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

Wadesboro's People Fest Awash! Event Rained Out.

Saturday was supposed to be a day to celebrate fall with a fantastic festival. Unfortunately for everyone headed to those festivities, as well as the vendors and performers, Wadesboro's People Fest was awash! The rain never ceased during the day, and even those who braved the wet soon found that the streets of Wadesboro were too soaked and saturated for almost every puddle jumper in town.



These little ones managed to find an umbrella big enough for the three of them and they continued to enjoy their time as long as they could. The girls say, "A little rain never hurt anybody!" They are pictured from left, Trista Trexler, Trinity Trexler and Elin Lockhart.



Fire Safety Day at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School held Fire Safety Day on Friday, October 9 in recognition of National Fire Safety Week, October 4 through 10. The students toured a fire truck that visited the school, learned all about fire safety from the firement, and were excited to spend time with Smokey the Bear! Sadie Shaver of PPES said, "Peachland-Polkton Elementary School would like to thank our community's volunteer fire departments for making the day special for our students." Pictured here, Kelly Miles' Kindergarten class really enjoyed their new red fire hats!

Election Information: All 2016 Primaries to One Date

On October 1 Governor Pat McCrory signed house bill 373 that moved all 2016 primaries to one date. March 15, 2016 will be the Primary Date for North Carolina elections, which includes Anson County. Filing for offices for the primary will be held from Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 12 p.m. through Monday, December 21, 2015 at 12 p.m. A candidate is eligible to file a notice of candidacy for a partisan primary only if that candidate has been affiliated with that political party for 75 days or more. Director of the Anson County Board of Elections Steve Adams said, "This information is for those who have changed, or may change, parties and want to file for an office. Again, there will not be a May primary election. All primaries will be held on March 15, 2016."

Flu Vaccination Now Available at the Anson County Health Department

The 2015-2016 flu season is upon us and you may be undecided about whether to get the flu shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination before the month of December to ensure that protective antibodies are in your system before flu activity is typically at its highest. The CDC continues to encourage vaccination throughout the flu season, which may begin as early as October and last through May. While the CDC's Advisory Committee on immunizations Practices (ACIP) recommends everyone over the age of 6 months should get the flu vaccine each season. It is especially important for the following high risk groups:

- Pregnant Women • Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:
- Health Care workers • Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
- Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age.

The Anson County Health Department is now offering Flu Shots (Influenza vaccine) for the 2015-2016 seasons. Flu Shots will be available for walk-in patients Monday through Thursday, from 9 to 11 a.m. and then from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The health department accepts the following Primary Insurance for the influenza vaccination: Medicare, Medicaid, Medcost, Aetna, Cigna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and United Health Care. Children without insurance coverage ages 6 months thru 18 years of age may receive a free influenza vaccination. Please bring in all insurance cards for verification of primary insurance coverage. Costs for individuals without active primary insurance coverage are:

- Influenza \$35 • High Dose Influenza \$80 • Pneumonia \$70

If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment please call Anson County Health Department at 704-694-5188 or 704-994-3320.

Brown Bag Book Club Meeting to Feature Author Sandi McBride

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, October 19 at 12:00 noon in the Pritchett Room of the Hampton B Allen Library. Everyone attending is asked to bring a dish, your spouse or friend and enjoy the fellowship which will be provided. Author Sandi McBride (known as the Cat Lady) will be the speaker. She is very entertaining and you will really be in for a treat. If you have any questions or need any additional information please call the library at 704-694-5177.

Medicare Annual Election Period Runs Oct. 15 to Dec. 7

Your health needs change from year to year, and the benefits and costs of your health plan may change each year, too. That's why it's important to evaluate your Medicare choices every year. The Annual Election Period is the one time of year when all people with Medicare can change their Medicare health plan and prescription drug coverage for 2016. Take advantage of the Annual Election Period, and you may be able to save money, improve your coverage or both. The Annual Election Period starts on October 15 and lasts seven full weeks to give you enough time to review and make changes to your Medicare coverage. You will need to make your final selection for next year's Medicare coverage by December 7 to ensure that your coverage can begin without interruption on January 1, 2016. "Many Medicare beneficiaries don't realize the importance of evaluating their plans every year," said North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. "The staff from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, are available to help over the phone or in-person in all 100 counties in North Carolina." SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and offers free, unbiased information about Medicare, Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance issues. In addition to helping Medicare beneficiaries compare and enroll in plans during the Annual Election Period, SHIIP counselors can help people find out if they are eligible for Medicare cost savings programs. Here are some of the ways to review and compare plans available for 2016:

- Get one-on-one help from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, by calling 1-855-408-1212, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also request assistance in Anson County by calling Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.
- Visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare your current coverage with all of the options that are available in your area, and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.
- Review the Medicare & You handbook. It was mailed to people with Medicare in September.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For more information about SHIIP and the Medicare Annual Election Period, call 1-855-408-1212 or visit www.ncshiip.com.

