

Kids Expo Scheduled for Saturday, August 22

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce will host its fifth annual Kids Expo on Saturday, August 22, from 9 a.m. until noon in the parking lot of First Baptist Church in Wadesboro. The event is designed for students in grades K-12 and offers young entrepreneurs an opportunity to create, develop and market a product or service they are passionate about.

Strictly a kids-only marketplace, participants are responsible for selling and promoting their own products and services. Through the experience, they gain valuable real-world skills in math, communication, creativity and marketing.

Awards will be presented in each age group for Most Original Business Idea, Highest Business Potential and Best Presentation/Creativity. Participants also have opportunities to make connections, gain exposure for their businesses and build experience in sales and marketing.

The public is invited to come browse, shop and encourage the next generation of business owners.

Applications are open now, with a registration deadline of Friday, August 14.

Sponsorships Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Community sponsors receive logo placement on event T-shirts, recognition on social media and the Chamber website, a judging opportunity and an invitation to the welcome celebration on the morning of the event.

For more information about participating or becoming a sponsor, contact the Anson County Chamber of Commerce at info@ansoncountychamber.org or call 704-694-4181. The Chamber office is located at 107-C West Wade Street in Wadesboro.

Town of Wadesboro's New Leaf & Limb Collection Process

The Town of Wadesboro has announced a new process for residential leaf and limb collection services. Collection is available for residential customers within the Town's service area through Tedder Trash Solutions, LLC.

Under the updated process, residents must submit collection requests through the Town's work order system. Requests can be submitted online at www.wadesboronc.gov/concerns. Requests made outside of the Town's system cannot be scheduled unless specifically authorized by the Town.

To help ensure safe & efficient collection, please follow these guidelines:

- Place leaf and limb piles within 10 feet of the edge of the roadway where collection equipment can easily access them.
- Each pile must be no larger than 10 feet long by 10 feet wide by 10 feet high.
- Leaves and limbs must be placed in separate piles. Mixed piles may not be collected until materials are properly separated.
- Whenever possible, avoid placing piles beneath overhead utility lines.
- Materials that do not meet collection guidelines may not be picked up until they have been properly prepared.

The Town also reminds residents that severe weather events or emergencies may affect regular collection schedules. Following major storms, routine leaf and limb collection may be temporarily changed or suspended. Large amounts of storm debris will be handled separately from regular collection services and scheduled by the Town as needed.

Residents can find additional information about the updated leaf and limb collection rules and submit work orders by visiting www.wadesboronc.gov/concerns. Additional details are also available at www.wadesboronc.gov/news/leaf-and-limb-collection.

Preventing Cyclosporiasis:

Safe Handling of Fresh Produce Can Reduce Risk

Health officials are reminding the public about steps that can be taken to prevent cyclosporiasis, an intestinal illness caused by the parasite Cyclospora.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), no one fully knows how Cyclospora gets into food and water. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid consuming food or water that may be contaminated with feces (poop) and to follow safe food handling practices.

Cyclospora infections are often linked to contaminated fresh fruits and vegetables. The CDC notes that routine chemical disinfection or sanitization of food or water may not kill Cyclospora, especially when traveling in tropical and subtropical areas where the illness regularly occurs.

To reduce the risk of foodborne illness, the CDC recommends several steps when handling fresh produce:

- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling or preparing raw fruits and vegetables.
- Wash all fruits and vegetables thoroughly under running water before eating, cutting or cooking — even if the produce is labeled as pre-washed.
- Scrub firm produce, such as melons and cucumbers, with a clean produce brush.
- Cut away damaged or bruised areas before preparing and eating fruits and vegetables.
- Refrigerate cut, peeled or cooked fruits and vegetables as soon as possible, within two hours.

Cooking produce can kill the Cyclospora parasite. Because washing alone cannot guarantee complete removal, the CDC recommends cooking produce to an internal temperature of at least 158 degrees Fahrenheit (70 degrees Celsius) when possible.

The CDC continues to monitor cyclosporiasis cases in the United States and works with state health departments to identify outbreaks and prevent additional illnesses.

Health officials encourage consumers to practice safe food preparation habits, especially during the summer months when fresh fruits and vegetables are frequently served at picnics, gatherings and outdoor events. A few extra minutes spent washing and preparing produce can help keep meals safer for everyone.

Sheriff's Office Issues Scam Alert for Seniors

This is a release from Anson County Sheriff Scott Howell: The Anson County Sheriff's Office is warning residents, especially seniors, about a recent increase in scam attempts involving criminals claiming that a person's account has been compromised.

According to Sheriff Scott Howell, scammers may contact victims through text messages or computers and attempt to convince them that immediate action is needed to protect their accounts.

Residents should be aware that scammers may ask individuals to send money, make a wire transfer, purchase gift cards and provide the card numbers. The Sheriff's Office warns that these requests are common signs of a scam.

