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GRADUATION SPECIAL EDITION...CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ANSON COUNTY GRADUATES

Covid Update for Anson County

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Wednesday, June 22 there were 6,868 total Covid-19 cases, with 127 of those cases active and 99 deaths. On June 15 there were 6,773 total cases, with 73 active and 99 deaths. On June 3 there were 6,714 cases, with 64 active and 99 deaths.

Covid vaccines and vaccine boosters are available at the Anson County Health Department. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information. Walk-in clinics are held on Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro.



Leadership Anson Holds Graduation for Two Classes - 2020 and 2022

The Anson Chamber graduated its 24th and 25th classes of community leaders on Tuesday, June 7 as part of its Leadership Anson program. To celebrate, class participants hosted a graduation ceremony at Loba Wakol USA in Wadesboro. The evening included a meal provided by Lori Jarman and guest speaker Rocky Carpenter of Southern Fabricators, Inc.

Leadership Anson, a six-month program that nurtures and engages the leadership skills of potential and current community leaders, deepens participants' understanding of Anson County, its issues and opportunities, and encourages graduates to take active roles as stewards and advocates for positive change.

Since its start in 1996, Leadership Anson has graduated more than 370 community leaders.

Class of 2020 (Top photo) Teresa Cochran, Atrium Health Anson; Wendy Dagenhart, Anson County Schools; Brandy Liles, Anson County Department of Social Services; Donna Liles, Town of Wadesboro; Priscilla Little, Anson County Child Support; John Martin, Anson County Schools; Beau Melton, Carolina Title Company; Nicole Sikes, Anson County Schools; and Kinsey Watkins, Anson County Cooperative Extension.

Class of 2022 Katie Carpenter, Anson County Schools; Rebekah Carpenter, HOPE Pregnancy Resource Center; Tanya Chance, South Piedmont Community College; Heather Edwards, Studio 256; JF Harward, Anson County Schools; LeAnn Melton-Johnson, Anson County Partnership for Children; Amanda McFayden, Uwharrie Bank; Devin Pettiford, HOLLA & NETworX Anson; Maya Ponds, Anson County Partnership for Children; Megan Shaw, Pee Dee Electric; Daniel Tagge, Atrium Health Anson; and Elaine Wartinger, Atrium Health Anson.

Applications for the Leadership Anson Class of 2023 will be available in October.



Stride with Pride Shoe Drive is Back for 12th Year

Parents need to contact organizers with needs. Donors asked to help area students.

This is a release from Stride with Pride organizers Sheriff Landric Reid and Patti Poulcott of Judy's Tax Service: As I know this pandemic is taking its toll on us all, we want the community to know Stride with Pride is still collecting new tennis shoes and money for the kids in the county. With students returning to school in August, these kids need shoes to wear.

This is our 12th annual season of collecting and distributing new tennis shoes to the underprivileged youth of all diversities in Anson County. We will need all sizes, male and female, from kindergarten to 12th grade. Please contact us as soon as possible so we can get the sizes right.

Message to parents Covid-19 has changed our world and forced us to do things much differently than we have in the past. Instead of having a large gathering to distribute the shoes as we have in the past, we plan to give out the shoes door to door. This will keep contact as little as possible. So, with that in mind, we need to stress the importance of parents contacting us in the next few weeks so that we can buy the shoe sizes that are needed. The quicker you can contact us, the quicker we can get the shoes to the kids.

As a reminder, we need you to either email or text Patti Poulcott or Sheriff Landric Reid with the shoe sizes, ages, gender and names of each child, along with your current address and contact phone number. That way we will have all the information to make the purchases and deliveries. If you do not contact us we will not know who needs new shoes.

Message to donors We do this because we care about our kids here in our county, and hope that our donors will join with us and help us continue to help our youth. If you would like to make a donation please mail them to: Shaundasia T Smith Foundation, Stride With Pride Shoe Drive, c/o Judy's Tax Service, 102 S Rutherford Street, Wadesboro NC 28170.

We will be collecting and making deliveries through the beginning of school in August.

If you have any questions please contact Patti Poulcott or Landric Reid.

• Patti Poulcott - Email: ppoulcott@carolina.rr.com or Text: 704-694-8386
• Landric Reid - Email: trooperone@live.com or Text: 704-695-1371

We hope that you will consider joining us so that we can help our youth "Stride With Pride" their way to success.

Anson Extension Community Association Community Service Event

Did you know that quality of life in one's community and society is directly impacted by the extent to which people are engaged in lifelong learning? People involved in lifelong learning are also about 20% more inclined to support vital community organizations (lern.org).

Research shows that collaborative problem solving leads to better outcomes. People are more likely to take calculated risks that lead to innovation if they have the support of a team behind them. Working in a team encourages personal growth, and reduces stress. Teamwork is one of the main components of ECA, and some of the Anson County members are working collaboratively to do just that. They are teaming up with Boys and Girls Home of NC at Lake Waccamaw. When boys and girls arrive to the home, they are in need of basic necessities that need. It takes money to ensure that all newcomers are given everything that they may not come with.

