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

Job Seekers Can Connect with Employers at Thursday's SPCC Career Day

Job seekers in Union and Anson counties will have a great opportunity to meet dozens of area employers and gain an edge in their job search at the upcoming Career Day (formerly the Ready to Work Expo) sponsored by South Piedmont Community College, the Centralina Workforce Development Board, the Union County Chamber of Commerce and Union County Public Schools.

• Career Day - Thursday, March 17 - 5 to 8 p.m. at the Union County Agricultural & Conference Center, located at 3230 Presson Road in Monroe.

In addition to local employers - including Greiner Bio-One, ATI Specialty Materials, Charlotte Pipe & Foundry, and 40 more - there will also be informative seminars for job seekers as well as opportunities to explore SPCC programs.

Job seekers are encouraged to dress for success and bring resumes and cover letters to share with prospective employers.

For more information contact Kristi Phifer at (704) 290-5216 or kphifer@spcc.edu.



Graceful Reflections Event for Girls

On Saturday, February 27 the Anson Baptist Association WMU successfully hosted their very first "Graceful Reflections" event. Over 100 young girls and women gathered at New Home Baptist Church for a time of fellowship and spiritual renewal. The Association anticipates "Graceful Reflections" to be an annual event.



Take the Plunge with the Sheriff's Office this Saturday

Freezing for a reason - to help Special Olympics

The Anson County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a Polar Plunge for Special Olympics North Carolina this Saturday, March 19! This event is a unique opportunity for individuals, organizations and businesses to support Special Olympics North Carolina athletes by jumping into our frigid winter bodies of water across the state.

In Anson County the event will take place at Griffin Lodge, located at 2063 Redfern Road in Wadesboro. Registration is at 11 a.m. and the event begins at 11:30 a.m.

Events like the Polar Plunge help support nearly 40,000 Special Olympics North Carolina athletes. Special Olympics athletes around the world follow the oath "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

The plungers will consist of law enforcement and emergency services personnel and individuals from the community. Special guests include Anson County Special Olympics athletes, a Brown Creek Baptist Church youth group and local leaders in the community.

Additionally, there will be two special towel girls, USA National Miss NC Junior Princess Addison Smith and USA National Miss Southern Coast Junior Princess Addison Rayne Williams.

This event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to come out and support this unique event. If you have questions or would like to make a donation you can contact Lieutenant Brian Tice at the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188.

Veterans' Stories Sought by State Archives of North Carolina for Oral History Effort

Have a story to tell? The Military Collection at the State Archives of North Carolina is asking veterans to share their military experiences in times of war or peace through the North Carolina Military Oral History Program. This effort will capture the memories and experiences of servicemen and women from North Carolina and share their stories with scholars and the public.

Volunteers from around North Carolina began interviewing veterans of all wars living in or from North Carolina in 1996 for the Military Collection. Currently, the collection consists of more than 1,100 interviews and covers veterans from World War I to the Iraq War. The program will now come to the local level and work with partner agencies to serve veterans regionally in three locations across the state. Raleigh and Asheville will be the first sites. Training will be provided for interviewers. Dates and locations will be announced soon.

Active military combat service is not a requirement for a veteran to be interviewed. Service is valued for its historical context - not its physical engagement. If a veteran has served in the U.S. Armed Forces in any capacity and matches the listed criteria of the program, his or her story is important to the historical memory of North Carolina and its citizens.

The Military Collection is particularly interested in documenting the military service of Korean War veterans, Vietnam War veterans, minorities, women, prisoners of war, special operations personnel and those serving in noncombat positions in the Cold War era.

Interviews will be conducted with military veterans who were born and/or raised in North Carolina, who served in the U.S. Armed Forces for any military service, engagement or war. Interviews also will be done with veterans who have spent more than 25 years living in North Carolina, but initially served in the U.S. Armed Forces in another state.

Consideration for interviews will be given on a case-by-case basis to veterans who spent considerable time training at North Carolina military camps, forts and air bases, but who did not live in or serve from the state of North Carolina, or who are younger veterans having recently come to reside in the state.

The first regional location will be at the State Archives of North Carolina, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh. Veterans who match the listed service and residential requirements, and who live in Wake, Johnston, Chatham, Lee, Wilson, Nash, Franklin, Durham, Orange, Granville, Vance or Franklin counties, are encouraged to contact Peek.

Peek will work with interviewees with special needs or time constraints to find an interview option that meets the veterans' needs. He can be reached at matthew.peek@ncdcr.gov.

The North Carolina Military Veterans Oral History Program is part of the Office of Archives and History in the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Thank You to All for a Successful Clover Crawl

This is a release from Roshunda Terry from Anson County 4-H: Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise would like to express our gratefulness to each and every one who helped make our Clover Crawl a success. Supporters, Volunteer Leaders, planning committee members, alumni, parents, schools, industries, businesses and most of all the staff went the extra mile to support our cause. Because of everyone involved we were a great success again this year.

We raised over \$18,000, and to say the least we are thrilled. Thank you so much for your help in making this happen. It makes our job much easier to know that we have such hardworking individuals around to support the program to help make it successful. All of you are amazing individuals and Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise is very fortunate to have supporters like you behind us.

Notes of thanks will be sent out to individuals who supported the Clover Crawl. We are truly grateful to have each and every one of you standing in our corner. With your help and continued support Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise will grow to new heights. If you would like to see changes or give comments about the Clover Crawl, please feel free to contact us at 704-694-2915. We would love to hear from you.

Go ahead and mark your calendars for our 2017 Clover Crawl, which will be Friday, March 10, 2017. Same Clover time, same Clover place. We hope to see each of you there!

