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

Special Meeting for Board of Elections August 23

In a release from the Anson County Board of Elections: Per Chairman James F. Paxton there will be a special meeting of the Board of Elections on Thursday, August 23 at 5 p.m. in the office of the Anson County Board of Elections. The meeting is being held at the request of several citizens of Anson County in regards to a proposal called "Souls to the Polls" Sunday voting. For more information contact the Board of Elections at 704-994-3223.

Back to School with Pride is Friday

The Back to School Pride event, a program to support area school students who are in need of uniforms and school supplies, will be held at Hatcher Park in Lilesville this Friday, August 24, beginning at 4 p.m. Many of you may not realize how much need there is among students whose families are struggling just to provide food and shelter. The added cost of basic clothing needs and necessary school supplies are sometimes just out of reach for those families who really are trying to make things better for their children. Those families may not be asking for a handout, but Vancine Sturdivant and Ester Lindsey are two Ansonians who have recognized their difficulties, so their Back to School with Pride program was hatched to help provide some of those students with the things they need. These are things that many of us may take for granted, but are so difficult to obtain for others...like pencils, paper, notebooks, uniforms and shoes. To give donations of money, uniforms or school supplies, all of which will be for the benefit of Anson students, please contact Vancine at 704-848-4412 or Ester at 704-848-8452.

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center to Give Away School Supplies

On Saturday, August 25 at 1 p.m. Harvest Ministries will hold their annual Stuff the Bus event in the Burger King parking lot. It is a day of fun, food, games, prizes...and most importantly free school supplies to the children and families of Anson County. Everyone is invited to come out. There will be a moon bounce, dunking booth, free throw shooting contest, gift cards, gas cards for adults, free concessions and much more. And, of course, hundreds of school supplies will be given away. This will allow students to have the tools and items necessary to start the school year successfully. Lead Pastor Steve Adams said, "Stuff the Bus is simply a way to do our part in providing free items to students of this great county. In partnering with other great organizations and individuals, together we are showing the love of Christ by helping parents and children with these supplies." Adams invites anyone or any business who would like to become involved in helping area students in need to donate supplies or money toward this cause. Donations will be accepted right up until August 25. To help, please call 704-695-2879. More information is available at www.harvestmin.com.

SPCC Seeks Community Input at Meetings

South Piedmont Community College is seeking input from the community in its effort to continuously improve and serve Union and Anson counties. A series of community meetings will be held next week, two in Union County and two in Anson. The schedule is:
 • Tuesday, Aug. 28, 6 p.m., Creech Boardroom, Building A, Old Charlotte Highway Campus, 4209 Old Charlotte Highway, Monroe
 • Wednesday, Aug. 29, 8:30 a.m., Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company Conference Center, Building A, Old Charlotte Highway Campus, 4209 Old Charlotte Highway, Monroe
 • Thursday, Aug. 30, 8:30 a.m., Olde Mill Art Gallery, Lockhart-Taylor Center, 514 N. Washington St., Wadesboro
 • Thursday, Aug. 30, 6 p.m., Olde Mill Art Gallery, Lockhart-Taylor Center, 514 N. Washington St., Wadesboro
 The college is holding these meetings as it seeks to fulfill its mission of "learning, student success and workforce and community development." An environmental scan has been developed that will be used by the college's senior leadership and other stakeholders to evaluate key external variables that influence state and local workforces, and corresponding educational needs. In reviewing the impact of external factors such as the economy, learning, politics and technology, along with internal demographics, a strategic plan can be developed that will move the college forward. The environmental scan can be viewed online at <http://tinyurl.com/cpuru3a>.

Art Contest Winners Announced

The top three entries for the 2012 Treasures of Anson art contest were announced on Sunday, August 12 during the 2nd Sunday Art Reception at the Anson County Arts Council. First Place went to Jerrette McCrimmon (airbrush), Second Place went to Dave Arey (wood), and 3Third Place went to Clarice Martin (oil). Contest entries will remain on display at the Arts Council for a short while.



From left, First Place artist Jerrette McCrimmon, Second Place artist Dave Arey and Third Place artist Clarice Martin.

Jerrette created a brilliant depiction of a bluebird with "skillful use of airbrush stenciling" on canvas. Dave used his woodworking skills to create an outline of Anson County with an applied "reduction of the essence of a bluebird into simple, abstract shapes to make an outstanding creative work." Clarice showed "wonderful expertise in a traditional oil medium" with "subtle blending of color on the bluebird." (Judge's comments are in quotes.) There were a total of ten entries for this first Treasures of Anson art contest. Thank you go to our artist participants, the Anson County Tourism Development Authority for their support and prize money, the Anson County Arts Council for their help, and to the community members who attended the reception at the Arts Council and showed an appreciation for our local artists' creative efforts. Our Judge for this year's contest was Joe Liles III. Joe, an Anson county native, currently resides in Durham and is now retired after 28 years as an Art Instructor at the North Carolina School of Math and Science. The other featured artist at this 2nd Sunday Art Reception was local author Sandy Bruney, who signed copies of her latest novel "The Lunch Club."

