

THE EXPRESS

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



Parts of Anson County Got Over 9 Inches of Snow on Saturday

And you know what that means...lots of snowwomen, snowmen, snowdogs...and more! Amber Tyson shared this picture of a creation by Alan James and Andrew James.

Sheriff's Office Recovers Stolen Boat, Seeks Suspect

Warrants issued for Richard Dale McKenzie

On January 8, 2026, deputies with the Anson County Sheriff's Office recovered an Excel Viper F4 boat in the Mills Road area of Anson County. Deputies later determined the boat had been reported stolen from Huntley Marine in Pineville, North Carolina.

On January 16, 2026, detectives with the Anson County Sheriff's Office concluded their investigation and obtained warrants for Richard Dale McKenzie, 47, of Polkton, North Carolina. Detectives obtained two criminal arrest warrants charging McKenzie with obtaining goods by false pretenses, a felony offense in North Carolina.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Richard Dale McKenzie is asked to contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188 or the Anson County 911 non-emergency line at 704-694-7083. The assistance of the community is greatly appreciated.



Richard McKenzie

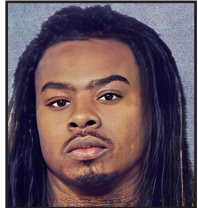
Sheriff's Office Issues Warrants Following Criminal Investigation

Felony charges filed for Logan Maurice Rushing in Anson County case

On January 28, 2026, following the conclusion of a criminal investigation by the Anson County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division, detectives obtained arrest warrants for Logan Maurice Rushing, 23, of Monroe, North Carolina.

A total of ten criminal warrants were issued, including eight counts of second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor, one count of disclosure of private images, and one count of intimidation of a state's witness.

Sheriff Scott Howell is asking anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Logan Maurice Rushing to contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188 or the Anson County 911 non-emergency line at 704-694-7083. The Sheriff's Office appreciates the assistance of the community.



Logan Rushing

Residents Warned of Ongoing Phone Scam

Fraudsters posing as cellular phone companies targeting Anson County citizens

Sheriff Scott Howell and the Anson County Sheriff's Office are warning Anson County residents about an ongoing scam that the office has received multiple reports about over the past several months.

Citizens have reported receiving phone calls or emails from individuals claiming to represent out-of-state Verizon stores or other cellular phone companies. The callers advise that the recipient has received a new cell phone and can obtain it at a discounted rate by sending money to a specific address. In some cases, the scammers even provide tracking numbers and claim the phone will be shipped once payment is made.

The Anson County Sheriff's Office advises that this is a scam. Citizens should not send money, transfer funds, or provide any personal information over the phone or by email. This includes personal identification or banking information.

Legitimate cellular phone companies do not randomly contact customers by phone or email with offers of this nature.

Anyone who has received a call or message like this, or who has questions or concerns, is encouraged to contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office for assistance or visit their local cellular service provider directly.

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.

Pee Dee Electric Prepares For The Future

Dustin Marsh becomes a Certified Loss Control Professional

Dustin Marsh, the safety coordinator at Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation (PDEMC), has completed an intensive program in electric utility safety and loss control, earning designation as a Certified Loss Control Professional.

The Certified Loss Control Program is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in partnership with the National Utility Training & Safety Education Association. The program is designed to educate participants on a wide range of safety and loss control issues specific to the electric utility industry.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, nearly four million workplace injuries occur each year. One of the key goals of a Certified Loss Control Professional is to help ensure a safe work environment for both utility workers and the public. Preventing workplace accidents also reduces downtime and can ultimately contribute to lower utility rates.

Marsh is among only a small number of electric utility professionals nationwide to receive this certification this year. The program requires completion of a rigorous series of seminars and examinations, a 30-hour OSHA course, and a detailed final course project.

Loss Control participants attend four week-long sessions designed to challenge and educate them in new and innovative safety techniques. To maintain certification, participants must also complete continuing education each year to stay current with industry standards and changes.

"Safety is about making sure every employee goes home the same way they arrived," Marsh said. "This certification strengthened my ability to identify risks before they become incidents and reinforces Pee Dee Electric's commitment to protecting our employees, our members, and the communities we serve."



