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Enjoy our special supplement, Particulars, in this week's edition. Thank you for reading!

Measles Outbreak Affects North Carolina

According to a release from the Anson County Health Department there is an outbreak of measles in North Carolina, and nineteen counties are on alert. Anson County is currently not affected, however the Anson County Health Department would like to encourage parents to be sure that their children's immunizations are current and up-to-date. You should contact your primary care physician regarding current immunization status. For additional information you may contact Anson County Health Department at 704-694-5188.

County Water and Sewer Rates to Increase

Anson County will raise the rate it charges residents for water from the current \$11 minimum to \$12. This is the first increase since 2008 when the rate went from \$10 to \$11. According the county's website, the Anson County Utilities Departments mission is to provide safe and reliable water and wastewater service that meets or exceeds state and federal regulations. Anson County Utilities will strive to meet customers demand with fast, friendly, and cost effective services. The cost increase will help fund improvements to the water system as well as cover increases in costs involved with water treatment and delivery to customers. Water bills are due on the 15th of the month. You can pay water bills Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 907 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5208.

Commissioners Likely to Vote on Fracking Ban May 7

The Anson County Board of Commissioners are scheduled to vote on an ordinance to ban fracking in Anson County for a period of five years at their regular monthly meeting, to be held on Tuesday, May 7. Early indications are that the ban will pass. The purpose of the ban would be to give county officials more time to learn about fracking, which will help them determine the potential dangers of the controversial process. After the five year ban, a permit from Anson County will be necessary for drilling. Fracking, also known as induced hydraulic fracturing or hydrofracking, is a process to extract petroleum or natural gas from rock layers. Deposits of gas are located deep down in shale layers and are not accessible by drilling. Fracking involves pumping water and sand at extremely high pressure down into the shale layer, and blasting the rock into small pieces to release the gas. The wastewater (flowback) is pumped back out and stored in large tanks. The released gas is no longer trapped in the rock and can be pumped out. The water is usually mixed with sand or small particles of ceramic which functions to keep the fractures open. Various types of chemical additives are also used. Opponents of fracking say it causes severe environmental damage, pollution of groundwater and air, and presents a risk to human health. Proponents of fracking maintain it is safe and is a good method to extract large amounts of gas which would otherwise be inaccessible. The State of North Carolina appears poised to allow fracking in the state, and Anson County may be the first county to go against the tide by enacting the ban. In February the state Senate passed a bill to allow fracking as soon as 2015. The bill has not yet passed in the House. Geologists think most of the fracking in North Carolina will take place in the Dan River Basin, which runs through Anson County and central North Carolina. It has been estimated that there is enough natural gas contained in the basin to meet North Carolina's demand for at least five years.

Anson County Offices Now Accepting Credit Cards

Ansonians can now pay for many county services and expenses with their credit cards. On April 3 it was announced that credit card payments would be accepted for water bills, healthcare services and property taxes. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. But, when paying by credit card you need to be aware that there is a fee involved for the convenience. The fee is 2.5% of the amount paid, with a minimum fee of \$2. Paying a \$50 water bill will cost you a fee of \$2, because 2.5% of \$50 is only \$1.25. Paying a \$1,000 property tax bill with your credit card will cost you a fee of \$25.

Youth Fishing Rodeo is Saturday

The Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge is hosting its annual Youth Fishing Rodeo this Saturday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to noon. Children 12 and under may enter the rodeo, but all ages are invited to participate. The event will take place on Sullivan Pond at the refuge. This free event will feature prizes awarded to youth for the largest fish, the smallest fish and the most fish caught. Fishing rods, tackle and bait will be available if you do not have your own, so come on out for this great outdoor event and help celebrate National Fishing and Boating Week. A hot dog lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Pee Dee NWR following the fishing activities at 11 a.m. Other goodies will also be provided. The refuge is located on Highway 52 North, approximately 7 miles north of Wadesboro on the right. Look for signs. When you turn into the refuge continue straight, 1/2 mile past the office to Sullivan Pond. For more information call 704-694-4424.

