips so we are not the ones getting cooked!

Keep your barbecues fun for everyone. Stay fire safe this summer and follow recommended grilling safety tips. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recommends the following tips for preventing burns and controlling the flames while you grill outside.

- Only use your grill outside.
- Place your grill on a solid surface away from overhangs, grass and shrubbery.
- Grill outside in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep your grill at least three feet away from siding and deck rails.
- Never use charcoal inside your house, camper or tent. People die every year from carbon monoxide fumes from charcoal grills used inside.
- Keep a three-foot safe zone around grills, fire pits, and campfires. This will help keep kids and pets safe. Never leave your grill, fire pit, or patio torches unattended. Keep an eye on them and do not walk away from them when they are lit.
- Keep loose clothing, especially apron strings and shirt tails, away from the grill. Wear short sleeves or roll them up when cooking on the grill.
- Open your gas grill before lighting.
- Use long-handled barbecue tools and flame-retardant mitts to protect your hands.
- Use lighter fluid made for grilling. Never use alcohol, gasoline or kerosene. Do not add lighter fluid to coals after they have been lit.
- Keep a fire extinguisher and a spray bottle of water handy for flare-ups.
- Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire. Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.
- Store your grill outside. Do not store a grill with freshly used coals inside.

For more information on first aid for burns or fire prevention during the summer months, visit the USFA Summer Fire Safety page at: www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/summer.

By Janine B. Rywak, County Extension Director

Connections Family Support Program Monthly Meeting

Anson County meeting for those serving children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges

The Connections Family Support Program hosts a monthly support group for parents, grandparents and foster parents serving children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges.

The next meeting in Anson County will be held on Thursday, August 17 at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Lunch and resources are provided free.

Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769 or you can contact her by email at connectionsfspp@gmail.com to register.

Brown Bag Book Club Meeting Features Author Robin Anderson

The Hampton B. Allen Library's Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, August 21 at 12:00 noon in the Pritchett room. Robin Anderson will be the guest author. Robin has published her second novel *The Healer* and will be sharing information about that.

Copies of her books will be available for purchase. Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and enjoy lunch with the author. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Workshop

A Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Workshop will be held at the Hampton B. Allen Library on Thursday, August 24, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Amy Hendricks, Coordinator of NC Fetal Alcohol Prevention Program, will be the guest speaker. Lunch and materials will be provided free.

Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, or contact her by email at connectionsfspp@gmail.com to register.

The deadline to register is Monday, August 21.