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

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet August 7

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7. The Commissioners meet on the first Tuesday of each month 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 uptown Wadesboro.

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

Wadesboro Receiving Funds to Improve Water System

On July 30 Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett announced a historic commitment by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to upgrade and rebuild rural water infrastructure. This investment will benefit 165,000 people in rural communities in 24 states.

The Town of Wadesboro is receiving a \$706,000 loan and an \$815,000 grant to improve its water distribution system. The town will install 7,000 linear feet of eight- and 12-inch PVC and dip water main, and 11 hydrants and service reconnections. The project will benefit the town's 2,012 residential users, 84 commercial users, eight industrial users and five institutional users.

USDA Encourages Rural Communities, Water Districts to Apply for Loans to Improve, Rebuild Infrastructure; \$4 Billion Available

"USDA is committed to being a strong partner to rural communities in building their futures," Hazlett said. "All people – regardless of their zip code – need modern, reliable infrastructure to thrive, and we have found that when we address this need, many other challenges in rural places become much more manageable."

Eligible rural communities and water districts can apply online for funding to maintain, modernize or build water and wastewater systems. They can visit the interactive RD Apply tool, or they can apply through one of USDA Rural Development's state or field offices.

USDA is providing the funding through the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program. It can be used to finance drinking water, stormwater drainage and waste disposal systems for rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residents.

USDA has also announced investments in Alabama, California, Delaware, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

In FY 2018, Congress provided a historic level of funding for water and wastewater infrastructure. The 2018 Omnibus spending bill includes \$5.2 billion for USDA loans and grants, up from \$1.2 billion in FY 2017. The bill also directs Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to make investments in rural communities with the greatest infrastructure needs.

In April 2017 the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity was established to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018 Secretary Perdue presented the Task Force's findings to the president. These findings included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America. Increasing investments in rural infrastructure is a key recommendation of the task force.

To view the report in its entirety, please visit www.usda.gov and find the Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity. In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the Rural Prosperity infographic, also at www.usda.gov.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.



Anson County 4-H Delegation Attends Annual Electric Congress

A delegation from Anson County attended the 71st annual 4-H Electric Congress July 10-12 at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. 170 4-H'ers, adult leaders and NC Cooperative Extension agents from 47 counties attended the three-day event.

Since 1947, Duke Energy and Dominion Energy have sponsored the annual congress to emphasize electrical energy concepts, energy conservation and safety working with electricity. The 4-H electric program is one of the most popular activities among Tar Heel 4-H'ers.

The 4-H program is the youth education program of North Carolina Cooperative Extension, based at North Carolina State and North Carolina A&T State universities. More than 232,000 young people between the ages of 5 and 19 participate in North Carolina 4-H activities each year with the help of 20,563 adult and youth volunteers.

Pictured from left are Betty Garris, 4-H Volunteer Leader; Quenton Cromartie; Keyshawn Tillman and Wayne Huddleston, Account Manager with Duke Energy.

Back to School with Pride Donations Accepted this Weekend At Walmart Entrance

Anson County Commissioner and Faith Based Center of Hope Director Vancine Sturdivant will be set up at the entrance to Walmart for two weekends accepting donations for the upcoming 'Back to School with Pride' school supplies giveaway for all Anson County schools on August 18. If you can find it in your heart to make any size donation, it will make a big impact on less fortunate students who otherwise may not have the basic school supplies such as pencils, notebooks, paper, book bags, etc.

They will be at Walmart on Friday and Saturday, August 3 & 4 and August 10 & 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information you can call Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Jennifer Tarlton at 704-694-3115.

National Night Out Event to Feature Entertainment, Food and More on Tuesday, August 7

The Anson County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the Wadesboro Police Department will host an annual event that's known throughout the nation as National Night Out. This event will be held on Tuesday, August 7, from 6 until 9 p.m., located across from the Sheriff's Office at the corner of Washington and Wade Streets.

National Night Out is a community building campaign that promotes police and community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, and more caring places to live. Together, we are making that happen. The event will include a DJ, bounce houses, a dunking booth, a showcase of different patrol vehicles from other agencies, and several other activities for children. Anson County Partnership for Children will be on site to check or install child seats.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the entertainment and free food and beverages. Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid said, "This is a night for our county to come together to unite. National Night Out is designed to promote safety and improve police and community relations. When law enforcement and the community work together, amazing things can happen."

If you have any questions please contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188 and speak with Lt. Brian Tice.

Ansonia Theatre Opens Play *Big River* August 17. Professional Actor to Play Jim.

The Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro is gearing up for the opening of the 1985 Broadway Hit Musical *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, based on Mark Twain's beloved classic, starting August 17 and running through August 26. The story centers around Huck, played by Tyler Baucom, and a runaway slave named Jim, played by Indiana native Anachebe Asomugha, as they travel down the mighty Mississippi River in a search for freedom.

