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

Michael Freeman Appointed Superintendent of Anson County Schools



Michael H. Freeman set a goal over 30 years ago to become Superintendent for the Anson County School System, a goal that has paid off. Freeman has been appointed to the position of Superintendent following a competitive recruitment process conducted by the North Carolina School Boards Association on behalf of the Anson County Board of Education.

Freeman, a local candidate for Superintendent who has worked for Anson County Schools his whole career, was selected after he completed the interview process. The ACS Board of Education approached this process with the sincere effort of recruiting the very best ACS Superintendent they could.

Freeman was appointed Interim Superintendent following the resignation of former Superintendent, Dr. Greg Firm in early 2013. Freeman is now transitioning into the Superintendent's position permanently based on his appointment by the Board of Education on Tuesday, June 4, 2013.

When I contacted Freeman, he said, "I feel so honored to have been selected to continue my career with Anson County Schools by serving as the new Superintendent. I am looking forward to being the leader of a team who will ensure that each student attending Anson County Schools will learn and be prepared for life beyond high school."

Many citizens from within the geographical boundaries of Anson County and throughout the state of North Carolina have rallied to endorse Michael Freeman as the new ACS Superintendent. A public survey was conducted by the North Carolina School Boards Association for the Anson County School System which offered citizens of Anson County a chance to become involved with the choice of Superintendent. According to Allison Schafer, Director of Policy and Legal Counsel at the NC School Boards Association, Anson's survey had the highest per capita return rate of any school system ever, with over 800 completed surveys. Freeman was chosen by over 90% of the respondents.

As he begins his new role, we all expect him to guide progress in Anson County the same way he has done during his entire educational career. Freeman added, "I will need every citizen, including children and adults, to join me as we all strive to accelerate Anson County Schools to new levels of success. Every employee and community member will be accountable for the awesome honor and duty we have to provide our children with a superior educational foundation to build upon for future learning. We all must realize that learning never ends - learning begins in the home, community, and churches. Schools extend and build upon this learning, while preparing children to become successful in the various paths of life they select."

Freeman's passion for educating children clearly sends the message of quality learning for all Anson County students. Congratulations Mr. Freeman! *Photo and story by Melanie Lyon*

Wadesboro Post Office Food Drive Collects 9,231 Pounds!

In a release from the Wadesboro Post Office: The National Association of Letter Carriers would like to thank the residents of Wadesboro, Polkton, Morven and Lilesville for their donations to our food drive. Thanks to those residents the Wadesboro Post Office was able to donate 9,231 pounds of non-perishable food to the Anson County Crisis Ministry.

2013 Anson Ag Expo & Fair Set for Weekend of September 27-28

Mark your calendars for this year's annual Anson Ag Expo & Fair. Slated for this fall, the 2013 Anson Ag Expo and Fair Planning Committee is gearing up for events to promote agriculture and natural resources, and celebrate their importance to Anson County.

This year's festivities will be held Friday and Saturday, September 27-28 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center of South Piedmont Community College in Wadesboro. The event promises an array of activities and fun.

Friday's offerings will begin at 6 p.m. with the annual Ag Fair being exhibited in the Ingram Room and the Youth Livestock Show in the parking area. Saturday will feature those same events continuing at 9 a.m. There promises to be lots of excitement with the return of the South Atlantic Woodsmen's Association lumberjack sports demonstration in the afternoon. All events are free to the public.

Be on the look out for more information to come, including time schedules, children's activities, educational and agricultural competitions, a bake-off and much more. Come out and join the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson.

Section of Cameron Briley Road Closed for Bridge Replacement Project

The NC Department of Transportation announced that they will temporarily close a section of Cameron Briley Road in Anson County. Contractor R.E. Burns and Sons Inc. will start a \$505,000 project to replace the bridge over Canes Creek, northeast of Polkton.

Traffic will be detoured around the project from Cameron Briley Road to Winfield Road to Highway 742 to Cameron Road back to Cameron Briley Road.

The contractor has until September 28 to complete the bridge replacement, and can continue vegetation reestablishment work through March 26, 2014.

NCDOT reminds motorists to watch signs for construction information, stay alert and obey the posted speed limit.

