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

Joint Meeting of Board of Education and Anson County Commissioners

The Anson County Board of Education and the Anson County Board of County Commissioners will meet jointly on Thursday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Grace Senior Center, located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

Ribbon Cutting for New Wadesboro Fire Department is April 19

Anson citizens are invited to come to the new Wadesboro Fire Department in uptown Wadesboro on Thursday, April 19 at 4 p.m. for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Fire Chief Marc Sessions and his team of firefighters have worked hard on this project, with support from the Town of Wadesboro. The result is a state of the art facility that will enhance the mission of the fire department.

The Wadesboro Fire Department is located on East Morgan Street at the intersection of Morven Road, next door to the former location.

April 21 NETworX Workshop Expands Understanding of Poverty

Poverty is loaded word. People have differing views of what it means to be poor. Some think that poverty is just the lack of money, but in reality what people face is more than that. They face the lack of resources, the lack of spiritual and emotional support, the lack of financial planning, the lack of education - all of which leads them to live in poverty without escape.

Instead of trying to understand this complex concept, we invite you to come and experience what it is to live in poverty for one day. Starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 21, Anson NETworX for Hope and the Anson-East Union Mission Network will present a workshop, "Bridges Out of Poverty," at First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Wadesboro. The workshop will be led by Annette Snider, the NETworX USA/NC Coach. She has been involved with initiatives to end poverty in North Carolina since 2009. Snider is a certified trainer of Dr. Ruby Payne's A Framework for Understanding Poverty, and a certified trainer for Bridges out of Poverty.

Following a light lunch, a Poverty Simulation will be held from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Through role-playing, attendees will "walk in the shoes" of families struggling with poverty and learn about real life problems they face.

Both programs and lunch are provided at no cost. For more information or to register, call or text NETworX administrator for Anson County Rev. Norma Villagrana at 816-351-4232 or FUMC at 704-694-5179. You may register online at www.ansonndetworxforhope.org. Registration is important in order to get an approximate head count for lunch.

NETworX is a movement to measurably reduce poverty at its holistic core, not through well-doing for others, but through well-being together. NETworX is individuals and communities seeking together to build intentional relationships through education and love of neighbor as well as love of self.

Anson NETworX has graduated two classes and a new class is beginning Thursday, April 12. Classes meet at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays at Firth United Methodist Church. A light meal, child care, and transportation are provided. There is no charge for the classes. For more information, call 816-351-4232 or visit www.ansonnetworxforhope.org.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Anson County Partnership for Children and Anson County Domestic Violence will present a "Pinwheels for Prevention" Pinwheel Garden for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The pinwheels will be displayed in front of the courthouse the week of April 16th. The garden of pinwheels symbolizes childhood happiness and are a physical reminder of the bright futures all children deserve.

"The pinwheel garden serves as a reminder that we are all responsible when it comes to the healthy childhood development of our communities' children," said Caroline Goins, Executive Director of the Anson County Partnership for Children.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is spreading the message that everyone can invest in children and families to give children the safe, stable, nurturing environments and relationships they need to thrive.

"North Carolinians are already involved in activities that prevent child abuse and neglect, they just don't realize it," said Sharon Hirsch, President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina. "We are working to educate the public about how they are already helping to prevent child abuse, as well as offering some positive ideas about how we all can help children and families thrive." A study commissioned by Prevent Child Abuse America shows that only 27% of Americans report that they are engaged in prevention. However, that same study showed that:

- 80% of Americans reported donating goods, money or time to an organization supporting children and families, and
 - 70% reported volunteering to work with children through places of worship, schools, and sports or academic clubs
- Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, Anson County Partnership for Children and Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition are encouraging North Carolina residents to learn more about how three specific actions - mentoring children and parents, advocating for family-friendly policies, and donating time and money - relate to child abuse prevention. For more information, contact the Anson County Partnership for Children at 704-694-4036 or visit www.preventchildabusenc.org.

Yard and Bake Sale this Saturday

The Burnsville Ladies Auxiliary will hold their Annual Yard and Bake Sale this Saturday April 14 at the Burnsville Volunteer Fire Department, from 7 to 11 a.m. Proceeds are used to benefit patients in local nursing homes, help needy children at Christmas, provide school supplies for our local schools and many other needs of our local residents. Everyone is invited to shop the great deals and enjoy the delicious baked goods.

The Burnsville Fire Department is located on Highway 742 North.



Super Kickers Raise \$1,250 for Domestic Violence Coalition

Weaver Thomas and his students at Just for Kicks Martial Arts Academy recently raised \$1,250 and donated it to the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition. If you would like to become a part of Just for Kicks contact Thomas at 704-690-3602 to learn more about the classes. The school is located at 123 Martin Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Pictured above are, from left, front row: Jordan Barbour, Kali Chambers, Ayden Wilcox, Bryson Moore and Mason Lee. Second row: Chloe Jordan, Joseph Helms, Quincy Joines, Kelis Adams and Sensei Denise Watkins. Back row: Sensei Ronnie Covington, Sensei Weaver Thomas and John Crawford. Not pictured are: Graham Clements, Gabe Clements, Zaria Elliott, Matthew Hutchinson, Deshaun Ingram, Sanajia Tillman, Mikaria Hunt, Aaliyah Ingram and Juelz Crawford.

