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September 18-24 Proclaimed "Child Passenger Safety Week"

On Monday, September 12, Anson County Commissioners proclaimed the week of September 18-24 "Child Passenger Safety Week". As part of Child Passenger Safety Week, Safe Kids Anson County, in collaboration with Anson County Partnership for Children and the Anson County Sheriff's Office, urges parents and caregivers to have their children's car seats checked at one of the scheduled event locations. Certified child passenger safety technicians will be available to inspect car seats and provide free hands-on advice on the following dates:

- Monday, September 19, 2 to 5 p.m. at Kids Express, Morven Road, Wadesboro
 - Wednesday, September 21, 2 to 5 p.m. at Ansonville Fire Dept., Hwy 52 North, across from Ansonville Elementary
 - Saturday, September 24, 9 a.m. to Noon at the Anson Ag Expo & Fair, Lockhart-Taylor Center, Wadesboro
- "The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently released updated car seat recommendations for children through age 12," said Ashlie Jones, Safe Kids Anson County Coordinator. "We want to help you do all you can to best protect your child when traveling. During Child Passenger Safety Week, we urge all parents and caregivers to have your car seat checked by a certified technician. When it comes to the safety of your child, there is no room for mistakes."

In motor vehicle crashes, car seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for children younger than 1 and by 54 percent for children 1 to 4 in passenger cars, according to data collected by NHTSA. In 2009 alone, 754 children 12 or younger were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes while riding in passenger cars or light trucks. And among those who were fatally injured where restraint use was known, 42 percent were unrestrained. Many of these tragedies could have been prevented if the children were in the right restraint for their age and size.

For more information on child passenger safety or to have a car seat checked by appointment on a different date than listed above, please contact Anson County Partnership for Children at 704-694-4036.

Wadesboro Policeman Kyle Beam Promoted to Sergeant



Kyle Beam, a ten year veteran of the Wadesboro Police Department, was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Police Chief Janie Schutz said, "Sergeant Beam has been an asset to the Wadesboro Police Department for ten years, and he has earned the rank of Sergeant. We are happy to be able to be a part of his professional growth in the policing field."

USDA Outlines SURE Eligibility Requirements for 2011/ 2012 Crops

Anson County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Amy Yaklin, announced that legislative authority for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program ends on Friday, September 30. Producers must meet specific eligibility requirements to receive SURE assistance for disasters that occur on or before September 30, and affect fall 2011 and 2012 crops.

"The SURE program compensates Anson County producers for production and quality losses during times of disaster," said Yaklin.

Anson County Producers can apply for a 2011 or 2012 SURE payment if a crop of economic significance in a primary or contiguous disaster county under a Secretarial Disaster Designation suffered at least a 10 percent loss because of a disaster occurring on or before September 30.

Crops are not required to be harvested on or before September 30 to maintain SURE eligibility. A loss claim will only trigger after FSA determines that the loss was from a disaster occurring on or before September 30. Losses resulting from disasters occurring after September 30 will not be eligible for SURE benefits.

Producers with 2011 and 2012 crop losses caused by disasters occurring on or before September 30 must meet the following criteria:

- For insured crops, the insurance policy defines the coverage period as beginning on or before September 30.
- For Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, the coverage period begins on or before September 30.
- The final planting date according to RMA and FSA (NAP crops only) occur on or before September 30.

Yaklin warns, "If the crop is planted prior to September 30, but the final planting date is after September 30, the crop will not be eligible for SURE benefits."

The sign-up period for 2011 and 2012 SURE will not begin until after the national average market prices are determined for each respective crop year, which is normally one year after the applicable crop year. For questions regarding the SURE program, contact the Anson County FSA office at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro or 704-694-3516, extension 2.

