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

School Board Meeting is July 29

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 27. The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5). Open Session to the public begins at 6 p.m. 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. Public comment will be held during the Open Session portion of the meeting at 11:00 a.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."

Medicine Drop-Off Drive-Thru is Thursday

Get rid of old, unused or discontinued medications at the Operation Medicine Drop-Off Drive Thru at Grace Senior Center on Thursday, July 25, from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Medications accepted are injectables, needles (insulin or regular), nuclear medicines, liquids or over-the-counter medications. No registration is required. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA. The telephone number is 704-694-6616.

Juvenile Charged in Crime Spree

This is a release from the Wadesboro Police Department dated July 22: It has come to the attention of the Wadesboro Police Department that an update needs to be disclosed to the public. In June, four businesses were broken into or an attempt was made to break into them. Those businesses are: The Family Dollar, Anson Mart, Tobacco Xpress, and Village Pawn and Gun. A juvenile was charged with crimes that include Felony Breaking and Entering, Larceny after Breaking and Entering and Injury to Real Property. The juvenile was turned over to the Department of Juvenile Justice, who declined to take that juvenile into secured custody. North Carolina Juvenile Law makes it illegal for us to disclose any information about the juvenile charged. The men and women of the Wadesboro Police Department work tirelessly to hold any and all persons who commit criminal activity accountable; but even we cannot disregard the law. Should any citizens or business owners have any questions, concerns, or comments please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly.



North Carolina Peaches are Abundant Despite Dry Weather

Peak peach season in North Carolina is well underway, and many farms are expecting an extended season through October this year. "Due to the warmer winter, many farms didn't get a freeze after peaches began budding this year," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "That, combined with the sandy soil and good drainage where they grow best means our farmers have plenty of peaches at their farmstands, farmers markets and in the grocery store." Between 2017 and 2022, the number of peach farms and total peach acreage increased in North Carolina. As of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, North Carolina had 356 peach farms on a total of 1,273 acres. "North Carolina grows more than two dozen varieties of peaches. Growers are harvesting clingstone peaches now and will begin harvesting freestone varieties near the end of the month," said Khaila Daye, marketing specialist with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In Anson County Pee Dee Peach Orchards is located on Highway 74 east of Lilesville, just before the Pee Dee River. You can also find local peaches near you by downloading the Visit NC Farms app at visitncfarmstoday.com.

Interactions with the Blind and Visually Impaired

In 1917 a Chicago businessman named Melvin Jones invited business clubs from around the USA to a meeting, and the Association of Lions Clubs was formed. The initial goals were to respond to social problems created by World War I and rapid industrialization. At the Lions Club annual meeting in 1925 Helen Keller asked the members to be the knights of the blind, and this has been their main goal ever since. The Lions Club helps the visually impaired, works for the prevention of blindness, and works with pediatric blindness. Be aware that the "legally blind" population ranges from those with total inability to see, to the large majority who have some degree of vision. Many with low vision carry a white cane for use in specific situations such as locating a curb or navigating stairs. Even the use of a guide dog does not always denote total vision loss. The ability to navigate through the environment does not necessarily mean that the individual is able to recognize faces, or even common objects. In most cases the person is familiar with living with diminished sight. To assist the blind and visually impaired the Wadesboro Lions Club sells brooms and raffle tickets. Brooms are always available in Wadesboro at Lacy's and Martin Furniture. In Marshville you can find brooms at Northcutt Affordables on Highway 74 East.



Young Business People Quenching Thirsts with Delicious Lemonade!

Wadesboro Police Department's Major S. Kelly, Patrolman S. Gullege and Patrolman J. Jaramillo beat the heat last week while also supporting a small business! Thanks for the lemonade!!!

South Piedmont's Dr. Maria Pharr Selected to Be Next President of Pitt Community College

Search for her successor to begin immediately

South Piedmont Community College President Dr. Maria Pharr has been selected as the next president of Pitt Community College, effective August 13. The State Board of Community Colleges approved Dr. Pharr as president of Pitt during its regular meeting on July 19. Dr. Pharr has served as president of South Piedmont since Jan. 1, 2017. "This is all very bittersweet. I have deep professional and personal ties to both Pitt Community College and eastern North Carolina. I am thrilled and honored to have been selected to serve as Pitt's next president, and I cannot wait to get started. However, South Piedmont has been my home for the last seven years. I am incredibly proud of how far this College has come and the great things that still lie ahead. South Piedmont and the people of Anson and Union counties have a special place in my heart - and they always will."



