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

Community Health Assessment

The Anson County Health Department, in cooperation with Anson Community Hospital, is conducting a Community Health Assessment of the entire county. The Health Assessment is conducted every four years to qualify the Health Department and the county for state funding and support. The CHA is the foundation for improving and promoting the health of our community. The role of this assessment is to identify factors that affect the health of our population and to determine the availability of resources within our county to adequately address these factors.

The Health Department has contracted with the consulting firm Leverage & Development, LLC to do most of the research. Don Altieri, Lois Crumpler and Janet Christy, representatives of Leverage & Development, LLC, will be contacting health care providers and organizations related to health and wellness to gather the necessary data. Anson County Health Department and Anson Community Hospital ask that individuals cooperate with the consulting firm's requests for information needed to complete the Assessment.

As part of the Assessment, the Health Department is conducting an opinion survey in which our citizens provide their input. Health Department employees will be at various venues in Anson County with these surveys asking for our citizens' input. If you would like to fill out one of the surveys, please contact the Health Department at 704-994-3320 or visit Anson County Health Department, 110 Ashe Street, Wadesboro. The opinions of Anson County residents are vital to the success of the Community Health Assessment.

Boating Safety Campaign Resumes

The "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" safety campaign is back. After a successful inaugural effort in 2011, the multi-agency campaign will resume this summer. A news conference will be held 11 a.m., May 22, at Upper Barton Creek Boating Access Area on Falls Lake, near Raleigh, to kick off the campaign.

North Carolina sets the same limits for vessels and vehicles: Any driver with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08 or is appreciably impaired by alcohol and/or drugs is subject to arrest.

But perhaps more than anything, the safety campaign is about education. "We can't arrest our way out of the problem of impaired driving. This is a high visibility campaign, being very much about awareness and personal responsibility," said Lt. Todd Radabaugh with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "We want drivers to understand and accept the responsibility of safety - on the road and on the water - for themselves and others."

The "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign combines law enforcement resources to ensure that everyone can travel safely on highways and waterways during summer. Officers will conduct sobriety checkpoints and special saturation patrols during busy holiday periods, combined with special messaging strategies to increase awareness of the dangerous consequences of impaired driving. Leading the campaign are the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, responsible for enforcing boating regulations, and the State Highway Patrol, providing for highway safety.

Joining the safety campaign are the Alcohol Law Enforcement division, local police and sheriff's departments and Forensic Tests for Alcohol branch, which is providing six mobile breath-alcohol testing units. Each mobile unit is equipped with alcohol screening devices, computers and communication work stations, as well as a magistrate office and other necessary equipment and supplies for processing impaired suspects.

The state chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving is promoting and supporting the safety campaign through additional outreach and education.

There are more than 200 sworn, full-time wildlife officers across the state who patrol 5,000 square miles of inland streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waterways and instruct certified boating safety education courses. The public can assist them by reporting boating violations to 1-800-662-7137.

Ebenezer Church Honors Janice Ratliff



Ebenezer Presbyterian Church's pastor, members and kitchen committee recently honored Mrs. Janice Ratliff with a surprise luncheon. They recognized Mrs. Ratliff's dedicated service in the church. Mrs. Pamela Henry give the purpose of the occasion by citing the numerous contributions Mrs. Ratliff makes in the church. Elder Billy Grier, the church pastor, gave remarks on her untiring efforts, loyalty and support she gives for the betterment of the church. Mrs. Mary Jones presented the honoree with a beautiful basket of cosmetics. Mrs. Ratliff thanked everyone for the lovely occasion and the encouragement given to her daily.

Mrs. Ratliff and the attendees enjoyed a delicious menu of baked chicken, creamy-styled chicken, corn, cabbage, rice and gravy, macaroni and cheese, hot rolls, tea and banana pudding.

4-H Livestock Club is Returning to Anson County

This county has a great agricultural emphasis, but nothing for the youth to be involved in. On May 10th, at 6:30 p.m. there will be an informational meeting for those interested in the beginnings of a 4-H livestock club. Youth do not have to own animals to be involved with the club, though they must have an interest in learning about livestock. This will be for youth ages 4-19.

