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ENJOY PICTURES FROM THE WADESBORO CHRISTMAS PARADE IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION.

Gift of Reading before the New Year!

The end of the year is a time for celebration and reflection! Now is a time to hold tight to the memories made, complete the 2022 to-do list, and plan for the future. Is helping the community still on your 2022 to-do list? Don't let an unfinished to-do list follow you into the new year when you can complete it now.



When you "Sponsor A Child for Kason," you are ensuring a child in Anson County has books in their home from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This book gifting program mails free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to children from birth until age five, no matter their family's income. Dolly's vision was to create a lifelong love of reading, prepare children for school, and inspire children to dream.

The Partnership for Children aims to provide membership in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for all children in Anson County ages birth to five years - and you can help! Together, we can reach our goal of raising \$12,000!

Learn more about Kason and donate now at: Ansonchildren.org/sponsor-a-child. Donations can also be mailed to Anson Partnership for Children, 117 South Greene Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

Partnership Executive Director Caroline Goins said, "We're grateful for your support. We wish you a happy New Year!"

"Booze It & Lose It" Holiday Enforcement Campaign Continues

Law enforcement officers have stepped up patrols as part of the statewide "Booze It & Lose It" holiday enforcement effort that started on December 13 and concludes January 2.

"If you're out celebrating this holiday season, make sure you have a sober ride home," said Mark Ezzell, director of the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program, or NCGHSP. "If you drive under the influence, you have a lot to lose. Not only could you kill yourself or someone else, but you could face thousands of dollars in court costs and fines, jail time, or a revoked license."

The "Booze It & Lose It" holiday effort is the largest impaired driving campaign run by the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program. Throughout the campaign, law enforcement agencies statewide will increase patrols looking for impaired drivers.

NCGHSP will be supporting the campaign through a combination of paid media advertising and social media outreach.

So far this year, 432 people have been killed in North Carolina in alcohol- or drug-related crashes. Here's how that compares to the number of people killed in impaired crashes over the same time period dating back to 2018: 2021 503 deaths; 2020 500 deaths; 2019 403 deaths; 2018 463 deaths.

The N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program reminds all travelers to stay safe on the roads this holiday season by:

- Never driving impaired, always finding a safe ride home
- Buckling your seatbelt when riding in any seat in the vehicle
- Following the speed limit

For more driver safety tips and program information, follow them @NCGHSP on Facebook and @NC_GHSP on Twitter and Instagram.

HealthCare.gov Open Enrollment is Now Open Through January 15, 2023

Health insurance navigators are standing by to offer free help. Quality, affordable insurance is available for everyone. Visit NCNavigator.net.

The NC Navigator Consortium welcomes the start of Open Enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace at HealthCare.gov with an updated website to help North Carolina residents get covered at website NCNavigator.net. While Open Enrollment lasts until January 15, 2023, the NC Navigator Consortium's statewide network of health insurance navigators work year-round to answer questions about health coverage, help consumers update their HealthCare.gov policies and enroll in new ones after qualifying life events. To that end, the upgraded NCNavigator.net makes it easier to connect consumers with the information they need, and access to the free, unbiased help finding quality, affordable coverage they have come to trust.

Open Enrollment for HealthCare.gov Marketplace coverage will not end until January 15, 2023.

The NC Navigator Consortium's federally qualified health insurance Navigators are available by free appointments (by phone, in person or virtually) to provide local help to consumers needing to apply for or update their Marketplace coverage. Appointments may be scheduled online by calling 1-855-733-3711 or online at NCNavigator.net.

Designed and developed by Kelso Communications and J.D. Ledford of 18 Stone Design, the new NCNavigator.net features FAQs and resources to educate consumers on the importance of health insurance, the difference between HealthCare.gov and Medicaid/CHIP and more. The site also features important updates such as next steps for Bright Health policyholders following the termination of their policies, and those who may be impacted by the end of the family glitch which makes it possible for families to purchase coverage other than employer-sponsored health insurance.

Anson Commissioners Meet January 3

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3 at 6 p.m. The 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.



Wadesboro Police Shop with a Cop Event Made Christmas Better!

The Wadesboro Police Department Shop with a Cop 2022 program made Christmas special for 20 kids. 20 children enjoyed a pizza meal and were each given a \$200 Walmart gift card!

Police Chief Thedis Spencer said, "Thank you community, Anson County Schools, Anson County Schools social workers, Councilman Fred Davis and Pizza Hut for your part in making this year's Shop with a Cop a true success."