Dr. Pharr grew up only about an hour from Greenville, where Pitt Community College is located. She also earned her doctorate at East Carolina University, and prior to becoming South Piedmont's president, she served as vice president of academic affairs at Pitt. "This is very much a homecoming. My family and I always intended to return to eastern North Carolina at some point. To have everything - my family's plans, my career - align with the opportunity to serve as Pitt's next president is truly incredible. I am deeply thankful for my career path, and that it is now leading me home." South Piedmont Board of Trustees Chairman Bill Norwood said, "While her time at South Piedmont has come to an end, Dr. Pharr's contributions to this College will live on for generations to come. She has led South Piedmont with vision, heart, and unwavering dedication. Her accomplishments, to name just a few, include record enrollment growth, transformative updates and expansions to our physical locations, and national recognition for initiatives aimed at eliminating barriers to higher education. She's been a pillar of our community, an inspiration, and a dear friend. We will greatly miss her leadership. Though we would love to have her stay at South Piedmont, we are excited for her new chapter, and we wish her all the best."

Dr. Pharr's last day with South Piedmont will be August 12. Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services/CFO Michelle Brock will serve as interim president after Dr. Pharr's departure. "It has been an honor to serve under Dr. Pharr. I am thankful for being entrusted to lead the College during this transition," Brock said. The College has begun the process of securing a presidential search firm. The search will commence soon. "We are committed to a transparent, collaborative search process that will engage not only the College community but the broader community as well. We have come so far under Dr. Pharr's leadership. It is imperative we find the ideal next president to continue our upward trajectory," Brock said. Updates on the search process will be issued via internal email, spcc.edu, and the College's social media accounts.

North Carolina's June Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted June 2024 unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, unchanged from May's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.1 percent. North Carolina's unemployment rate increased 0.2 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed decreased 924 over the month to 5,079,026 and increased 18,096 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 2,989 over the month to 190,408 and increased 14,764 over the year. Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 23,100 to 5,031,600 in June. Major industries experiencing increases were Government, 17,900; Education & Health Services, 5,500; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 3,200; Financial Activities, 1,100; Manufacturing, 800; Construction, 600; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 400; Information, 200; and Other Services, 200. The only major industry experiencing a decrease was Professional & Business Services, 6,800. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged. Since June 2023, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 79,600 with the Total Private sector increasing by 51,100 and Government increasing by 28,500. Major industries experiencing increases were Government, 28,500; Education & Health Services, 23,100; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 22,000; Construction, 8,400; Financial Activities, 6,000; Other Services, 5,100; and Professional & Business Services, 400. Major industries experiencing decreases over the year were Manufacturing, 6,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 5,500; and Information, 2,300. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the year.

Partnership for Children Offers Free Car Seat Checks

They also sell car seats and booster seats at deep discounts

Did you know that the Anson County Partnership for Children offers FREE car seat checks? If you are unsure about your child's safety seat or need help installing it, they have nationally certified child passenger safety technicians there to help you. Just call the Partnership office at 704-694-4036 or stop by at 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro for more info. The Partnership also offers car seats and booster seats at highly discounted rates for Anson County community members.

Anson County Beekeepers Meet Thursday

The Anson Beekeepers will hold their regular bee meeting on this Thursday, July 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The group will talk about summertime hives, pests, traps and ventilations. There will be no meal during the meeting. 50-50 drawings will take place to help earn funds for the association. If you are able to bring some items for the drawings, the Anson Beekeepers will greatly appreciate it. Not a member but would like to learn more about the local chapter and beekeeping educational programs, or need a beekeeper to re-home a visiting swarm? Visit the "Anson County Beekeepers Association" Facebook page for more information.

Bluegrass Acoustic Music Jam is Thursday

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam on Thursday, July 25, 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. Musicians, singers and spectators are welcome. Jam sessions are open to all age levels and skill levels. Children age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. If you have any questions please contact Dianne or Caroline at the library, 704-694-5177. You may also contact event volunteer Randy Collins at 336-430-6318 (call or text) or via email at vaguitar@msn.com.

Virtual Tour of the Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge on July 29

The Hampton B. Allen Library invites you to join them for a virtual program Monday, July 29, at 11 a.m. as they visit the Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge. Refuge manager Greg Walmsley graciously shared information about the many outdoor adventures to be enjoyed at the refuge. This will be on the library's Facebook and Youtube page. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.