

The Anson County Partnership for Children offers Storytime in the Early Childhood Resource Center each Tuesday at 4 p.m. for children ages 3 to 8. For more information call 704-694-4036.

Governor Cooper Announces \$12 Million Grant to Fight Opioid Epidemic in NC

North Carolina will receive a \$12 million grant to continue its fight against the opioid epidemic, Governor Roy Cooper announced last Thursday. The funds will be used for prevention, access to treatment and improved linkages to care.

"The opioid crisis harms families, communities and our economy and we're tackling it head-on to save lives," said Governor Cooper. "This grant will help prevent overdose deaths and expand access to treatment, which provides a path to recovery."

This new award comes in addition to \$54 million already received from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). To date, the total funding has provided treatment for 12,000 North Carolinians suffering from opioids. The latest installment of the grant will continue treatment for people already receiving it and expand care to new people. The funding will also help bolster prevention strategies across the state and build mechanisms to connect individuals to care.

An estimated 450,000 North Carolinians – 1 out of every 20 – are living with an opioid use disorder. Over the past 20 years, more than 12,000 North Carolinians have died from an opioid overdose. In 2018 alone, there were 6,769 emergency visits due to opioid overdoses. Approximately half of people who are hospitalized with an opioid overdose do not have health insurance.

Opioid use disorder is a chronic disease, which requires significant specialized interventions. Like diabetes, heart disease, and some cancers, opioid use disorder requires long-term treatment, which can be quite costly. Stigma, access to treatment providers, and an inability to pay for treatment keep individuals from obtaining the care they need to live, rejoin the workforce, and support their families and communities.

Expanding Medicaid in North Carolina would help fight the opioid epidemic by enabling more North Carolinians suffering from substance use disorders to get treatment. Medicaid covers a wide range of life-saving treatments for individuals with opioid use disorder, including inpatient and outpatient treatment, rehabilitation and medication assisted treatment (MAT). Those with access to affordable health care through Medicaid are twice as likely as the uninsured to receive treatment.

"One of the most powerful tools for addressing the opioid epidemic is providing access to health care through affordable insurance coverage," said N.C. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "We've seen the impact firsthand in states that have expanded access to health insurance. After Ohio closed its insurance coverage gap, 75% of uninsured enrollees with opioid use disorder experienced improved access to care. And Dayton, Ohio – ground zero of the opioid epidemic – saw a 54 percent decrease in opioid deaths. We need every tool in our arsenal to fight this epidemic."

Turning the tide of the opioid crisis is one of Governor Cooper's primary goals. North Carolina's Opioid Action Plan lays out key strategies to achieve this goal, such as reducing the oversupply of prescription opioids and increasing treatment and community awareness. DHHS is currently planning a second Opioid Prevention Summit in June 2019, to engage stakeholders to continue the effort. Learn more and register at www.opioidpreventionsummit.org.

As part of Governor Cooper's focus on eliminating the opioid epidemic, his administration has continually sought out grants for treatments and prevention efforts and issued Executive Order No. 48: Prevention and Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder to pave the way for more federal funding for these efforts.

People who need help with treatment or recovery can get help by contacting their Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO).

To find out which LME/MCO serves your county, visit ncdhhs.gov.

Happenings at the Marshville Museum

The Marshville Museum invites all to come and enjoy the various activities and displays.

- Art Wall during the month of April features the work of East Union Middle School students of art teacher Courtney Zepeda-Hawkes.

- Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 12 noon - Looking Back on Grandmother's Garden Plant Exchange. Bring a plant and swap it for a plant in Grandmother's Garden. No exchanges will be made until 10 a.m. There will be door prizes and refreshments!

- Sunday, April 28, 2 to 4 p.m. - Union County author Carolyn Digh Griffin, a native North Carolinian who resides in Waxhaw, will be at the museum to discuss her books. All of Carolyn's books are southern Christian fiction that includes mystery, sometimes terror, and human relationships with a touch of romance. Her stories always reflect the lives of ordinary people and their life situations.

The Museum is open on Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday, from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Donations are accepted.

SHP Concludes Operation Drive To Live

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol has concluded a week-long campaign held annually each year to combat fatal collisions involving teen drivers. During the week of April 8 through April 12, troopers participated in Operation Drive to Live, placing emphasis on education and enforcement across the state.

Troopers were out in full force monitoring driver behavior in and around school zones while offering educational programs to local high schools. The operation is conducted in proximity to spring break and prom season, in hopes teen drivers will gain an understanding on the dangers associated with driving.

In 2018, the Highway Patrol investigated over 55,261 motor vehicle collisions involving drivers and passengers who were between the ages of 15 – 19. Of those collisions, 10,287 injuries were reported and 94 resulted in one or more fatalities.

This year, SHP performed 179 traffic safety presentations and patrolled 540 school zones throughout the week. The following statistics also reflect the efforts of SHP during the campaign: Speeding - 3,973; License Violations - 1,248; Seatbelt Violations - 1,180; Child Seatbelt Violations - 127; DWI Under 21 - 34; and Warning - 1,535.

While the operation has concluded, the efforts of reducing teenage driver collisions will continue throughout the year.

Ladies Out at Grace Senior Center

Ladies Out is held every Monday at 1 p.m. at Grace Senior Center. For info and to register, call 704-694-6616.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

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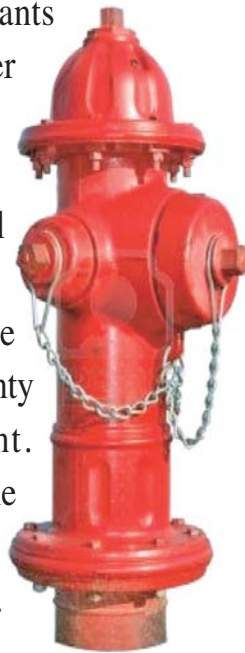
Unauthorized Hydrant Use

The use of Anson County Water Department fire hydrants for obtaining water for agricultural or any other purpose without written consent of the Water Department is a violation of state and federal law. Hydrants are for use by written-permitted users, water company or fire department personnel only.

The Anson County Water Department will take legal action against any individual or business that unlawfully obtains water from the Anson County water system. Please report suspicious activity to the Anson County Sheriff's Office or the Water Department.

Hydrant use permit information is available from the Anson County Water Department.

Information is available at 704-694-5208.



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