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Tickets Are Still Available for An Evening for the Arts

A great band, great food, great auction items, a great cause - what better way to spend a Saturday night in October?
Tickets are still available for the Anson County Arts Council's An Evening for the Arts this Saturday, October 4, from 6:30 until 11:00 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Stop by the Arts Council (704-694-4950) or Lacy's in Wadesboro to get your ticket today (\$40 in advance, \$50 at the door).
All proceeds benefit the Arts Council's school and community programs.

Town of Wadesboro Debuts New Website

The Town of Wadesboro invites everyone to view its completed new website by visiting either www.townofwadesboro.org or www.cityofwadesboro.org. Also, the Town would like to thank residents who gave feedback on what they wanted from the site. This input was invaluable in creating a finished product.
Information about the Town and the services provided are now easier for citizens to find. There are new images and more complete information about parks, attractions, events and town services.
The new site was a collaborative effort between Merrie Datin, owner and operator of The Forever Inn in Wadesboro, and Town Manager Alex Sewell. They also used elements of Wadesboro's former website.
Datin said, "It's recommended that websites be updated every few years, so now the Town of Wadesboro has a new website that features a totally new design. The format is now more user friendly too."
Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell said, "This isn't the end of the road for improving our web presence. The Town welcomes any ongoing feedback residents can share to improve our website, Facebook page, etc. Merrie did a fantastic job on the Town website. Her determined efforts were essential to its creation. Also, thank you to the Town Council for making this website become a reality."

Sheriff Allen Donates Seized Funds to Anson Schools

On Monday, September 22 Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen delivered a check for \$12,127 to the Anson County School system. The funds came from various criminal cases where Judges ordered seized drug monies turned over to the school system. The money will go toward updating and improving school security.
"When I talked to Superintendent Michael Freeman, we discussed the best way to use this money, and we both agreed that it should go toward school security," Sheriff Allen said. "When we move into the new 911 facility one new feature we will have will be the ability to view some of the school's security cameras. The dispatchers will then be able to give responding units a better idea of what they are going into by being able to see what's happening in real time at a school. As the schools upgrade their systems, this will be one of the ways they can use these additional funds to add this feature."
Superintendent Freeman said, "We have had a great working relationship with Sheriff Allen and his staff, and this is just one example of the funds he has been able to turn over to the schools over the years. This money will help greatly as we upgrade our security in schools around the county."
Most schools now have restricted entrance controls plus an array of security cameras. Both Sheriff Allen and Superintendent Freeman said that school security has always been a top priority. This has included upgrades on equipment and additional cameras, more training for staff and officers, security surveys of each school, and planning sessions that will continue on a regular basis.
Sheriff Allen is pictured above on the left, Superintendent Freeman is on the right.



