

# THE EXPRESS

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

## School Board Meeting is January 29

### Public invited to attend or tune in online

The Board of Education rescheduled their regular monthly meeting to Thursday, January 29. It will be held in the Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5).

Open Session for the public will begin at 6:00 p.m. If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board. Public comment will be held during the Open Session portion of the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

For those who prefer to attend from the comfort of their couch, the meeting will be livestreamed on the Anson County Schools YouTube channel. To find it, simply search YouTube for “Anson County Schools,” where viewers can watch along without worrying about parking or whether the chair squeaks when they shift their weight.

## Sixth Annual David Kiser Memorial Pheasant Hunt is Set for February 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 [handsofasportsman.org](http://handsofasportsman.org), and you can check the website for the latest information before the event.

## Free Tax Assistance Offered

Free income tax assistance will once again be available at Grace Senior Center for Anson County residents age 60 and older, those with disabilities, or individuals of low- or moderate-income who need help preparing their income tax returns. The program is sponsored by AARP and Grace Senior Center and is designed to turn tax-time headaches into sighs of relief.

Volunteer counselors, trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service (yes, they speak fluent “tax”), will be available at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, March 4, and Wednesday, April 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free assistance will be provided for Forms 1040EZ, 1040A, 1040, and the North Carolina return.

Participants are asked to bring a picture ID, this year’s tax package, age and earnings statements (W-2 forms), interest statements from banks (1099-INT forms), a copy of last year’s tax return, and any other relevant income or expense information. In other words, bring the paperwork - and let the volunteers handle the math.

All individuals with appointments must pick up a tax package at Grace Senior Center prior to their scheduled time and bring the completed package with them to the appointment. Electronic filing of returns will be available, meaning no stamps, no envelopes, and no wondering if your return fell behind the refrigerator.

Appointments are required. To schedule a time or to learn more about this free and helpful service, call Grace Senior Center at (704) 694-6616. Your taxes may still be complicated, but at least they don’t have to be lonely.

## Anson High School Career Fair

Anson High School will host its 2026 Career Fair on Wednesday, March 18, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., offering students in grades nine through twelve the opportunity to explore a wide range of career paths and local employment possibilities.

The event will take place at Anson High School, located at 96 Anson High School Road in Wadesboro. Local businesses and industry partners are invited to participate and share information with students about careers available in and around Anson County.

School officials say the career fair is designed to help students learn about workforce opportunities, ask questions, and make connections with employers who may be ready to hire now or in the future. The event also allows businesses to highlight career pathways, training requirements, and real-world expectations.

Organizations interested in participating can register in advance using the QR code at right.

For additional information, questions may be directed to Jodi Davis, Career Development Coordinator, at 704-694-9301, extension 6005.



## Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes every Thursday. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library’s Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.



## BRLC Students Staying Connected

During the Christmas holidays, former students of the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) reunited, bringing together young people who once attended the center’s afterschool program. Many of them also participated in the Summer Fun Camp and other programs offered during past summer months. The warm reunion provided an opportunity for everyone to reconnect and share how each has grown and progressed in life since their time at BRLC.

The gathering allowed the former students to enjoy time together, listening to one another’s stories and experiences. Seeing them come back together at BRLC offered a meaningful reminder of the impact the programs

have had on their lives and personal development. It was a wonderful experience for all in attendance.

Food for the event was donated through the afterschool program and was served by BRLC’s adult volunteers. Some of the students now live far from Burnsville, including members of the Hammond and Hersey families who are now located in Jacksonville, Florida. Laila Hammond and Nathan Sikes continue to live in the Burnsville community, while Alton Jackson currently resides in Chicago. Each of the students is developing along their own unique path.

Standing left to right are Alton Jackson, a student at Moody Bible School and an intern at a local Church of God in Christ near his home in Chicago; Laila Hammond, a seventh grader at Anson Middle School who continues to excel academically; Dylan Hammond, a seventh grader living in Jacksonville, Florida; Nathan Sikes, an Assistant Manager at Dollar General; Calvin Hammond, a sixth grader; and Gabriel Hersey, a fifth grader who lives in Jacksonville, Florida, with his family.

