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Labor Day 'Booze It & Lose It' Enforcement Campaign is Now Underway Across N.C.

Statewide law enforcement will increase patrols to keep impaired drivers off the roads during the Labor Day holiday weekend, which remains one of the deadliest times of year for alcohol and drug-related traffic deaths, officials announced Monday.

The increased patrols are part of this year's Labor Day Booze It & Lose It campaign, which started Monday and ends Sept. 8.

"This Labor Day, drivers should plan ahead by arranging a sober ride home from any festivities that might involve alcohol or other impairing substances," said N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program Director Mark Ezzell. "Law enforcement will be working extra patrols during this campaign to keep our roads safe by catching those who do not heed this message. Safety is our number one priority."

Monday's campaign kickoff at the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory included a press conference and tour of the Raleigh facility. At the lab, trained specialists analyze evidence related to criminal investigations, including cases involving alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers.

Wayne Lewallen, forensic scientist manager for the lab's Toxicology section, said state and federal grant funds have enabled lab scientists to test for hundreds of more drugs than just a decade ago. That has helped take more impaired drivers off the roads.

"With the support of the Governor's Highway Safety Program over the past decade, we have been able to apply for and receive grant funds that have provided for the implementation of advanced technologies and continued training focused on the detection of alcohol and drugs in driving under the influence cases," Lewallen said.

Impairment by alcohol and drugs are leading contributors to fatal crashes in North Carolina, according to crash data compiled by the NCDOT's Safety and Mobility office. In 2023, there were 354 alcohol and drug-related crash fatalities throughout the state. So far in 2024, there have been 163 fatal crashes in which the driver was suspected of alcohol or drug impairment.



Kids Expo Was a Huge Success!

This is a release from the Anson County Chamber of Commerce: Saturday, August 24 was a great day to shop at the Kid's Expo. The Kid's Expo was a huge success. Thanks to all our sponsors, volunteers and families.

There is a television show titled "America's Got Talent," well so does Anson County. The Kid's Expo was full of amazing talent. The weather was perfect, the excitement was buzzing, and we appreciate everyone that sponsored and attended.

We want to recognize our winners:

Ages 4-10
Most Original, Scott's Bird Houses; Highest Business Potential, Whole Buck; Most Creative, McCormick Cookies.

Ages 11-17
Most Original, Bucks Treats; Highest Business Potential, Handmade Creations by Amelia; Most Creative, Southern Wood Burning.

Congratulations to all!

We want to shout out our sponsors and volunteers: Our presenting sponsor: South Piedmont Community College. We appreciate Michelle Brock opening our ceremony and speaking to the kids about entrepreneurship and cutting the ribbon. Also, Dr. Lincoln, Lincoln Family Medicine; H.W. Little Hardware; Anson County Tourism and Development Authority; Anson County Economic Development Corporation; Poisson Poisson and Bower; Loba-Wakol; Lacy's; Huntley Oil; Papa Joe's Pizza; First Baptist Church of Wadesboro; Partnership for Children, Elizabeth Rizzo and Scott Rivers for handing out free books; SPCC table sponsor and staff; Parker Layfield, Tanya Chance and Lauren Meseroll; and Cree Parker, State Farm items for the kids goodie bags.

Special thank you to: Jeremy Taylor for setting up and taking down tables, taking the great drone photos and assisting all day; Caty Edwards for setting up and also assisting throughout the day; Greg Cox, Anson County Sheriff's Department, for visiting with the crowd; Joe Rizzo, Wadesboro Fire Department, for handing out coloring books and bringing the fire truck for display; and Dave Edwards for picking up the pizzas.

Our Judges: Amanda McFayden, Uwharrie Bank; Sarah White, Uwharrie Bank; Renea Hode, Hode SPCC; Heather Travland, SPCC and my partner in serving pizza; and Elizabeth Rizzo, Partnership for Children.

Registration: Heather Travland, SPCC; Renea Hode, SPCC; Amanda McFayden, Uwharrie Bank; and Sarah White, Uwharrie Bank.

On behalf of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Sandy Cox, President of the Chamber, we thank you for a successful day and supporting our children.

Fetch'em Friday with Bolo the K9

Morven man, Timothy Maurice Streater, charged in vehicle theft

On Friday afternoon, August 23 detectives with Monroe Police Department's Violent Crimes Taskforce spotted a stolen car on Concord Highway headed toward downtown Monroe. They made a traffic stop on the stolen car near Fox's Bowling Alley. Both the driver and the passenger of the car jumped out and ran on foot while the vehicle was still rolling through the parking lot.

K9 police dog Bolo jumped out and quickly caught the fleeing passenger from the stolen car as he was attempting to climb a utility pole. Once officers had him in custody, they continued on, using K9 Bolo to track and find the fleeing driver. Bolo led officers through the woods to the back of a business located at 1806 West Roosevelt Blvd. where the driver of the stolen car was hiding inside another car behind the business. The driver was arrested without any further incident.