Put Life Back Into Your Life

Consider a Living Healthy Workshop

Are you an adult age 55 or older with an ongoing health condition? You'll get the support you need, find practical ways to deal with pain and fatigue, discover better nutrition and exercise choices, understand new treatment choices, and learn better ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health. If you have conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, heart disease, chronic pain, anxiety, the Living Healthy Workshop can help you take charge of your life. Feel better, be in control. Do the things you want to do. Sign up now, spaces are limited. Join a free 2 1/2-hour Living Healthy Workshop, held each week for six weeks. Learn from trained volunteer leaders with health conditions themselves. Set your own goals and make a step-by-step plan to improve your health - and your life. Classes will be held every Thursday starting September 6th through October 11th. They will be held at the Grace Senior Center, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. To register or get more information, please call Rita Short at 704-694-6217. The Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

Volunteers Needed for Anson County Day of Caring



Volunteers will show they care throughout Anson County by raking leaves and washing windows during the 8th annual Day of Caring being held on Saturday, September 29. The Day of Caring is a community-wide service project that is part of the annual to the Anson County United Way campaign. "Last year, more than 250 volunteers, making up more than 32 teams, took on 39 projects helping senior citizens and nonprofits throughout our community," Kim Wilson, Day of Caring chair said. "We are hoping for even more projects and volunteers this year." 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 is a great way to give back to the surrounding community. While participating in Day of Caring you are working and sharing a bond with others that enjoy giving back to the community as well," said Kristin Usrey, community volunteer. 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 predetermined 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 75,000 dollars through United Way of the Central Carolinas, last year. Altogether, 77,000 dollars has been allocated to 10 local partner agencies. All of the money raised by Anson County stays in the county to help fund programs such as diabetes education with Anson Community Hospital, literacy efforts through the Anson County Partnership for Children and the support of domestic violence victims through the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition. 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 Grace Senior Center located on Highway 742 South, the week prior to the event. There will also be collection barrels on the Square at the Kickoff on September 29. Last year, 500 pounds of canned goods were collected. "There's no better way to improve your community than to give of your time and resources. Get a group of friends or co-workers together to volunteer during Day of Caring to support the community we call home," Wilson said. If you would like to register to volunteer or request help from volunteers call Kim Wilson at 704-694-4036 or Caroline Goins at 704-694-2600.



Anson County Kindergarten Orientation Begins Monday

Kindergarten is such an exciting year at Ansonville, Lilesville, Morven, Peachland-Polkton and Wadesboro Primary. Children have the opportunity to learn many important things, but it can be a little overwhelming at first. To insure a successful transition into kindergarten, special small group orientation days will be scheduled the first five days of school (August 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31). Kindergarten students will attend school on only one of the five orientation days according to their last name. Students may ride the bus to and from school on their orientation day. Regular school hours will be observed. During orientation, kindergarten students will become familiar with their school and start learning daily routines. Teachers will assess children one-on-one using the Battelle Developmental Inventory. The results of this assessment will be used to help teachers better meet the instructional needs of the students during the 2012-2013 school year. Here is the Kindergarten Orientation Schedule:
 • Monday, August 27 for last names that begin with A-E
 • Tuesday, August 28 for last names that begin with F-J
 • Wednesday, August 29 for last names that begin with K-O
 • Thursday, August 30 for last names that begin with P-Z
 • Friday, August 31 for late enrollees
 • Monday, September 3 is a holiday - no school
 • Tuesday, September 4 Kindergarten begins for all students

NC Pre-K Available for this School Year- Apply Today!

Anson County Partnership for Children is continuing to accept applications for NC Pre-K, a kindergarten readiness initiative that is proven to help four year olds gain basic skills needed for success in elementary school. Children who are four years of age before August 31, 2012, are eligible to apply for the program, which is free to qualifying families. "We recently received approval to open an additional classroom in Anson County that will begin in September," said Kim Wilson, NC Pre-K Coordinator. "If parents are interested in enrolling their children in the NC Pre-K program, I strongly encourage them to act quickly. These vacancies are rare." A high priority is placed on serving children who are "at-risk." A child is considered to be "at-risk" if the child's family is at or below 75% of the state median income level or if a disability has been identified. Enrollment is also open to students who have limited English proficiency, developmental differences, chronic health conditions, or a parent who is an active service personnel. NC Pre-K classes operate on a regular school calendar and are designed to address emotional and social development, physical health, language development, and cognitive functioning. Teachers are highly qualified and hold a minimum of a BA/BS degree as well as specific early childhood credentials. Through incorporation of indoor and outdoor learning environments, students participate in active learning experiences to foster a lifetime love of education. Parents interested in learning more about the NC Pre-K program should contact Kim Wilson at 704-694-4036 or kim.wilson@windstream.net.

Special Wadesboro Town Council Meeting

A special meeting of the Town of Wadesboro Town Council has been set for today, Wednesday, August 22 at 5 p.m. to discuss personnel. The meeting will be held in the Conference Room at Town Hall.

Efforts to Reestablish Anson County Booster's Club

There will be a meeting on Sunday, August 26, at 3 p.m. in the Hampton B. Allen Library. Please come and support the reestablishment of the Anson County Booster's Club for our middle and high school athletic and band programs. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this very important meeting. The youth of Anson County need your support. *By Melanie Lyon*

AMS Sports and Physical Information

Anson Middle School athletic physicals will be provided by Anson Regional Medical Center today, August 22, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. The cost is \$5. Athletes must have the physical form signed by a parent or guardian in order to receive a physical. Forms can be picked up at Anson Middle School or at Anson Regional Medical Center. In addition, other sports related events include football practice being held through August 23, from 6 until 7:30 p.m. Participants must have a current physical in order to attend practice. Girls volleyball tryouts will be held on August 28 through August 30. Report to the gym after school. You too should have a current physical in order to attend tryouts. If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Mike Vetter, Anson Middle School Athletic Director.

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