

## Community Invited to Restore Historic Poplar Springs Cemetery

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service project planned January 17

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center and Poplar Springs Missionary Baptist Church are inviting the community to take part in a special Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Saturday, January 17, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., focused on restoring the historic Poplar Springs Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in the Burnsville community.

Dating back to approximately 1860, the Poplar Springs Missionary Baptist Church Historical Cemetery is one of Anson County's most significant and diverse burial grounds. More than 200 individuals are laid to rest on the three-acre property, including Caucasians, African Americans, enslaved individuals, Native Americans, and free persons from the late 18th century forward. Many graves have been identified through death certificates, grave markers, historical research, and community knowledge passed down through generations.

Organizers say time, development, and neglect have taken a toll on the cemetery, with some grave sites disturbed or destroyed over the years. The restoration effort is intended to preserve the site, protect remaining graves, and ensure the cemetery remains accessible for future generations.

Community members of all ages are encouraged to participate. Volunteers are asked to bring tools such as wheelbarrows, rakes, axes, hacksaws, hedge clippers, and gloves to assist with cleanup and restoration work. Lunch will be provided by the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center at 12:30 p.m.

The cemetery is located just below Poplar Springs Missionary Baptist Church at 332 Rocky Mount Church Road, Polkton. Organizers emphasize that the work already completed has been significant, but continued help is needed to fully protect and honor the site.

Those already involved in the restoration include Poplar Springs trustees; Lyn Thomas Grading and Kevin Thomas; Grave Hunters Vicky Matlock and Margaret Price; retired Pee Dee Wildlife Director J.D. Briken; Wingate University associates; Nix Gaddy Company; community activist Allen Jackson II; concerned community citizens from both local and out-of-state areas; and church families from Galilee Baptist Church and Saron Baptist Church.

The project is being coordinated by the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center along with Poplar Springs Missionary Baptist Church leaders and community partners. Organizers say preserving this historic cemetery is both a responsibility and a service to the past, present, and future of Anson County.

For more information, contact Carol Smith, BRLC Director, at 704-778-7478.

## Bluegrass Night Strikes A Chord At The Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a Bluegrass acoustic set on Thursday, January 22, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the library's Little Theater, welcoming musicians, singers, and listeners for an evening that celebrates a music style built on tradition, community and heart.

To properly prepare the community, the library offers the following poetic preview of the evening:

- A banjo rings, a fiddle sighs, Old songs travel, new ones try. Some hands are steady, some still learn, But every note is played in turn.

- Bluegrass lives in stories told, In melodies both new and old. It's less about perfection found, And more about sharing the sound.

- Pickers gather, voices blend, Strangers meet and leave as friends. The rhythm wanders, then comes home, Just like the songs we've always known.

- Don't worry if you're rusty or learning the ropes, Bluegrass here thrives on dreams and hopes. From first-time pickers to seasoned pros, From toe-tapping fans to wide-eyed "ohs."

- Musicians, singers, and listeners too, Are all invited - yes, that includes you. All ages and skill levels are welcome inside, Though kids twelve and under need an adult by their side.

These sessions are open to musicians, singers, and spectators of all ages and skill levels. Everyone is invited to enjoy an evening of genuine, down-home entertainment.

For more information, call 704-694-5177 and come be part of the music - just as it is, and just as it's meant to be.

## Partnership For Children Gears Up To Celebrate 30 Years

## Community invited to join milestone Barn Blast fundraiser on January 30

The Anson County Partnership for Children (ACPC) is turning 30 in 2026 - and they're inviting the community to help celebrate three decades of making Anson County a better place for every child to grow and thrive. The celebration kicks off at the organization's beloved annual Barn Blast fundraiser on Friday, January 30, 2026.

Since its founding, the Partnership has been dedicated to ensuring that every child in Anson County has the resources, support, and opportunities to reach their full potential. Thanks to the generosity of donors, sponsors, and volunteers, ACPC has continued to make a powerful difference year after year.

## In 2025 alone, the impact has been remarkable:

- 969 children received free books each month through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

- 351 Pre-K and Kindergarten students took part in Raising-A-Reader, strengthening early literacy skills

- 150 families every month were supported with essential diapers and wipes

"We can't do this without the generosity of our community," said ACPC Executive Director Elizabeth Rizzo. "Because of supporters like you, our programs continue to grow and touch more young lives every year."

The upcoming Barn Blast will serve as both a celebration and a vital fundraiser to continue these programs. Sponsors and donors are encouraged to join the effort to make ACPC's 30th anniversary year one to remember."

## To contribute or sponsor:

visit [www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/sponsorships-for-barn-blast--2026](http://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/sponsorships-for-barn-blast--2026).

**Tickets** not included with sponsorships can be purchased at:

[www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/barn-blast--2026](http://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/barn-blast--2026).

For questions or sponsorship details, contact the ACPC team at 704-694-4036.

Join Anson County Partnership for Children in celebrating 30 years of helping every child in Anson County have the best possible start in life - and make 2026 a year to remember!

## David Kiser Memorial Pheasant Hunt Set For Feb. 7

The sixth annual David Kiser Memorial Pheasant Hunt will be held Saturday, February 7 at Devil's Rib Preserve, continuing a popular tradition that brings together sportsmen, supporters, and the community for a day of outdoor fun and fellowship.

Devil's Rib Preserve is located at 2466 Peachland Polkton Road in Peachland. The event is hosted in support of Hands of a Sportsman, which helps make outdoor experiences accessible to others.

Lunch will be served at noon, followed by an auction, both of which are open to the public, making it possible to join the fun even if you are not participating in the hunt itself. Music during lunch will be provided by The Gospel Plowboys, while auction services will be handled by Traditions Auction Company of Marshville.

The event also honors the memories of David Kiser, Richard Allen and Dave Johnson, whose legacies continue to be remembered through this annual gathering.

Additional details, updates, and event information can be found online at [www.handsfasportsman.org](http://www.handsfasportsman.org), and you can check the website for the latest information before the event.

## Grace Senior Center Has It Going On In January!

## Free, fun, and full of fellowship for Anson County seniors

Grace Senior Center continues to be one of Anson County's most active and welcoming places for seniors - offering health programs, games, creative workshops, and friendly gatherings all month long. Everything is free and open to all!

## ALL FREE... AND ALL FUN &amp; INFORMATIVE!

- **Thursday, January 15** - Color by Number (Winterland), 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

- **Tuesday, January 20** - Chair exercises, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; Puzzles, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

- **Wednesday, January 21** - Wadesboro Housing Authority presentation, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

- **Thursday, January 22** - Chair exercises, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; Movie Day featuring *Grumpy Old Men*, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

- **Friday, January 23** - Line dancing.

- **Tuesday, January 27** - Chair exercises, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; BINGO!, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Must have at least five seniors to play.)

- **Wednesday, January 28** - Indoor golf, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

- **Thursday, January 29** - Chair exercises, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; Pilates demonstration, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

- **Friday, January 30** - Daily Chronicle social hour and discussion of current events.

Grace Senior Center invites all seniors to join the fun, make new friends, and stay active throughout the month.

For details or to register for activities, call (704) 694-6616.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA on the left.



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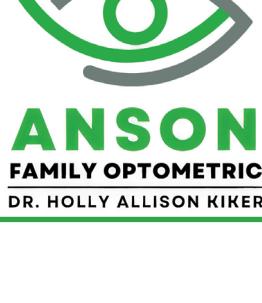
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**YEEHAW!**

**ANSON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN**

**ANNUAL BARN BLAST**

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