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“The Commedia Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” at the Ansonia

Part of the events with Week of the Young Child

On Tuesday, April 4 Anson County Partnership for Children, Anson County Arts Council, and Anson Family Optometric will present “The Commedia Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” at the Ansonia Theatre, performed by the Charlotte Children’s Theatre as part of the annual “Week of the Young Child” events.

Kindergarten and NC Pre-Kindergarten students will watch the performance in the morning. The classrooms have worked for months to learn the story and characters, enrich vocabulary, communicate ideas and feelings through movement, voice, and writing, and learn about sequencing, which are all shared in the Children’s Theatre Study Guide, given to each classroom. This performance ensures that all children have the opportunity to see a live theatre performance, which can often bring a book to life and enrich a child’s imagination.

At 10 a.m. that morning, a parade will be held as children march from Rutherford Street near the Ansonia Theatre to Parsons Drug Store, making two round trips, ending back at the Ansonia.

Any other Anson county children are invited to march in the parade and are encouraged to dress as characters from the book “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.” Please contact Bonnie Morgan at 704-694-4036 no later than Friday, March 31 by noon if you plan to bring children to march in the parade.

Parents and community members are encouraged to participate as spectators, cheering on the children who are marching in the parade. Please ask your friends and neighbors to come see how hard the teachers, volunteers, and students have worked to create beautiful and funny fairy tale characters.

At 6:00 p.m. a free performance will be held for any children and families in the community. The event is free of charge but tickets are required and are available at the Anson County Partnership for Children. Please call 704-694-4036 for additional information or visit the Early Childhood Resource Center. Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis, so check your calendars and call as soon as possible.



Friends from Africa at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center’s Friends from Africa event was well attended. Kenyans Mr. and Mrs. James Kinyanjui were the invited guest speakers. Volunteers and other attendees listened intently as the Kinyanjui spoke of their heritage and traditions back home in Kenya.

Esther Kinyanjui captivated the audience as she talked of the many challenges she faced in coming to America to get her college education, with four boys. She talked about how she stood on God’s word with faith and trust. They have since adopted a set of twin girls from Kenya, Emily and Merriam.

James and Esther hope to one day go back to Kenya and start an orphanage. They spoke of the many children in Kenya without parents and no place to stay.

Pictured are, from left, front: Keziah Hough, Alexia Jackson and Noah Colson. Middle row: Kensey Colson, Merriam Kinyanjui and Emily Kinyanjui. Back row: Treamenda Caple, Esther Kinyanjui and James Kinyanjui.



Leading North Carolina Economic Indicators Are Up

The North Carolina State University Index of North Carolina Leading Economic Indicators (the ‘Index’), a forecast of the state economy’s direction four to six months ahead, posted a strong gain in February. The Index was up 1.7%, far exceeding the gain in the national index.

All components of the Index improved, with the strongest jumps occurring in building permits and manufacturing hours. The Index’s most recent reading broke out of a narrow range it had hovered within for over a year, suggesting that heightened optimism about the economy has emerged in the state. Some of this optimism is likely based on expected pro-growth policies emerging from Washington. But other optimism is derived from continued population growth - especially in the state’s metro regions - and a general acceleration in the state’s economy during the past two years. If these trends hold, then 2017 may shape up to be the best post-recessionary growth year for North Carolina.

About the Index: The Index is composed of five components: the Economic Cycle Research Institute (ECRI)’s Weekly Leading Index (www.businesscycle.com/resources), North Carolina initial claims for unemployment benefits, North Carolina building permits, average weekly hours of work of all North Carolina employees in manufacturing, and average weekly earnings of all North Carolina employees in manufacturing. All data are seasonally-adjusted and modified for differences in prices levels where appropriate. Data are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. Census Bureau, and ECRI, whose permission to use their Weekly Leading Index is greatly appreciated. All calculations are done by Dr. Michael Walden.

Timber Restoration Fund to Help Landowners Recover

\$1 million available to help with tree planting, but timeline is short

Landowners in 93 North Carolina counties whose timber lands were damaged by Hurricane Matthew or wildfires last year may apply for state funds to help with tree planting costs. The Disaster Recovery Act of 2016 included \$1 million for the Timber Restoration Fund, administered by the N.C. Forest Service.

“Funding for the program is available now, and landowners are encouraged to apply early,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “This is a one-time, time-limited fund designed to help landowners who have shovel-ready projects that can be completed by April 30, 2018.”

To be eligible for the program, projects must be between five and 100 acres, and landowners must be ready to implement site preparation and tree planting practices. All N.C. counties are eligible for the program except Alamance, Durham, Granville, Orange, Person, Vance and Warren.

Interested landowners should contact their county ranger’s office to apply. To learn more about the Timber Restoration Fund, visit ncforestservice.gov and follow the links under “Managing Your Forest.”

Rabies Vaccination Clinic is Saturday

You can have your pet vaccinated for only \$5 at Brown Creek Animal Hospital

The Spring Rabies Vaccination Clinic will be held this Saturday, April 1, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Brown Creek Animal Hospital on Highway 74 in Polkton. This is the perfect opportunity for you to vaccinate your pet for only \$5.

