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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wades-

New Hospital Site Designated, Zoning Approved

Anson County's new hospital received approval for rezoning at their chosen location, 2261 Highway 74 West in Wadesboro. The Anson County Commissioners unanimously approved the rezoning to General Business requested by Carolinas HealthCare System. The zoning had been designated as Highway Business and Residential Agricultural.

The hospital site is 10 acres, near Fresenius Medical Care dialysis center, located on the south side of the highway. Plans are to begin the \$20 million project during this year. The construction is expected to take about 12 to 15 months, with a target to be in operation in 2014. Early plans call for a single story, 47,000 square foot hospital featuring a 24 hour emergency department, 15 beds, a pharmacy, laboratory, surgery services and imaging services such as x-ray, mammography and ultrasound. Mobile services such as MRI will also be available.

County Purchases Land for New Agri-Civic Center

The Anson County Board of Commissioners approved the acquisition of approximately 30 acres of land on Highway 74 East for the construction of a new Agri-Civic Center. The land, purchased from Wade Manufacturing, is located just past Wade Manufacturing, at the intersection of Highway 74 and Morven Freight Lines Road.

County Manager Lawrence Gatewood has stated that he hopes construction can begin in 2016 or earlier. The next step will be the design of the facility and site development.

Rotary Club Donates Dictionaries to Every 3rd Grader in Anson County



The Wadesboro Rotary Club recently presented dictionaries to all third-grade students in the Anson County Schools.

Pictured here are four students at Wadesboro Primary School with their new dictionaries, along with Principal Betsy Ammons and Wesley Horne, president-elect of the Wadesboro Rotary Club, who headed the dictionary project. The Wadesboro Rotary Club conducted the project in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Charlotte.

Police Seek Public's Help in Finding James Michael Price



In a release from the Wadesboro Police Department: The Wadesboro Police Department holds active felony warrants for James Michael Price. Price was employed by Village Pawn Shop for approximately one year. The warrants for Price are as follows:

- Larceny by employee - five counts
- Larceny of a firearm - two counts
- Obtaining property by false pretense - five counts

Price is a white male, 39 years old. If anyone knows the whereabouts of James Price please contact The Wadesboro Police Department at 704-694-2167.

BRLC Honors Volunteers of the Month



Roger Thomas of the Burnsville Community and Sabrina Lee of the Wingate Community were honored recently at the Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center for their volunteer work.

Mr. Thomas served by picking up food from Oakboro on Tuesdays. He sometimes picked food up on Sundays as well. In the photo Louise Caudle, Food Pantry Overseer, is presenting Thomas with a certificate and thank you cards. She said, "Roger has and continues to give of himself to make sure that no one in this community goes hungry." Thomas is a member of Rocky River Baptist Church and is married to Ella Thomas.

Sabrina Lee resides in the Piney Grove Community. She helps in the area of administrative work at BRLC. She has been a part of the organization for several years. Lee received a certificate and thank you cards for her volunteer work too.

She is married to Richard Lee and the mother of five children. BRLC Director Carol Smith said, "Richard and Sabrina help tremendously in the programs we offer at Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center. Thank you both."

In Honor of Black History Month - The Story of "Ralph"

This is a contribution by historian and genealogist Steve Bailey: In Honor of Black History Month - The Story of "Ralph." Ralph's name was also spelled Ralf and, occasionally, Rafe. (Rafe is less well known than that of the other two.) Born a slave in the 1770's, Ralph belonged to Reverend John Culpepper (1764-1841), minister to the Baptist congregation at Rocky River in the Burnsville Community of Anson County. In 1806 Culpepper was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the first of six terms, the last concluding in 1829.

When he rode off for the District, Culpepper left the church in the hands of his faithful servant, who performed all duties as a supply pastor - among them sermons, weddings, funerals, and the like. Baptist minutes in 1809 list him as "Elder Ralf," while beginning in 1811 his name appears as Ralf Freeman, indicating that he had been freed.

Freeman was popular with members of both races in his home church. He preached to Baptists in neighboring counties and across the Pee Dee region.

In the 1820's Elder Ralf rode on horseback to Tennessee to preach the funeral of his friend, Reverend Joseph McGee. The church congregation took up an offering of fifty dollars to give to Elder Ralf, and wished him a safe journey back to Anson County.

Elder Ralf passed away in the 1830's and was buried at Bethlehem Cemetery on Highway 52 North in Ansonville. A historical marker was erected in the 1960's at the entrance to the cemetery in order to honor and remember Elder Ralf.

There have been no records that mentioned who his children might have been, but this researcher discovered in the newspapers of 1941 when Reverend W. M. Ratliff preached the homecoming message at West Deep Creep Baptist Church, that it was stated that Rev. Ratliff was a grandson of Reverend Joe Ratliff and great grandson of Elder Ralf Freeman. (Contact Steve for historical research or genealogy work at genealogy1959@yahoo.com)

Republican Convention is March 9

The Anson County Republican Convention will be held on March 9 at the Hampton B. Allen Library at 11 a.m. All Republicans are invited to attend.

