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



Samuel Kraus and Ginger Heath in *The Trip to Bountiful*.

Ansonia Production Receives Five Theatre Nominations

The Metrolina Theatre Association Awards were announced earlier this week and the Ansonia Theatre's production of *The Trip to Bountiful* received five nods! The Trip To Bountiful is the story of an aging woman whose desperate desire to revisit her home one last time calls for strategic measures as she faces an over protective son and hateful daughter-in-law.

Local nominees include: Outstanding Production; Outstanding Lead Actor-Female - Ginger Heath as Carrie Watts; Outstanding Supporting Actor-Female - Gina Clarke as Jessie Mae Watts; Outstanding Lighting Design - Jesse Carpenter; and Outstanding Sound Design - Jesse Carpenter.

Congratulations to all of the nominees and to the Anson County Arts Council on a job very well done.

By Melanie Lyon



Brown Creek Baptist Church Celebrates 185 Years

Tom Taylor Recognized for forty years of perfect Sunday School attendance!

Brown Creek Baptist Church celebrated their Homecoming and 185th Anniversary on Sunday, August 11. Darrell Nancy, a former pastor, preached the homecoming sermon, with over 250 persons attending. Attendees enjoyed church history displays, and church history booklets were available for all.

Brown Creek Baptist was founded by Elder Ralf Freeman, a former slave and Primitive Baptist minister identified as a preacher of "much force and usefulness." His freedom was purchased by the Bear Creek Association.

During the ceremony Tom Taylor was recognized for his amazing record of 40 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School!



Tom Taylor (right) receives his 40 year perfect attendance plaque

Anson County's July Unemployment Rate at 11.4 Percent

Anson County's unemployment rate for July was 11.4%, basically unchanged from June's 11.5% rate. The state of North Carolina's unemployment rate for July was 9.1%.

In July 2012 Anson County's unemployment rate was 12.8%. Unemployment rates in Anson County continue to trend about one percent lower in 2013 than in 2012.

Anson's total labor force in July was 10,968. Of that number 9,720 were employed and 1,248 were unemployed. In June the total labor force was 10,998, with 9,734 employed and 1,264 unemployed. Anson County lost 16 jobs over the month of July, but the smaller labor force caused the unemployment rate to decrease slightly. Just like in June's report, Anson County's employment ranked 83rd out of North Carolina's 100 counties for July.

In July 2011 Anson County had 8,491 employed, in July 2012 9,686 were employed, and July 2013 showed 9,720 employed. Clearly the number is improving.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 81 of North Carolina's counties in July, increased in nine and remained the same in ten. Twelve of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases, one increased and one remained unchanged.

Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 16.0 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 5.3 percent. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 13.3 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville at 6.8 percent had the lowest. The July not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 9.1 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 97 counties, increased in two and remained unchanged in one. All 14 metro areas experienced rate decreases.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in July by 16,507 to 4,319,371, while those unemployed decreased 6,726 to 431,935. Since July 2012, the number of workers employed statewide increased 25,227, while those unemployed decreased 45,241.

From the Sheriff's Desk Schools Are In, Please Be Careful

From Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen: Our local schools got off to a good and safe start last week, at least from a public safety point of view. We had deputies providing patrol and traffic assistance at all the schools out in the county. The Wadesboro Police provided similar assistance at the schools in Wadesboro as did officers in Lilesville and Morven. The NC Highway Patrol also has been asked to patrol the school zones. Speeding through a school zone can be a very expensive ticket and is a mandatory court appearance.

I urge everyone to use extra caution around school zones as students, parents and teachers all begin new routines. There may be some traffic congestion around schools, especially the first couple of weeks. Kids will be excited and parents will sometimes be frustrated with having to hurry up and wait.

I encourage everyone to take your time - leave a little earlier than usual - allow for traffic - and be very watchful around the schools, as buses, cars and children are all coming and going at the same time. After the first few days things generally settle down.

I also remind drivers to watch as buses pick up and unload at bus stops and driveways around the county. Children may get excited and run across a road without looking. It is crucial that parents reinforce school bus safety rules children learned at school. Motorists should remember that passing a stopped school bus is a very serious offense. It could cause you to lose your driver's license along with a heavy fine.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration an average of 19 school-age children die in school traffic related accident each year. Many more are seriously injured.

