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

Board of Elections Meets Thursday

The Anson County Board of Elections will hold their regular meeting this Thursday, October 11 at 5 p.m. The agenda for the meeting is:

- Call to Order/Invocation
- Approval of minutes (if applicable)
- Appearance before the board by Jerrell Miller
- Absentee count resolution for November 6 election
- November 6 precinct officials / worker list updates / changes. *Early Voting and Election Day
- Questions, comments and other matters
- An executive session will take place if needed.

The meeting will take place in the Boardroom at the Board of Elections office, 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. To appear on a meeting agenda you must provide notice in writing by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the next meeting. During all board meetings, those in attendance are asked to refrain from comments and questions to the board unless they are called upon by the board. At the end of each meeting the board will open the floor for comments and questions.

For more information call 704-994-3223.

UPCOMING DATES

- Friday, Oct. 12** Voter Registration/Change Deadline
- Tuesday, Oct. 16** Absentee Board Meeting # 1 at 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 17** EARLY VOTING BEGINS at 7 a.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 23** Absentee Board Meeting #2 at 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 30** Absentee Board Meeting #3 at 5 p.m.
- Last Day to request an absentee ballot at 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 3** EARLY VOTING ENDS at 1 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 5** UOCAVA / OVERSEAS registration/ballot request deadline
- Tuesday, Nov. 6** ELECTION DAY (6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.)
- Civilian Absentee Ballot Return Deadline at 5 p.m.
- Begin Counting/Tallying Absentee by Mail and Early Voting Results *cannot release until polls close* at 2 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 8** Sample Hand to Eye/Provisional Count at 10 a.m.
- Friday, Nov. 16** County Canvass (make November Election official) at 11 a.m.

Shaquille Dremichael Polk Charged with First Degree Murder



On Friday, October 5 at about 2:42 a.m. the Wadesboro Police Department was dispatched to 1115 Old Charlotte Road in Wadesboro in reference to shots fired. When officers arrived on the scene they observed a body lying in the street. Emergency Medical Services was immediately dispatched to the scene where they found Tywan Sturdivant, 43, dead at the scene.

The Wadesboro Police Department, with the assistance of the District Attorneys Office and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, arrested Shaquille Dremichael Polk, 25, of 1617 Bethel Road in Wadesboro in connection with the shooting death of Sturdivant. Polk was charged with First Degree Murder. The investigation is ongoing as of press time.



Anson Schools Superintendent Michael Freeman announces the \$15 million grant awarded to the school system at the Monday evening Board of Commissioners meeting. Pictured standing above, from left are Sen. Tom McInnis, BOE member Mike Turner, Rep. Mark Brody, BOE Vice Chair Marilyn Bennett, Freeman, and BOE members Gay Lookabill and Carol Ann Gibson. School staff members were in the audience for this announcement.

School System Receives \$15 Million Grant to Help Fund New Middle School

At the monthly meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners on Monday evening, October 8, Anson County Schools Superintendent Michael Freeman announced that the school system will receive a \$15 million grant for initial costs of building a new Anson Middle School. The new middle school is expected to cost \$49.4 million.

The Anson County grant was a part of \$141 million in grant funds announced by North Carolina Superintendent Mark Johnson. The grants come from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund, and will be awarded this year to school districts in Anson, Ashe, Caldwell, Caswell, Cherokee, Columbus, Martin, McDowell, Mitchell, Nash, Swain and Tyrrell counties. The grant awards will allow for construction of new school buildings in these economically distressed areas.

"As the Anson County Schools superintendent, I am extremely excited and thankful for the funds being provided to support the construction of a new middle school in Anson County," said Michael Freeman, superintendent of Anson County Schools. "We will finally get this much needed project underway. Our Tier 1 county faces many obstacles; yet our public school district produces many, many, highly successful graduates who are contributing in awesome ways throughout the world. A new school for current and future students will set the stage to brighten the future for many generations of students."

"Through these grants, we will help address our state's need to replace old, outdated schools with better learning environments," Mark Johnson said. "This is the second year these funds have been made available to benefit our students and educators who have had to deal with outdated facilities."

The fund was created by the General Assembly to assist school districts in lower-wealth counties through revenue from the North Carolina Education Lottery. Awards are capped at \$15 million per project in Tier 1 (most distressed) counties and \$10 million per project in Tier 2 counties. The law requires a local match of \$1 for every \$3 in grant funds in Tier 1 and \$1 for every \$1 in Tier 2. The fund was created to assist lower-wealth counties with their critical public school building capital needs.

County applications were reviewed based on priorities provided in the law, including ability to generate revenue, high debt-to-tax revenue ratio, and the extent to which a project will address critical deficiencies in adequately serving the current and future student population.

An emphasis was placed on projects that were far enough along in the planning process that construction could begin within 12 months.

"I thank the General Assembly for making these funds available to help schools in areas that are most in need," Johnson said. "I look forward to seeing these projects get under way in the coming months."

Anson County's August Unemployment Rate Was 4.7%

Anson County's unemployment rate for August was 4.7%, slightly lower July's 4.8% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate was 3.9% in August, slightly lower than July's 4.1% rate.

Anson's total labor force in August was 10,253. Of that number 9,770 were employed and 483 were unemployed. In July the total labor force was 10,426 with 9,930 employed and 496 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 88 of North Carolina's counties in August, increased in four, and remained unchanged in eight. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.6 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.1 percent.

Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases and one remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 5.8 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.2 percent. The August not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.9%.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in August by 80,976 to 4,765,485, while those unemployed decreased 11,496 to 194,685. Since August 2017, the number of workers employed statewide increased 64,951, while those unemployed decreased 43,392.

4-H Yard Sale is Saturday

The Anson County 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association is holding a yard sale this Saturday, October 13, from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon. This giant sale will include lots of items, such as jewelry, clothing for women, men and children, wall decor, furniture, appliances and lots more!

All sales proceeds go to benefit the Anson 4-H program which so richly enhances the lives of area youth.

The yard sale will take place in the parking lot of Tractor Supply in Wadesboro, located at 1051 East Caswell Street (Highway 74).

Chamber's Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet is October 18

The Board of Directors of the the Anson County Chamber of Commerce cordially invites members to their Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet. This event will take place on Thursday, October 18 in the Ingram Room at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro.

The evening will begin with a cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by a 7 p.m. dinner and event program.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$350 for corporate sponsorship tables of eight. Please RSVP by October 12 via email to info@ansoncountychamber.org.

For more information contact Megan Sellers at 704-694-4181 or email info@ansoncountychamber.org.

Extension Farm Safety Classes in October and November

This fall Anson Extension will promote the health and safety of farmers, foresters, landscapers, and their families by offering 2 important programs targeted to farmers and first responders; 1) First On Scene, and 2) Grain Bin Safety/Grain Rescue.

First on Scene is a first aid program for farmers, landscapers, and foresters. It will teach individuals who are first on scene at a farm accident how to respond safely until first responders arrive. Tractor rollovers, heat exposure, falls, chemical exposure, hazardous equipment and machinery, and electricity are just a few of the hazards farm workers and others face. This program will address dangers and how to render aid. First On Scene will be held on Thursday, October 18, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Anson High School Commons Area. Please contact Anson Extension at 704-694-2415 or email aimee_colf@ncsu.edu so we can plan for dinner.

Grain Bin Safety/Grain Rescue is designed for emergency first responders. The purpose is to identify risks on the farm associated with grain bins, provide training on grain bin rescue procedures, and practice simulated hands-on rescues. Grain bins and silos have many hidden dangers. Perdue University examined grain bin incidents between 1964-2010, revealing 600 explosions and 250 deaths, resulting in a 20% fatality rate. Within that time grain engulfment cases totaled 900 with 550 deaths and a 62% fatality rate nationally. Sadly, some cases have involved children. Having an understanding of the proper course of action can reduce rescue time, and increase victim/rescuer safety. The classroom portion begins on Friday, November 16, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Anson High School's Commons Area. Then the hands-on demonstration will be at Martin Farms in Ansonville on Saturday, November 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Light breakfast and lunch will be available onsite. Please register with Anson Extension at 704-694-2415 or email aimee_colf@ncsu.edu for farm address. Program details can be found on the Anson Extension website, events link, anson.ces.ncsu.edu.

Both programs will be taught by LaMar Grafft, Associate Director of the NC Agromedicine Institute. Grafft has a farming background, was a paramedic and flight paramedic part-time for 25 years, and has taught farm safety for 25+ years. These programs are sponsored by Corn Growers Association of NC, NC Soybean Growers Association, Pee Dee Electric, Anson County Future Farmers of America, Anson High School, Anson Extension, Martin Farms, Griffin Farm Machine Company, and NC Agromedicine Institute.

Operation Medicine Drop is Saturday

This is a safe way to dispose of unused or expired medicines

Safe Kids Anson will host Operation Medicine Drop, Saturday, October 13th from 10:00 am until noon in Walmart Parking Lot in Wadesboro. Bring your unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines to Walmart to be safely disposed. Syringes and needles will not be accepted for collection.

The average North Carolinian fills 17 prescriptions annually and studies show that as much as 40% of the drugs dispensed are never used. Abuses of unused and/or expired prescription medications is a public health issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose and abuse, as well as contaminating our water system. Poisoning is the number-one cause of injury-related deaths in the United States. The latest statistics show that the number of unintentional poisoning deaths in North Carolina increased from 279 deaths in 1999 to 1,178 deaths in 2014, an increase of 320 percent. From 1999 to 2016 more than 12,000 North Carolinians died from opioid-related overdoses. This epidemic is devastating families and communities.

Since 1999, 91% of all unintentional poisonings were caused by prescription or over-the-counter medications according to NC Injury and Violence Prevention, DHHS.

Operation Medicine Drop is a partnership of Safe Kids North Carolina, the River Keepers of North Carolina, NC State Bureau of Investigation, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of North Carolina and local law enforcement agencies working together to encourage the public to safely dispose of unused, unwanted and expired medication. For additional information please contact Karen Gerald at (704) 694-4036.

Foster Parent Support Group

A Foster Parent Support Group meeting is held the second Thursday of the month at Richmond County Department of Social Services, located at 125 Caroline Street in Rockingham, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Refreshments and resources will be provided free.

Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769 or connectionsfp@gmail.com for more information.

Annual Chicken Dumpling Dinner

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) is holding their annual Chicken Dumpling Dinner this Saturday, October 13. Everyone is invited to come out anytime from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. to enjoy this delicious meal. You can eat in or get a take out. Plates are only \$6.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

State Employee Retiree Workshop at Grace Senior Center

Grace Senior Center wants to remind all State Employee Retirees the 2019 Open Enrollment started on September 29 and runs through October 31.

There will be a State Employee Retiree Workshop on Wednesday, October 17, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Grace Senior Center. Please call and register at (704) 694-6616.

Early voting begins Wednesday, October 17. See page 5 for election details.