"These criminals often create a sense of urgency and fear in an effort to trick people into making quick decisions," officials said. "No legitimate company, bank or government agency will ask you to send money or buy gift cards to resolve an issue."

The Sheriff's Office reminds residents:

- Never share gift card numbers or personal information with unknown individuals.
- Be cautious of unexpected messages or calls requesting money.
- If you receive a suspicious message or call, stop and think before responding.
- When in doubt, verify the information through a trusted source.

Officials also warn that money sent to overseas accounts is often difficult, if not impossible, to recover. Community members have already lost significant amounts of money through similar scams.

Anyone who believes they have been scammed or has questions is encouraged to contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-7083. In an emergency, call 911.

Sheriff Howell and the Anson County Sheriff's Office remind residents that looking out for one another helps keep the community safe. "Your safety is our priority," the office said.

NCDOT Launches Interactive Tool to Track Transportation Projects

The N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has launched a new interactive online tool that allows the public to easily track transportation projects underway or planned across the state.

The new "Projects Near Me" tool provides an interactive map featuring a wide range of transportation project information. Users can search by address to find projects near a specific location or search by project identification number from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The map can also display projects by county or NCDOT Highway Division, making it easier for residents to learn about transportation improvements in their area.

Additional filters allow users to search by project type, including aviation, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, bridges and structures, ferries, highways, public transportation, rail and other miscellaneous projects.

The tool also allows users to identify projects that are considered high public interest, include public engagement opportunities or are planned for the future.

By selecting a project on the map, users can access additional details, including a local map, a description of the work, project milestones for those included in the current STIP and contact information.

NCDOT officials note that information displayed through the Projects Near Me tool may change as projects develop. The map does not provide real-time travel impacts or traffic updates.

For current traffic conditions and travel information, motorists should continue to use DriveNC.gov, the state's trusted source for real-time transportation updates.

The Projects Near Me tool is available at www.ncdot.gov.



The family of Ronalt "Ronnie" Gainey extends their heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming love, sympathy and kindness shown to us during this difficult time.

Your support has been a source of comfort, and we are truly blessed to have you in our lives. Thank you, Mr. Sonny Dunlap.

A special thank you from Haywood and Peggy Simon to Ronnie's community of family and friends who stood by him throughout his journey toward a heart transplant, throughout his recovery and during the illness of his beloved wife, Teresa.

Thank you Pastor Lekeishia Mobley, Pastor Roy Lisenby, Pastor Broce Sowell, and Evangelist Edward Leak, CMC Atrium HealthCare, Charlotte, New Hope Faith Church Cemetery, Rose of Sharon, Class of '76, Smith's Memorial Chapel, Streater family, Capel family, Sheffelenia Plant.

We are especially grateful to Sharon Lily, Ryan Horne, Eleanor Little, Jennifer Kendall, Marie Rivers, Joyce Little, Kish'a Dunlap, Evangelist Rebecca Blue, Terence Horne, Mae Simon, and Elaine Hall.

To those we may not know or who may have been overlooked, please know your kindness has not gone unnoticed and God knows your contribution.

God Bless You.

Thank
you



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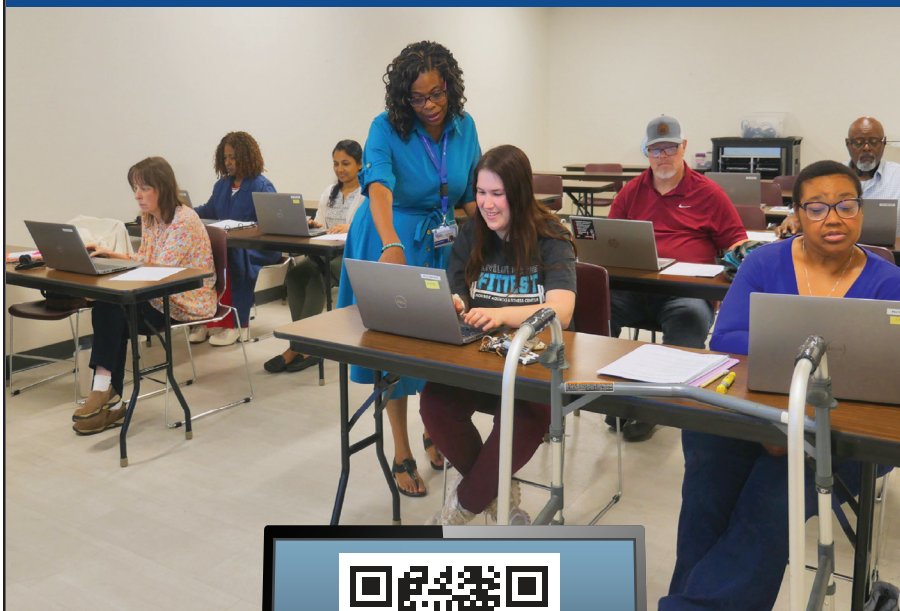
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