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

Permanent Drop Box at Wadesboro Police Department for Unused Medicines

Anson County has a permanent Operation Medicine Drop box at the Wadesboro Police Department. Community members are welcome to stop by during business hours and dispose of their unused or expired medications. Help keep our streets and waterways clean!

The Wadesboro Police Department is located at 212 South Rutherford Street. The telephone number is 704-694-2167.



Sandhills Center Family Support and Community Collaboration Webinars for January

Free webinars are offered by Sandhills Center Family Support and Community Collaboration during January. If you would like to register, please contact the person located at the end of each description.

- January 13: Self-Care in The Moment webinar will be held from 1:00-2:00 pm via Zoom. DeVault Clevenger, MA, LCSW, Clinical Director, Pinnacle Family Services and Tammy Hernandez, MA, QP, Director of Operations, Pinnacle Family Services will be the guest speakers. To register, contact Shirlyn Morrison-Sims at search.family.support@gmail.com or 1-877-776-6599. Upon registration, a link to the web meeting will be sent.

- January 19: Invisible Sentence: Recognizing, Supporting, and Advocating for Children of Incarcerated and Returning Parents presented by Melissa Radcliff will be held virtually from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Please contact Brenda Goss via email at randmontadvfsp@gmail.com or toll free at 877-211-7252 to register. Deadline to register is Friday, January 15, 2021 by 4:00 p.m.

- January 21: The Physical and Mental Health Benefits of Nutrition and Exercise webinar will be held from 1:00-2:00 pm via WebEx. Miranda Sanders, Life Coach, IFBB Pro, CPT, CSN will be the presenter. Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995 or by email at connectionsfp@gmail.com for more information and to register. Registration deadline is January 18, 2021.

- January 26: Overview of Mental Health Disorders webinar will be held from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 26th. Representatives from Atrium Health will lead discussion on WebEx. To register, contact Adrian Standish at leeharnettfsp@yahoo.com or 877-776-6702. Upon registration, you will be sent the link to the webinar.

- January 26: How to Recognize and Break Dysfunctional Behaviors in Families is a virtual meeting that will deal with how to change behaviors and discuss ways to confront and reverse dysfunctional habits. It is scheduled for 11:00 AM - 12 PM. To register and find out how to participate, contact LaMonica Mitchell at 1-877-425-4030 or email at guilfordfspadvocate@gmail.com. Deadline to register is January 25 by 5 pm.

Free Groceries for Families in Need Jan. 6

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Missional Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, January 6 at Austin Grove Baptist Church, located at 5919 Austin Grove Church Road in Marshville. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m. • Be sure to bring your own bags, baskets, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 8 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • 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: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email tschumpert@unccumc.net.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445.

Governor Extends Evictions Moratorium

North Carolina's evictions moratorium will be extended through at least January 31

On Wednesday, December 23 Governor Roy Cooper announced that he plans to extend the state's evictions moratorium on residential evictions for non-payment of rent through at least January 31, 2021.

"This holiday season, too many families are struggling to pay rent as the pandemic surges," said Governor Cooper. "As the first of the month approaches and rent becomes due, I wanted people to know that we plan to extend the moratorium on evictions."

The details and language of the moratorium are forthcoming and will be based on how or whether Congress extends the federal moratorium. More information on the state's extension will be shared as soon as possible.



Farm Bureau Thanks Glenn Phifer for 35 Years of Service

This is a release from Anson County Farm Bureau: The Anson County Farm Bureau Board of Directors would like to recognize Glenn Phifer in appreciation for your service and dedication for over 35 years. You have left a lasting impact on the agricultural industry in Anson County and North Carolina.

Annual Toll Rate Increase for Monroe Expressway on Jan. 1

The annual increase of the toll rates for the Triangle Expressway and the Monroe Expressway, will take effect Friday, January 1, 2021.

The North Carolina Turnpike Authority Board adopted schedules of incremental annual toll rate increases for the Triangle Expressway and Monroe Expressway based on the financing requirements for each project.

For NC Quick Pass customers with a transponder traveling the full length of the Triangle Expressway the cost will increase 12 cents to \$3.60. For bill-by-mail customers, the cost will go up 19 cents to \$5.52. For customers with a transponder traveling the full length of the Monroe Expressway, the cost will increase six cents to \$2.66. For bill-by-mail customers, the cost will go up nine cents to \$4.10.

Toll revenue is used to pay off bonds sold to fund the construction of the projects, as well as fund the overall road maintenance including repairs, mowing and winter weather preparation and response.

Drivers can get a free NC Quick Pass transponder that can be used on all toll facilities in North Carolina and saves travelers 35% compared to the bill-by-mail rate. For information visit www.ncquickpass.com or call 877-769-7277.

New Year's Eve – December 31, 2020

New Year's Eve comes but once a year on December 31, the last day of the last month of what usually feels like the longest year ever but somehow passed too quickly.

Most of us give little thought as to why we ceremoniously say goodbye to one year and hello to a new one on December 31. Even those who don't make special plans to greet the arrival of a new year at the stroke of midnight on December 31 pay homage to the rite with thoughts of the year gone by and hopes for the year to come.

Why do we end each year on December 31 and begin a new one January 1 anyway? **When is New Year's Eve 2020?** New Year's Eve is on December 31, the last day of the year. There are a lot of mixed feelings on this day - it gives us the opportunity to reflect on the past year with all its highs and lows, but we also get ready to party our way into the New Year. Here's to a new day, new year, and new beginnings!