Library Asking for Public Input to Plan for the Future

The Sandhill Regional Library System (SRLS) is conducting a community needs assessment across all five counties that it serves as part of its strategic planning process. As part of this process, Anson County is interested in meeting with and talking to community members about current and future library services. Hampton B. Allen Library Director Aaron Mehaffey said, "Libraries across the country are evolving with the needs of their communities and we want to do the same in our County, but we need community input. Do we need more technology? More meeting space? More reading material and services in certain areas? How can we best serve you? The Library needs your help!" Please help design the library services of tomorrow by having your voice heard and attending one of the upcoming community forums to be held at the Hampton B. Allen Library in Wadesboro:

- Community Forum 1 on Thursday, October 15 at 4:30 p.m.
- Community Forum 2 on Tuesday, October 27 at 4:30 p.m.

If you do not have time to attend, please feel free to complete the community wide survey, which will be available soon, or just call or email Aaron Mehaffey with any thoughts, ideas or suggestions at 704-694-5177 or aaron.mehaffey@srls.com.

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin launched 2015 Fire Prevention Week last week by urging everyone to uphold this year's campaign theme, 'Hear the Beep Where You Sleep: Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!' "About half of home fire deaths occur in the late night and early morning hours, when most people are asleep in bed," said Goodwin. "That's why it's so important for every family member to be able to hear a smoke alarm from where they sleep." The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reported, that between 2009 and 2013, an average 940 deaths per year occurred in homes with no smoke alarms, while an additional 510 occurred in homes with smoke alarms that failed to operate. This accounts for 59 percent of all home fire deaths. Follow these smoke alarm safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms inside every bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Have smoke alarms in every level of your home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.
- Install interconnected smoke alarms. When one alarm sounds, they all sound. Choose smoke alarms that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Never paint smoke alarms. Paint, stickers or other decorations could keep the alarms from working.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to make sure it's working.
- Never disconnect or take the batteries out of your smoke alarm.
- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable batteries should last 10 years. If the alarm chirps, replace it with a new alarm.
- For smoke alarms with any other type of battery, replace the battery once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace the battery right away.

Families can attend the Office of State Fire Marshal's "Family Fire Safety Shows" each day of the North Carolina State Fair (Oct. 15-25) where they will see fun, educational shows performed by fire department personnel from around the state. In addition, Wadesboro Fire Chief Marc Sessions offers fire safety sessions to area groups. Contact him at 704-694-2167 for more information. Learn more about Fire Prevention at www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/SafeKids/fireprevention.

Anson Women's League Presents Dining for Diabetes and Lemonade, a One Act Comedy!

Everyone is invited to come enjoy a delicious dinner, comedy play and lots of fun and fellowship. This Saturday, October 17 the Anson Women's League will host a special event called Dining for Diabetes at the First United Methodist Church in uptown Wadesboro. This is a fundraiser for the Diabetes Association. There will be a delicious sit-down dinner for all, plus a special presentation of a live one-act comedy play, *Lemonade*. *Lemonade* is produced and directed by Tommy Wooten, Director of the Ansonia Theatre. Leslie Capell and Beverley Getzen are the actors for this amusing play. It's a comedy that will entertain the diners, either with its comedy or the acting skills of the actresses! There will also be a presentation by the American Diabetes Association on how to manage diabetes, including dietary information and suggestions for ways to manage blood sugar. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. with AWL members providing the food service. Tickets for this special event are \$25 and are available at Uwharrie Bank, the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, or from Betsy Watts at 704-694-4883. Come join in the fun and delightful dining!

VFW Essay Contest

The Veterans of Foreign Wars annual essay contest, Patriots's Pen and Voice of Democracy essay applications are available from VFW members and VFW Commander James Bennett and Auxiliary president Brenda Bennett. Any student desiring to enter, please get your application and submit it before November 1, 2015. Applications are also available at each of the schools in the county.

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