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

2,685 Total Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

Ansonians urged to get vaccinated.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department was 2,685 total Covid-19 cases, with 25 active as of Monday, July 26. The last report in The Express was from July 19, with 2,672 total cases and 129 active. The total deaths remain at 57.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, July 26 there were 1,401 new cases, with 13,580 deaths and 943 hospitalized. 60% of adults in NC were vaccinated with at least one dose, 57% were fully vaccinated. Just one week ago the numbers of new cases was significantly lower at 734, with 13,535 deaths and 612 hospitalized.



Children Enjoy Storytime Summer Program

Since July 8 the Anson County Partnership for Children has hosted summer storytimes on Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the First Presbyterian Church gardens. The weekly gatherings include a story with a guest reader and a hands-on activity. The activities are geared towards children 3-5 years old, but all were welcome to participate. Children have learned

about science, math, history, and much more while participating in literacy-rich activities.

"A great group of community volunteers have read and shared hobbies and learning activities with the community," said Tracy Harrington. "We are thrilled to engage the public with our first in-person events in more than a year."

One more storytime session is scheduled for this Thursday, July 29, entitled Kindness Rocks with Officer D'Anyia Chance from the Wadesboro Police Department

An adult must accompany all children. Families are encouraged to bring beach towels or chairs for added comfort. Children are encouraged to wear play clothes because some of the planned activities include paint, dirt, water, glue, and more.

The First Presbyterian Church Garden is located at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

In case of inclement weather, storytime will occur in the Early Childhood Resource Center, but space will be limited.

For updates on Partnership events, visit the Partnership Facebook page or: www.ansonchildren.org



Upcoming Play at the Ansonia, Once on this Island

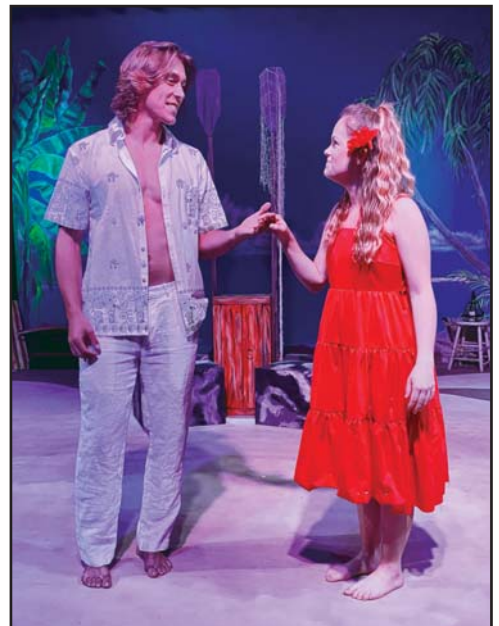
The Ansonia Theatre is bringing the Caribbean to life in Wadesboro as it gears up for its summer musical *Once on this Island*, opening August 6.

This timeless tale follows a young peasant girl named Ti Moune who is found orphaned and alone in a tree following a massive storm and adopted by a loving older peasant couple. Years after Ti Moune is first welcomed into her village, she longs for more from life. She follows her heart and leaves home to pursue Daniel, a wealthy Grand Homme boy from the other side of the Island. When their divided cultures keep them apart, Ti Moune is guided by the powerful island gods, Erzulie, Asaka, Papa Ge and Agwe, on a remarkable quest to reunite with the man who has captured her heart.

Kimberly Smith of Marshville stars as Ti Moune and Jed Wooten of Indian Trail stars as Daniel. They are supported by an incredible cast including Nekeisha Lindsey, Covia Boyd, Tae Berv, Tommy Wooten, Jennifer Gilmore, Paige Mercer, Nautica Patton, Donnie Lewis, Victoria Utley, Melissa Maske, Sheree Douglas, Kishia Dunlap, M'layah Smith and Matthew Thompson. This incredible story will leave you spellbound!

The show is being directed by Tommy Wooten with musical direction by Keitha Eddins, choreography by Vera Holsey, set design by Mike Phillips, costume design by Brittany Price and sound by Joe Blocker.

The show runs August 6-15, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. For tickets and information call 704-694-4950 or visit ansoniatheatre.com.



Jed Wooten and Kimberly Smith

VFW Post 10403 Auxiliary Fundraiser

Calling all bikers, trikers, spider and Jeep riders - you are invited to the VFW Post Auxiliary Fundraiser scheduled for this Saturday, July 31. Come to the Caraway Business Center, located at 9162 Highway 52 North in Ansonville, for registration from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, then it's kickstands up at 12:15. The cost for single riders is \$15, and doubles cost \$20.

There are prizes, a 50/50 pot, and the food consists of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, sodas and water. Plates cost \$5 for non-riders.

For information call Donnie Lewis, Auxiliary President, at 704-320-6376.

National Night Out is Tuesday

The Anson County Sheriff's Office along with the Wadesboro Police Department is hosting its annual National Night Out, a fun free event for the community. It is set for next Tuesday, August 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the parking lot across the street from the Sheriff's Office, at the corner of North Washington and East Wade Streets.