We will discuss the opportunities and activities youth will do throughout the year including various projects, presentations, and farm visits. There will also be discussion about those who do wish to show animals at the 2012 Anson County Ag Expo & Fair in September. This meeting will take place at the Anson County Extension Center, 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. To register or for questions please contact Jessica Anderson, Agriculture Agent at 704-694-2415 or Jessica_a_anderson@ncsu.edu. By Jessica Anderson, Agriculture Agent

Live Music at 50+ Club Meeting May 14

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club will meet on Monday, May 14 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Ted Latham, Allen Billingsley, David Napier, Leon Smith, Marcus Miller and Billy Oliver will be presenting a program of country and beach music. Everyone is invited to please join them for this event.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

10th Anson County Sheriff's Citizens Law Enforcement Academy Graduates



On Thursday, April 19th, twenty-eight people graduated from the 10th Anson County Sheriff's Citizens Law Enforcement Academy. This Academy was sponsored and put together by the Sheriff's Office for participants who applied from all over Anson County. The purpose of the Academy was to expose participants to the many different aspects of law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

This Academy began on March 1st, and met each Thursday night from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants heard presentations from the Sheriff, the District Attorney's Office, Magistrate's Office, Sheriff's Detectives, ALE, FBI, US Secret Service, Federal Wildlife, state Forest Rangers and others from the law enforcement community. They saw a K-9 demonstration, a demonstration of the Sheriff's SWAT team, a TASAR demonstration, toured the 911 Operations Center, the Sheriff's Office, Magistrate's Office, Detective's Office and the County Jail. They saw a display of illegal drugs, watched videos of undercover drug buys, participated in a mock crime scene, saw Sheriff's Office vehicles and firearms and equipment and actually fired weapons on the Sheriff's Office's firing range. They also participated in the Sheriff's "Ride-A-Long" Program.

Graduates from the Academy were: JaQuan Bullock, Debbie Canfield, Logan Clark, Janet Clark, Sidney Clark, Jane Curtis, Myra Dagleish, Gail Dove, Mario El Kobersy, Shelby Emrich, Melissa Estridge, Jade Freeman, Diane Goodwin, Tim Jenkins, Cindy Jenkins, Jasmine Knotts, Barbara Lowe, Brenda Marshall, Crystal Meggs, Rosetta Morton, David Poplin, John Davis, Jr., Deborah Thompson, Lakeisha Tillman, Janet White, Mark White, Jonathan Williams and Heidi Wolf.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said this was a really good Academy class. "These participants were really great. We had very good attendance and good class participation, and at the end of the program the most common comment was 'don't change a thing' and 'make it longer.' I think the fact that they did not want it to end speaks highly of the program. We have now graduated over 240 students from our ten academies," Sheriff Allen said. "I also want to thank two of our local banks, BB&T and Anson Bank & Trust for their support of this academy."

The next Sheriff's Citizens Law Enforcement Academy will be scheduled in the early spring of next year. Notices for applications will be made through the local papers and on the Sheriff's Office website at www.ansonsheriff.com.

International Comedy Entertainer David Kaplan Comes to Ansonia Theatre.

Anson County has NEVER seen anything like this! (And neither has Charlotte.) Coming to the Ansonia Theatre at 7 p.m. this Thursday, May 10, The Great Kaplan provides the perfect family outing with his blend of magic, deadpan physical comedy, and even juggling. There's just one problem: you'll be laughing so hard that you may miss something!

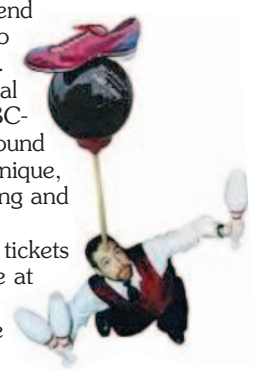
Whether he's juggling beanbag chairs, playing a melody on "concert balloon" or defying the laws of physics with a bowling ball, David Kaplan's preposterous blend of dazzling skill and shameless gimmickry will amaze, but be sure to bring a handkerchief to wipe the tears of laughter from your cheeks.

Winner of the 2006 People's Choice Award at the International Brotherhood of Magicians convention, Kaplan has performed on ABC-TV's The View and Le Plus Cabaret du Monde in Paris, in theatres around the world, and as headliner on multiple international cruises. His unique, hilarious one-man variety show appeals to all ages. Spectators young and old visit a wonderfully strange world they will not soon forget.

Tickets are \$7 for all ages and are general seating. Purchase your tickets at the Arts Council, Lacy's, the Chamber of Commerce, and online at www.ansoniatheatre.com. The show begins at 7 p.m. and the doors open at 6:30. (Not earlier, because of a lot of stage prep.) The show will last approximately 90 minutes, including an intermission.

A shorter show will be presented earlier in the day (at 4:30, by special invitation). Call the Arts Council (704-694-4950) if you can only come at that time.

David Kaplan's performance is made possible through the support of the Anson County Arts Council. For more information call the Arts Council.



Yard Sale of the Carolinas is Sat.

