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

Anson County Jail Population Info is Now Available Online

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen announced on September 12 that the Anson County Jail's inmate population information is now available online. "This is something we have been working on for some time. Now between our software provider and our local IT personnel this is up and running," Allen said.

What this means is the public can access jail inmate information, including date of arrests, charges, bonds and booking photos of the inmate. "What is available is public record," the Sheriff added.

Access to the jail information can be made by two means: 1) go to the Sheriff's web page at www.ansonsheriff.com, click on the Jail drop down box, then click on the "In-Custody List" box. Or 2) you can go through the county government's web page at www.co.anson.nc.us, click on "County Services" then "Law Enforcement" and that will take you to the Sheriff's web page that way.

Sheriff Allen said he expects this to eliminate hundreds of calls to the jail monthly from people asking if someone is in jail or about a bond. You can also use the VINELink button to get the same information on your iPhone.

The county jail has a capacity of sixty inmates and generally houses between forty to fifty inmates at any given time.

New Carolinas HealthCare-Anson Medical Campus Celebration is Saturday

Carolinas HealthCare System invites the community to celebrate the start of the new medical campus this Saturday, September 21. This free event will take place at Anson High School from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. It will be an opportunity to visit and tour the new hospital project.

Activities for the day include a prayer breakfast at 9 a.m. featuring church choirs; health screenings throughout the day; a special speaker from the Anson County Historical Society; fun and athletic games for children; signups for a physician appointment if needed; information on health insurance for those who need it; shuttle bus tours of the new hospital campus; the MedCenter Air helicopter; tours of Carolinas Med1, one of the nation's few non-military mobile hospitals, which travels to disaster areas throughout the country; and units from the Anson County Sheriff's Office, the Wadesboro Police and Fire Departments, the Anson Rescue Squad and more.

Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS), one of the nation's leading and most innovative health care organizations, provides a full spectrum of health care and wellness programs throughout North Carolina and South Carolina. Its diverse network of more than 900 care locations includes academic medical centers, hospitals, health care pavilions, physician practices, destination centers, surgical and rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, nursing homes, and hospice and palliative care. CHS works to improve and enhance the overall health and well-being of its communities through high-quality patient care, education and research programs and a variety of collaborative partnerships and initiatives. For more information, see www.carolinashealthcare.org.

Domestic Violence Coalition Purple Ribbon Campaign

In a release from the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition: Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition has begun our Annual Purple Ribbon Campaign 2013. The campaign is running from September until December. The funds raised from this campaign will be used to help defray program and direct service costs.

We must match every state and federal grant we receive by 20%. Our goal is to raise \$30,000.

We are a non-profit agency in Anson County serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child and elder abuse. We serve the community by providing education, awareness along with a 24-Hour Confidential Crisis and Reporting Line for victims and those who want to report abuse.

Individuals who donate \$100 will receive a certificate, a purple ribbon lapel pin, and will be recognized (if approved by you) in our local papers in January 2014, as a contributor to the campaign.

Businesses or Churches that donate \$100 will receive a certificate for the business or church and will also be recognized in January in our local papers (if approved by you). If an individual at your business or church donates on their own \$100 they will also receive their own certificate, pin, and recognition.

Donations can be mailed to Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition, P.O. Box 694, Wadesboro, NC 28170. All contributions are tax deductible. Please indicate whether or not if you would like to be publicly recognized for your donation(s) in January.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support. Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault are continuously on the rise in Anson County. If you are or know someone who is being hurt or abused, we are here to help - You Are Not Alone.

For more information or to speak with an advocate, you can call 704-690-0362 to reach our 24 hour Crisis Line.

Safe Kids Anson Offers Child Car Seat Inspections this Saturday

Safe Kids Anson urges parents and caregivers to make sure all car seats and booster seats are properly installed on "National Seat Check Saturday," September 21. Certified child passenger safety technicians will be available to provide hands-on instruction on installing car and booster seats at Anson High School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Correctly used child safety seats can reduce the risk of death by as much as 71 percent," said Kim Wilson, Safe Kids Anson. "We want all parents to make sure their car seats are used and installed correctly and that the whole family is buckled up every time on every ride. We are here to help."