Back Porch Stories Adds Bluegrass to Annual Event

Do you remember sitting on the porch listening to your grandparents, aunts and uncles telling stories? Maybe a cousin was strumming a guitar. Time passed slowly and no one noticed the sun going down.

Recreate that memory on Friday, April 27 at the Ansonia Theatre when the Anson County Writers' Club presents the sixth annual Back Porch Stories and Bluegrass. Tickets are only \$7 and children 10 and under are free.

Festivities will begin at 7 p.m. with Passin' Thru Bluegrass Band. Passin' Thru plays traditional bluegrass music with a distinct hard-driving sound you will love. With well over 100 years of combined musical talent, this band's members are well-matched instrumentally and vocally. With a love of all music, they embrace the traditional sound whether playing an uplifting gospel standard, a toe-tapping country hit, or a bluegrass song with an energy that is contagious.

The band members are C. H. Lineberry, guitar; Dwayne Runyon, mandolin; Jimmy Damron, bass; and Rodney Haywood, banjo.

The storytellers are Azalea Bolton and Sam Pearsall. Bolton enjoys both writing and telling stories about her life experiences in both Richmond and Robeson Counties. She says, "Life wasn't easy growing up with three brothers."

Azalea has been a newspaper columnist for the past three years, and is the co-author of a book entitled "Just Passing Time Together." She loves to tell her own original stories and loves to add a little singing whenever possible.

Pearsall says, "We are all made of stories! Stories are what we remember, what we dream of, and how we think of each other. Every story has joy, wisdom, and truth in it. And every story is a whole world. As the author John Crowley said, 'With any good story, the further in you go, the bigger it gets.'"

Master of Ceremonies J. A. Bolton is also a storyteller and the author of "Just Passin' Time," a collection of his stories.

Music, stories, door prizes...bring the kids and plan for a good time. Back Porch Stories and Bluegrass is a family-friendly and alcohol-free event.

For more information call Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211.



Azalea Bolton



Sam Pearsall



Passin' Thru Bluegrass Band

Anson County Board of Elections Installs New Members

On Monday, April 2 new board members were installed at the Anson County Board of Elections. Upon calling the meeting to order, newly confirmed members for the current term (which ends on July 1, 2019) were administered the oath of office.



Democrat members James Paxton and Annie Parsons were given the oath by Anson County Clerk of Superior Court Mark Hammonds. Republican members Rochelle Williams and Tracy Baynard were administered the oath by Elections Director Steve Adams. Recent law changes added an additional member to local boards of elections, as well as the office of Vice-Chair.

After the oath was administered and the new board seated, Adams welcomed the incoming board and opened the floor for nominations of a Board Chair. James Paxton was nominated and unanimously approved to serve as the Board Chairman. Rochelle Williams was nominated and unanimously approved to serve as Vice Chair, while Tracy Baynard was nominated and unanimously approved to serve as Secretary to the Board.

Local Board of Elections members are nominated by County Party Chairs and submitted to the NC State Board of Elections for approval. Due to a recent law change and court proceedings, the prior board, whose term was to end in June 2017, held over until March 31, 2018.

Prior to the newly confirmed board taking the oath of office, Elections Director Adams recognized the outgoing board and its members with remarks and plaques of appreciation for their service.

Pictured are, from left, Democratic Party Chair Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant, new Chairman James Paxton, new Vice Chair Rochelle Williams, new board member Annie Parsons, Elections Director Steve Adams, new Board Secretary Tracy Baynard and Anson County Clerk of Court Mark Hammonds.

Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser for Ansonville Historical Society

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a delicious spaghetti supper this Saturday, April 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ansonville Fire Department. This is a fundraiser for the Ansonville Historical Society. The \$10 plate includes spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, dessert and a drink.

50+ Club Meeting Features Program About Historical Society

The Hampton B. Allen Library's Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, April 16 at 12 noon in the Pritchett Room. The guest speaker will be former Sheriff Tommy Allen, President of Anson County Historical Society. Tommy will be sharing information about the Society, the museums, books and materials available there for use and purchase. Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and enjoy the program.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Family Support Group Meets Thursday, April 19

For those serving children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges

On the third Thursday of the month at the Hampton B. Allen Library in the Bookmobile Room, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., the Connections Family Support Program holds a group meeting for parents, grandparents and foster parents serving children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges. Refreshments and resources will be provided free.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19. If you would like to attend, please contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995 or by email at connections-fsp@gmail.com for more information.

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