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

Grace Senior Center Hosting a Medicare Information and Fraud Prevention Event on April 20

The North Carolina Senior Medicare Patrol (NCSMP), housed within the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), has allowed Grace Senior Center to host several Identity Theft Shred-A-Thon/Fraud Prevention events.

The Identity Theft Shred-A-Thon/Fraud Prevention event called "LOOK Don't Glance" will be held on Thursday, April 20 at Grace Senior Center, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The LOOK Don't Glance event will allow seniors to focus on taking time to look at their Medicare Summary Notices, Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plans, Explanations of Benefits, and other statements they may receive - making sure plans and statements are correct and making sure there are no mistakes.

Grace SHIIP volunteers Joanne Clark, Thomasina Spencer and Brenda Bennett will be the hosts of this event. Please come out and learn how to prevent becoming a victim of identity theft and fraud. If you have additional questions please call Grace Senior Center at (704) 694-6616. Wanda Talbert is the Anson County SHIIP Coordinator.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

Ferdinand Coming to the Ansonia

The Anson County Partnership for Children and Anson County Arts Council present *Ferdinand* at the Ansonia Theatre on Tuesday, April 18, starting at 6 p.m. Children of all ages will love this original adaptation of *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf. In this classic tale, Ferdinand the bull is different from all the other bulls that like to run, jump and head-butt each other. He spends his time relaxing and smelling the flowers until a bee sting changes everything one day.



"The Ansonia's Artistic Director, Tommy Wooten, brings this heartwarming story to life with humor, popular music, and a zest for life that only he can," said Caroline Goins, ACPC Executive Director. "This is an event you don't want to miss."

This event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for open seating.

An adult must accompany all children. Unison and South Piedmont Community College will offer educational resources and children's activities starting at 5:30 p.m. in front of the theater.

This public event is part of the Raising A Reader program to promote literacy among preschool and kindergartners in Anson County. The performing arts are essential to brain development and building school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy skills. More than 500 Raising A Reader participants will attend a private viewing of *Ferdinand* earlier in the day, thanks to Anson County Schools and NC Pre-K.

For further details, please contact ACPC staff at 704-694-4036 or visit www.ansonchildren.org.

Statement by Anson Sheriff Scott Howell on Pistol Permits

Anson County Sheriff Scott Howell says effective immediately, pistol purchase permits will no longer be issued by any sheriff in North Carolina. The Anson County Sheriff's Office has stopped processing pistol purchase permit applications including pending applications.

All state laws regarding the issuance of pistol purchase permits by sheriffs in North Carolina were repealed on Wednesday morning, March 29 following a vote by the General Assembly to override Governor Roy Cooper's veto of Senate Bill 41, Guarantee 2nd Amendment Freedom and Protections.

This means any person who wants to purchase or transfer a handgun in North Carolina no longer has to apply to the sheriff for a pistol purchase permit. However, any person who wants to purchase a handgun through a firearms dealer will still undergo the background check required under current law and either be sold the handgun or denied sale if the background check indicates the person is disqualified from possessing a firearm.

Criminal penalties still apply for anyone that knowingly transfers a handgun to a person who may not lawfully possess the firearm (such as a convicted felon). Therefore, it is important for citizens to remember that anyone wishing to obtain or transfer any firearm, including a handgun, must still comply with Federal and State laws governing who may lawfully possess a firearm.

It is important to understand that North Carolina concealed handgun laws have NOT changed. Any person residing in Anson County wishing to carry a concealed handgun in North Carolina must still apply for and be issued a concealed handgun permit by the sheriff.

The Compassionate Friends Meet on Thursday, April 13

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings who have lost a child of any age, welcomes you to attend their monthly meetings.

They meet on the second Thursday each month, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. "We need not walk alone."

For more information call Ken Caulder at 704-694-2524.



Anson High School Track Team Competes in the Viking Relays

The Anson High School track team competed in the Viking Relays on Saturday, April 1 at Union Pines High School. Here are the results:

- **Malaysia Gabriel**
1st long jump, 2nd 100 m dash, 3rd 4x100 m relay.
- **Angelica Lugo**
3rd 110 hurdle and 300 hurdles, 3rd 4x100 m relay and 4th triple jump, Angelica also received the Sportsmanship Award.
- **Alayasia Caraway**
3rd 4x100 m relay.
- **Trinity Sellers**
3rd 4x100 m relay.
- **Pashunce Maxwell** 5th discus.
- **Cameron Sturdivant**
Received sportsmanship award.
- **Johntavious Booker**
2nd 300 m hurdles, 3rd 110 m hurdles;
- **THROWER RELAY 5TH**
Dylan Johnson
Cameron Sturdivant
Cameron Little
Adrian Hogan

Four Wildlife Encounters to Prepare for Now That Spring Has Sprung

With spring already underway, humans aren't the only ones that are taking advantage of the nicer weather. Here are some wildlife encounters you may experience and pro tips for handling each:

Unattended young rabbits, deer fawns, and songbirds: Wild parents can't hire a babysitter and it is normal for many species to leave their young unattended for long periods. Never assume young wildlife has been abandoned or orphaned just because you don't see a parent nearby. If your instinct is to stand guard until its parent returns, be aware that wild animals will avoid approaching if a potential predator (i.e., you!) is nearby, to avoid drawing attention to their young. Often the best way to help young wildlife is to leave them alone so their parents can return and care for them.