Anson Extension Community Association (ECA) have decided to make this their service project for the 3rd quarter. They will be compiling new arrival kits for girls and boys of the Boys and Girls Home of NC. A list of items that are included in new arrival kits are: twin sheet set, blanket, comforter, mattress pad, pillow protector, laundry basket, shower caddy, alarm clock, pillows, towels, wash clothes, toothbrush cover and soap container.

The Anson ECA group is just starting back with regular meetings and service projects quarterly. The mission of ECA is to strengthen families through: Leadership Development, Volunteer Work and Educational Support. If you would like more information about the ECA group or would like to help this group by contributing items, please call 704.694.2915.

By Roshunda Terry, County Extension Director

Summer Jam and Fireworks in Uptown Wadesboro is Saturday

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. and the Town of Wadesboro will be hosting this year's Fourth of July Summer Jam celebration this Saturday, July 2! The event will start at 5:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the corner of Wade and Washington Streets

This event will feature live music from Al G & Friends, food trucks, games for children and much more! Oh yes...and fireworks at 9:00 p.m. This is a free event. The rain date is Saturday, July 9.

Anson County Offices Closed July 4

Anson County offices will be closed on Monday, July 4 for the Independence Day holiday. Emergency services and law enforcement agencies will be in operation.

NCDOT Removing Lane Closures for Independence Day Holiday Travelers

N.C. Department of Transportation contractors across the state will remove nearly all lane closures to reduce traffic congestion over the Independence Day holiday weekend. Crews will remove lane closures and open all lanes where possible on interstates and highways on the morning of Thursday, June 30 and keep the lanes open until at least the evening of Tuesday, July 5.

Transportation officials anticipate a large volume of traffic over the weekend, especially on interstates and four-lane highways.

A few construction projects - usually bridge replacements - requiring long-term lane closures will retain the current traffic patterns. While lane closures may not be in place, drivers should always remain alert and obey all posted signs when driving in work zones.

NCDOT advises drivers to develop a travel plan in advance and view current road conditions at www.DriveNC.gov and follow NCDOT on Twitter for regional information.

Drivers should follow these safety tips:

- Leave early. Travel at non-peak hours and use alternative routes to avoid the heaviest traffic congestion.
- Stay alert. Even when work is paused, you may encounter narrowed lanes, shifts in traffic and lower speed limits through work zones.
- Be patient.
- Don't drive drowsy. For extended drives, take frequent breaks to remain alert.
- Don't drive distracted. When drivers are not focused on the road, they react slowly to traffic conditions and are more likely to be involved in a crash.

Operation Firecracker Independence Day is also a time for law enforcement to crack down on drunk driving. The N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program is running it's Operation Firecracker campaign from June 26 through July 11 as part of the "Booze It & Loose It" initiative to reduce drunk driving.

To avoid being arrested or causing a crash, people who drink alcohol should utilize a designated driver, or call a friend, take a cab or use a ride-share service.

School Board Meeting for June 30 Will be Live Streamed on YouTube

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Thursday, June 30. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at about 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.

Anson County Kids Expo is August 27

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that the 2022 Anson County Kids Expo will be held on Saturday, August 27 in Uptown Wadesboro. This event focuses on the next generation of entrepreneurs and business owners.

The event offers kids (grades K-12) an opportunity to create, develop and market a product or service that they are passionate about. Strictly for kids only, adults are not allowed to help sell or market the child's product or service. The event is not only a showcase for the children, but an opportunity to understand the elements of owning one's own business. The kid vendors will learn and use real life skills such as math, communication, and creative thinking. Development and marketing of their product or service will have an impact on their sales at the event and offer them some insight into what it takes to own their own business.

Browse, shop and stay for the Awards presentation as they acknowledge Most Original Business Idea, Highest Business Potential and Best Presentation/Creativity.

Visit the Chamber's Facebook page or call 704-694-4181 for more information about sponsorships and to register.

Commissioners Meet July 5

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is Tuesday, July 5 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information at 704-994-3201.

The board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

July 4th Parade in Lilesville is Sat.

The Town of Lilesville invites everyone to come out this Saturday, July 2 and enjoy their First Annual July Fourth Parade. It will take place at 11 a.m. The route starts at the intersection of Camden and Wall Streets and ends at the old T.W. Bennett School.

If you would like to participate in the parade contact Vance Bennett at 704-475-2661 or Jamie Varela at 321-202-3465.

Story Time is Back!

The Partnership for Children is happy to announce that public story time will be back in person beginning Tuesday, July 5. It will take place each Tuesday until August 18. Please bring your kids out to hear a story each Tuesday and to do a fun craft.

Story Time is at 10 a.m. in the garden at the First Presbyterian Church in uptown Wadesboro, at the corner of Greene and Morgan Streets.

For more information call 704-694-4036.