Farm-City Week Banquet Held September 23

Ag producers, business representatives and community leaders from across the county attended the annual Farm-City Week dinner, held Tuesday, September 23 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center of South Piedmont Community College in Wadesboro. The event was held to emphasize the collaborations between the farming industry and the business community, with 171 in attendance. Outstanding individuals were also recognized and awarded plaques for their dedication to agriculture and business.
Agriculture in Anson County is big business. According to the NC Department of Agriculture, Anson County ranks 20th in the state in total agriculture production. In 2013, Anson had an income of \$183 million in agriculture and natural resources.
The Anson County Chamber of Commerce and Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District joined the Anson County Cooperative Extension staff to host the evening. The event combined the annual Farm-City Week observances with Brown Creek's annual awards dinner.
Sponsored by Anson County Farm Bureau and catered by the Anson County Cattleman's Association, guests were treated to a beef roast dinner and program highlighting agriculture, award recipients, and evening celebration.
Plaques given during the evening were Outstanding Farmer of the Year, awarded to Jamie Caudle of Caudle Farms, and presented by Jessica Morgan, Agricultural Agent. Outstanding Agribusiness was awarded to Jason Kiker of Kiker Resource Management and presented by Lynn Edwards, Executive Director with the Anson County Chamber of Commerce.
Tina Rowell, Brown Creek Soil & Water District Director, recognized two businesses with their District Sponsorship Recognition. Carolina Farm Credit and Anson County Farm Bureau were recognized. Ronnie Mills, Anson County Farm Bureau President, accepted their award.
Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Member Eddie Edwards recognized the Steve and Nicole Carpenter Family of Carpenter Farms as the Anson County Conservation Farm Family. Nicole then recognized Resource Conservation Workshop Participant Nikalus Leak for his participation in the named program sponsored at NC State this summer.
Jake Barbee, Resource Conservationist with Brown Creek Soil & Water, introduced the evening's program, comedian Larry Weaver of Durham. Weaver entertained the group after dinner with a show of stories, humor and music describing life in a southern small community.
Lee Roy Lookabill, chair of the Anson Cooperative Extension Advisory Board, welcomed guests following dinner, while Tina Rowell, District Administrator of the Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District, gave greetings and Bonnie Morgan delivered an invocation. Other remarks came from Sharon Edwards, Fair Coordinator and member of the NCCE State Advisory Council, who shared the week's events and activities for the agriculture celebration. Janine Rywak, County Extension Director, also shared the podium with information about Cooperative Extension's centennial celebration this year.
Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent, recognized special guests, while Aimee Colf, Agricultural Agent, recognized the evening's sponsor. Ronnie Mills also addressed the group on behalf of Farm Bureau.
Farm-City Week observances take place around the nation each year to strengthen the understanding of farm-city connections that provide our food, fiber and shelter. Anson County is fortunate in its recognition and pride of the county's abundance of agriculture and natural resources.
Award recipients at the 2014 Farm-City Week Banquet were, from left, Jason Kiker, Jamie Caudle, Ronnie Mills, Nikalus Leak and Nichole Carpenter.

Concealed Carry Permitting Going Online

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen announced that beginning Monday, October 6 individuals wanting to apply for a Concealed Carry Permit or renew a Concealed Carry Permit will be able to do so online. They can go to the Anson County Sheriff's Office web page at www.ansonsheriff.com. Applicants will see a drop down box entitled "Permits." They can point and click the appropriate menu and follow the instructions. They can complete their application online, print it out to take with them when they come to the Sheriff's Office and pay the application fee online. They can also schedule their own time on Thursdays to come in to be fingerprinted. When the permit is complete and ready to be picked up they will be notified at their email address, by phone or by a text message.
"This is similar to what we started doing with Pistol Permits last year this same time," Sheriff Allen said. "That has gone very well, and we expect this to do the same. This will streamline the process, save a lot of work for our office staff and hopefully eliminate a lot of waiting and standing around by the applicant. They will be able to come in on a Thursday at the time they select, bring in their completed application, bring their driver's license for identification, be fingerprinted and hopefully eliminate a lot of waiting and standing in line."
The Sheriff said that for the next month applicants can apply online or still come in to the Sheriff's Office to apply in person. Beginning November 3rd the online process will become the only way to apply. Individuals who do not have access to a computer could go by the local library. They may also come to the Sheriff's Office where they have a computer set up for this purpose in their lobby. For individuals who are not computer knowledgeable, office staff will assist them.
"Our goal is to serve the public better and more efficiently," Allen said.

Taste of the Pee Dee T-Shirts are Available

The annual Wadesboro fall festival will once again be held on Saturday, October 11 ... this year with a new name and format.
The Taste of the Pee Dee debuts in uptown Wadesboro with the opening ceremony at 9 a.m. at the stage on the Square. Vendors will once again set up on Wade and Greene Streets from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. A climbing wall will be set up in the parking lot beside the Hampton B. Allen Library and tickets will be sold for all ages to test their climbing skills.
The evening concert band is the Main Event, who will perform from 6 until 9 p.m. on the stage on East Wade Street at Washington Street. The exciting Fireworks Finale will follow the Main Event concert!
Mark your calendars now and come out and have some fun!
Taste of the Pee Dee t-shirts are now available at Wadesboro Town Hall. Youth through XL are \$10 each, and 2X and 3X are \$12 each.

