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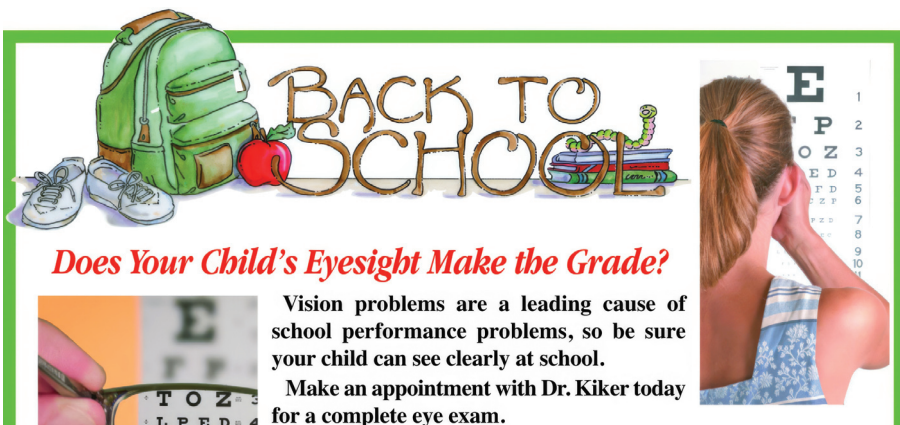
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Anson High Swim Team Dives into Historic Second Year

Anson County Schools made a little history last year by launching its high school swimming program. Now the Bearcats are ready to dive into year two and they're looking for more students to make a splash.

Anson High School and Anson Early College students interested in swimming are invited to participate in September workouts at Little Park Pool in Wadesboro. The program welcomes students interested in competitive swimming as well as those looking for a new challenge or a good way to stay conditioned for other sports.

No competitive swimming experience is required. Participants must be able to swim the freestyle stroke, feel comfortable and confident in the water and have a current physical on file.

September workouts are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, September 2, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 9, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 16, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 23, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 30, 4 to 5 p.m.

All workouts will be held at Little Park Pool in Wadesboro. Families are responsible for transportation to and from the workouts.

Swimming provides a full-body cardiovascular workout that helps build endurance, strength and overall conditioning. It can also provide excellent cross-training for athletes involved in other sports - and there aren't many workouts where getting soaking wet is actually evidence that you're doing it correctly.

The program is continuing to build on the foundation established during Anson County Schools' inaugural swimming season, giving students an opportunity to improve their skills and become part of a still-new chapter in Bearcat athletics.

Students who have ever thought about competitive swimming are encouraged to give it a try. After all, every experienced swimmer had a first day in the pool.

For more information contact Coach Heather Blackwell at 704-694-9301.

Anson Middle School Swim Club Building Future Bearcats

New program gives students a pathway to high school swimming

Anson Middle School is inviting future Bearcat swimmers to jump in and start building their skills through the AMS Swim Club, a developmental program designed to introduce middle school students to swimming and prepare them for the possibility of joining the Anson High School Swim Team in the future.

The Swim Club is a non-competitive program focused on teaching and strengthening swimming fundamentals, improving stroke technique and endurance and helping students become more confident in the water. The larger goal is to establish a strong feeder program for Anson High School swimming - building strong swimmers today and strong Bearcats tomorrow.

No competitive swimming experience is required. Students must be able to swim the freestyle stroke, feel comfortable and confident in the water and have a current physical on file.

September workouts are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, September 2, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 9, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 16, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 23, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 30, 4 to 5 p.m.

All workouts will be held at Little Park Pool in Wadesboro. Families are responsible for providing transportation to and from the workouts.

The club does not have a regular competition schedule, although school officials say opportunities to compete may be explored if they become available.

In addition to developing swimming skills, the program offers students a full-body workout that can improve endurance, strength and overall conditioning. That can also make swimming valuable cross-training for students involved in other sports.

And unlike many sports, swimming gives you immediate feedback when your technique needs work - you either move through the water or spend a lot of energy making bubbles.

This is another opportunity for our students to discover a talent, find their place, build confidence and prepare for what comes next. The goal is to give students a chance to learn, improve and perhaps discover a sport they will continue at Anson High School.

For more information contact Coach Heather Blackwell at 704-694-9301.

Man Dead, Woman Injured in Wadesboro Shooting

A man is dead and a woman was injured following a shooting Saturday night at a residence on Myrtlewood Drive in Wadesboro, according to information released Monday morning by the Wadesboro Police Department.

Officers responded to a reported shots-fired call at 705 Myrtlewood Drive at approximately 9:31 p.m. Saturday, August 22. When officers arrived, they found a male subject lying in the grass near the residence with an apparent gunshot wound. A second gunshot victim, a woman, was found inside the home.

According to investigators, the man and woman had been involved in an argument. Police said that after the woman asked the man to leave, he entered the residence and fired several shots at her, striking her twice. Police said the man then left the residence, walked approximately 20 yards and shot himself.

The woman was airlifted to another hospital for treatment and was listed in stable condition at the time of Monday's release.

The man was transported to Atrium Health Anson, and was later pronounced dead.

The N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and Wadesboro Police Department investigators are continuing to investigate the incident. Police said no further details would be released at this time.

"As Chief of Police, my heart and prayers go out to all the families involved in this tragic incident," Wadesboro Police Chief Michael Childers said in the release. "We continue to pray for the female victim's recovery and hope she improves and returns home to her family soon."

One Dead, One Injured; Wadesboro Man Charged with Murder in Wadesboro Shooting

A Wadesboro man has been charged with first-degree murder following a Saturday afternoon shooting that left one man dead and another injured, according to information released Monday morning by the Wadesboro Police Department.

Officers responded to a report of multiple shots fired at a residence at 220 Wheeler Street at approximately 4:08 p.m. Saturday, August 22. Upon arrival, officers found 69-year-old Tommy Joe Burns on the front porch suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Officers immediately began life-saving measures and continued until Anson County EMS arrived. Burns was transported to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

At the same time, officers encountered Donnie Junior Willis, 50, and Christopher Fordham, 38, on Wheeler Street near the residence. According to police, individuals at the scene identified Willis as being involved in the shooting, and he was immediately detained.

Officers also discovered that Fordham had suffered a gunshot wound to his leg. He received medical assistance and was later transported to a Charlotte-area hospital for treatment. Police said his injuries were not believed to be life-threatening and he is expected to recover.

Investigators determined that an altercation occurred between Willis and Burns before the shooting. Police said investigators also learned that additional gunfire was exchanged following the initial shooting. Multiple shell casings and a firearm were recovered from the scene. As a result of the investigation, Willis was charged with first-degree murder in connection with Burns' death. He was transported to the Anson County Jail, where he is being held without bond.

Police said the circumstances surrounding the additional gunfire, including the shooting of Fordham, remain under investigation.

The Wadesboro Police Department thanked the Anson County Sheriff's Office, N.C. State Highway Patrol, Anson County EMS and other responding personnel for their assistance at the scene.

The investigation remains active, and police said additional information will be released as it becomes available.

Wadesboro Police Chief Michael Childers and members of the department extended their condolences to the family and loved ones of Burns.

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