For real-time travel information at any time, call 511, visit www.ncdot.gov/travel or follow NCDOT on Twitter at www.ncdot.gov/travel/twiter. Another option is NCDOT Mobile, a phone-friendly version of the NCDOT website. To access it, type "m.ncdot.gov" into the browser of your smartphone. Then, bookmark it to save for future reference. NCDOT Mobile is compatible with the iPhone, Android and some newer Blackberry phones.

For more information you can contact the division bridge program engineer at (704) 983-4400.

Back Where it all Began at Field of Dreams Opening Ceremony



Members of the Anson High School baseball teams were on hand for the Opening Day Ceremony at the Field of Dreams on Saturday, April 13th. All of these boys got their start at the Field of Dreams. Since then some of them have received offers of playing ball at the college level, legion ball and travel ball. If you get a chance, come out and see them play a home game at the high school. Thanks guys for being good role models for these future players!

Pictured here from left are Jon Edwards, Bunyon Tyson, Kenneth Boggan, Curtis Napier, Scott Kendall, Kevin Leak, Nicholas Marble, Grant Harward, Lucas Dutton, Devin Smith, Dylan Dowdy and Coach Paul Currie.

From the Sheriff's Desk

The recent tragic drowning at the Pee Dee River reminds me that as we go into the warm summer months more and more people will now be outside fishing, swimming and going on vacations. Tragedies can occur even with the best planning and using caution. However, very often many of these can be prevented. The rivers that border two sides of our county are heavily used for boating, fishing, and in some areas swimming. But when individuals don't wear life jackets while in boats, fish in prohibited or restricted areas or swim far away from shore or river banks tragedy can occur. Another factor that often plays a major role is putting alcohol or illegal drugs into this mix. Judgment becomes impaired. That shore that someone decides to swim over to is actually a lot further away than it looks.

This also begins vacation time for many families and there are several things you should or should not do prior to leaving to make your time away and your return a lot happier. The number one thing you should never do is to post on a social network sites such as Facebook or Twitter that you are going to be out of town. It may be hard to believe but individuals will post their vacations plans on these sites, saying when and what day they are leaving and when they expect to return. You've just told the world where there is an empty house for several days. There are people out there who scan these sites to see who is not home.

Do let a trusted neighbor or relative know you will be away and ask them to watch your house and call the police if they see any suspicious activity. You also want your home to look like someone is there. A couple of timers on lights or TVs inside are good investments. Stop mail and newspaper deliveries or have that trusted neighbor or relative pick up these for you daily. Have someone mow the lawn if you are away more than a week.

Your local police department or your sheriff's office will check your home daily while you are away if you will call and ask them to do so. Be sure to leave them with contact information if they find something out of place or suspicious.

A little preparation and common sense can help make this a safe summer and vacation time for you and your family.

First Summer Jam is this Friday, June 7

Brandon Kirkley & the Firecrackers

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc.'s first Summer Jam will kick off with Brandon Kirkley & the Firecrackers this Friday. The band features Wadesboro's very own Vincent Baynard. UWI is very excited to be bringing local talent home to perform! The band will provide a variety of cover music and some of their own originals.

June's Summer Jam will be located on East Wade Street, near the intersection with Washington Street. It will begin around 6:30 p.m. Bring your own chair or blanket to enjoy the event. There will be activities for children to participate in while everyone enjoys the music!

This event is provided free to the public by Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. and their sponsors. The UWI Summer Jam Series will continue on the first Fridays of July and August. Stay tuned for band and location announcements! UWI's website is www.uptownwadesboro.com.

Bach's Lunches Set for this Summer

The Anson County Arts Council will offer their Bach's Lunches again this summer. Three lunches are scheduled, June 19, July 17 and August 21. They take place at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Wadesboro, from noon to 1 p.m.

The first Bach's Lunch will feature entertainment by Emily Litaker Privette. Tickets are \$10 (or \$25 for all three lunches), and are available at Lacy's and the Arts Council. More information is available at 704-694-4950.

Help For Home Repairs Using IllumiNATION-East Grant

Are you a homeowner who is physically or financially unable to take care of minor home repairs? Do you need help with minor construction upkeep? If so, IllumiNATION-East may offer you some assistance.

