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Highway Patrol Encouraging Motorists to Slow Down During the Memorial Day Weekend

Driving while impaired checkpoints spread throughout the state this weekend

The State Highway Patrol is reminding motorists to be careful as they enjoy the Memorial Day weekend. The holiday officially kicks off the summer vacation season in North Carolina. Last year the Highway Patrol investigated 263 fatal collisions and over 9,047 injury collisions during the summer months.

The Memorial Day holiday, which is set aside to honor deceased men and women from the Armed Forces, is expected to be a busy one. The holiday weekend officially begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 27, and ends at midnight, Monday, May 30. Last year the Highway Patrol investigated 7 fatal collisions and over 342 injury related collisions during the Memorial Day weekend.

North Carolina is an ideal travel destination, ranking in the top 10 most visited states for domestic travel. Nothing compares to what North Carolina has to offer – natural scenic beauty, rich history and culture, vibrant cities, quaint small towns and its central East Coast location. This means that more people will be on our highways, increasing the chance of traffic crashes. Troopers will increase patrols on all interstates and major four-lane highways during the holiday weekend with the hopes of saving lives.

"As Memorial Day approaches traffic will increase throughout North Carolina. We want to make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend," said Colonel Bill Grey, Highway Patrol Commander. "Please fasten your seatbelts, obey the speed limit and don't drink and drive. The choices you make can be difference between life and death."

Troopers will also be joining other law enforcement agencies by participating in the annual "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink & Drive" and the Governor's Highway Safety Program's "Click-It or Ticket" campaigns. This campaign is an aggressive enforcement and public outreach initiative that will consist of numerous driving while impaired checkpoints near boating recreational venues with the simple goal of preventing injuries and loss of life due to drinking and driving. "Click-It or Ticket" is designed to prevent crashes and ensure voluntary seatbelt use. Statistics show that seat belts reduce serious crash-related injuries and deaths by about half.

Citizens may report crashes, impaired drivers, stranded motorists or other highway situations to the Highway Patrol by dialing *HP (*47) on their cellular telephones. This is a toll free call that connects the caller to the nearest Highway Patrol communications center.

Men for Change 2016

This is a release from the Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center. The Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center is asking the men of Anson County to take a pledge this Father's Day to create a community free from violence for women and children.

We began the fundraiser on May 18 and will continue through June 17, asking men to take this pledge:

"I pledge to seek equality and respect in all my relationships with women. I commit to lead by example, to be a role model to other men and a mentor to our younger generations to create a community and future, free from violence for our women and children."

An insert will be in The Express Newspaper the week after Father's Day in June listing the name of each contributor. Individual pledges are \$5. To pledge In Honor or In Memory of someone will cost \$10. Any business that would like to pledge will be asked to donate at least \$25.

We need YOUR help so that every man in our county has the chance to participate. There will be a special prize awarded to the person raising the most money!!

The proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assaults within Anson County. ACDVC is a nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Tax letters will be mailed after June 27.

