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

Early Voting Schedule for March 3 Primary Election

Early Voting takes place at the Board of Elections

One Stop Early Voting begins this Thursday, February 13 for the March Primary Election. It runs through Saturday, February 29. All Early Voting takes place at the Anson County Board of Elections Office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

The schedule (printed below) includes two Saturdays with hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and one Sunday with hours of 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

If you don't vote during Early Voting, the Primary Election Day is Tuesday, March 3, from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. On election day all Wadesboro voters will vote at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, in the Ingram Room, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. If you previously voted at the AA Building on Country Club Road or the Anson County Board of Education on Camden Road, those sites will no longer be used. All other Anson voters go to your regular polling precinct.

For more information call Board of Elections at 704-994-3223.

Early Voting Schedule

- Thursday, Feb. 13.....8am - 7:30pm**
- Friday, Feb. 14.....8am - 7:30pm**
- Saturday, Feb. 15..... 8am - 3pm**
- Monday, Feb. 17.....8am - 7:30pm**
- Tuesday, Feb. 18..... 8am - 7:30pm**
- Wednesday, Feb. 19... 8am - 7:30pm**
- Thursday, Feb. 20.....8am - 7:30pm**
- Friday, Feb. 21.....8am - 7:30pm**
- Saturday, Feb. 22..... 8am - 3pm**
- Sunday, Feb. 23..... 12pm - 6pm**
- Monday, Feb. 24.....8am - 7:30pm**
- Tuesday, Feb. 25..... 8am - 7:30pm**
- Wednesday, Feb. 26... 8am - 7:30pm**
- Thursday, Feb. 27.....8am - 7:30pm**
- Friday, Feb. 28.....8am - 7:30pm**
- Saturday, Feb. 29..... 8am - 3pm**

High School Selection Dates for Anson Students

Anson County Schools has released this information about key dates for high school selection:

- **February 25 Parent Forum - Anson Middle School** - The superintendent and administrators will explain the High School Application Process and provide information about each of the high school choices. Audience: 8th Grade Students & Parents / Guardians Time: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
 - **February 26 Counselors Visit to Anson Middle School** - All counselors from each high school will give a presentation regarding each of the high school choices.
 - **February 26 Applications Distributed** - Application Packets will be delivered to Anson Middle School for distribution and will be available for non-AMS students at the district office located at: 320 Camden Road, Wadesboro NC 28170
 - **February 27 Anson Early College Open House** for 8th grade parents/guardians and students from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
 - **February 27 Anson High School Open House** for 8th grade parents/guardians and students from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Parents and students are encouraged to visit both schools during the Open House time frames.
- **March 2** 8th grade students will complete writing prompts during English class at Anson Middle School.
 - **March 3** Make-up day for students absent on the initial administration of the writing prompt.
 - **March 6 Completed High School Applications will be turned in** at Anson Middle School or to the district office for non-AMS students by 3:30 p.m. for the counselors to review.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate was 4.0 Percent in December

Anson County's unemployment rate for December was 4.0%, down a hair from November's 4.1% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate was 3.3% in December, similar to November's 3.4% rate.

Anson's total labor force in December was 10,563. Of that number 10,137 were employed and 426 were unemployed. In November the total labor force was 10,585 with 10,156 employed and 429 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 45 of North Carolina's counties in December, increased in 25, and remained unchanged in 30. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 9.7 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 2.5 percent.

Ten of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases, one increased, and four remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville had the highest rate at 4.4 percent and Asheville had the lowest rate at 2.7 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.3 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 95 counties, increased in three, and remained unchanged in two. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in December by 27,197 to 4,909,376, while those unemployed decreased by 4,392 to 169,153. Since December 2018, the number of workers employed statewide increased 128,272, while those unemployed decreased 16,003.



AMS Wrestlers Win Southeastern Middle School Athletic Conference Tournament

Last season, 2018-2019, the Anson Middle School wrestling program turned a new leaf as they hired a new Head Coach, Brandon Smith (21-1). Furthermore, for the first time ever, the AMS wrestling program was adopted by an athletic conference, the Southeastern Middle School Athletic Conference.

During the 2018-2019 campaign the AMS wrestling program managed to compile an 11-1 record, while securing the acknowledgment of being the regular season Conference Champions. However, due to an array of challenges off the mat, the Bearcats failed to win the Conference Tournament by half a point to Richmond County.

As we fast-forward to this season, 2019-2020, the Anson Middle School wrestling program had one dream in mind - which was to become undisputed conference champions! All season long it was stated that they had "unfinished business," and that this was a "revenge season." As the season transpired, AMS managed to go undefeated in the regular season, capturing their second straight regular season Conference Championship. Furthermore, their dreams became their reality when they successfully won the Conference Tournament this past weekend, hosted by Richmond County.

Fourteen out of eighteen starters managed to place top three in their respective weight division.