In a nationwide effort to educate parents and caregivers during Child Passenger Safety Week, Safe Kids and the General Motors Foundation are teaming up for Seat Check Saturday activities as part the Buckle Up program, a national initiative established 16 years ago by Safe Kids and the GM Foundation to keep children and families safe in and around cars. Safe Kids will host more than 500 child seat inspections across the country for CPS week, including a local seat check in collaboration with the Carolinas HealthCare System-Anson Community Celebration.

Car seat inspections offer drivers the chance to receive assistance and guidance from certified car seat technicians regarding proper installation of their child safety and booster seats. Safe Kids Buckle Up events continue throughout the year. For more information about car seats or to have a seat checked on a different day than above, please call Anson County Partnership for Children at 704-694-4036.



Bearcat Football's Elementary Night A Whopping Success!

Whoever thought of inviting every elementary school aged child in Anson County to enjoy a free game of football during the home Bearcat game this past Friday night was, in my opinion, a genius! If you were not in attendance you definitely missed a beautiful sight. The stands were filled and the crowd didn't mind showing their Bearcat pride.

During halftime the hundreds of students formed a parade-like procession around the track, and walked alongside many of their teachers, parents and caregivers. You could see without a doubt that many of these students had never experienced football in Bearcat Stadium. They were glowing with enthusiasm and beaming with pride. Many teachers used this opportunity to gear their lesson plans around the event.

Mrs. Kimberly Edwards, teacher at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School said, "Many of my students didn't know what to expect. We discussed what they would be seeing and experiencing. We made banners to carry, and the students provided pictures of what they had learned they would see."

In looking for myself at the posters, there were lots of different facets of a typical football event diagramed. We saw footballs and athletes, band members, cheerleaders, fire batons and majorettes, flags, pizza and soda and so much more! After the band performed and left the field, the youngsters began asking questions of them - some of their newest role models I'm sure.

In all fairness I simply must share the masterminds behind this genius act of fulfillment and enjoyment for students of Anson County elementary schools, Superintendent Michael Freeman and Athletic Director Terry Mabry. Surely there must be hundreds and hundreds of school children who share in my sentiments and would love to do it again one night soon!

"Allowing our future bearcats to be involved while supporting the Anson Bearcat Football Team was very exciting," said Superintendent Freeman. "The glow on each elementary child's face was amazing as they cheered for our team. Some of these children were attending their first football game, so this new experience was very special to them. The experience of walking the track in a show of support was a display of pride for them as we groom our future bearcats."

"I am so appreciative of our staff and parents for providing this experience for our children," Freeman added.

Terry Mabry said, "This special night was a huge success. I never expected so many to attend. When they called for all the staff and students to come to the track, half the stadium came down. I can't thank the principals and staff of the elementary schools enough for all they did to make it a great night to be a Bearcat. I say, 'Well done!'"

Those smiling, excited faces were a sight to behold, and elementary school night was a whopping success! *By Melanie Lyon*

Writers' Club Publishes Anson Pathways VIII

The Anson County Writers' Club will introduce its latest volume of prose and poetry, Anson Pathways VIII, at an Open House and Book Signing at the Anson County Arts Council on Sunday, September 22. The public is invited to attend the event between 2 and 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The Open House also will kick off the 2013 contests in prose and poetry, which is now open and ends December 9. The contests have run every year since 1989, when the club was organized, and an anthology of the winning entries is published every three years. All winners of the 2010, 2011, and 2012 contests are urged to attend the Open House to autograph copies. The books will be available for \$5 each.

Contest rules and entry forms will be available at the Open House, may be picked up at the Hampton B. Allen Library, at the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, or you can download them from the website, www.ansoncountywritersclub.org.

Ruth Hickman and Randy Tarlton are the 2013 contest co-chairman. All entries are judged by an impartial, out-of-county panel that does not see the names of the authors. Winners will be announced in February 2014, and an awards ceremony will be held February 23, 2014. More information is available by calling 704-694-4684.

Free Food Available at BRLC on September 24

Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center will distribute their monthly USDA free foods on Tuesday, September 24th starting at 9 a.m. The food items are made available only to Ansonians who qualify. Anyone who plans to take advantage of these free food items will need to register and be recertified promptly by 10 a.m. There will be volunteers on hand to help you.

The doors will open at 9 a.m. If any items run out there will not be any more until October. Clients can only be provided USDA commodities once a month or until they run out. The products are provided by the United States Department of Agriculture. The US federal income guidelines will determine applicant's eligibility. In accordance with the Federal Law and USDA policy, this policy institution is prohibited from discriminating for any reason. BRLC asks that you please bring proof of income because this is the USDA recertification period for those who use the BRLC program.