The recovered car had been reported stolen by Hamlet Police Department. The driver, Timothy Maurice Streater, 26 of Morven, was arrested and charged with Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle, and Resist Delay and Obstruct. The passenger, Malcolm Ray Murray, 25 of Rockingham, was taken to Atrium Union to treat his dog bite and then to the Union County Detention Center.

Murray also had outstanding warrants from Richmond County and Anson County for charges including: Injury to Personal Property, Resisting a Public Officer, Assault on a Female, Communicating Threats, Misdemeanor Larceny, Breaking and Entering, and Assault on a Child Under 12.



Timothy Streater



Malcolm Murray



K9 Bolo

Sports Physicals Offered at ARMS

Anson Regional Medical Services (ARMS) is offering sports physicals for students age 12+ for a cash payment of only \$10. The physicals are available by appointment only at ARMS-Wadesboro and ARMS-Union/Monroe.

Students receiving physicals must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Bring a list of medications and a sports physical form. There's no insurance billing, only the \$10 cash payment. ARMS is located at 203 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro, beside Wadesboro Lumber.

The telephone number is 704-694-6700. The hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch.) arms-chc.org

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets September 3

The Anson County Board of Commissioners will meet on Tuesday, September 3 at 6:00 p.m. The second meeting in September takes place on Tuesday, September 17.

Meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Fall Armyworms in Lawns and Pastures

If you haven't already heard, fall armyworms are wreaking havoc in pastures, hayfields, and lawns all over the county and surrounding areas. While these brown caterpillars eat most vegetation, they have a penchant for grasses. Due to favorable summer conditions, this lawn munching pest has hit record numbers.

Unfortunately, the window for early control has passed entirely. Due to the significant rainfall in July, they were able to spread mostly undetected. Most of their damage occurs only at the end of their larval stage. Fortunately, by the time most individuals notice them they are almost done feeding and will soon disappear.

The adult moths are able to cover significant distances, and arrive from further south. Typically they do not appear in numbers large enough to be problematic.



Lawn/Turfgrass For turfgrass and lawns, damage will appear as brown patches that slowly spread. This is because the caterpillars eat the grass blades. Fortunately, they rarely kill turf and leave the stems completely intact. A light fertilizer application with adequate rainfall will have most lawns back to normal within a month.

Avoid heavy pesticide usage. Most products are not effective on older larvae and can be harmful to pollinators and other non-target species. Manual raking can be effective for a larger infestation. They are non toxic and are enjoyed by backyard chickens.

Pastures/Hay Fields Regarding pastures and hay fields, we can start to see economic impacts from these armyworms. Without proper preparation and control, an entire pasture or hay field can be taken out seemingly overnight. The best method of prevention of a fall armyworm infestation in your pastures and hay fields is regular scouting. You'll need to look closely at the ground and ruffle the grass a bit to see the worms. Look for small, striped larvae that can range from light green to black, with a distinct "inverted Y" on their faces. To determine if you're nearing the threshold for treatment, count the worms within a square foot area. Do this in multiple sites in the field. On average, if there are 3 worms per square foot or more, you need to look at treatment and control options.

There are a few different treatment options. If armyworms are in a hay field, you can harvest the hay before the armyworms take it all out. If you do this, make sure that you have good weather for haymaking, and do it as quickly as possible. If you have reached the threshold and wait a few days, the worms WILL take out your field before you can harvest. If you cannot harvest it, or you have armyworms in your pasture, spraying an insecticide may be necessary. You can find a list of insecticides for pastures and hayfields here. Pay attention to label warnings, and make sure you pay special attention to grazing restrictions on what you spray.

If you have a field that has already been defoliated, spraying is not going to be beneficial. Pastures will need to be reseeded or fertilized at the least in the fall to encourage new growth.

If you have questions or would like help scouting your fields, call (704) 983-3987 and we are happy to help! *By Katelyn Stegall and Andrew Pfeifer, Cooperative Extension*

October Parent / Teacher Conferences Date Changed

New date is October 3

The date for the Middle school and High School Parent/Teacher Conferences in October has been revised. Originally scheduled for Thursday, October 10, the Parent/Teacher Conference date has been moved to Thursday, October 3, due to school conflicts.

Please update your calendars accordingly.

The updated 2024-2025 School Calendar can be found at this link: linktr.ee/ansoncountyschools.

Partnership for Children Offers Free Car Seat Checks

They also sell car seats and booster seats at deep discounts

Did you know that the Anson County Partnership for Children offers FREE car seat checks? If you are unsure about your child's safety seat or need help installing it, they have nationally certified child passenger safety technicians there to help you.

Just call the Partnership office at 704-694-4036 or stop by at 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro for more info.

The Partnership also offers car seats and booster seats at highly discounted rates for Anson County community members.

Ribbon Cutting & Open House at Partnership for Children

The Anson County Partnership for Children invites you to their Early Childhood Resource Center Ribbon Cutting and Open House. The event takes place this Thursday, August 29, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The address is 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro.

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