By giving yourself a little extra time these first few days, and talking with your child about basic safety rules, you will reduce your frustrations as well as your chances of being involved in some tragic accident - and increase your child's safety to and from school.

We want this to be a safe school year for everyone.

Anson Landfill Now Accepting Used Cooking Oil

The Anson Landfill, located off Highway 74 between Wadesboro and Polkton, now accepts used cooking oils. There is a tank in place at the landfill, and a vender is set up for picking up the product. They are looking into the feasibility of having the program at all of the convenience sites in the future.

According to David Jones, District Manager at Anson Landfill, "The end product of the used cooking oil will be a renewable green diesel fuel that has comparable properties to petroleum-based diesel. The renewable diesel can be shipped by pipeline, and it meets low-carbon fuel standards. For more information contact Jones at 704-694-6900.

Veterans Day Parade is Scheduled for Monday, November 11

Anson County Veterans Services Director Ted Ward has announced that the 2013 Veterans Day Parade in uptown Wadesboro will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, November 11, which is Veterans Day. The parade will follow the same route as last year.

Ward said, "We expect this year's celebration and parade to have the largest participation ever!" Parade entry forms can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce, H.W. Little & Company and the Veteran Services office now. For more information contact Ward at ward@co.anson.nc.us or (704) 694-4418.

Season Tickets Are Now Available for Ansonia Theatre's 2013-14 Season

This fall marks another milestone for the Anson County Arts Council and the Ansonia Theatre. For the first time, season tickets to the Ansonia are available.

The 2013-14 season ticket will include four major events:

- A performance by premier Spanish dance company Flamenco Vivo II on Friday, September 27. Enjoy one of the nation's premier flamenco and Spanish dance companies. Whirls of colorful dresses, explosions of clicking castanets, vivacious dancers, singers and musicians. Experience the passion and excitement of flamenco dance!
- *GRITS (Girls Raised in the South)* - *The Musical* on Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20. An original musical based on the popular GRITS book *Friends are Forever* by best-selling author Deborah Ford. The original score was written by Erica McGee.
- A community theatre production of the drama *Crimes of the Heart*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning drama written by Beth Henley and directed by Tommy Wooten, will be performed on two consecutive weekends: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 1, 2, 3 and 8, 9 and 10.
- A community theatre production of *Godspell*, a musical by Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked* composer) and a book by John-Michael Tebelak. It will be directed by Tommy Wooten. Performed two consecutive weekends: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 2, 3, 4 and 9, 10 and 11, 2014.

A season ticket for the four events is \$40, a savings of \$8 over the individual tickets. Better yet, season ticket holders will be able to select their seats before individual ticket sales. Season tickets will be available through September 27. Individual tickets will go on sale 2-3 weeks prior to each event.

Events not part of the 4-event season ticket include

- A special Christmas event, *It's a Wonderful Life*, a live radio play on Sunday, December 15.
- A comedy/improv show, *The Chuckleheads*, will take the stage on Friday, March 21, 2014. Other events are currently being scheduled too.

Over 14,000 people have attended performances and events at the Ansonia since the renovated performance venue opened its doors in 2011. Don't miss this season of quality entertainment. Contact the Arts Council at 704-694-4950 to purchase season tickets.

Also, the Arts Council is seeking sponsors for the 2013-14 Ansonia season. Sponsorships range from \$100 to \$5000. Interested individuals or businesses should contact the Arts Council prior to September 12.

AES 5K is September 28, Sponsors Invited

Ansonville Elementary School will have its first ever 5K to raise money for their PTO. Money raised will go to directly to the school to help with educational needs for the upcoming school year. If your business is interested in sponsoring the race, please contact Heather Barbee or Jessica Conklin at excursion5K@gmail.com.

The 5K will take place in Ansonville on Saturday, September 28 at 8 a.m. starting and ending in front of the school. Go online to sportoften.com to register for the race! Register before race day to save money on the entry fee...and receive a t-shirt!

