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

Board of Education Regular Meeting is August 27

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular meeting on Monday, August 27 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. The meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the Closed Session. Open Session should begin at about 5:30 p.m.

Free Parenting Classes, Diapers, Ultrasounds & Pregnancy Tests at HOPE Pregnancy Resource Center

Learn about parenting in a small group setting. Free parenting classes are offered by HOPE Pregnancy Resource Center. They take place at the HOPE Office, located at 148 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro (at the corner of Morven Road). To schedule a class call 704-690-6689.

HOPE offers free pregnancy tests and limited ultrasounds in their office. You can all them for dates and times. It is always best to schedule the tests and ultrasounds, but they do try to accommodate walk-ins when possible.

Be sure to ask about HOPE's clothing ministry. They offer diapers, wipes and baby clothes up to 4t.

HOPE has a mobile unit with an ultrasound machine that travels in the community. You can call HOPE at 704-690-6689 to find out dates and locations. The website is www.hprc-anson.org.



McLeod Health Cheraw Announces Childbirth Preparation Classes

McLeod Health Cheraw is now offering childbirth preparation classes to expectant parents. Participants attend every Wednesday for 4 weeks to learn about the stages of labor, breathing and positioning techniques, common interventions, pain management options and more.

The class will be held in the hospital's Education Room (across from the Med-Surgical Nurse Desk). Class times will be from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., and is free of charge for expectant mothers who plan on delivering at McLeod Health Cheraw. The upcoming class dates in 2018, include: September 5, 12 19 & 26 and November 7, 14, 21 & 28.

McLeod Health Cheraw recommends that expectant parents begin taking classes early in the third trimester. If you are carrying multiples, or if your doctor has indicated you may be at risk for early labor or bedrest, you may want to take the classes earlier in your pregnancy.

To register for the childbirth preparation class and for more information about Labor & Delivery tours, please call (843) 320-5564.

About McLeod Health. McLeod Health currently operates seven hospitals, including McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, McLeod Health Cheraw, McLeod Health Clarendon, McLeod Darlington, McLeod Dillon, McLeod Loris and McLeod Seacoast (North Myrtle Beach). Additionally, construction of an outpatient medical complex is underway in Carolina Forest as an expansion of McLeod Seacoast. McLeod also operates Urgent Care Centers in Florence and Darlington, along with approximately 90 medical practices throughout the 15 county region McLeod Health services from the Midlands to the Coast.

McLeod Health Cheraw With a strong history in the Chesterfield community since 1958, McLeod Health Cheraw, formerly Chesterfield General Hospital, serves residents of Chesterfield, Marlboro and neighboring counties with excellence in patient care. As part of McLeod Health, patients receive access to specialized services, improved technology, an outstanding physician network and enhanced facilities. Services available at McLeod Health Cheraw include: cardiac care, diagnostic imaging, laboratory, rehabilitation, occupational health, surgery, orthopedics, hospice services and women's health. The 59-bed hospital also provides an Emergency Department, an Intensive Care Unit, a Medical Surgical Unit and a Sleep Disorder Center.

Improvements Underway to Reduce DMV Wait Times

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles is making a series of improvements at local license offices to improve service and reduce wait times for customers. Changes include:

- Deploying additional staff at busiest offices.
- DMV call center helping customers find nearby offices that have appointment availability.
- Staff talking with customers in line to ensure they have the correct paperwork and see if they can accomplish their business online rather than waiting in line.
- Establishing dedicated road test teams, so DMV examiners are not leaving their desks to do road tests.
- Creating express lines for customers who have quick transactions in offices that have available space.
- Working to hire more than 100 new license examiners at offices statewide. This includes filling 80 current vacancies and adding 34 additional temporary and permanent examiners.
- NCDOT volunteers are also handing out water to customers in line.

"Our top priorities are to issue accurate and timely documents in an efficient manner for all our customers," NCDMV Commissioner Torre Jessup said. "We will be taking many steps over the coming weeks and months to recruit, hire and train new staff and will continue to look for other ways to cut customers' wait times."

North Carolinians are facing longer wait times at DMV offices, particularly as more people seek REAL IDs, required by the federal government by October 2020 to fly commercially or visit federal facilities, including military bases.



It's Time Again for Friday Night Lights!

The Anson High Bearcats lost to the Monroe Redhawks in their season opening football game on Friday night. The final score, 49-22. The Anson home games will be played at Walter Bickett Stadium in Monroe (old Monroe HS stadium) due to the ongoing improvements being made to Bearcat Stadium. This Friday night Anson travels to Sun Valley High School. Game time is 7:30 p.m. Let's go Cats!

On a prettier note, the Anson Majorettes performed their season opening routine during halftime. They are pictured from left: Ashley Cameron (Captain), Savannah Houser (Feature Twirler), Mallory Sikes, Kaeley Whitlock (Co-Captain), Kayla Carpenter and Tiffany Dolente.

Cobb-Vantress and Valley Proteins Recognized for Safety Performance by National Safety Conference

Latest data on recordable illness and injury rate show 82% improvement from 1994

During the 2018 National Safety Conference for the Poultry Industry in Destin, Fla., 191 chicken and turkey facilities received safety awards by the Joint Industry Safety & Health Council. The companies were honored in recognition of their outstanding performance through the implementation of innovative and effective employee safety and health programs.