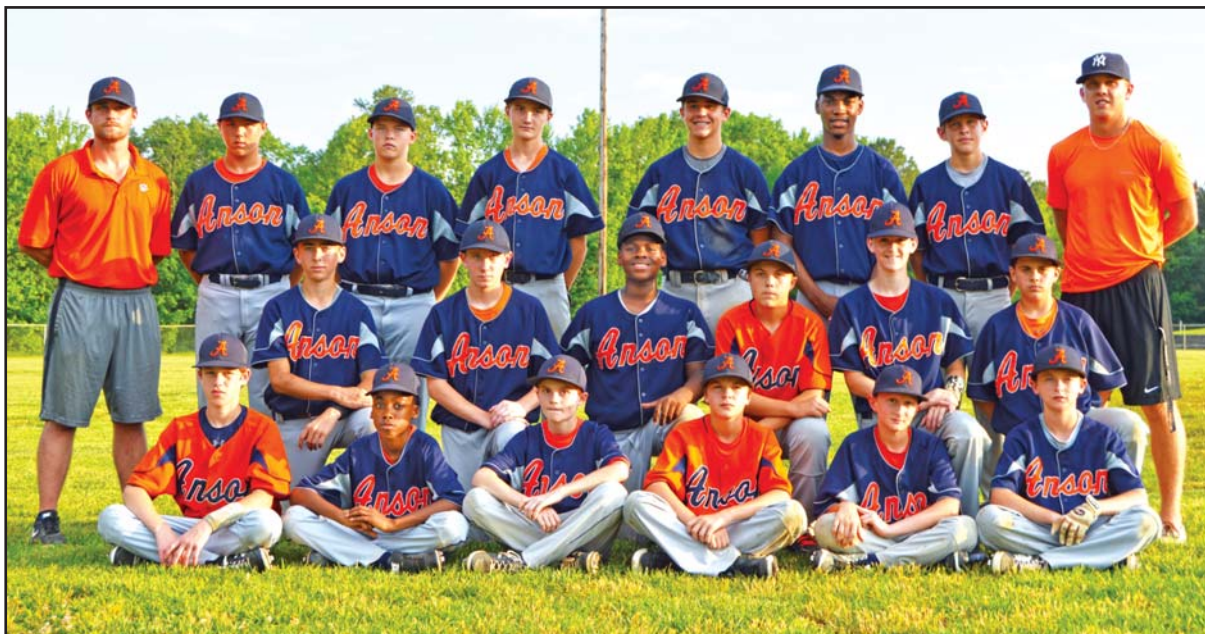
If you would like to be participate in selling pledges, please contact Gail Dove at 704-694-4499 for details. If you want to make a donation to Men for Change 2013, our mailing address is ACDVC, PO Box 694, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

ACDVC would like to say a special thank you to Allen Lyon from The Express Newspaper, Pizza Hut, Med Northcutt and Paul Dove for their generous support and contributions to this fundraiser!

Hyla Campbell, Hailey Brock and Marci Sessions Awarded Scholarships from Farm Bureau

Anson County Farm Bureau awarded three \$1,000 Scholarships to upcoming graduates recently. Pictured below, Ronnie Mills (President) is presenting a check for \$1,000 to Hyla Campbell of Wadesboro.

Other recipients were Hailey Brock and Marci Sessions. Anson County Farm Bureau wishes them the best in the future!



Anson Middle School Baseball Team are Conference Champs!

The Anson Middle School Baseball team went undefeated during their season. They went on to win both the Southeastern Conference Regular Season and Tournament Championships. Congratulations to the players and coaches. The team is pictured here, from left, front row: Drew Thomas, Ranes Little, Grant Thuleen, Carson Williams, Ethan Curie and Trace Ricketts. Middle row: Garrett Maner, Jake Thomas, Ranek Little, Brice Wilson, Garrett Sikes and Cameron Lockhart. Back row: Head Coach Brian Ratliff, Gavin Smith, Austin Burns, Sam Ingram, Wesley Lear, Marlon Liles, Aj Harrington and Coach Grant Harward.



Chris Sanford of Wadesboro IGA Presented With Boy Scout Leadership Award

On Thursday, April 21 the annual leader recognition banquet was held for the Central North Carolina Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Chris Sanford, known to many in the Wadesboro area as the co-owner of the IGA in Wadesboro, was presented the prestigious Silver Beaver Award.

The Silver Beaver Award was introduced in 1931 and is a council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered Scouters who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council.

Chris currently serves as Pee Dee District's Chairman and has served in this role since 2010. He also served as District Chair for Anson County throughout the 1990's. Beyond his duties as a District Chair, Chris gladly works and supports school recruiting functions, day camp planning and finance, as well as district banquet preparation and implementation. Chris also serves on the Council Board and offers guidance that the Central NC Council uses to benefit the youth in Anson, Richmond, Montgomery, Stanly, Union, Rowan and Cabarrus counties.