One Lane of Pee Dee River Bridge Closed for Repairs

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has closed one of the west bound lanes of the James A. Hardison Bridge on Highway 74 passing over the Pee Dee River. It is closed for emergency road work due to large sized scale outs on the approach slab, and loose expansion joints on the bridge deck requiring daily temporary attention.

NCDOT received several calls about the problems, but the cold weather and holidays made permanent safe repairs impossible. Work is beginning, with an expected completion date of January 15. The expected impact to traffic is "Medium."

The original Pee Dee River bridge The photo at right shows the former open-spandrel arch bridge over the Pee Dee River that was torn down and replaced by the current bridge.

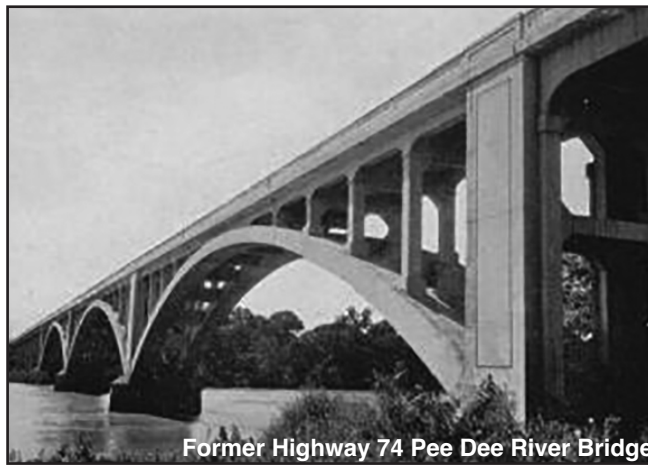
Reinforced concrete open spandrel arch bridges are historic bridges. The reinforced concrete arch form reached its aesthetic pinnacle in the 1910s and 1920s with the open spandrel arch, which differs from the more common closed spandrel arch in that spandrel columns are used to support a deck slab rather than spandrel walls holding back earth fill.

Although open spandrels offered economy of material (less dead load) in comparison to closed spandrels, they also required more complicated formwork and were thus best suited to long-span crossings where a graceful yet powerful bridge was desired and the economy of material could be used to best advantage.

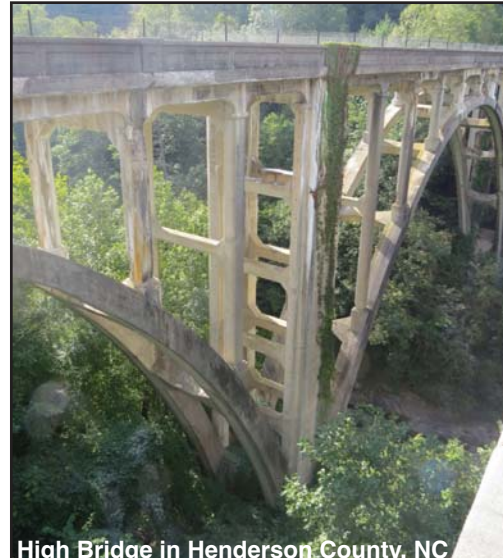
Many open spandrel arch bridges have arch rings composed of individual ribs, resulting in further economy of material.

The North Carolina State Highway Department designed open spandrel arch bridges for some prominent river crossings. The earliest was the 1917-1918 Sloan's Ferry Bridge (no longer standing) over the Catawba River near Belmont on the Gaston-Mecklenburg county line.

The state currently has five historic open spandrel arch bridges dating from 1922 to 1930. Pictured at right, a sixth - the 1927 High Bridge (Henderson County Bridge 120) carrying Old U.S. Route 176 over the Green River near Flat Rock - was perhaps the most impressive both in the context of its mountain setting and its engineering. Its use of asymmetrical arches for the end arch spans was an excellent solution to a difficult problem of engineering analysis and design. It was rightly considered one of the handsomest bridges in the state.



Former Highway 74 Pee Dee River Bridge



High Bridge in Henderson County, NC

Sarah "Birdy Mac" Robinson Community Breakfast

Sarah "Birdy Mac" Robinson has been sponsoring a community breakfast for all to enjoy on Christmas Eve for 5 years now. Mrs. Robinson funds this event for the most part entirely out of her pocket. Monetary and donations of supplies and food that are needed for the event have been a godsend.

Items were collected to give to the less fortunate and door prizes were given. Many were fed and just fellowshiped and enjoyed each other.

A big thank you to the awesome serving crew who have teamed up with Birdy Mac Catering. This year's event was held at HOLLA! in Moven where Leon Gatewood is CEO.