Special Olympics Rescheduled to May 7

The Special Olympics Spring Games were canceled due to damp weather forecast for Tuesday, April 30. The original rain date of Thursday, May 2 is also canceled. The new date for the event is Tuesday, May 7. Opening ceremonies will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Anson High School Stadium. The quilt raffle winner will be announced during the event on May 7.3 Everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy this event while supporting young athletes who will give their all.

Compassionate Friends Annual Balloon Release Set for May 9

The Compassionate Friends, an international support group for families who have lost a child of any age, will hold its annual Balloon Release in honor of any deceased children. The release will be followed by a covered dish supper. This event will take place on Thursday, May 9 at the Polkton Depot at 6:30 p.m. Families and friends are invited to this event. For information call 704-694-8774 or 704-475-5005.

Third Graders at Ansonville Elementary School Give Back for Earth Day



Recently, third graders at Ansonville Elementary School and several parent volunteers came to help out with an Earth Day Project on the school's campus. Mrs. Barbee, Mrs. Martin, their students, and several parents replanted a raised flower bed in the school courtyard as part of their science unit on plants. AES 3rd Graders will be able to use this experience in order to refer to plants as living things, and to learn more about what plants need in order to survive. Without Kevin Thomas, Kim Tyner and Ashley Kearney helping to prepare the soil and instructing groups of students during the morning preparations, this project would not have been as successful. Each student experienced hands-on learning through planting and gardening, all while giving back to the earth. This project has taught them more about plants and their needs, how important it is to take care of the environment...and it has helped to make the school courtyard more appealing.

Andre Tyson, Real Life Role Model



Often times young people today look to action heroes, sports figures, musicians and other celebrity-types as role models for their personal lives. No matter where you live there are few people who actually reach that celebrity status. In Anson County we steer students to look elsewhere for role models, and on Tuesday, April 23 I met one of those student role models.

Andre Tyson, a senior at Anson High School, is currently ranked number one in his class and aspires to be named Valedictorian for this year's graduation. Andre has received full academic scholarships to Wake Forest University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Howard University, all three very prestigious schools.

This fall Andre will become a Carolina Tarheel while majoring in Biology. "Eventually I will become an emergency room physician, so I will be in school for quite a while," he said with determination. I felt that sense of determination as I spoke with Andre. This wasn't a typical student receiving a full academic scholarship; he was different from most so I began questioning him about his path thus far.

Andre admitted something to me that was a little surprising, given the fact that I was speaking with the number one student in the 2013 graduating class. "I would like to encourage other students who are struggling with things in their lives to just give academics a try. In middle school I was defiant and was suspended a total of over thirty days! So my end to this story probably isn't like most other academic scholars." Andre went on to tell me of people in his close inner circle who are living on the streets, and of his making a personal decision for a better way of life for himself.

Recalling teachers who inspired him, Andre said, "Mrs. Shirley Streater challenged me and pushed me because she saw my potential. Mrs. Buccolo also realized that I had a gift for learning and she helped me attend summer camps, apply for and receive scholarships, and so much more."

I told Andre that I saw him as a very strong role model and he admitted already stepping up to that plate. "I was troubled and I was in trouble - headed nowhere. To those who are currently in a similar situation I say, please, please just try another way and I think you will see things as I have," he urged. With a list of academic achievements and extracurricular activities a mile long I am sure UNC-CH will have a stellar student in Andre Tyson who has big plans already. "I have known for a couple of years, since attending the LENS program at Wake Forest, that I want to work in an emergency room situation, a place where you see people coming in off the streets. I want to save lives and help those people." And after our brief visit, I believe he will do just that.

Andre was voted Most Likely To Succeed, he served as a NC House of Representatives Page, attended the Chemistry Olympiad at Johnson C. Smith University, is a member of the National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society to name a few. He has hundreds of community service hours.

"There are just too many people to thank so I won't even try. But they know who they are and know that I am thankful, thankful everyday," confided Andre, son of proud parents, Minnie and Charles Tyson of Wadesboro.