Congratulations to Chris Sanford, who is truly devoted to supporting the youth in Anson County, Pee Dee District and the Central NC Council.

Boy Scouting needs more adult volunteers in Anson and Richmond counties like Chris. If you are a former Boy Scout or Scouter, please consider sharing some time and talent with today's scouts as a unit leader, merit badge counselor, camp volunteer or district committee member. For more information please contact Chris Ratliff at 919-441-7143 or at christopher.ratliff@scouting.org.

Pictured here are Chris Sanford, center, supported at the banquet by Anson County leaders, from left, Chris Ratliff, Laura Laney, Perry Johnson, Chris Sanford, John Ratliff, Richard Tamura and Sharon Johnson.

Changes Announced for Anson County Prisons

The Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice this week notified staff at Brown Creek Correctional Institution of plans to convert the medium-custody prison facility to house approximately 350 minimum-custody inmates and operate it as a part of neighboring Lanesboro Correctional Institution. After the changes are complete in approximately three months, the prison facilities in Anson County will all operate under the Lanesboro Correctional Institution name, housing approximately 1,000 inmates in close custody, 500 in medium custody and 350 in minimum-custody.

The total number of state prison inmates housed in Anson County will drop from about 2,300 to about 1,850 supervised by about 630 employees, down from about 880. This smaller number of prison employees in the county is more closely aligned with the available local workforce. Some Brown Creek employees will remain to operate the new minimum-security facility. Others will transfer or be eligible to compete for promotion into positions at Lanesboro's medium or close custody operations or to state prisons in surrounding counties. No employees will be laid off. This week Brown Creek employees are completing surveys on their employment preferences.

The state prison system is currently re-missioning its facilities across the state in order to better provide for the treatment and rehabilitative needs of the inmate population and to align missions with prison facilities and local communities best suited to support those missions. Some staff positions no longer required in Anson County will be shifted to other prisons as part of the re-missioning process.

The minimum-custody unit at Lanesboro Correctional Institution will focus on housing long-term minimum-custody inmates. The separate portion of Brown Creek CI formerly known as Anson Correctional Center will be repurposed in the future.



Correction Enterprises will continue to operate its Metal Products plant onsite, providing jobs for 40-60 inmates and producing metal goods like stainless steel kitchen equipment, park benches, picnic tables and custom metal products. The minimum-security unit will also continue to operate a work release program, placing eligible inmates with local employers.

Senior Picnic to be Held at Little Park on May 31

Grace Senior Center's Annual Senior Citizen Picnic will be held on Tuesday, May 31, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Little Park in Wadesboro.

Seniors interested should call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register or for additional information. The registration deadline is May 27.

School Retirees Luncheon to be Held on June 6

The North Carolina Retired School Personnel-Anson County (NCRSP) would like to cordially invite all 2015-16 retirees to a luncheon honoring and showing appreciation for your years of service and dedication to Anson County Students. The event will be held on Monday, June 6 at 11 a.m. at Welike Fish House, located on Pitt Road in Lilesville.

For more information and regrets only, please call Edna Luther at 704-694-4638 or Marlene Richardson at 704-694-2337 by June 2.

Free Groceries with Mobile Food Pantry June 1

The Mobile Food Pantry and CMC Mobile Health Unit will be at Morven United Methodist Church in Morven (312 East Main Street) on Wednesday, June 1 at 11 a.m.

Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. Arrive between 9 - 10:30 a.m. If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled at 704-694-2445. If you have not yet done so, bring proof of your income to register. You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

This event is sponsored by Anson Crisis Ministry and local United Methodist and Baptist Churches.

Interested in volunteering? Call Rev. Larry King, Morven UMC (704) 851-9940 or Rev. Cindy Lunsford (828) 891-2753.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com