All dogs, cats and ferrets four months of age and older must have a current rabies vaccination that is administered by a licensed veterinarian.

The vaccination clinic is sponsored by Brown Creek Animal Hospital and the Anson County Health Department.

Town of Wadesboro Budget Workshops in April

Budget workshops for the fiscal year 2017-2018 annual budget for the Town of Wadesboro will be held at the Wadesboro Town Council Meeting Room at 5:00 p.m. each Tuesday in April (April 4, 11, 18 and 25).

Autism Awareness Training Workshop on April 6

Connections Family Support Program is hosting guest speaker Nancy Nestor on Thursday, April 6 at the Hampton B. Allen Public Library in the Pritchett Room, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Mrs. Nestor will be speaking on the topic of Autism. She will be explaining the characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder to include the signs and symptoms, basic interventions and treatments available.

Mrs. Nestor has a long history working with special needs populations starting in the late 1970s while she attended Ohio State University. She has taught and worked with young people with visual impairments, deaf-blindness, behavioral and emotional handicaps, learning disabilities and ADHD. Her experience with autism started 20 years ago when her son was born. At the age of five he was diagnosed with high-functioning autism. Since then Mrs. Nestor has served as President of the Autism Society of NC with the Mecklenburg County Chapter. She is employed by ASNC as a Regional Chapter Coordinator for the Charlotte area and as an Autism Resource Specialist.

Family members, providers, and professionals, such as teachers, social workers, case managers, therapists, counselors and court counselors are encouraged to attend. Space is limited and we ask that you register in advance and no later than April 3. Resources and lunch will be provided at no charge.

Connections Family Support Program is funded by Sandhills Center in collaboration with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in North Carolina. To register for this workshop please contact Suzanne Maness toll free at 877-211-5995 or by email at connectionsfs@gmail.com.

Public Hearings on State Species Listings

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is holding three public hearings in April to take comments on 37 proposed changes to its endangered, threatened and special concern species listings.

The endangered, threatened and special concern species lists, known collectively as the protected animal list or state list, identify native or once-native nongame wild animals that need protection. Biologists use this list to identify and conduct conservation projects to increase species population numbers. An endangered species is defined as one whose continued existence has been determined to be in jeopardy in the state, while a threatened species is one that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all, or at least a significant portion, of its range. A species listed as special concern needs monitoring.

Among the proposed changes are 14 that would add species to the list; seven that would remove species from the list and 16 that would change the status of species. The Wildlife Commission is proposing the listing changes to ensure the protection of these 37 species by providing active and appropriate conservation that includes research, land conservation, monitoring and habitat restoration. Read a complete list of proposed changes and summarized data on each species.

All hearings will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Dates and locations are:
• April 18 at N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission headquarters, 5th Floor Commission Room, 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27581
• April 24 at Craven Community College, Orringer Auditorium, 800 College Court, New Bern, N.C. 28562
• April 25 at Western Piedmont Community College, Foothills Higher Education Center, Room 163, 2128 S. Sterling Street, Morganton, N.C. 28655

The comment period for the proposed regulation will run from March 15, 2017 through May 15, 2017. Comments on the proposed changes may be submitted online at ncpaws.org, at the public hearing, emailed to regulations@ncwildlife.org (must include name, phone number and mailing address in email) or mailed to: Rules Coordinator, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1701.

After collecting and considering all public comments, the 19 wildlife commissioners will meet at the July Commission meeting to decide whether to adopt the proposed changes. If approved, changes will take effect Oct. 1, 2017.

Amateur Night at the Ansonia Sat.

Calling all local talent in the Anson County area! The Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation will be sponsoring an Amateur Night at the Ansonia Theatre this Saturday, April 1 at 8:00 p.m. The event is open to all comedy acts, singers and dancers. Whatever your talent, you are invited to showcase it at this upcoming event. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places during the event. Spaces are limited, so register asap!

All proceeds benefit the nonprofit Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation which awards an annual scholarship, athletic award and aids in other areas concerning teen issues.

For more information and to register contact Cassandra Reid 704-695-7097.

UWI Board Meeting

The Uptown Wadesboro Board of Directors will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 4 at 4 p.m. in the Anson County Chamber of Commerce conference room.

Free Tax Assistance

Free income tax assistance will be available for Anson County residents sixty years of age or older of low or moderate income who need help in preparing their income tax returns. This is through a program sponsored by AARP and Grace Senior Center.

Volunteer Counselors trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service will be at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, April 5. Free assistance is designed to help taxpayers fill out forms 1040EZ, 1040A, 1040 and the North Carolina return.

Persons using the service should bring this year’s tax package, age and earnings statements (forms W-2) received from employers, interest statements from banks (form 1099-INT) a copy of last year tax return and any other relevant information concerning income and expenses. Electronic filing of returns will be available.

Call Grace Senior Center to register and for information at 704-694-6616.