Anson County CROP Walk is Sunday

The annual Anson County CROP Hunger Walk is this Sunday, October 5, and your business is invited to be a sponsor! The community event, starting at First Methodist Church in Wadesboro, will support the local hunger relief program of Faith Based Ministries and Anson Crisis Ministries and the world hunger fighting efforts of Church of World Service, a 67 year old humanitarian relief and development organization. Programs include assisting families with hurricane and tornado recovery in the United States, assisting famine refugees in Africa, and long-term development in the world's poorest communities.
Business sponsorships are crucial to the success of the event. They underwrite the cost of the event logistics, mailings, promotion, permits, and t-shirts. This allows 100% of the walker donations to go to the hunger fighting programs.
Businesses wishing to support the CROP Hunger Walk can make a \$100 or \$300 donation to the event. All sponsors will be listed in other Walk promotions when possible. If you would like to be a part of this Walk as an individual, please come be a part. Let's let the world know Anson County cares about others!
For more information call Tim Harris, Sponsorship Coordinator, at 704-694-4701 or email fpcwadesboro@windstream.net. The website is hunger.cusglobal.org. Go to CROP Hunger Walk and search for Anson County.

Ag Expo at Taste of the Pee Dee

The upcoming Taste of the Pee Dee Festival will feature some new opportunities for young and old alike. Three events from the annual Anson Ag Expo & Fair will be offered as part of this year's event. Scheduled for Saturday, October 11, plan to participate in something fun for everyone.
The Creative Squash Challenge will be offered for youth ages 2 through 16, the Kiddie Tractor Pull for ages 3 through 8, and then the Local Foods Bake-Off is available for adults. Registration for all events will be in the Cooperative Extension tent on that Saturday.
The Creative Squash Challenge is a youth competition comprised of decorating and crafting a unique creation from any type squash, from zucchini to pumpkins. Squash must be entered between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.
Entries will be judged on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. and judging is open to the public. Three age groups will each receive prize money for placing first \$15, second \$10 and third \$5. Ribbons will also be awarded.
The Local Foods Bake-Off will feature entries of baked items made from local foods. At least one local food ingredient must be used. Local food items may be purchased, but must still be locally produced. Local in this event is defined as within 30 miles of Wadesboro.
Baked items must be entered on Saturday, from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. A recipe must be submitted with the entry designating the local food ingredient. Judging will take place at 10:30 a.m. and is open to the public.
Premium money will be awarded for first \$40, second \$25 and third, \$15, and ribbons will also be provided. Don't forget that all items in the decorated squash and baked local foods competitions are to be picked up at 4:00 p.m.
The Kiddie Tractor Pull is open to ages 3 to 8, with registration starting at 9:30 a.m. Racing begins at 11:00 a.m. in front of the courthouse. Youth will be divided into weight classes, and prizes include ribbons and John Deere toy tractors, courtesy of Quality John Deere.
Guidelines for all categories are available on the Anson County Cooperative Extension website at anson.ces.ncsu.edu and the 2014 Anson Ag Expo & Fair Facebook page. So find a local ingredient, help your young friends locate the perfect squash to decorate, and gear up for the Kiddie Tractor Pull! Come out and enjoy the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!

Free Flu Shots for Vets Oct. 10

The Salisbury VAMC Rural Health Team has joined with the Anson County Veteran Services to provide free flu shots for veterans on Friday, October 10. They will be given at the Veteran Services office from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
These shots are available to all veterans currently using VA Health Care, and to veterans possessing a DD-214 and a valid photo ID.
For more information contact Ted Ward at 704-694-4418. The Veteran Services Office is located at 111 North Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro (the former Belk Building).

Schools Have Early Release, Parent/Teacher Conferences Thursday

All Anson County schools will release early on Thursday, October 2 for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Here is the schedule for that day:
Early Release Schedule
• All elementary schools release at 12:30 p.m.
• All middle and high schools release at 1:30 p.m.
Parent/Teacher Conferences Schedule
• Elementary school conferences 1 to 6 p.m.
• Middle and high school conferences 2 to 7 p.m.

Historical Preservation Commission

There will be a meeting of the Anson Historical Preservation Commission on Thursday, October 2 at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Wadesboro at 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in historical preservation, especially the hospital buildings, is invited and will be heard.