The Yard Sale of the Carolinas is returning to Chesterfield this Saturday, May 12, from 7 to 10 a.m. in the 200 block of West Main Street in front of the Chesterfield County Courthouse. Yard sales will also be held at various locations throughout the community. This year's event is co-sponsored by Team Chesterfield and Hospice of Chesterfield County's Sunshine Shoppe thrift and gift store.

For more information call the Hospice office at (843) 623-9155.

Seniors Picnic at Little Park

Grace Senior Center is sponsoring a picnic for seniors at Little Park. This fun event is open to all seniors. It will take place on Friday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register or for more information.

Grace Senior Center Annual Senior Health Fair

Grace Senior Center invites all seniors to come out and learn all about local resources that are available in Anson County and surrounding counties during their annual Senior Health Fair. This event will be held on Tuesday, May 22, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

In recognition of Older Americans Month 2012, and with the theme "Never Too Old to Play," this event promises to be informative and fun. All seniors 55 years and older are urged to come to this free event for:

- Free lunch
- Cholesterol testing
- Blood sugar testing
- Blood pressure screening
- Lots more!

Transportation will be provided to those who need it. Exhibitors may attend for free. They may start their set up at 9:30 a.m.

For more information for attendees and exhibitors, and to register, please call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

Take a Kid Fishing During National Fishing and Boating Week 2012

Take a kid fishing and help instill a lifelong love of the sport at one of more than 40 free kids' fishing events held in celebration of National Fishing and Boating Week 2012. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, in cooperation with Neuse Sport Shop, Trout Unlimited, Bass Pro Shops and the U.S. Forest Service, is supporting these fishing events, which are scheduled from late May through early June throughout the state.

Young anglers registered at any fishing event are eligible to enter a statewide drawing for prizes. The grand prize is a lifetime sportsman license, which includes freshwater and saltwater fishing privileges, as well as hunting privileges, donated by Neuse Sport Shop, located in Kinston. The first prize is a lifetime freshwater fishing license, donated by the N.C. State Council of Trout Unlimited. Bass Pro Shops is donating 50 fishing-related prizes, such as tackle boxes, rod-and-reel combos and fishing line, while the Wildlife Commission is donating another 100 prizes — any of which would be a perfect addition to a young angler's tackle box.

Local sponsors for many events will provide prizes and gifts to registered participants as well. The Wildlife Commission will conduct the drawing for prizes at the end of June and will publish a list of winners on its website, www.ncwildlife.org, in early July.

To give kids a better chance of catching fish, the Wildlife Commission will stock fish at many of these sites before the events - from trout in the mountains to channel catfish and bluegill in Piedmont and coastal public waters.

More than 2,500 children are expected to participate in this year's events, many of whom will be first-time anglers.

"These fishing events are great opportunities for new anglers to learn more about fishing because there will be volunteers on hand to teach them the basics and help them reel in fish," said Bob Curry, chief of the Wildlife Commission's Division of Inland Fisheries. "The more positive their initial fishing trip is, the more likely they will make fishing a lifelong hobby, which is one of the goals of National Fishing and Boating Week."

For more information about National Fishing and Boating Week, visit the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's website, www.takemefishing.org. For more information on fishing in public, inland waters, visit www.ncwildlife.org/fishing.

Individual Income Debt Payment Program Extended until May 31

Due to continued high levels of interest in the Individual Income Tax Debt Payment Program, the North Carolina Department of Revenue is extending the time to participate in the program to May 31. This time limited program originally ended April 30, and was created to help individuals catch up on unpaid taxes, while benefiting from certain penalty and fee waivers.

In exchange for a taxpayer paying the balance of tax and interest owed by May 31, NCDOR will waive certain unpaid, civil penalties and fees, which could save individuals as much as 35 to 40 percent. Participating taxpayers can also avoid forced collections actions such as garnishments, liens, and levies.

There are currently more than 29,000 taxpayers participating in the program. Under the terms of their agreements with the department, they are saving more than \$18 million in penalty and fee waivers.

"We have seen such high interest in this program and believe this extension will benefit many more North Carolinians who are facing tough financial hardships, said Secretary of Revenue David Hoyle. "We want to make it easy for our citizens to work with state government and move everyone forward in this economic recovery."

Any taxpayer who has properly filed their tax returns with NCDOR and has received a notice for unpaid taxes prior to January 1, 2012, may participate. A taxpayer who has not filed a return, does not currently have an outstanding tax liability or is the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution is not eligible.

Members of the State Employees' Credit Union may also qualify for a low-interest loan program to pay their unresolved tax balances.

Anyone interested in participating should contact the NCDOR service center nearest them or call 1-877-252-4983.

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