Third Place finishers includes the following: Xyterion Ledbetter, Emmanuel Chambers, Jesse James and Travis Walls. **Second Place** finishers includes the following: Jackson Stinson, Tiyon Allen, Stanley Parker, Marquel Wall, Jeffrey Willoughby and Dequaris Ratliff.

The AMS wrestlers who placed First are: Christian Taylor, Jamare Leak, Kevin Graham and Dasione Owens.

After taking everything into perspective, it truly was a fairy tale ending. Hollywood could not have written a better script.

Article by Tanguela Diggs

Ansonia's Theatre & Art Summer Camps

"We have had an amazing response to our previous camps and have campers already registering," said Ansonia Theater Director Tommy Wooten. "It's never too early to sign up for summer camp! Be sure to secure a spot by going to ansoniatheatre.com to register now. We have limited spaces, so don't wait! You can also call 704-694-4950. Our camps were to capacity last summer and will fill up FAST, don't wait until the last minute!"

THEATRE CAMPS

• **Session One June 13-26.** Session One is a two week camp for grades 3-12 (No exceptions). Working on the play *Clue*. More information will be published in a future edition of The Express.

• **Session Two July 13-17.** Session Two will be a Musical Theatre Camp for grades 3-12 (No exceptions). Working on the play *High School Musical*. More information will be published in a future edition of The Express.

ART CAMPS

• **Drake Gallery Summer Camp Session One June 22-26.** One week art camp for ages 9 to 12. More information will be published in a future edition of The Express.

• **Drake Gallery Summer Camp Session Two July 13-17.** One week art camp for ages 13 to 16. More information will be published in a future edition of The Express.

Commissioners Declare Anson County a "2nd Amendment Sanctuary County"

During their monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 4 the Anson County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution declaring Anson County a "2nd Amendment Sanctuary County." The resolution is presented below:

Resolution Declaring Anson County a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary County

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States is the Supreme Law of our Nation; and WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Anson County are duly sworn to uphold and abide by the Constitution of The United States of America; and WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Anson County and the Deputies of the Anson County Sheriff's Office are sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States; and WHEREAS, the Constitution of The United States was ratified and adopted by the Citizens of these United States of America, only after the addition of the first ten amendments, more commonly known as "The Bill of Rights" which was ratified on December 15, 1791; and WHEREAS, the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America clearly reads: "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed;"; and WHEREAS, the legal right to bear arms as protected and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States is, by definition necessary to the security of a free state, the protection of individual liberty, and for the preservation of our United States Constitution; and WHEREAS, the Anson County Board of Commissioners is concerned about the passage of any bill or legislation which could be interpreted as infringing upon the rights of law-abiding citizens of Anson County to legally keep and bear arms or may otherwise unduly restrict this right; and WHEREAS, the criminal misuse of firearms is not a reason to infringe the rights of law-abiding citizens of Anson County; and WHEREAS, the Anson County Board of Commissioners wishes to express their deep commitment to protecting the right to keep and bear arms of all Anson County Citizens, who are legally authorized to own and possess a firearm; and WHEREAS, the Anson County Board of Commissioners wishes to express their intent to stand as a Sanctuary County for Second Amendment rights and to oppose, within the limits of the Constitutions of the United States and the State of North Carolina, any efforts to unnecessarily and unconstitutionally restrict such rights of the Citizenry, and to use such legal means at its disposal to protect the rights of citizens to keep and bear arms; Now, therefore, be it hereby and forthwith RESOLVED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners: That the Anson County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses their intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of Anson County Citizens and that public funds, resources, employees, buildings, or offices not be used to unnecessarily and unconstitutionally restrict Second Amendment Rights of law abiding Citizens nor to aid or assist the enforcement of unnecessary and unconstitutional restriction of the Second Amendment rights of Anson County Citizens to keep and bear arms; and That the Anson County Board of Commissioners hereby declares Anson County, North Carolina, a "Second Amendment Sanctuary."

Adopted this the 4th day of February, 2020.

Brown Bag Book Club Meeting Features Shakeeka Watts

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the Brown Bag Book Club meeting for Monday, February 17 at 12:00 noon in the Pritchett room. Shakeeka Watts will be the featured author.

Shakeeka is an Anson native and children's book author and illustrator. She is a graduate of Wingate University. Shakeeka's main focus is to young African American girls to inspire them to dream big! Books will be available for purchase. Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and meet the author.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

2nd Annual Ansonia Theatre Awards Ceremony

You are invited to attend the 2nd Annual Anson Theatre Awards Ceremony on Saturday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m. This will be a night of celebration as the theatre recognizes excellence from the 2018-2019 season.

Tickets are \$10. The Ansonia is located at 112 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-4950 and the website is ansoniatheatre.com.

Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at the Papa Joe's Restaurant the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about these meetings or becoming a member, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.