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Anson County Veterans Day Celebration is Thursday

Everyone is encouraged to come out and celebrate Anson County's hometown heroes tomorrow, Thursday, November 9, during the Anson County Veterans Day Celebration. This will be a day of events, including a parade, the Veterans Day ceremony, music, games, refreshments, a car show, VA resources, and family fun. Events start with the parade at 10 a.m. in uptown Wadesboro, followed by the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Anson County Courthouse at 11 a.m. Following the ceremony, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at the Ray Shelton Ball Field parking lot, there will be an afternoon of fun, including a big car show with prizes. There will be free food, free beverages, free door prizes, and the admission is...free! The car entrants will be judged in several categories including Best in Show; Best Engine; Best Interior; Best Paint and more. Many of the entries will be in the parade too. For information call Ted Ward, Anson County Veteran Services Officer, at 704-694-4418 or email ward@co.anson.nc.us.

The Origins of Veterans Day

In 1921 an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

Armistice Day Changed To Honor All Veterans The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on November 11, then designated Armistice Day. Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, Congress passed the bill that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. Raymond Weeks received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan in November 1982. Weeks' local parade and ceremonies are now an annual event celebrated nationwide.

On Memorial Day 1958 two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam War was placed alongside the others. The remains from Vietnam were exhumed May 14, 1998, identified as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, and removed for burial. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

National Ceremonies Held at Arlington National Cemetery The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater.

Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington and elsewhere are coordinated by the President's Veterans Day National Committee. Chaired by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the committee represents national veterans organizations. The governors of many states and U.S. territories appoint Veterans Day chairpersons who, in cooperation with the National Committee and the Department of Defense, arrange and promote local ceremonies.

Additional information on the history of Veterans Day, the Veterans Day National Committee, the national ceremony, a gallery of Veterans Day posters from 1978 to the present and a colorful and informative Veterans Day Teacher's Resource Guide can be found on the Internet at www.va.gov/vetsday.

Welfare Check Leads to Drug Arrest



On Wednesday, November 1 deputies with the Anson County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to 525 Apple Orchard Road in Lilesville in reference to a welfare check. Upon arriving at the residence deputies spoke with Heather Owca the occupant and explained to her that they had received a call that there was no electrical power at the residence and that there was concern for the small children living there. Owca allowed the deputies to look around the house, and while checking the livability of the residence deputies located marijuana, methamphetamine and other drug paraphernalia.

Owca, 28, was charged with Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Maintaining a Dwelling for a Controlled Substance. Owca was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$11,000 secure bond with a court date of November 7, 2017 in Anson County District Court.



Anson Middle School Majorettes. For more information call Coach Melanie Lyon at 704-695-2247. The Anson High School Majorettes are pictured above. They are, from left, Jamia Bennett, Ashley Cameron,

Anson High School Majorettes Show Off New Uniforms, Announce Bingo Night Fundraiser

The Anson High School Majorettes have worked hard and put in many hours of practice for their halftime show with the Anson Band this season. The girls have enjoyed "twirling for the Bearcats" and are excited to be headed to the North Carolina AA State Playoffs this Friday night against Ledford High School in Thomasville.

Also, on Saturday, November 18 the girls, along with the Anson Middle School Majorettes, will be hosting a fundraiser, Bingo Night, to pay for their beautiful new uniforms. Please come enjoy a great evening of family fun, while helping these hard-working young ladies. The event will be held at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Wadesboro, and doors open at 5:30 p.m. Everybody likes Bingo, so come play! Donations are also accepted! Make checks payable to Anson High School or

Enrollment for 2018 Affordable Care Act Coverage is Going on Now. Enrollment Period is Only 45 Days

Contrary to president's tweets - Obamacare is not dead. It is open for enrollment, saving 9 out of 10 North Carolinians money on their health insurance last year. So far, record breaking enrollments for 2018 in first week.

Financial help and in-person enrollment help still available for NC consumers. Shortened enrollment period ends December 15.

November 1st was the start of the Affordable Care Act's fifth - and shortest - open enrollment period. Consumers will have until midnight on December 15 - just 45 days, which is half the length of past enrollment periods - to enroll in 2018 coverage on the Health Insurance Marketplace at www.healthcare.gov.

Due to the shortened enrollment period and general confusion surrounding the Affordable Care Act, a Kaiser Family Foundation study found that many consumers do not know the dates for the 2018 enrollment period. It is more important than ever for North Carolina consumers to know that they can rely on an experienced, fully funded corps of Marketplace navigators to provide them with free, local, in-person enrollment help all across the state.