Huckleberry Finn is a wild child in 1840's Missouri. He roams freely in his small town of St. Petersburg, even under the watchful eyes of the Widow Douglas and Miss Watson, played by Gina Clarke and Emily Litaker Privette. Trouble arises, however, when his alcoholic and violent father Pap, played by Donald Pekins, suddenly demands custody of the boy in order to get at his trust fund. Fearing for his life, Huck takes off on a raft down the Mississippi River. Along the way he meets up with Jim, who is trying to find his wife and children up North. Soon Huck and Jim gain two new compatriots, the Duke and the King (who are really escaped convicts) played by Matthew Thompson and Steven Chipper Long. After a series of adventures and a brief reunion with his best friend Tom Sawyer, played by Paige Mercer, Huck discovers that although he and Jim are worlds apart in many ways, they are actually very much alike.

The Ansonia Theatre is proud to welcome professional actor/singer Anachebe Asomugha who is originally from Evansville, Indiana. He earned his BA in Theatre Arts from University of Southern Indiana. He now lives in Orlando where he studied and performed at the prestigious Orlando Shakespeare Company. There he was seen in *A Night in New Orleans*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Taming of the Shrew*.

Big River features a score from country music legend Roger Miller and is certain to become a fan favorite! The show is directed by Tommy Wooten, with musical direction by Gail Litaker and choreography by Gina Clarke. The Ansonia is able to host professional actor Anachebe Asomugha with the help of a generous NC Arts Council Grassroots Grant. Other talented cast members from five different counties include Teri Brown, Kianna Ellerbe, Robert Graves, Caden Clarke, Persia Harrison, Isaac Clarke, Greyson Helms, Tyson Leavitt, Nancy Lowery, Maggie Gibson, Glenn Caulder, Mark Traywick, Anna Rape, Lela Chaney, Scout Perkins, John Polk, Ayla Perkins and Cali Green.

Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased at 704-694-4950 or online at www.ansoniatheatre.com.



Anachebe Asomugha

Get Outdoors at Grandfather Mountain is Coming Up!

On Wednesday, August 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Grandfather Mountain in Banner Elk, NC will host an event called Get Outdoors at Grandfather Mountain, or GO Grandfather Day. They cordially invite you to join their staff and volunteers for this family-focused day of fun and learning with a variety of activities to suit all ages and ability levels.

Activities will include ranger-led hikes, a fishermen knot-tying workshop, and discussions about mountain stream ecology, all geared towards this year's interpretive theme for NC State Parks, fish. They will even have a Junior Ranger table with projects you can complete to earn your Junior Ranger Badge!

Participants are encouraged to wear hiking boots and come dressed for the weather. This is an outdoor event and those in attendance should come prepared for a fun day outside! Leashed pets are welcome at the event, but may not come on the guided hikes.

Come to the Profile Trail Parking Area and Facility, located at 4198 North Highway 105, Banner Elk, NC 28604. The rain date is August 16.

Contact the park office if you have questions at 828.963.9522 or by email at grandfather.mountain@ncparks.gov. You can like them on facebook: [facebook.com/grandfathermountainstatepark](https://www.facebook.com/grandfathermountainstatepark).

Upcoming Trips for Grace Senior Center

- Dinner theater August 25 - *The Story of Samson*. Adults 54 & under \$51.50, Adults 55 & older \$50.50. Payment due August 17.
 - 6 days/5 nights cruise vacation to the Bahamas February 10-15, 2019. Stops at Princess Cays, come ashore in Love Boat Marina for Nassau shopping, touring & carriage rides. \$100 deposit due upon registration to hold your cabin.
- Call Mary Jones for information at 704-694-6616.

Early Voting Schedule Released

On Tuesday, July 17 the Anson County Board of Elections met and approved the Early Voting plan for the November 6 Election. The schedule is below:

APPROVED EARLY VOTING PLAN			
*APPROVED ON JULY 17TH, 2018			
FOR NOVEMBER 6TH, 2018 ELECTION			
Day	Open	Close	Total Hours
WEDNESDAY 10/17/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
THURSDAY 10/18/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
FRIDAY 10/19/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
SATURDAY 10/20/2018	7:00 AM	3:00 PM	8
SUNDAY 10/21/2018	CLOSED	CLOSED	0
MONDAY 10/22/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
TUESDAY 10/23/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
WEDNESDAY 10/24/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
THURSDAY 10/25/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
FRIDAY 10/26/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
SATURDAY 10/27/2018	7:00 AM	3:00 PM	8
SUNDAY 10/28/2018	CLOSED	CLOSED	0
MONDAY 10/29/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
TUESDAY 10/30/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
WEDNESDAY 10/31/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
THURSDAY 11/01/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
FRIDAY 11/02/2018	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12
Saturday 11/03/2018	7:00 AM	1:00 PM	6
18 DAYS			TOTAL VOTING