Wadesboro Police Department to Host Motorcycle Ride for Shop with a Cop

On Saturday, September 21 the Wadesboro Police Department will host a Motorcycle Ride. Registration will be held in the Police Department parking lot between 10 and 11 a.m. The registration fee is \$10 per single rider, \$15 for double riders. Riders will have a chance to win a split the pot drawing, and lunch will be provided.

Proceeds will go to the "Shop With A Cop" program that provides toys to children in need in Anson County for Christmas. For further information contact Chief Thedis Spencer at 704-475-2695 or Sgt. Cannon at 704-475-2997.

Horse Owners Urged to Vaccinate Horses Again Mosquito-Borne Diseases

It's mosquito season and it's time for equine owners across North Carolina to talk to their veterinarians about protecting their animals from mosquito-borne diseases. West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis are endemic across North Carolina and can cause illness and death, but they can be prevented with a sequence of two vaccines.

In 2012 there were 20 confirmed cases of EEE and three cases of West Nile Virus, but state officials say they expect up to four unreported cases for each one confirmed, making the possible impact much larger.

"North Carolina has an extended mosquito breeding period, so every horse owner should talk to their veterinarian about how to protect their animal year-round," State Veterinarian David Marshall said. "In addition to getting animals vaccinated, everyone needs to be extra vigilant now to reduce breeding ground for mosquitoes. Take the time to rid your yard and pasture of standing water to reduce the risk."

The EEE and WNV vaccinations initially require two shots, three to four weeks apart, for horses, mules, and donkeys that have no prior vaccination history. Neither vaccination fully protects the animal until several weeks after the second shot, so it is best to vaccinate as early as possible.

Symptoms of EEE include impaired vision, aimless wandering, head pressing, circling, inability to swallow, irregular staggering gait, paralysis, convulsions and death. Symptoms of WNV in horses can include loss of appetite and depression, fever, weakness or paralysis of hind limbs, convulsions, impaired vision or hyperexcitability.

People, horses, and birds can become infected from a bite by a mosquito carrying the diseases, but there is no evidence that horses can transmit the virus to other horses, birds or people through direct contact.

For more information contact your local veterinarian or Extension Agent Jessica Anderson at 704-694-2415.

Health Department Tips to Avoid Obesity

One in three children in the United States is overweight or obese. Childhood obesity puts kids at risk for health problems that were once seen only in adults, such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. The good news is that childhood obesity can be prevented! In honor of National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, Anson County Health Department encourages your family to:

- **Get active outside** walk around the neighborhood, go on a bike ride, or play basketball at the park.
- **Limit screen time** keep inactive (sitting down) screen time to 2 hours or less a day.
- **Make healthy meals** buy and serve more vegetables, fruits, and whole grain foods.

Taking small steps as a family can help your child stay at a healthy weight.

For more information, find Anson County Health Department on Facebook: *Anson County Health Department* or online at www.co.anson.nc.us/health. 704-694-5188.

Polkton Fire Department BBQ is Saturday

Bring your appetite to the Polkton Fire Department's Fall Barbecue this Saturday and enjoy some terrific food! Starting at 10 a.m., this event brings together food, friends and fellowship...all for a great cause - the Polkton Fire Department.

They will be serving pork and chicken. Plates will include beans, cole slaw, bread and dessert for only \$8. Sandwiches, drinks, bulk orders and baked goods will also be available. If you have a large order call 704-272-7933. You can dine in or use the convenient drive-thru carry out.

Citizens' donations of baked goods or monetary donations will be greatly appreciated.

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Music of Vincent Baynard

The Hampton B. Allen Library's 50+ Club will meet on Monday, September 9 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Vincent Banyard will be presenting a musical program. Vince is currently drummer for the band Brandon Kirkley and the Firecrackers. He does a variety of music, including his own material. A gifted musician, Vince plays keyboard and lead guitar as well. He will be playing guitar and singing some of his original compositions.

This program is free and everyone is invited to come. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

McFarlan Board of Commissioners to Meet September 9

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the Town of McFarlan Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on Monday, September 9. The meeting will take place in the McFarlan Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

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.