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School Board Meeting is September 25

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, September 25. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11 (a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11 (a)(5). Open Session to the public will begin at about 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools." The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.

North Carolina's August Employment Figures Released

North Carolina's seasonally adjusted August 2023 unemployment rate was 3.3 percent, unchanged from July's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.3 of a percentage point to 3.8 percent. North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased 0.6 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 12,790 over the month to 5,072,983 and increased 103,639 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 2,183 over the month to 173,576 and decreased 26,778 over the year. Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 17,500 to 4,945,300 in August. Major industries experiencing increases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 4,700; Education & Health Services, 4,500; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 3,800; Professional & Business Services, 3,100; Government, 2,500; Information, 1,900; Construction, 400; and Other Services, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 3,200; Financial Activities, 300; and Mining & Logging, 100. Since August 2022, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 117,300 with the Total Private sector increasing by 101,000 and Government increasing by 16,300. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 32,600; Education & Health Services, 29,700; Professional & Business Services, 17,200; Government, 16,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 13,200; Other Services, 5,700; Financial Activities, 3,100; and Information, 1,800. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 2,100; Construction, 100; and Mining & Logging, 100.

Free Health & Wellness Fair Set for September 23 at Monroe Science Center

Area families can access health screenings, pick up some school supplies, take part in a Pilates class, get tips on how to stay well and more at the Community Health & Wellness Fair on Sept. 23 at the Monroe Science Center. The free event, which includes admission to the center, is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is located at 318 E. Franklin St. The fair is powered by Novant Health, supported by Walgreens and hosted by Wingate University. The Monroe Science Center, which opened last year, is a hands-on science and learning facility. "We're excited to announce our collaboration with numerous community partners as we offer fun and informative wellness services," says Dr. Lisa Dinkins, Associate Professor of Pharmacy and Director of Community Health Outreach at Wingate University. "Students, staff, and faculty from our pharmacy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing, physician assistant, and public health programs will join with local healthcare professionals to provide a wide range of screenings, informative exhibits, engaging activities, and chances to win fantastic prizes." Nonprofit organizations will be on hand to share information and provide services. Walgreens pharmacy will offer free flu shots. While families explore the Monroe Science Center, children can also enjoy the designated Kids Zone, which includes dental education, body tracing and other activities. Participants will be able to sample some healthy food from the snack shack, and throughout the day, door prizes, including grocery gift certificates and gym memberships, will be awarded. "For our communities to thrive, we all have to prioritize our health and wellness," said Jason Bernd, president and chief operating officer of Novant Health Matthews Medical Center. "Novant Health is committed to caring for our community and meeting the unique needs of each person. We are thrilled to partner with Wingate University and reach those in Union County by providing free health screenings at the community health and wellness fair." To find out more about the health fair, visit the Wingate.edu website and search Community Health & Wellness, or contact Lisa Dinkins by emailing l.dinkins@wingate.edu or calling 703-233-8348. Learn more about Wingate University at wingate.edu.

Group Meeting About NC State Health Plan Open Enrollment

Grace Senior Center will be providing a group meeting to help with information about the NC State Health Plan Open Enrollment for the 2024 benefit year, which runs October 9-27, 2023. Retirees who are enrolled with the North Carolina State Health Plan are welcome to attend to ask questions about their health plan. Join Joanne Clark, Tomasina Spencer and Brenda Bennett, who are Grace Senior Center SHIIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program) Counselors on Tuesday, October 3. They will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Grace Senior Center. Please call (704) 694-6616 to register. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742. For information call 704-694-6616.



Anson County School System Gives a Big Shout-Out to the Transportation Team

This is a release from the Anson County School System: Help us give a big SHOUT-OUT and THANK YOU to our transportation building team that often works behind the scenes! Our Transportation Department Building Staff is responsible for the district's school buses, activity buses, and county vehicles (e.g. driver's education vehicles), and they ensure the safe and efficient transport of our students. Pictured at far right, Corey Ross is the Administrator for Transportation and he oversees all transportation employees, the transportation fleet, driver's education, and safety for the entire district. Pictured from left are: Edward McKenzie and TJ Simon are our Road Mechanics and they keep buses inspected and repaired. Caleb Henry handles fuel for buses. He is also a road mechanic and services and maintains all county vehicles. Matt Powell is the shop supervisor and mechanic. He handles maintenance on activity buses and completes all large services. Helen Mason is the cost clerk and she is responsible for keeping up with and entering parts information, inventory, and fuel to the state. Monica Harrington creates and manages all the bus routes. We run 66 routes morning and afternoon each day. THANK YOU Transportation Building Staff for all you do!