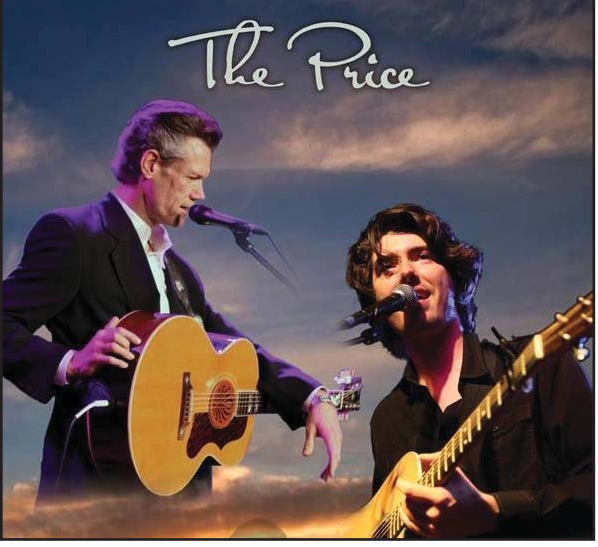
Cooking Food That Heals

Yes, there is hope to reverse diabetes, heart disease, cancer, arthritis, high cholesterol, or high blood pressure or obesity with food and a positive lifestyle! Come learn more at the next healthy living and cooking classes at Pathway to Peace Ministries on Sunday, March 20, from 3 to 5 p.m. The cost is free, and you will also be able to eat dinner too! The location is Highway 109 South, 2 miles past Deep Creek Road (11775 NC 109 South, Peachland, NC). For more information call 704-695-1441.

Randy Travis Film *The Price* Premieres at the Ansonia Sunday

The film *The Price* starring Randy Travis will premiere at the Ansonia Theatre on Sunday, March 20 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for general seating. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

For more information call the Arts Council at 704-694-4950.



NC Pre-Kindergarten Program Available for the 2016-17 School Year

Anson County Partnership for Children is accepting applications for NC Pre-K, a kindergarten readiness initiative that is proven to help four year olds gain basic skills needed for success in elementary school. Children who are four years of age before August 31, 2016 are eligible to apply for the high-quality program, which is free to qualifying families.

"Availability in this program is limited," said Elaine Scarborough, Anson County Partnership for Children Executive Director. "If parents are interested in enrolling their children in the NC Pre-K program, I strongly encourage them to act quickly."

A high priority is placed on serving children who are meet the following criteria: child's family is at or below 75% of the state median income level; a disability has been identified; limited English proficiency, developmental differences, chronic health conditions, or a parent who is active military service personnel.

NC Pre-K classes operate on a regular school calendar and are designed to address emotional and social development, physical health, language development, and cognitive functioning. Teachers are highly qualified and hold a minimum of a BA/BS degree as well as specific early childhood credentials. Through incorporation of indoor and outdoor learning environments, students participate in active learning experiences to foster a lifetime love of education.

Parents interested in learning more about the NC Pre-K program should contact Caroline Goins at 704-694-4036 (Ext 103) or caroline.goins@ansonchildren.org or visit www.ansonchildren.org for an NC Pre-K application.

\$29.8 Million in Insurance Recoveries and Savings for North Carolinians

Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin announced that the North Carolina Department of Insurance saved or recovered \$29.8 million for North Carolinians in 2015. "My staff at the Department of Insurance is consistently up to the task of facing new challenges in our insurance markets," said Goodwin. "I am proud of everyone at the Department of Insurance for continuing to protect consumers and businesses across North Carolina while maintaining the highest standards of customer service."

- In 2015, the Department of Insurance assisted more than 150,000 people with questions or complaints about the following types of insurance coverage.

- Medicare: Helped 108,047 consumers with general Medicare questions and helped more than 6,598 Medicare recipients apply for the federal low-income subsidy program that provides savings for prescription drug costs. The estimated cost savings for Medicare beneficiaries was approximately \$12.6 million.

- Health Insurance: Took more than 19,420 calls, responded to 2,052 consumer complaints and appeals, and handled 424 requests for external reviews for denied medical claims. Returned or saved \$2,041,183 to consumers as a result of services provided.

- Homeowners, Auto, Life and other insurance-related issues: Handled 31,659 calls and 7,260 written complaints from the public. Through these calls and complaints, the department was able to help consumers recover approximately \$6.8 million in benefits from insurance companies.

- The Criminal Investigations Division employs 20 sworn law enforcement officers dedicated to investigating claims of insurance fraud and criminal concerns associated with bail bonding, motor clubs, collection agencies and premium finance companies. In 2015, the work of these criminal investigators led to 296 arrests, 169 criminal convictions and more than \$6.6 million in restitution and recoveries. Another 232 cases are currently pending in court.

- The Agent Services Division regulates all licensed agents, brokers, limited representatives, appraisers, adjusters, premium finance companies, collection agencies, motor clubs, bail bondsmen, surety bondsmen and bail bond runners authorized to do business in North Carolina. Oversight includes licensure qualification, pre-licensing education, continuing education, telephone inquiries, complaint investigations and agency examinations. In 2015, the Agent Services Division investigated 1,954 complaints and recovered \$17,408 in premium funds for consumers.

- The Market Regulation Division conducts both routine and targeted market conduct examinations and market analysis investigations on foreign and domestic licensed companies (insurance companies, premium finance companies, HMOs, PPOs and more) to ensure compliance with state laws and regulations. Through market conduct examinations and market analysis investigations, the Division ordered \$1,756,584 returned to policyholders.

For more information, visit www.ncdoi.com.