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

Board of Education Approves Two Resolutions About School Funding

During the Monday, March 26 meeting of the Anson County Board of Education two important resolutions were adopted. One resolution is in support of a North Carolina School Building Bond Act known as House Bill 866 / Senate Bill 542. If approved in North Carolina, this legislation will generate in excess of \$6 million to support much needed school construction in Anson County.

The second resolution is a local resolution in support of school construction and the passing of Designated Legislation for State School Construction Funding in Anson County. Based on this resolution, funds could be secured from local, state or federal avenues. Realizing that the Anson County Board of Commissioners have the authority and duty of providing school facilities in Anson County; the Anson County Board of Education, along with Superintendent Michael Freeman and his team, have expressed a professional desire to work collaboratively with the Commissioners to reserve property and identify funding for a new Anson Middle School and a major renovation at Anson High School.

Superintendent Freeman said, "My board and I are looking forward to working as one team with the Anson County Board of Commissioners and all community stakeholders as we explore options to provide funds designated for school construction. Students attending school in Anson County deserve modern school facilities designed to support learning and to intentionally ensure safety at each school."

"Additional information will be continuously shared with stakeholders as this exciting journey begins on behalf of Anson County children," Freeman concluded.

The resolutions are printed in their entirety on page 3.



Anson Schools Pay Tribute to Parkland, Florida Victims on March 14

On Wednesday, March 14 all of the schools in Anson County paid tribute to the students and staff who died on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Over the next two editions of The Express we will feature pictures and descriptions of activities at each school:

Anson Academy (pictured above) The students at Anson Academy participated in a solemn memorial for the 17 students and staff killed in Parkland. Students read short biographies of those killed and observed seventeen minutes of silence. The ceremony included a discussion of bullying and social-emotional disorders, and how to get help if needed. Each student was given a card with contact numbers for key support resources. As a closing to the memorial, students released 17 white balloons to honor those killed.

Anson County Early College (pictured at right) Students and staff at Anson Early College participated in the National Walk Out Day to bring awareness to the recent events in Parkland. Instead of putting the attention on gun violence, activities focused more on empathy and preventing bullying. Teachers began the event with anti-bullying classroom discussions and activities. At 10 a.m. students and staff voluntarily participated in a 17 minute walk, by grade level, honoring the students who lost their lives on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.



Anson High School (pictured at right) Every Wednesday brings about a change in routine at Anson High School. Each week the adjusted schedule accounts for advisory, clubs, or early release professional development which allows students opportunities beyond their regular course routine. On March 14 at 10 a.m. a "National Walkout Day" was scheduled. As an option to participate in the National School Walkout, students had the opportunity to walk on the track for seventeen minutes in a show of solidarity to walk for safer schools and in memoriam for the seventeen lives lost in Florida. Nearly half the student body participated in the walk, reflecting a somber attitude and respectful disposition.



Morven Elementary School (pictured at right) All students K-5 participated at Morven Elementary School. We designated 17 minutes, which began with Mrs. McLendon speaking about the National Walkout on the intercom. "Glory" by John Legend then played and the students and staff began walking out of the back doors and circled around to the front and side entrances to come inside and go back to class. Ms. Leak then played the motivational speech "Enough is Enough" by Les Brown on the intercom while the students worked on various projects related to the WalkOut. Projects included using the topic "Enough is Enough" to draw pictures, write, or make posters for the remainder of the 17 minutes. Students worked tediously on their chosen letters, artwork, and posters. Some students expressed emotions during the WalkOut related to the fears and sadness of the occasion while working on their individual creations.



Wadesboro Elementary School (pictured at right) Wadesboro Elementary School fifth graders released seventeen balloons to honor victims of the Florida school shooting. Students wore white school uniform shirts to symbolize peace. Handwritten messages from the students were attached to each balloon. Three additional balloons were released to recognize the need to end violence. Students signed a pledge to make better choices in life. Students realize they have goals to reach and dreams to see come true.



Anson County Sheriff's Office Recognized By Special Olympics

On Wednesday, January 31 the North Carolina Torch Run for Special Olympics held their Annual Kick Off conference. During the conference the Anson County Sheriff's Office was presented with a plaque for their outstanding service and dedication for Special Olympics.

Sheriff Landric Reid stated, "This is the second year that our office has been involved with Special Olympics, and over those two years Anson County has raised over \$12,000 for Special Olympics. I would like to thank everyone who has participated, donated or helped with these efforts, and would like to encourage everyone to continue support Special Olympics."

The first event the Sheriff's Office sponsored for 2018 was the Polar Plunge which was held on Saturday, March 24. Pictured above from left are Lt. Brian Tice, Special Olympics Coordinator, Jennifer Tice, Assistant Coordinator and Sheriff Landric Reid.

Monroe Man Arrested for Breaking and Entering Crimes

On Friday, March 16 during the early morning hours, Anson County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to Meadowview Drive in Wadesboro in reference to a subject attempting to break into a residence that was occupied at the time. Deputies arrived on the scene and were provided a description and the direction of travel for the suspect. They located the suspect in a wooded area behind the victim's residence. The suspect was identified as Donnaven Jamar Covington of Monroe.

During an interview with Covington he admitted to deputies that he was involved with a second breaking and entering on Vintage Road in Lilesville that had not been reported.

Sheriff Landric Reid stated that he appreciates the hard work and response of his deputies and to the victim for providing such a detailed description and accurate location for the suspect.

Covington was charged with one count of attempted first degree burglary, one count of breaking and entering, one count of larceny and two counts of damage to property. He was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$25,000 secure bond with a court date of March 27 in Anson County District Court.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet April 3

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3.

The Commissioners meet on the first Tuesday of each month 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.

Board of Elections Special Meeting

The Anson County Board of Elections will hold a special meeting on Thursday, March 29 at 4 p.m. This meeting has been called for employee evaluations. After the meeting is called to order the board will meet in executive session for personnel matters.

The meeting will take place in the Boardroom at the Board of Elections office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For information call 704-994-3223.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday

Free USDA foods will be distributed this Saturday, March 31, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

Neighbors who have not registered since October 2017 must bring proof of income documentation.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for individual's eligibility. The food items will only be available to Ansonians. Individuals who have not registered or received food before from the BRLC Emergency food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. Those families who receive food stamp assistance will automatically qualify. Parents are asked not to bring children due to limited seating space. Neighbors are asked to please park in parking lot behind center.

The USDA prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political belief, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Not all prohibited bases will apply to all program and activities.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

BRLC Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center will host their Annual Easter Egg Hunt this Friday, March 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. The community is invited to come.

There will be food and gifts for all the children who attend. She She the bunny rabbit will be making pictures with the children for a small offering.

All children are asked to wear Easter bonnets if they have them.

For more information call 704-826-8737. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.