An \$82,000 grant to fund a youth mission camp serving Anson and Stanly Counties was established through the Duke Endowment and Partnership of United Methodist Churches. By using the youth groups from several regional churches, homeowners will be served during "camp weekends" for one or two day projects. This mission touches lives of homeowners but also the youth and young people who attend the camp. The home repair ministry includes Bethel Charge, Lilesville Charge and Peachland Charges of the United Methodist Church.

Camp dates for this year are August 15 through 18, and October 18 through 20 at Joshua Youth Camp in Albemarle. Youth can use this opportunity to mission by serving the homeowners in need. If you or your youth group is interested in participating please contact Nancy Nolan at www.nnolan2292@gmail.com.

If you are a homeowner and wish to be considered for one or two day project assistance please contact the Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 or Anson County Social Services. All Anson County home site referrals will be collected through these agencies.

Memorial Day Proves Busy for Boating Safety and Driving Safety Campaign

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission, State Highway Patrol and the Alcohol Law Enforcement Division have released Memorial Day weekend totals for "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign. That campaign is a multi-agency initiative that is designed to combine law enforcement resources to ensure that everyone can safely travel on highway and waterways during the summer months. The campaign periods focus on three major holidays; Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day. The campaign will continue into the upcoming summer months.

Below are the Memorial Day weekend enforcement efforts from all three participating agencies:

- **Wildlife Resources Commission** Operate Boat While Impaired - 25; Other Boating Arrest Violations - 471; and Other Boating Warnings - 811. Total - 1,307
- **State Highway Patrol** Driving While Impaired - 285; Provisional License Violation - 22; Other Implied Consent Violation - 98; Drug Violations - 33; Drug Paraphernalia - 18; Seatbelt Violations - 1,300; Child Restraint Violations - 178; Equipment Violations - 550; Driver License Violation - 1,310; Registration Violation - 941; and Other Violations - 3,442. Total - 8,177
- **Alcohol Law Enforcement Division** Arrests - 7; Simple Possession of Scheduled II - 1; Simple Possession of Schedule VI - 1; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 1; Fictitious Driver's License - 1; Under Age Possession Spirituous Liquor - 5; and Transport Spirituous Liquor in Passenger Area of Vehicle - 1. Total - 17

There are more than 200 sworn, full-time wildlife officers across the state who patrol 5,000 square miles of inland streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waterways and instruct certified boating safety education courses. The public can assist them by reporting boating violations to 1-800-662-7137.

For more information on boating, boating safety and where to enjoy boating, visit www.ncwildlife.org/boating or call 919-707-0031.

Early Dismissal Times for Anson Schools on Friday

On Friday, June 7 Anson County Schools will have early release. The release times are below:

- All Elementary Schools will release at 12:30 p.m.
- All Secondary Schools will release at 1:30 p.m. (Anson High, Anson Middle, Anson New Tech, Anson Early College)

Ansonville Museum Schedule Change

The Ansonville Historical Society and Museum will no longer be open on the fourth Sunday of each month. Now the museum will be open by appointment. To schedule an appointment call 704-826-8129 or 704-826-8228.

50+ Club Features Musical Program

The Hampton B. Allen Library's 50+ Club will meet on Monday, June 10, in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. The band Olde Country and Gospel will be presenting a concert. Band members are Wilbur Moore, Jim Hinson, David Napier, Aaron Hinson, Sandy Drye and Ronnie Jarman. You are invited come and bring a friend for this entertaining program. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Reunion Planning Meeting for Classes of 1968, '69 & '70

A 2014 Class Reunion Planning Meeting for the Classes of 1968, 1969 and 1970 is scheduled for Saturday, June 15th at 6 p.m. at Lady Bug Restaurant. Members of each of these classes are asked to be present to begin the planning process for the combined 2014 Class Reunion!

Class of 2003 Reunion Registration Deadline

The Class of 2003's ten year class reunion will be held on October 12th at Aloft in the EpiCentre of uptown Charlotte. The deadline to register is June 15th. To register to attend please go to <https://ahs03reunion.eventbrite.com>.

Deep Creek School Reunion

There will be a reunion for Deep Creek School on Saturday, June 8 beginning at 10:30 a.m. All classmates and interested citizens are invited to come to Deep Creek Baptist Church for this event. Bring a friend...and a covered dish!