Elementary Schools Have Early Dismissal March 7 for Parent/Teacher Conferences

On Thursday, March 7, the elementary schools will dismiss early for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Dismissal and conference times are listed here:

- All Elementary Schools will release at 12:30 p.m.
- Conferences are from 1 to 6 p.m.

Early dismissal is for elementary schools only, all other schools will operate on normal schedules.

Parks and Rec Spring Registration

Registration for Anson County Parks and Recreation Spring Sports starts Tuesday, March 1 and runs through Thursday March 31. Registration will be held at Micro Soccer (3 & 4 years old), Youth Soccer (K-12th grade), Tee Ball (4-6 years old) and Coach Pitch (7 - 10 yrs old).

Cost \$25 for each program. You may come to Little Park to register Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Also, registration will be held at schools on the dates below:

- Monday, March 21, 3 to 5 p.m. at Wadesboro Elementary School Gym & Wadesboro Primary School
- Tuesday, March 22, 3 to 5 p.m. at Peachland and Ansonville Elementary Schools
- Wednesday, March 23, 3 to 5 p.m. at Lilesville Elementary School Baseball Field and Morven Elementary School

For questions call 704-694-5868.

Diabetic Support Group Meets

The Diabetic Support group will hold a meeting on Thursday, February 28, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro. Speaker Dr. Lorraine Cash of Supreme Dental will present the topic, Dental Health to Prevent Complications with Diabetes.

For more information call 704-694-3979.

Anson County Veterans Hold Meeting

Anson County veterans filled the Ingram Room at the Lockhart-Taylor Building on February 19. Nearly ninety veterans, spouses, widows and interested persons joined together to enjoy a delicious dinner and time of sharing and fellowship.

Opening remarks were led by Sherman Cash, followed by a dinner blessing by Rick Cassidy. The home cooked meal of vegetable soup, broccoli soup, cornbread, grilled cheese sandwiches and amazing desserts were provided by Brenda Parker, Sara Lear, Lisa Steele, Bruce Roberts, Joyce McIntyre, Betty Rogers and Lib Liles.

Following the meal, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pat Frost. Sherman Cash then introduced the officers and chairmen for the 2013 year: Al Dean, Vice-President; Anne James, Secretary; Ann McCormick, Treasurer; Honor Guard Chairman, Ed Parker; Constitution & By-Laws Chairman, Dana Maness; Chaplain, Russell Scarborough; and Ways and Means Chairman, Jimmy Hooks. The President position is still vacant but pending.



The results of the January questionnaire were revealed, and the priority project for the Veteran's Council was to establish an Anson County Honor Guard. All veterans interested in participating in the Honor Guard were directed to enlist at the registration table. Ted Ward, Veteran's Service Officer, shared with the veterans to encourage others to join and become a part of this organization.

The next meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19 at the National Guard Armory building. A meal will be served at 6, followed by the meeting. For additional information please call 704-694-3179 or mail to Anson County Veteran's Council, PO Box 797, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

The Anson County Veterans Council has been created to bring a greater public awareness to the veterans' service to the community, and to instill in others a sense of appreciation for the hometown heroes among us. Each month there will be programs to enhance the lifestyle of our veterans. Memorial Day and Veterans Day will be specifically recognized for our veterans. A "Veteran of the Year" will be selected and awarded each year.

Democratic Party Meeting March 7

There will be a Democratic Party meeting on March 7 for precinct organization. The meeting will take place at the Hampton B. Allen Library at 6 p.m.

Undercover Wildlife Operation Cracks Down on Poaching in North Carolina, Georgia

State and federal wildlife officials announced today an undercover operation involving more than 80 wildlife violators and as many as 900 wildlife violations detected. Primary violations stem from illegal bear hunting but include an array of wildlife and game law charges. The investigation continues and more charges are possible. The four-year investigation targeted poachers in North Carolina and Georgia, with some work in adjacent states.

Officers with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission infiltrated poaching circles to document violations including bear baiting, illegal take of bears, deer and other wildlife, illegal use of dogs, operation of illegal bear enclosures in North Carolina, and guiding hunts on national forest lands without the required permits.

Officers began making arrests Tuesday. Operation Something Bruin partners also include the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.

"Operation Something Bruin documented hundreds of wildlife violations," said Col. Dale Caveny, law enforcement chief for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "These arrests bring an immediate halt to those crimes and, we hope, will make would-be violators think twice before breaking the law."

Simultaneous press conferences were held this morning in Asheville, N.C., and Gainesville, Ga., to announce the results of the four-year undercover operation.

"Wildlife is a shared public resource and conservation is a shared responsibility" said Gordon Myers, executive director of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "North Carolinians can assist wildlife enforcement officers in their duties by reporting possible violations. We all have a vested interest in safeguarding wildlife from poaching. By targeting wildlife thieves, Operation Something Bruin helps protect our outdoor heritage and conserves wildlife for future generations."

Learn more at www.operationssomethingbruin.org.

Report Poaching: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that fewer than 10 percent of all wildlife crimes are reported. Help change that trend and protect the wildlife we all enjoy. When you see or hear of a possible violation in North Carolina call 1-800-662-7137.

Special Board of Education Meeting Called

The Anson County Board of Education will have a called meeting on Monday, March 4 at 5 p.m. in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss personnel.

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