History of New Year's Eve New Year's Eve on December 31 marks the final day of what is known as a Gregorian calendar year. Prior to the adoption of the Gregorian calendar as the global standard, most of the ancient world ran on many different and diverse calendaring systems to track the passage of time.

The Gregorian calendar we use today was introduced by the Vatican in Rome under Pope Gregory XIII in October 1582. The Gregorian calendar is based on the solar year and replaced an ancient Roman calendar that was based on the lunar cycle of the earth's moon. The Gregorian calendar is a modified version of the Julian calendar that was introduced by Roman Emperor Julius Caesar during his reign around 44 B.C., at the suggestion of Greek astronomer and mathematician Sosigenes of Alexandria.

The transition from a lunar cycle calendar to a solar year calendar on October 4, 1582 necessitated that a few days be eliminated. The day after October 4, 1582 was therefore declared by Pope Gregory to be October 15, 1582. Don't ask us what happened to all the poor souls whose birthdays were on October 5 - 14 prior to the year 1582.

Along with the implementation of a new calendar on October 4, 1582, the pope also decreed that each year would officially begin on January 1 instead of April 1 as had been the custom under the old lunar calendar system. This decision had no actual astronomical basis and was influenced by the ancient feast celebrating the Roman god Janus, the god of doorways and beginnings. The first of January seemed like a good starting over point on a new calendar.

Where on Earth does the clock strike midnight first on New Year's Eve? The Pacific island nations of Tonga, Samoa, and Kiribati are the first to ring in the New Year. New Zealand is next followed by Australia, Japan, and South Korea.

Where is the last place on Earth the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve? The very last place on our planet where the New Year arrives is two places: U.S. island territories Baker Island and Howland Island. Both are unoccupied National Wildlife Refuges. The last place where you can celebrate the arrival of a New Year is another U.S. territory, American Samoa, which is occupied.

Dick Clark's Rockin' Eve timeline

1975 - Dick Clark hosts New Year's Rockin' Eve. Clark continued to host until 2004 when he suffered a stroke

2005 - Return of the Clark. Dick Clark returns to co-host New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest

2009 - Clark and Seacrest Eve. The annual Times Square New Year's Eve event is officially changed to "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest"

2012 - Dick Clark's last New Year's Eve appearance. Dick Clark passed away in April 2012.

New Year's Evening Plans How do you plan to celebrate New Year's Eve? A survey of 1,000 people, taken pre-pandemic:

Cooking/attending a nice dinner for friends 7%; Going to parties 11%; Spending it with family 45%; Attending a ball drop 3%; Attending a fun public event 4%; Staying in my own house 24%; Celebrating with my pets 2%; I don't celebrate 3%.

New Year's Eve By The Numbers

11,875 pounds - the weight of Time Square's ball.

360 million - the number of glasses of sparkling wine that are consumed each New Year's Eve in the U.S.

41% - the amount of Americans who rank New Year's Eve as their favorite holiday.

12% - the amount of Americans who fall asleep before midnight.

102.1 million - the number of people who travel in order to reach their New Year's Eve destinations.

\$1,160 - the average price of dinner and entertainment for two in New York City on this night.

365 - the number of black-eyed peas one should eat for luck in the new year.

2,688 - the amount of Waterford Crystal triangles that covered the Time's Square ball in 2019.

1942 - the only year when Times Square remained dark on New Year's Eve.

67% - the number of Americans who set resolutions on New Year's Eve.

New Year Resolutions More than half of Americans (55%) make New Year's resolutions. Over one third of Americans (36%) make resolutions, but never keep them.

Most Popular Resolutions Resolve to lose weight (51%); Resolve to exercise more (47%); Resolve to get a new job (25%); Resolve to eat healthier (46%); Resolve for personal growth (31%); Resolve to spend more time with family (30%).

North Carolina's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program gives families a one-time vendor payment to help pay their heating bills. Families must meet all of the following: an income test, be responsible for its heating bills and include a U. S. citizen or an eligible alien. Households with a person age 60 or older or a disabled person receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) who currently receives Food and Nutrition Services and received LIEAP during the 2019-2020 LIEAP season last year may qualify to receive an Automatic Payment this LIEAP Season. These households will be notified of eligibility in November and do not need to apply for this benefit.

Beginning December 1, 2020 any household with a person age 60 or older or disabled person receiving DAAS services who did not receive notice of an Automated Payment are encouraged to apply practicing social distancing by submitting a paper application through the U.S. Postal Service or faxed or dropped off to their local DSS.

All other households may submit applications beginning January 2, 2021. The application period continues through March 31, 2021 or until funds are exhausted. Beginning January 2, 2021, the online application will be available at epass.nc.gov. Households do not have to go into the agency to apply.

For more information, contact Anson County Department of Social Services at 704-694-9351.

New Anson County GIS Website is Online

Anson County has a new and improved GIS website. It is available at: <https://ansoncountygis.com>.

December Mobile Food Pantry Information

Margot Barnes, Director of Anson Crisis Ministry has released statistics from the December Mobile Food Pantry which was held on Wednesday, December 2 at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church in McFarlan.

- Total Families: 79
- Children & Youth up to Age 18: 77
- Youth & Adults Ages 19-64: 90
- Adults Over Age 65: 43

Anson Crisis Ministry received 1,450 lbs. of undistributed food for further distribution. Anson Crisis Ministry is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-2445, email is anson-crisisministry@windstream.net and the website is ansoncrisisministry.org.

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, January 6 at Austin Grove Baptist Church, located at 5919 Austin Grove Church Road in Marshville. Arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m.

Call for details 704-694-2445.

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