Consumers can schedule a navigator meeting by visiting ncnavigator.net or calling 1-855-733-3711 (toll-free). They can also attend one of the free enrollment events that will be held around the state throughout open enrollment. (See the events listing on ncnavigator.net).

Here are some other important facts for consumers to know:

- The Affordable Care Act is still the law, and Americans must be enrolled in health insurance in 2018 to avoid paying a fine.
- Subsidies to help consumers pay their monthly premiums and out-of-pocket costs - copays and deductibles - are still available. **Nine in 10 North Carolinians who enrolled in the last open enrollment period received some financial help to cover their premium costs.**
- Consumer subsidies go up or down along with premium rates, so most consumers should not feel the premium increase in their wallet.
- Consumers who already have Marketplace coverage should come back to review the new plans available for 2018, rather than automatically re-enrolling. New plans and prices are available, so consumers should make sure they are enrolled in the best plan for their family's medical needs and budget.
- All plans on the Health Insurance Marketplace cover comprehensive care, including doctor's visits, prescription drugs, emergency services, hospitalization, preventive and rehabilitative care, and more.

"The most important message for consumers is: do not delay!" Jennifer Simmons, director of the NC Navigator Consortium, said. "Given the shortened enrollment period, it's more important than ever for consumers to act now. If you have questions or don't know where to start, our navigators are here for you. Visit our website or call us as soon as possible."

About the NC Navigator Consortium The NC Navigator Consortium is a group of 12 health care, social service and legal aid organizations that helps North Carolina consumers enroll in affordable health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act. Members of the consortium are Access East, Capital Care Collaborative, Care Ring, Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Cumberland HealthNet, HealthCare Access, HealthNet Gaston, MDC, Partnership for Community Care, and Pisgah Legal Services. The consortium is led by Legal Aid of North Carolina. (www.legalaidnc.org) Learn more at ncnavigator.net.

Medicare Open Enrollment Now Underway and Runs Until December 7. Make Your Plans Now.

The Medicare enrollment period is now open and runs for the next seven weeks. Each year during the Open Enrollment Period, Medicare beneficiaries have the opportunity to compare and evaluate their current plan and make changes as necessary. By comparing plans during the Open Enrollment Period, Medicare beneficiaries can save money and ensure their 2018 plan is best suited to meet their needs.

The Open Enrollment Period began October 15 and all changes must be made by December 7 to ensure coverage begins without interruption January 1.

"Comparing Part D plans annually is imperative to ensure the Medicare beneficiary has the best coverage for their prescription needs," said North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey. "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 Open Enrollment 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 2018:

- 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. Beneficiaries can also request in-person assistance in their home county.
- Visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare current coverage and enroll in a new plan if changes are needed.
- Review the Medicare & You handbook, which was mailed to beneficiaries in September.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

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

50+ Club Meeting Features Knights at the Museum

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, November 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre, with The musical group Knights at the Museum. Joe Dutton, Stan Harward, Jimmy Rushing, Scott Drye and Jonathan Douglas are some of the talented musicians and singers in this group that entertains every Thursday night in uptown Wadesboro, in front of the Medical Museum and Oliver's. If you enjoy beach, country and gospel music you are invited to come, bring a friend, and enjoy the music of these talented artists. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon is December 5 & 6

Anson County's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday December 5 and 6 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Because of limited seating capacity the luncheon will be held over two days, serving 250 seniors each day, with festivities beginning at 11 a.m.

A scrumptious meal of turkey, dressing, gravy, pineapple casserole, cranberry sauce, rice, green beans, dessert, roll and tea will be served. There will be fun door prizes, gifts for everyone, entertainment by Terry and Betty Helms, and wonderful fellowship to be enjoyed by all. SHIIP Representatives will be available for information and to schedule appointments.

If you are interested in attending, please call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register their preferred day. Registration deadline is December 1.

Musical Tribute to Veterans Thursday

The public is invited to an evening of music honoring veterans on Thursday, November 9 at Calvary Baptist Church in Cheraw at 7 p.m. The church is located at 364 Calvary Road (behind Fatz Restaurant) in Cheraw.

It is a program of patriotic songs and inspirational dialogue.

This is a free event for all ages. Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission for information about the tribute at 843.537.8420 x 12.