Practice Runs Planned for Wadesboro Tortoise and Hair Race

On Saturday, October 8, Wadesboro will host the Tortoise and Hair 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Run Fun. The event has two purposes; to bring people into uptown Wadesboro, and to raise awareness for Alopecia areata. The race registration fee for the 5K is \$20, however if you wait until the day of the race the registration fee increases to \$30. The Fun Run registration fee is \$10. To register for the race, you can pick up a race brochure at H.W. Little Hardware in uptown Wadesboro, Vac and Dash in Albemarle, register online at www.active.com, or at uptownwadesboro.com.

There are five practice runs planned for this race in the coming weeks:

- Wednesday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday September 25 at 6 p.m.
- Sunday October 2 at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday October 5 at 6:30 p.m.

These practice runs are open to everyone and are free. Runners should meet at the Methodist Church at 118 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro if they plan on participating in these runs.

The Tortoise and Hair Race is held in conjunction with People Fest.

Anson Band Gets Down with the Motown Sound



Several members of the Anson High School Band's horn section play during pre-game. Michaela Cash (second from left) performed a solo during the halftime show.

This year the Anson High School marching band has doubled in size and is really getting down with the sounds of Motown, their show theme for the 2011 marching season.

"I really enjoy the upbeat music our band is playing this year," said Tammy Gathings, a band parent. In fact, that is the sentiment I am hearing over and over from many who enjoy the Motown tunes now being played during the Anson football games.

So far the band is playing "I Want You Back," "Respect," and "Papa Was A Rollin' Stone." They will add "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," as the season progresses. From a

majorette coach's perspective, it sure is nice having upbeat, peppy songs to perform to. It just makes the show and our contribution to that show much more enjoyable.

If you see a band member be sure and tell them how you feel about their hard work, which is obviously paying off. Positive remarks are always welcome and sometimes go unsaid. I know the Band Directors, Mr. Matthew Jarrett and Mr. Eric Howell would also appreciate hearing some of your enthusiastic words of encouragement.

Band members, we love your show and your sounds. Keep up the good work!

Story by Melanie Lyon

Kiddie Tractor Pull and Scavenger Hunt Back for Anson Ag Expo

The seventh annual Anson Ag Expo & Fair promises a variety of entertainment. Scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 23-24, new and returning events are scheduled. Two favorites are planned for Saturday, September 24. The Kiddie Tractor Pull and the Scavenger Hunt are just two of the activities that will take place during the 2011 event at the Lockhart-Taylor Center of SPCC in Wadesboro. Both events will take place outside in the parking area.

The Kiddie Tractor Pull is open to ages 3-8, up to 72 lbs. Martin Brothers Equipment Company is sponsoring the event that highlights youngsters competing on toy tractors in a miniature version of the real thing. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. in the Cooperative Extension information booth. The event begins 11 a.m. Saturday near the booth. Top winners in their category will receive ribbons and die-cast John Deere toy tractors.

This is the 5th year of the Children's Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by Anson Cooperative Extension. The top prize is a youth freestyle bicycle, which will be raffled off to those completing the hunt. Wear your "Celebrating Anson County Agriculture" t-shirt and your name will be entered into the raffle twice! The scavenger hunt is open to youth 5-17 years of age. The goal is to answer agriculture and fair trivia by searching for clues in related subject areas around the fairgrounds.

Look for the Anson Cooperative Extension information booth both Friday and Saturday at the event. A random drawing for the bike will be chosen from scavenger hunt participants at noon on Saturday. You do not have to be present win.

For more information on these events contact Aimee Rankin, Agricultural Agent at the Anson Cooperative Extension office, 704-694-2415.

Tortoise & Hair 5K Run/Walk to Honor Sam Lanning



In a letter from Gwen Lanning: Alopecia areata? What is this? That's exactly what my husband Hoy and I asked when the dermatologist told us that's what our son had, when we took him in with a bald spot on his head. Our youngest child Sam was 5 years old at the time of being diagnosed with this disease called alopecia areata. For weeks after his diagnoses we agonized about how to explain the complexities of alopecia areata to our little boy: What is this autoimmune condition? How did he get this? What triggered his little body to reject the hair on his head all of a sudden? Why did this happen to him? And will his hair grow back? There are many questions but very few answers. Thankfully, the condition is not terminal, but there is no cure at this time. The only certainty about alopecia areata is the unpredictable nature of the condition. Sam is 12 years old now and has 98% of his hair, although it comes and goes.