Young squirrels fallen from their nest: Windy weather during the nesting season puts young squirrels at risk of falling out of their nests. Squirrels mothers don't abandon their young easily and will search the ground for missing young to carry back to the nest. If the whole nest falls out of the tree, a squirrel will build a new nest before retrieving her young, so it's important to give her the time and space to do so.

Foxes, skunks, raccoons or squirrels making themselves at home - in yours: In early spring, wild parents are looking for sheltered, out-of-the-way spaces to raise their young for the season. Crawspaces under buildings can offer a safe and comfortable nursery for foxes and skunks while their newborn young are most vulnerable. Climbing species like raccoons and squirrels may try to access your attic. Even chimneys can become an entry point for flying species like bats and chimney swifts. To avoid having uninvited guests living under or above your building, now is a good time to make repairs to the exterior (e.g., vents, eaves, chimney caps) so wildlife can't find their way in.

Spotting snakes on the move: As cold-blooded animals, snakes rely on temperature for energy to move, so warmer weather means more will be out and about, regardless of the time of year. Most snakes in North Carolina start to become active after several days at or above 60°F, so an early spring means early snake activity while temperatures stay warm. The best way to handle a snake encounter is to give it space. Snakes only bite humans in self-defense, so bites can be prevented by avoiding situations that force a snake to defend itself from you. Never pick up or harass a snake, and avoid surprising one by watching where you step or reach, especially in areas with thick ivy or leaf litter on the ground, or piles of wood or rocks where snakes may be seeking shelter.

Wildlife Rehabilitators Regardless of the wild species you encounter, seek advice from a wildlife professional, such as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, before moving or attempting to care for any young wild animal to avoid causing unintentional harm. For handling unwanted wildlife encounters, a licensed wildlife control agent may be able to help. When unsure of what to do, call the NC Wildlife Helpline at 866-318-2401 for assistance or visit ncwildlife.org/have-a-problem for answers to commonly asked questions about preventing wildlife conflicts, injured/orphaned wildlife and more.

Sandhills Center Offers Help and Hope

Access to services for Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

Sandhills Center is a publicly-funded LME-MCO (Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organization) committed to helping people to receive the best care possible for their mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. They manage a network of service providers, they ensure the quality of services being provided, and they are a resource for behavioral health care information or assistance.

Sandhills Center serves the central North Carolina counties of Anson, Davidson, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Richmond, and Rockingham.

Sandhills Center is fully accredited by URAC in the areas of Health Network, Health Call Center, and Health Utilization Management, which ensures that members receive high-quality service. They make sure that you receive the attention and care you deserve while protecting your privacy.

The toll-free 24-hour Call Center can be reached at 1-800-256-2452.

There is no wrong time to call. They are ready to help and want you to get better. You will encounter a supportive environment that is free from judgment. Let them help you get the services you need.

If someone is experiencing a behavioral health crisis, contact the BH Crisis Line toll-free at 1-833-600-2054. If an individual appears to be in imminent danger to him/herself, you or others, immediately call 911.

Sandhills Center Mission Statement: "The mission of Sandhills Center, a Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organization, is to develop, manage and assure that persons in need have access to quality mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services.

We want to help, and we are here to help - call 1-800-256-2452. Behavioral Health Crisis Line - 1-833-600-2054."

One Call Could Save Your Life Savings!

Is that individual offering you an investment opportunity licensed to sell securities in North Carolina? Is the investment opportunity itself registered? Know before you sign!

While registration in and of itself is no guarantee against fraud, not being registered is a very big red warning flag.

The NC Secretary of State Securities Division urges you to take five minutes to call their NC Investor Hotline at 1-800-688-4507 to see if the person you have been dealing with - perhaps even for years - is properly registered and/or has a disciplinary history. You can also check to see if the actual investment itself is properly registered.

Pick up the phone and call them. You owe it to yourself and your family to check. And, please also consider sharing this information with your contacts or your social networks. Doing so will help keep your friends and loved ones safe, too. More information can be found at www.sosnc.gov/divisions/securities/for_investors.

Toys for Tots "Dollar Day" Yard Sale

Toys for Tots / Faith-Based Center of Hope will have a "Dollar Day" Yard Sale on Saturday, April 15 beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Burger King in Wadesboro.

To donate items or for monetary donations please contact: Patricia Robinson at 704 848-4995 or Vancine Sturdivant at 704 294-0480. All Donations are Welcomed.

Class of 1973 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman High School Class of 1973 will hold a meeting to finalize plans for the upcoming 50th Reunion. The meeting will take place at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 at Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro. All classmates are encouraged to attend.

For information you can contact Brenda S. Rorie at 704-695-5196.

Anson County "Under Our Umbrella" Family Support Group (Virtual)

Meeting date and time: Tuesday, April 11, 6 to 7 p.m.

Each support group is facilitated by the identified family partner who will also serve as the point of contact for each specific support group. All support groups are held via virtual platform at this time. Please reach out to the assigned family partner to request the link for the support group. Family support groups will be supportive of confidentiality, respect and a judgement free space to promote communication and advocacy.

For information call or email Amy Locklear, 910-331-3359 or: ALocklear@ncfamiliesunited.org.

This meeting is provided by Sandhills Center. Sandhills Center is a publicly-funded LME-MCO (Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organization) committed to helping people to receive the best care possible for their mental health, intellectual / developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. They manage a network of service providers, ensure the quality of services being provided, and are a resource for behavioral health care information or assistance. More information at: sandhillscenter.org.