Andre Tyson is a real life role model. You would be wise to listen to his story and take his advice. Take him up on his challenge to give academics a try. You too will be glad you did.

By Melanie Lyon

Tractor Supply Paper Clover Fundraiser Supports Anson 4-H

From May 8 to 19 Tractor Supply in Wadesboro is partnering with the National 4-H Council to offer a Spring Paper Clover Promotion to help support our local 4-H program in Anson County. Shoppers will have the choice of adding \$1 to their purchase at checkout, or you can purchasing a \$5 clover. Proceeds will come to the local 4-H program and will help to cover costs for trips, summer day camps, conferences and volunteer trainings. So, if you have not already done so, please go down to the store, make a donation or purchase one...or ten clovers! Over the last three years \$2 million has been raised through this promotion nationally. Remember, the proceeds are going to a great program that supports great youth and adults right here in Anson County! Hope to see you there!

Relay for Life is Friday, May 10

Everyone is encouraged to come join in the activities planned for Relay for Life on Friday, May 10 at Anson High School. Cancer survivors are invited to come participate for free (you can bring your caregiver). There is a \$5 charge for anyone not with a team. Opening ceremonies begin at 6 p.m. There will be entertainment and a kids zone with games. Luminaries are available for \$10 each or three for \$25. All proceeds go to Relay for Life. For more information call Carrie Bunn at 704-294-0071.

Special Meeting Called by Board of Education

The Anson County Board of Education will meet in a specially called meeting on Monday, May 6, beginning at 4 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center at the Anson County Board of Education Office, located on 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. The only item on the agenda will be a closed session for confidential personnel matters pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) and G.S. 115C-319.

Free Health Services Provided for Veterans During May and June

Anson County veterans and their dependents have several Thursday sessions of health services available to them during the next two months. These services are provided by the Salisbury VA Rural Health Team, and will take place at the Anson Veteran Services Office, located in the former Belk building in uptown Wadesboro (111 North Greene Street), from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

- May 16 - Hands only CPR and Choking class for veterans and family members
- May 23 - Diabetic Self Management. VA Pharmacist will assist with this class
- June 6 - Nine Healthy Living Messages - Combined Health Topics
- June 13 - VA Services, including MyhealthVet., Telemove/Telehealth, VA Pharmacist, Women Health, Hospice Representative, Benefits VBA, etc. And, Enrollment/Referrals.

Any questions contact Ted Ward at (704) 694-4418 or tward@co.anson.nc.us.

Special Town Council Meeting May 2

A special meeting of the Town of Wadesboro Town Council has been set for Thursday, May 2 at 6 p.m. to discuss financial matters and the Town's current and upcoming budgets. The meeting will be held in the Town of Wadesboro Conference Room.

Take Advantage of the Rabies Vaccination Clinic on May 4

The 2013 spring Rabies Vaccination Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 4, between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. at Tractor Supply in Wadesboro. The reduced cost of the rabies vaccination is \$5 per vaccination. This clinic is sponsored by Brown Creek Animal Hospital and the Anson County Health Department.

Grace Senior Center Annual Senior Health Fair

Seniors are encouraged to come out to the Senior Health Fair at Lockhart-Taylor Center and learn all about local resources that are available in Anson County and surrounding counties that are available for you. On Thursday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grace Senior Center will sponsor this event that is full of information, exhibitors, and even features lunch...all for free!

- FREE to seniors 55 and older.
- FREE Lunch will be served to all who attend.
- FREE to all Exhibitors who attend. (Exhibitors may start to set up at 9:30 a.m.)
- Transportation will be provided only to seniors that attend the nutrition congregate sites.
- Blood Sugar Testing provided.
- Blood Pressure Screening provided.
- Screenings by some Exhibitors.
- and lots more!

Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 2, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lockhart-Taylor Center, 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. For more information and to register call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

Artists and Crafters Meeting Every Tuesday

The Anson County Arts Council holds an arts and crafts workshop each Tuesday, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Olde Mill Gallery at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Bring your own supplies. The workshop is free, but donations are welcomed.