

Letter to the Editor

Anson Farm Services Agency in Danger of Closing

Dear Editor,

My name is Thomas Edwards. I am only 15 years old and currently a member of Larry Kissel's 8th district Youth Council. I am on a mission to help save the Anson County Farm Services Agency (FSA). Currently they are in danger of closing effective in about 120 days. Reason being the Richmond County office is not willing to share the office with Anson, which means they would need to close this office and keep the one in Richmond County. This would mean that all Anson farm needs such as grants and loans, which are associated with the Anson FSA office, will have to be dealt with in Richmond County.

I have been working hard to keep the FSA office in Anson County open. I have contacted Congressman Larry Kissell, Governor Bev Perdue and Senator Kay Hagan about the matter which should concern all Anson County farmers.

There is a 5-1 ratio when it comes to farmland in Anson versus Richmond counties. Anson, being the larger of the two, would seem to be the likely choice to stay open. However, the doors will shut. In the beginning Anson County FSA was instructed not to tell anyone about the closing, that it was classified information. Later, the Cooperative Extension Agency sent out letters informing Anson farmers of what was about to happen, otherwise they would have been left in the dark until the doors at FSA closed.

Farmers who live in our neck of the woods will find it a lot harder to finalize grants, apply for grants, fill out paperwork, etc. if this were to happen.

I have already contacted the people above and now I am asking for your help. Help save the Anson County FSA office by contacting these people: Congressman Larry Kissell at 704-786-1612, Governor Bev Perdue at 919-733-4240, Senator Kay Hagan at 202-224-6342 and Senator Richard Burr at 202-224-3154.

Please be proactive and tell all of these people that they need to reconsider this action. It is a mistake, one which will affect many, many Anson County farmers and their families."

Sincerely, Thomas Edwards, Anson High School student

Storytime at the Library

Every Tuesday the public is invited to enjoy storytime at the Hampton B. Allen Library. The program begins at 10 a.m.

For information call the library at 704-694-5177.

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Butterfly Count at Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge

If you are interested in observing and identifying some of the beautiful butterflies that can be found in the North Carolina Piedmont, then you are invited to attend a Butterfly Count to inventory the numbers of species seen at the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. Novices to this activity are welcome to join in to help spot butterflies and learn to identify their species.

Please bring binoculars if you have them and a bag lunch. Be sure to bring insect and sun protection too.

Participants will be driving around the refuge as well as walking on the roads and fields.

If you would like to participate meet at the parking lot near the refuge office, located just off Highway 52, seven miles north of Wadesboro, at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 10th. The counting will last until mid-afternoon.

For more information about this event or the wildlife refuge please call 704-694-4424.

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Remembering.....
 By Ed McBride



Not That Old...?

Many folks continue to ask questions about some of the things that General William A. Smith left to the people of the Ansonville area as well as Anson County. I do remember that for a number of years General Smith visited the Ansonville School for a chapel program. However, after his last visit he died, leaving a considerable gift to the school - namely the Home Economics house, a new building housing some classrooms, and the downstairs cemented floor area was a complete wood shop. It had power tools as well as hand tools.

Of course my job was to drill the holes in the cement floor to fasten each woodworking machine "down" so as not to have any vibrations, etc. No, there was not yet any electricity on, so we used "star drills" to fasten each tool to the floor. One thing for sure...there were no vibrations when the tools were running - the rip saws, planer, lathes, or any of the other power tools that were installed!

Certainly it was a learning experience for those in the Home Economics Department, the Agriculture Department, the Wood Shop - pruning, growing timber - so very many areas of life - when pushing a button would not "do it!!"

Hope this answers a question or two. It has and continues to make a difference! Ed



WE'RE HAVING AN OPEN HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
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