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

## FSA County Committee Elections Have Begun

**Producers have received ballots giving them a voice in local farm program decisions**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin mailing ballots to eligible farmers and ranchers across the country for the 2015 FSA County Committee elections on Monday, Nov. 9. Producers must return ballots to their local FSA offices by Dec. 7, 2015, to ensure that their vote is counted.

"County committee members represent the farmers and ranchers in their communities," said Dolcini. "Producers elected to these committees have always played a vital role in local agricultural decisions. They are essential to the daily operation of nearly 2,200 offices across the country. It is a valued partnership that helps us better understand the needs of the farmers and ranchers we serve."

Nearly 7,700 FSA County Committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. County committee members apply their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs; conservation programs; indemnity and disaster programs; emergency programs and eligibility.

Producers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program to be eligible to vote in the county committee election. Approximately 1.9 million producers are currently eligible to vote. Farmers and ranchers who supervise and conduct the farming operations of an entire farm, but are not of legal voting age, also may be eligible to vote.

Farmers and ranchers will begin receiving their ballots the week of Nov. 9. Ballots include the names of candidates running for the local committee election. FSA has modified the ballot, making it more easily identifiable and less likely to be overlooked. Voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week can pick one up at their local FSA office. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 7, 2015. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2016.

For more information, visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). You may also contact your local USDA Service Center or FSA office. The Anson County FSA office is located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. Visit [offices.usda.gov](http://offices.usda.gov) to find an FSA office near you.

## Chamber of Commerce Big Game Hunt Set for November 27

In a release from the Anson County Chamber of Commerce: Planning of the 18th Annual Big Game Hunt Tournament is well under way! Brochures will be mailed soon and hats are ordered and program books will follow very soon. Registrations are already beginning to come in. The hunt dates are Friday and Saturday, November 27-28.

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce offers monetary prizes for first, second, third, fourth and fifth places in buck and doe categories and first, second, third and fourth places in the youth buck and doe categories. Door prizes will be given away during the annual banquet on Saturday, November 28, at the Ansonville Volunteer Fire Department.

For more tournament information, call the Anson County Chamber of Commerce at 704-694-4181 or visit [www.ansoncounty.org](http://www.ansoncounty.org) for tournament rules and entry form.

Registration Sites 2015: Allen's Restaurant (Peachland), Anson County Chamber of Commerce (Wadesboro), Buckshot Deer Processing (Peachland & Monroe), H.W. Little & Co (Wadesboro) and Scotty's Bait & Tackle (Lilesville).

Be sure to register so you won't miss your chance at winning prize money. Don't forget to bring the family and join us at the banquet on Saturday night for great food, door prizes, raffle drawings and more. Top prize on the raffle ticket this year will be a Remington 783, Bolt Action Rifle 308 caliber. Second prize on the raffle is really nice also, a Yeti Tundra 35 Cooler. Have a safe hunting season and we will see you in November at the hunt!

## Anson Farmers May Qualify for Emergency Loans Based on Flooding During September and October

On November 4 Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack declared a natural disaster in the State of North Carolina based on losses caused by excessive rain and flooding that occurred September 22, 2015 to October 4, 2015. As a result of this natural disaster, 11 North Carolina counties were declared eligible for Federal disaster assistance, including Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers. Those primary disaster counties are: Bertie, Gates, Pamlico, Bladen, Hertford, Union, Caswell, Hoke and Warren.

In addition to those 11 primary disaster counties, 29 additional North Carolina counties are named as contiguous counties where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance, in accordance with Section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Those counties are: Alamance, Columbus, Mecklenburg, Pender, Rockingham, Anson, Craven, Moore, Perquimans, Sampson, Beaufort, Franklin, Nash, Person, Scotland, Cabarrus, Halifax, Orange, Richmond, Stanly, Camden, Harnett, Pasquotank, Robeson, Vance, Carteret, Hyde, Chowan and Martin.

Suzanne Simpson, Farm Loan Manager for FSA, said that effective November 4, 2015, farmers in Anson may apply for EM loans for production losses. July 5, 2016 is the deadline for filing an application. The local office is located at 3230 A Presson Roan in Monroe 28112-9196 and has office hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Simpson said that any farmer who suffered a physical and production loss should contact his/her office for additional information.

## Veterans Fellowship Event Planned

The Anson County Veterans Council invites all veterans and their spouses to an evening of fun and fellowship on Thursday, December 3. The event will take place at the National Guard Armory, located on Anson High School Road in Wadesboro, at 6 p.m.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this special event.



## Anson High School Students of the Month

This article was submitted by Gage Tarlton, journalism student at Anson High School: Throughout the school year Anson High School recognizes students once a month who have exceeded expectations. To be eligible as a 'Student of the Month' one must be passing all classes, have good attendance, display a positive attitude towards others, exemplify good citizenship, demonstrate responsibility, be respectful towards peers and teachers, follow all school/classroom rules, and have no suspensions.

- In the month of October the selected students who achieved this were:
- 12th Grade - Damien Lilly, Shontavia Little, Alynda Pratt and David Tamura
  - 11th Grade - Kimberly Watts, Qadeer Hassan, Jasmine Lindsey and Shantell Leak
  - 10th Grade - Briana Liles, Darrell Morman, My Vue and Ethan Johnson
  - 9th Grade - Shaquandia Dunlap, Cameron Helms, Olivia Tucker and McKenzy Johnson.

Pictured above are Alynda Pratt, McKenzy Johnson, Cameron Helms, Shaquandia Dunlap, Olivia Tucker, Shantell Leak, Ethan Johnson, Briana Liles, Jasmine Lindsey, Darrell Morman and My Vue.