The distribution of the emergency food pantry products will continue on Wednesday mornings.

Both Youth and Adult Activities for 2013 Anson Ag Expo

The 2013 Anson Ag Expo & Fair will feature unique opportunities for young and old alike at this year's event. Scheduled for Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28, plan to participate in something fun for everyone.

Returning this year are the Scarecrow Competition for all ages, Creative Squash Challenge for youth and the Local Foods Bake-Off for adults. In addition, the annual Youth Scavenger Hunt will be going on, as well as the Kiddie Tractor Pull.

- The Creative Squash Challenge is a youth competition comprised of decorating and crafting a unique creation from any type squash, from zucchini to pumpkins. Squash must be entered at the Ingram Room of the Lockhart-Taylor Center on Friday, September 27, between 7 and 8 p.m. Entries will be judged on Saturday morning at 10:45 a.m. and judging is open to the public. Three age groups will each receive prize money for placing first \$15, second \$10 and third \$5. Ribbons will also be awarded.

- Scarecrows for competition must be registered on Friday evening between 6 and 7 p.m. and must be made of at least 50% straw or hay. Scarecrows will be set up outside the Ingram Room for judging and display. Judging is at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday.

- The Local Foods Bake-Off will feature entries of baked items made from local foods. At least one local food ingredient must be used. Local food items may be purchased, but must still be locally produced. Local in this event is defined as within 30 miles of Wadesboro. Baked items must be entered on Saturday, September 28, from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Ingram Room of the Lockhart-Taylor Center. A recipe must be submitted with the entry designating the local food ingredient. Judging will take place at 11 a.m. and is open to the public.

- Premium money will be awarded for first \$40, second \$25 and third, \$15, and ribbons will also be provided. Prize money and ribbons for Expo events and activities are courtesy of Anson County Farm Bureau. Don't forget that all items, decorated squash, baked local foods and scarecrows can be picked up at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

- The Kiddie Tractor Pull is open to ages 3 to 8, will have registration from 9:30 until 10:50 a.m., and then the racing begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 28. Youth will be divided into weight classes, and prizes include ribbons and John Deere toy tractors, courtesy of Martin Brothers Equipment Company.

- Finally, the Youth Ag Scavenger Hunt will be going on throughout the day with registration beginning at 9 a.m. The drawing is at 12 noon for a bicycle. All youth who wear their Celebrating Anson Agriculture t-shirt will be entered twice to win.

New shirts have arrived for sale this year. Green adult and youth shirts are \$8 and \$6. They are on sale now at the Cooperative Extension Center on McLaurin Street.

Guidelines for all categories, as well as the fair, livestock show, educational exhibits and complete line-up of events are available on the Anson County Cooperative Extension website at anson.ces.ncsu.edu and the 2013 Anson Ag Expo & Fair Facebook page.

So pull out your favorite recipe, find a local ingredient, help your young friends locate the perfect squash to decorate, and enter it to win! These events will be different and entertaining. So will the rest of the opportunities at the 2013 Anson Ag Expo & Fair.

Come out and enjoy the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!

Democratic Party Monthly Meeting is Thursday

The Anson County Democratic Party monthly meeting will be held this Thursday, September 19 at Hampton B. Allen Library at 6 p.m. All precinct chairs and concerned citizens are asked to attend.

For more information please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

Democratic Party's Blue & White Gala Banquet is Friday

The 6th annual Democratic Blue & White Gala Banquet will be held Friday, September 20 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center beginning at 6 p.m. The guest speaker will be Senator Gene McLaurin. Everyone is invited.

You may purchase tickets at door. For more information, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

Marrow Donor Registry Drive is Saturday

Please do not forget the Marrow Donor Registry Drive this Saturday, September 21, in the Anson High School Cafeteria from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you are between the ages of 18 and 44, please come by and have your mouth swabbed with a q-tip! Yes, it is that simple.

This drive is spearheaded for Team Elizabeth Goins who just received word that she has found a match for her bone marrow transplant. Elizabeth would like to help others who need the bone marrow transplant and who are still in search of a donor match.

For more information contact Bonnie Morgan at 704-695-5373 or bonnie.morgan@windstream.net. Anson Women's League is sponsoring the event. *By Melanie Lyon*

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