And, we don't know how long he will keep it. As Sam's parents he expected us to fix it and make his hair grow back. Isn't that what parents are supposed to do, fix everything? Believe me we would have done anything to help our little boy.

Living in a society where so much attention is focused on physical appearance, it may be emotionally challenging to live without hair. Hair may only be cosmetic, but we as a society spend so much time and money - getting hair cut, colored and styled. It is doubtful that many people would willingly choose to go through their lives without hair. People could be cruel in their comments about Sam's appearance, and when he was taunted by other children Hoy and I wished we could protect him. But, when you are different and you stand out among the crowd you will get noticed.

Sam had just turned 5 when we noticed his first bald spot. It was smaller than the size of a nickel. Watching Sam lose his entire head of hair, in a mere two months, was heartbreaking to say the least, and the feeling of helplessness was paralyzing at times. That is the reason why we are sharing our experience. First, we hope to inform you of this little known condition that affects at least 4.7 million people (about 2 percent of the population) in the United States, and many more people around the world. Alopecia areata affects people of all races, genders and ages, although the occurrence is greater in people under thirty.

We had never heard of the words, "alopecia areata" or known anyone with the condition prior to this experience. It is our hope that you will share this information with friends and family so that more people can become aware. Second, I hope you will join my family in raising awareness for the National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF), a nonprofit organization founded in Mill Valley, California in 1981. NAAF awards grants for research to find causes and a cure for alopecia areata, it educates the public, and it supports those with the condition. Through NAAF we were able to meet other individuals affected by this condition who are living life to the fullest and defining their own sense of beauty.

If you would like to help, please consider signing up for the 2nd Annual Tortoise & Hair 5K Run/Walk in uptown Wadesboro on Saturday October 8th at 8 a.m. There is also a fun run for children 12 and under at 7:30 a.m. The 5K is in conjunction with Wadesboro's Annual People Fest street festival, in its 28th year. You can register at H.W. Little in Wadesboro, at Vac & Dash in Albemarle, or online at www.active.com.

Our hope is that by having the 5K it will empower Sam and help him realize that he is neither helpless nor alone in his fight against alopecia areata. You can find out more information through NAAF's website, www.naaf.org.

Diabetic Support Group Meets September 22

The Anson County Diabetic Support Group will meet on Thursday, September 22 at 10:30 a.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro. This will be a social get together with friends. For information contact Ruth Hildreth at 704-694-3979 or Beth McLendon at 704-694-4291.

Tourism Authority Meets Today

The regular meeting of the Anson County Tourism Development Authority will be held today, Wednesday, September 14, at noon in the Lady Bug Restaurant. The public is invited to attend.

Genealogical Society Meets Saturday

The Anson County Genealogical Society will meet this Saturday, September 17th at 2 p.m. in the Anson Historical Society office at 206 East Wade Street in Wadesboro. Jim Jones will talk about the history of Lawyers Spring Primitive Baptist Church in Peachland. The public is invited.

For more information or directions, email genealogy1959@yahoo.com or call 704-475-8857.

"Music on the Square" in Peachland September 24

The Town of Peachland invites everyone to come and enjoy their third annual "Music on the Square" which will be held on Saturday, September 24, from 6 to 10 p.m. This free event will feature The Village Greene Band, which performs all over North Carolina, along with lots of food vendors, activities for the kids and more.

Among the many vendors are youth/women's groups from local churches and the fire department. A wide variety of beverages and food will be available. For more information contact Lynn H. Griffin 704-272-7781.

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