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



Youth Career Connect STEM Academy at AHS Students Visit Wingate University

On Monday, April 25 Mrs. Jill Edwards and Mrs. Robbie James took seventy-eight 9th graders to tour Wingate University. They began the morning meeting with Associate Director of Admissions Nicholas DeLangie discussing the requirements needed to gain admission into the school as well as the importance of choosing a school based on the individual student. Mr. DeLangie stressed the importance of studying, while working towards a goal.

Wingate University students then took the students on a tour of the campus where they discussed the history of the school, student life, various educational programs and support services available. The tour concluded with a free lunch in Wingate's cafeteria. *Photo courtesy of Kimberly Ingold*

\$13,500 Grant Awarded to Lilesville Fire Department

Department of Insurance sends award check for new equipment

Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin announced that the Lilesville Fire Department was awarded a \$13,500 grant through the 2016 Volunteer Fire Department Fund from the State of North Carolina. The check will be mailed to Fire Chief Marty K Morton Jr. to be used by the Department to purchase needed equipment. The equipment is purchased using matching funds and must be approved by the Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal.

"Fire and rescue organizations protect our communities large and small across North Carolina, but sometimes their budgets don't grow with their responsibilities," Commissioner Goodwin said. "Our emergency service personnel should be supported with the best equipment and supplies needed to do their jobs correctly and safely."

"I know the Lilesville Fire Department, will use this money to serve their community even better," Goodwin added. "Thank you, Chief Marty K Morton Jr., for all of your hard work and thanks to your dedicated staff."

The Lilesville Fire Department has received a total of \$139,059.88 from the Volunteer Fire Department Fund in the past 28 years since the program began. The General Assembly created the Volunteer Fire Department Fund in 1988 to help volunteer units raise money for equipment and supplies. The grant funds must be matched dollar-for-dollar for an amount approved up to \$30,000, unless the department receives less than \$50,000 per year from municipal and county funding, in which case the applicant shall match \$1 for each \$3 of grant funds up to \$30,000. Since the program's inception, the Department of Insurance has distributed \$113,255,409.34 to volunteer fire departments across the state.

Bonnie Morgan Honored at National Smart Start Conference

Anson County Partnership for Children employee Bonnie Morgan received the Stephanie Fanjul National Smart Start Conference Scholarship Award in Greensboro on May 4. All Partnership employees as well as board members, John Witherspoon, Lula Jackson and Thomasina Montgomery were in attendance at the conference.

Staff members with 15+ years of service in a Smart Start Partnership in North Carolina were eligible for this award. Bonnie Morgan was nominated by Anson County Partnership for Children Executive Director Elaine B. Scarborough who stated, "Every Smart Start partnership would be blessed to have an employee like Bonnie Morgan on staff!"

Lily (Bonnie) Robinson Morgan has been employed by the Anson County Partnership for Children since February 1999. She began her service at the Partnership as Child Care Resource and Referral Technical Assistant, and has held many positions, including CCR&R Parent/Provider Assistant; Parenting Coordinator; Adolescent Parenting Program Coordinator; Literacy Coordinator; Early Childhood Resource Center Coordinator; and Community Outreach and Literacy Coordinator.

In each position, Bonnie has provided dedicated, passionate service to young children and families in Anson County, always going above and beyond her job description. In her various roles at the Partnership Bonnie has provided technical assistance to child care providers and to parents seeking high quality child care and to clients of the Early Childhood Resource Center. In her role as Adolescent Parenting Coordinator for seven years, Bonnie provided intensive parenting services to teen mothers and their children using the Parents as Teachers curriculum. She responded to their needs by phone, by text and in person at all hours of the day and night, and is still affectionately known as "Miss Bunny" by those participants.

In her current role as Community Outreach and Literacy Coordinator, Bonnie coordinates the Partnership's literacy programs, including Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Raising a Reader, Reach Out and Read, book distributions and ReadyRosie. She facilitates the Partnership's community events including the Child Abuse Pinwheel Garden, Week of the Young Child celebration, Visit with Santa and all literacy events. Bonnie also serves as Chair of Food and Volunteers for the Partnership's annual fundraiser, the Barn Blast.

While working at the Anson County Partnership for Children, Bonnie went back to school to complete her Associate degree followed by her Bachelor's degree in Human Services. Bonnie is well known in the community as an excellent resource when families are in need or for community projects. She is also a lay pastor, elder and very active member of First Presbyterian Church of Wadesboro and has served on the Charlotte Presbytery. She is also a board member of the Anson Women's League.

Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child." For more information contact Elaine Scarborough at 704-694-4036 or elaine.scarborough@ansonchildren.org or visit www.ansonchildren.org.



Bonnie Morgan (in front holding plaque) was recently honored for her many years of service to children and families in Anson County.

Wadesboro Budget Meeting Set for May 24

A special meeting of the Town of Wadesboro Town Council has been set for Tuesday, May 24 5:00 p.m. for the presentation of the Town of Wadesboro Fiscal Year 2016-2017 annual budget to the Town Council.

The Fire Station/Town Hall combo preliminary price estimations will also be discussed at the meeting.

The meeting will be held in the Town of Wadesboro conference room.

Parks and Recreation Kickball Registration

Registration for kickball for boys and girls in grades 3 to 6 will begin on Wednesday, May 18 and continue until Friday, July 1. You may come by the Parks and Recreation Office or register online at www.co.anson.nc.us before the Friday, July 1 deadline. The cost is \$25 per person.

For any questions please call Jeff Waisner 704-695-2550, Wendell Small 704-695-2782 or Morris Gatewood 704-694-5751.

'Affair on the Square' in Rockingham this Thursday

An event called Affair on the Square will be held in downtown Rockingham this Thursday, May 19, from 5 to 8 p.m. Enjoy dinner specials in three restaurants, then see artists and exhibitors on the sidewalks in between.

Discovery Place Kids will offer children's activities and restaurants will have live music. All participating merchants will have drawings for gift certificates of \$25 or more.

For more information call 910-331-9965.

Veterans Meeting is Friday, All Veterans Invited

The Anson County's Veterans Council meeting will be held this Friday, May 20 at 6 p.m. at the National Guard Armory in Wadesboro. There will be an update on the Veterans Memorial as well as an evening of interesting events planned. A meal will be served, and all veterans and their spouses are welcome.

The Veterans Council President is Edward Parker. For more information call 704-695-5114.

Schedule Changes and Event Information for Grace Senior Center

DANCERCISE EXERCISE

AT GRACE SENIOR CENTER: Dancercise Exercise at Grace Senior Center is cancelled until June 2 due to renovations of the center. Dancercise will resume on Thursday June 2, from 10 until 11 a.m.

The Monday schedule will resume on Monday June 6, from 1 until 2 p.m.

For more information please call 704-694-6616.

GRACE SENIOR CENTER ANNUAL INFORMATION & HEALTH FAIR:

Will be held on Tuesday, June 21, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Senior citizens are invited to come out and get information and learn about resources available in Anson and surrounding counties. All seniors aged 55 and over are invited to attend. You must provide your own transportation.

Blood sugar testing and blood pressure screening will be available to participants at no cost. Lunch will be served to attendees and vendors.

For more information or to register please call 704-694-6616.

BINGO

AT GRACE SENIOR CENTER: Bingo will be played at Grace Center on Tuesday, June 28, from 1 until 2 p.m.

Bingo is normally held on the third Tuesday of the month, but due to the Annual Information/Health Fair being held on that day in June, Bingo will be held the fourth Tuesday.

For more information please call 704-694-6616.