The event will feature many fun activities including: kids games, bounce houses, showcases of patrol vehicles, free food, drinks & snacks, face painting and more.

Anson Partnership for Children will be on site to check or install child seats as well.

National Night Out is an annual program designed to build communities and improve police-community relationships. Millions of people take part in National Night Out events across thousands of communities in the United States according to the National Association of Town Watch, the organization that founded the program in 1984.

Anson Extension Needs Your Contact Information

This is a release from the Anson County Cooperative Extension: The last year has been hard on all of us and we had to move from in person learning to more of an electronically based program. We learned in the past 16 months that in a pinch, we can get information out to our clients digitally. The University has recognized this and is now switching to a new email and customer management system.

Anson Extension Office is updating our county contact lists to merge into this new system. We are sending out this public notice to those currently on our lists or would like to become a part of our contacts.

It is possible that we have your mailing address, but we need an active email since the actual number of hardcopies being mailed will be reduced. Please call our office at 704.694.2915 and give use your name, phone number, email and mailing address along with what programming areas would you like for us to tag your address in (General Extension, Family Consumer Science, 4-H, Horticulture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Row Crops).

We thoroughly appreciate the longstanding support of Anson County's citizens and we hope you will decide to continue to receive valuable information and updates from all of us. We thank you in advance.

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. Brick Paver Fundraiser

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. is again offering the opportunity to purchase laser-engraved brick pavers to honor the memory of someone special, recognize an organization, a business or high school graduating class. The pavers will be placed at the location of your choosing in the uptown area as a lasting tribute.

The bricks come in two sizes, the four-inch brick will accommodate three lines of print and costs \$50, and the eight-inch brick will allow for six lines of print and costs \$100. Clip art may also be added to enhance your brick for free.

You may download the Brick Paver Order Form by going to www.uptownwadesboro.com and click on Brochures and Registration Forms and then look for the Brick Paver Form. You may also pick up a form at the REV Uptown, located at 114 West Wade Street.

For more information please call the Uptown Wadesboro office at 704-694-4181 ext. 3.

California Toy Distributor Acquires Former Walmart Building

This is a release from the Anson County Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP): Big Toys Direct, a Modesto, California-based distributor of ride-on electric toys has purchased the former Walmart building in Wadesboro. Financial details were not disclosed, but the 158,000 square foot former Walmart was listed for sale at \$2.73 million dollars. The purchase includes 20 acres of land which would allow the building to be doubled in size on the existing pad while still maintaining 100+ parking spaces.



Wadesboro is located less than 40 miles from Charlotte, the largest metropolitan statistical area (MSA) in the Carolinas, and sits at the intersection of U.S. Highways 74 and 52, offering easy access to Charlotte Douglas International Airport and the Port of Wilmington.

Big Toys Direct was founded in 2010 and currently operate two warehouse and distribution facilities in California. The Wadesboro facility will be their east coast distribution hub.

A company representative indicated that upfitting of the building will begin in the fall, but they do not expect to begin hiring or distribution operations until 2022.

Additional information, including the company's extensive product selection, can be found at bigtoysdirect.com.

Anson County School District Recognized for Summer Program

Anson County Schools made the NC Department of Public Instruction's Weekly Top 10 list! Anson County Schools was the "District Spotlight" in their Weekly Top 10 for their JAMM (Jump into Art Music and Movement) Initiative that was implemented during the summer learning camp. It is called JAMM: Jump into Art Music and Movement.

JAMM is a hands-on initiative created by Anson County Schools that engages students in the creative process by exploring connections between art, music, and movement with other subject areas. During summer learning camp, students are able to dive deeper into thematic units of study as they "travel around the world" by participating in interactive, kinesthetic, and authentic cultural learning activities. This is a nontraditional interactive space where students' social, emotional, and physical needs are met.

A huge thanks to Melody Stinson and Scarlett Ponds for leading this program!

Superintendent Howard McLean stated, "Our students have benefited greatly from this interactive program. The experience of the JAMM program has and will continue to produce positive impacts on academic, social, emotional and physical development and we look forward to continuing to grow this program in the future!"

Way to go, Anson County Schools!

Friends of Carla Freeman Blood Drive is Next Wednesday, August 4

First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro is hosting a "Friends of Carla Freeman" Blood Drive. Red Cross urges you to give blood to help save lives. The Blood Drive will be held on next Wednesday, August 4, from 2 to 7 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall, located at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CarlaFreeman to schedule an appointment.

You can also download the Blood Donor App - Get a digital donor card, schedule your next appointment, track your lifetime donations, view your blood pressure, and follow your donation on its way to a hospital.

Did You Attend Movies at the Ansonia Theatre?

Do you have memories or old photos of the Ansonia Theater? First date, what you saw, where you sat, how much you paid for a ticket? The Anson County Arts Council wants to hear from you!

Please send memories, stories, photos, etc to Beth Traywick at etraywick@msn.com. Please include as much information as possible, such as dates, names, and details! Your story may be published, so don't be shy!

Beth said, "Thank you to those who have been sharing your stories and experiences. Please keep them coming."