Last Weekend for the Ansonia Theatre's Pageant Play

The Ansonia Theatre's comedy, *Pageant Play*, closes its run after this weekend, so get your tickets now to enjoy this entertaining and high spirited production. *Pageant Play*, written by Mark Setlock and Matthew Wilkas, is a hilarious spoof of the sometimes terrifying and surreal world of child pageants. Pinky Corningfield will do anything to make sure that her little angel wins the ultimate title, Supreme Queen. When Marge and her daughter Puddle, newcomers to the pageant circuit, show up and start stealing all the glory, an all-out war ensues. Pinky, along with her minions, Bob and Bobby, use some unorthodox methods to ensure that her darling daughter Chevrolet is victorious. Director Tommy Wooten has put together an all-local cast. Amanda Traywick stars as Pinky, Jason Price as Bobby, Chipper Long as Bob, and, making her stage debut as Marge, is Brittany Price. After seeing the play last weekend, Emily Litaker Privette had this to say: "Need a date night? Need a girls' night out? Want to enjoy some local theater? Then come enjoy this hilariously absurd show at the award-winning Ansonia Theatre! I am soooooo very proud of our local talent! I was watching everyone on stage and just beaming with pride at these amazing actors and friends - cheeks and belly hurting from laughing so hard! Not to mention, the music between scenes was right on the money! We had a wonderful afternoon at *Pageant Play* and I know you will, too! Please don't miss it! It's like nothing you've ever seen before on the Ansonia stage! Support our local arts!!!! Warning: This show is not suitable for children, so enjoy!!!" The show runs this coming weekend, September 22-24, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. This show contains adult language and situations. Purchase tickets at ansoniatheatre.com or by calling 704-694-4950.



Grace Senior Center One-Day Trip to Fuller's Bar-B-Q for Lunch Sept. 28

Grace Senior Center invites all seniors to join them for a fun trip to Fuller's Bar-B-Q in Fayetteville on Thursday, September 28. Fullers is famous for their delicious pit cooked BBQ. They have won multiple awards, including the People's Choice Award "Best of the Best" and Southern Living Food Awards. Here's how Fullers describes it: "Since 1986 we've been mastering the art of pit cooking to bring you the best BBQ in town. Our slow-smoked meats are cooked low and slow, resulting in mouthwatering flavors and tender, juicy cuts. Come taste the difference that over three decades of experience makes." The restaurant features a lunch buffet. Their menu includes BBQ (of course!), steak, chicken, seafood, vegetables, sandwiches and homemade desserts. For the trip, the Grace Senior Center charter bus will load at the Food Lion parking lot, with a departure time of 9 a.m. The total cost of the trip is \$47, which includes transportation and lunch. For more information and to register, please call 704-694-6616. Registrations are due by Monday, September 25.

Movie Monday at the Library Screening Where the Crawdad Sings

The next Movie Monday at the Hampton B. Allen Library will be on Monday, September 25 at 10 a.m. The feature movie will be *Where the Crawdad Sings*. It is based on the New York Times bestseller by the same name. The movie is rated PG-13. The movie is free, and the library staff hopes you will join them. For more information call 704-694-5177.

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

Family Fall Fest at 2023 Ag Expo & Fair is this Weekend!

The 2023 Anson Ag Expo & Fair is set and planning is underway for another great festival for families to enjoy. Family Fall Fest is scheduled for this Friday night, September 22 on the square and West Wade Street in Wadesboro. Mark your calendars to come visit, and better yet, participate. The Anson Ag Expo & Fair Planning Committee has planned an evening of fun, food, music and games for the whole family to enjoy. Festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude around 8:00 p.m. Plan to enjoy a fun night for everybody. Carnival type games will be available for all youth and will be located on West Wade Street. There will also be a cupcake walk going on in the street. Games will wrap up around 7:30 p.m. Burger Bros, Its Allgood and Wilson's funnel cakes will be set up for the evening offering food truck fare and drinks. In addition, complimentary popcorn and snow cones will be offered for children and adults. **Ag Fair** For those interested in the Ag Fair, it will also be on display on Saturday at the Cooperative Extension Center in Wadesboro from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Complete event information is available on the web at anson.ces.ncsu.edu and Facebook, under 2023 Anson Ag Expo & Fair. Like that page to receive event updates and be on the lookout for more postings. Plan to come out and enjoy the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!

It's Community Night at the Anson High School Varsity Football Game on Friday, October 13

Mark your calendars for Community Night (formerly Elementary School Night) at the Anson High School varsity football game on Friday, October 13. The band programs, elementary school students and staff, football and cheer programs, JROTC, and many others will perform and participate during pregame and halftime. Everyone is invited to come out for a night of fun and fellowship while rooting on the Bearcat football team as they take on the Monroe Redhawks. Game time is 7:00 p.m., but be sure to arrive early to see all the pregame activities. The students want to see the bleachers full of community members, parents, friends and families on Friday, October 13, and at any other school event, program, or competition throughout the year! Thank you for supporting our students and schools! You can purchase game tickets in advance at: ansonschools.org/AHS/7679-Athletic-Tickets.html.