## Anson High School Drama Club Presents Play, *The Outsiders* this Friday and Saturday

The Anson High School Drama Club will be performing the play, *The Outsiders* at the Ansonia Theatre this Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. both

nights. *The Outsiders* tells the story of Ponyboy and his gang of Greasers in the 1950's, as they try to find themselves and achieve redemption, while also struggling with the consequences that arise from their violent lifestyle.

The cast includes Gage Tarlton, Vince Gilmore, Brian Delp, Trevor Flake, Tristan Dickson, Madi Martin, Joshua Barbour, Max Martin, Destiny Cole, Emily Black, Savannah Bennett, Iris Seegar, Breanna Ingram, Saima Nadeem and Havillyn McCullam. Teacher Liz Rockett is directing with assistance from Destiny Dows. Make-up artists include Erin Thomas, Hannah Knotts, Teely Yang and Brooke Edwards. Stage hands include Kiarra Williams, Savannah Somerville, Destinee Miller and Justice Leak.

Tickets are available at the Arts Council and the high school for \$7. They will also be available at the door. For information call 704-694-4950.

Pictured here are the Greasers: Destiny Cole, Trevor Flake, Gage Tarlton, Tristin Dickson, Vince Gilmore, Madi Martin and Brian Delp.



## Legal Aid's New Benefits Enrollment Center Helps Low Income Medicare Recipients Access Federal Benefits

Low-income Medicare recipients in North Carolina can call Legal Aid of North Carolina's new Benefits Enrollment Center at 1-877-579-7562 (toll-free) for free help enrolling in federal benefits programs that provide financial help with health care, prescription drugs, home energy bills and food costs.

"Many Medicare recipients in North Carolina are eligible for additional federal benefits and don't even know it," said Angeleigh Dorsey, director of Legal Aid's Senior Law Project, which operates the Benefits Enrollment Center. "If you're on Medicare and need a little extra money for life's necessities, call us today. We can help you figure out what programs you're eligible for and guide you through the application process," she said. "The best part is, we're a nonprofit so all our help is completely free!"

To be considered low-income, a person must live at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty line, defined as earning about \$18,000 a year or less for one person, \$24,000 a year or less for two people, and \$30,000 a year or less for four people. The Benefits Enrollment Center staff determines eligibility by looking at a person's income, assets, rent or mortgage payments, utility payments, cost of health insurance premiums and other expenses.

"If you're worried about eligibility," Dorsey said, "don't be. Just give us a call and we'll work with you to figure it out."

Legal Aid's Benefits Enrollment Center can enroll eligible North Carolinians in five federal programs:

- 1) Medicare Savings Program. Waives the \$104.90 monthly premium for Medicare Part B, which covers physicians' services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment, and other items.
- 2) Medicare Part D Extra Help program. Provides full or partial subsidies and copay assistance for recipients of Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits.
- 3) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Provides nutrition assistance to low-income individual and families.
- 4) Medicaid. Some low-income Medicare recipients may also qualify for Medicaid, which can decrease their out-of-pocket expenses for health care.
- 5) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Provides financial assistance with home energy costs.

Legal Aid's Benefits Enrollment Center launched in June with a grant from the National Council on Aging. The goal of the BEC is to enroll 1,100 seniors in benefits programs by May 2016. The BEC can help people across the state but is targeting outreach to nine counties in the west and southeast: Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Duplin, Gaston, Richmond, Robeson.

"We weighed a number of factors when selecting these counties," Dorsey said. "Number of low-income seniors who aren't enrolled in these benefits programs, percentage of people of color, proximity to Legal Aid field offices, etc. We also have good relationships with stakeholders in these counties."

In addition to running the toll-free helpline, Legal Aid staff working on the Benefits Enrollment Center hold enrollment and information events at senior centers, and providers of home meal delivery to reach those who are homebound.

Legal Aid of North Carolina is a statewide, nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services in civil matters to low-income people in order to ensure equal access to justice and remove legal barriers to economic opportunity. Our Senior Law Project provides free civil legal help to North Carolinians age 60 or older. To learn more, visit [www.legalaidnc.org](http://www.legalaidnc.org) or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

## Next Free Movie at Hampton B. Allen Library is November 23

Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie for Monday, November 23 at 10 a.m. in the Little Theatre. The movie is not named due to copyrights, but the synopsis for the movie is: after graduation five friends set out to make a difference in the world. Their ambitions are high, their passions are strong, but will they have the courage to fulfill their calling regardless of what comes their way. The movie stars Shawn-Calin Young, Kate Cobb, T. J. Dalrymple, Matthew Florida and Eric Roberts. It is rated PG. Everyone is invited to come, bring a friend and enjoy this wonderful movie.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

## BCSWCD Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24 at 10 a.m. at the BCSWCD office located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

## Free Groceries! Mobile Food Pantry is December 2

The Mobile Food Pantry and CMC Mobile Health Unit will be at Mt. Beulah Baptist Church, located at 3373 Country Club Road in Wadesboro, on Wednesday, December 2, from 10 a.m. until noon. Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. Do not arrive before 9:30 a.m., but come before 11 a.m. If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, it will be canceled. If you have not yet done so, bring proof of your income to register. You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

This event is sponsored by Anson Crisis Ministry and local United Methodist, Baptist, and Apostolic Churches.

Interested in volunteering? Call Rev. Barry Byrd, Mt. Beulah Baptist Church, at (704) 438-4977 or Rev. Cindy Lunsford at (828) 891-2753.