The reunion highlighted the lasting connections formed through BRLC programs and the positive influence the center continues to have on the lives of its students.

## Partnership For Children Barn Blast is Friday!

### A few tables and tickets are still available. Get yours today!

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.

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

**Tickets** 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!

## Armed Robbery Investigation Leads To Arrest In Peachland

Deputies with the Anson County Sheriff’s Office have made an arrest following an armed robbery reported at a Peachland business late last year.

According to a press release from the Sheriff’s Office, deputies were dispatched to the Dollar General in Peachland at approximately 8:55 p.m. on December 18, 2025, in reference to an armed robbery. Upon arrival, deputies secured the scene, interviewed applicable parties, obtained video surveillance, and conducted a K-9 track as part of the investigation.

The investigation continued over the following days and was concluded on December 30, 2025, when deputies and detectives arrested Blair Smith in connection with the incident. Smith was charged with felony robbery with a dangerous weapon.

Smith was taken into custody without incident and placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$500,000 secured bond.

The Anson County Sheriff’s Office continues to encourage anyone with information related to criminal activity to contact law enforcement as investigations remain ongoing throughout the county.



Blair Smith

## Golden LEAF Scholarship Application Now Open

### South Piedmont students encouraged to apply for up to \$2,250 per year

South Piedmont Community College students now have an opportunity to invest in their future, as applications for the Golden LEAF Scholarship are officially open. The scholarship awards up to \$2,250 per year to eligible students and is designed to support those who plan to live and work in rural North Carolina communities after graduation.

To qualify, applicants must meet several requirements, including residency in a qualifying North Carolina county and status as a graduating high school senior or a community college transfer student. Students must have a minimum 2.5 grade point average, be enrolled in at least six credit hours, and have a completed FAFSA on file. Applicants must also indicate plans to live and work in a rural North Carolina community following graduation.

Applications opened January 12 and must be submitted no later than March 1, 2026. Students can apply online through Etrieve at [bit.ly/ETRIEVE](http://bit.ly/ETRIEVE).

Students who meet the qualifications are encouraged to apply early and take advantage of this opportunity to help offset educational costs while building a future in North Carolina’s rural communities.

## Exercise at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center

Want to improve your health? Join Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center’s Exercise Team. Spirit, mind, body and soul - free team exercise every Tuesday and Thursday at 4:30 p.m. There is also walking every Saturday morning.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information you can call 704-826-8737, check their Facebook page, email [burnsvilleelc@gmail.com](mailto:burnsvilleelc@gmail.com), or visit [www.burnsvilleelc.org](http://www.burnsvilleelc.org).

## Managing Health in Pregnancy and Postpartum Programs Offered at the Health Department

### Free sessions provide education, support, and resources for mothers and babies

The Anson County Health Department, in partnership with Wingate University’s Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program and the WoMB Clinic, is offering a series of free educational & support sessions focused on managing health during pregnancy and the postpartum period. The programs are designed to support both physical and mental well-being for expectant and new mothers in Anson County.

Sessions will cover a wide range of topics, including pelvic floor therapy, breast-feeding and infant feeding support, mental health before and after pregnancy, baby growth and development, parenting education, and evaluation and support for perinatal pain, discomfort, and physical challenges. Each session will also include free supplies and gifts for both mom and baby.

Programs will be held at the Anson County Health Department on select Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Upcoming Monday dates include Feb. 2, February 16, February 23, and March 2, while Thursday sessions are scheduled for February 12, February 19, February 26, and March 12.

Appointments are required and can be scheduled through the WoMB Clinic. Those interested may contact the clinic at 704-233-8972, email:

[Womb@wingate.edu](mailto:Womb@wingate.edu), visit:

[wingate.edu/womb-clinic](http://wingate.edu/womb-clinic), or use the QR Code below for more information and to reserve a spot.



## INSIDE THIS EDITION...THE SAVE COUPON BOOK

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