"Our industry has made great advancements over the past few decades to improve workplace safety. We received more applications this year for the safety awards program than ever before. It is great to see so many companies implementing new and innovative programs to promote safety in their facilities," said Joint Industry Safety & Health Council chair Mick Berning of Cargill.

The Joint Industry Safety & Health Council consists of members from the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, the National Chicken Council and the National Turkey Federation. Collectively, the three organizations represent companies that produce 95% of the nation's poultry products and directly employ more than 350,000 workers.

Based on the latest data available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the poultry slaughter and processing OSHA total recordable illness and injury rate for 2016 was 4.2 cases per 100 full-time workers. The 2016 rate represents an outstanding 82% improvement from 1994.

Award consideration was based on injury statistics over three years and an evaluation of written applications by academia and other safety experts. Fifty-eight facilities received the highest level of recognition, the Award of Distinction. The other categories are Award of Honor and Award of Merit. Cobb-Vantress Hatchery and Valley Proteins, both of Wadesboro, earned the Award of Distinction. Cobb-Vantress processing also earned the Award of Merit.

Free Deer Hunting and Processing Seminars Offered

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the N.C. Wildlife Federation will offer eight free deer hunting and processing seminars in Raleigh and Fayetteville in September and October.

The "Introduction to Deer Hunting" and the "Practical Deer Processing: From Field to Freezer" seminars are intended for individuals who have never hunted or are new to hunting, although hunters and their mentees are encouraged to attend.

Topics at the deer hunting seminars will include whitetail habits and habitats, scouting techniques, essential equipment, tree stand safety, effective shot placement, tracking techniques and field dressing. Topics at the deer processing seminar will include field dressing, taxidermy, skinning, safe meat handling and basic home processing.

Seminars will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Locations and dates are:

- N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (Auditorium), 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh Sept. 6 and Sept. 11 - Introduction to Deer Hunting
- Sept. 13 and Sept. 18 - Practical Deer Processing: From Field to Freezer
- John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center, 7489 Raeford Road, Fayetteville Sept. 20 and Sept. 25 - Introduction to Deer Hunting
- Sept. 26 and Oct. 2 - Practical Deer Processing: From Field to Freezer

Pre-registration is required and participants must register online at www.ncwildlife.org/sbs. For more information, contact Walter "Deet" James at 919-707-0059 or hunting.heritage@ncwildlife.org.

The Commission and the Federation are conducting these seminars as part of the Federation's "Farmers and Communities Manage Deer" program, which promotes effective deer management through hunting and the sustainable use of harvested wild game. More information about the program can be found on the Federation's website ncwf.org/programs/farmers-manage-deer.

For information about deer and deer hunting in North Carolina, visit www.ncwildlife.org/hunting.

Habitat for Humanity Urgent Home Repair Program

Union-Anson County Habitat for Humanity will be disbursing applications for their Urgent Home Repair program for Union and Anson Counties until September 28.

Union-Anson County Habitat for Humanity's Urgent Home Repair program is sponsored by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) with funds provided by the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund.

In order to qualify for the program, the eligible household must own their own home, fall within the specific income limits (specified by NCHFA) and be able to prove that they have one or more qualifying needs. The needs outlined by NCHFA are defined as:

- A person that is at least 62 years of age or older.
- A person that is handicapped or disabled.
- A single-parent with at least one (1) dependent child in the residence.
- A family with five (5) or more persons.
- A child below six (6) years of age with elevated levels of lead in their blood.
- A military veteran.

This program is not for cosmetic repairs such as painting or landscaping. Union-Anson County Habitat for Humanity is only authorized to repair issues that would be considered harmful, deadly, or an issue that would make a homeowner move out of their home.

If you meet the specific qualifications outlined above, please call Keturah Key at (704) 296-9414 ext. 811 to receive an application for Union County or Beverly Livingston at (704) 465-2030 to receive an application for Anson County.

Union-Anson County Habitat for Humanity, "Building Homes, Building Hope."

Information Session for Strings Classes

Cheraw Arts Commission is offering Strings Musical Instruction this fall. The beginner classes will be offered to adults and students ages 4th grade and up. Andy Preston will provide instruction in the orchestra family of stringed instruments: Violin, viola, cello, and bass.

Preston has been an educator at the elementary, middle, high school and college levels. He has also directed several youth orchestras that include the South Carolina Youth Philharmonic Repertoire and the South Carolina Youth Philharmonic String Orchestra.

Parents and interested adults are invited to attend an Information Session on Thursday, August 23 - 5:30pm at the Cheraw Community Center- 200 Powe Street. Attendees will receive general information about the classes and instrument rental. Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission 843.537.8420 x 12 for additional information.

Free Movie is The Bucket List

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie for Monday, August 27 at 10 a.m. in the Little Theatre, *The Bucket List*. Billionaire Edward Cole (Jack Nicholson) and car mechanic Carter Chambers (Morgan Freeman) are complete strangers until fate lands them in the same hospital room. The men find they have two things in common; a need to come to terms with who they are and what they have done with their lives, and a desire to complete a list of things they want to see and do before they die. Against their doctor's advice the men leave the hospital and set out on the adventure of a lifetime.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the movie. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 28 at 10 a.m. at the BC-SWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-694-3516.