Tony Eason (left), Vice President of Engineering and Operations, presents Dustin Marsh with a Certified Loss Control Professional award.

Police Quickly Arrest Suspect E'learn Sturdivant Following State Employee's Credit Union Robbery

Arrested made without injury or threat to the public

On Tuesday, February 3 the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a panic alarm at the State Employees' Credit Union in Wadesboro concerning a bank robbery.

According to authorities, a male suspect entered the credit union, passed a note demanding money, and left the building with approximately \$5,500. Employees immediately activated the panic alarm, and patrol officers responded without delay.

Officers were provided a description of the suspect, who was not wearing a mask during the robbery. He fled the building on foot. Patrol units quickly broadcast the description over the radio, and Chief of Police Michael Childers located the suspect behind the bank, still on bank property, where he was taken into custody without incident.

Police confirmed the suspect was unarmed and that no weapons were involved during the robbery.

Investigators with the Wadesboro Police Department and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation responded to the scene to process the incident, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation was notified.

The suspect has been identified as E'learn Sturdivant, born November 23, 1994. He has been charged with robbery of the State Employees' Credit Union and is currently being held in the Anson County Jail under no bond.

Authorities stated the incident was isolated, with no ongoing threat to the public.



Surveillance picture of E'learn Sturdivant taken during robbery February 3.

Groundhog Day (6 More Weeks...)

A Winter Tradition Rooted in Folklore, Fun, and a Famous Forecast

Every year on February 2, winter-weary Americans turn their attention to a small, furry weather forecaster with a very big reputation. Groundhog Day is the one day when a groundhog's shadow - or lack of one - becomes national news and a bit of winter cabin fever is shaken loose.



In 2026, Punxsutawney Phil did, in fact, see his shadow on February 2, meaning folklore predicts six more weeks of winter. Phil, formally known as the "Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, and Weather Prognosticator Extraordinary," delivered his verdict before a crowd of devoted fans in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

According to traditional weather lore, a clear or sunny day causes the groundhog to see his shadow and retreat to his burrow, signaling more winter weather ahead. A cloudy or snowy morning means no shadow - and an early spring. Whether accurate or not, the ritual has endured for generations, largely because it is meant to be taken with a grain of salt.

As the folks in Punxsutawney like to say, Groundhog Day is "a day to take everything a little less seriously and break up the winter monotony... at least for a little while." That sense of humor may be the true secret to the tradition's longevity.

Groundhog Day was first celebrated on February 2, 1887, at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, when a newspaper editor belonging to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club declared Phil to be America's only true weather-forecasting groundhog. The event has grown steadily ever since, drawing tens of thousands of visitors each year.

The roots of the celebration stretch back much further, to the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas. On that day, clergy blessed and distributed candles needed for winter, and the weather was believed to foretell how long the cold season would last. German folklore later introduced animals - originally hedgehogs - as weather predictors. When German settlers arrived in Pennsylvania, they substituted the plentiful groundhog, also known as a woodchuck.

Groundhogs, whose scientific name is *Marmota monax*, typically weigh between 12 and 15 pounds and are known for their burrowing skills. They eat fruits and vegetables, can climb trees and swim, and are sometimes called "whistle pigs" because of the sharp sound they make when alarmed. Their winter hibernation habits helped inspire their role as seasonal symbols.

While Punxsutawney Phil is the most famous of the forecasting rodents, he is far from alone. Communities across North America have adopted their own weather-predicting groundhogs, including Staten Island Chuck in New York, Birmingham Bill in Alabama, and Shubenacadie Sam in Canada.

In 1993, the movie *Groundhog Day*, starring Bill Murray, gave the tradition a modern cultural boost and turned the phrase "groundhog day" into shorthand for events that repeat over and over. Today, the celebration remains a blend of folklore, festival, and fun.

Whether winter lingers or loosens its grip, Groundhog Day continues to offer something many people crave in late winter - a shared tradition, a bit of whimsy, and a hopeful glance toward spring.

Bluegrass at the Library Feb. 12

- On February twelfth when the sun settles low,

The library loosens its grip on "shh, no!"

From six-thirty sharp (or thereabouts, give or take),

Bluegrass rolls in, a joyful jailbreak.

- In the Little Theater the picking begins,

With banjos that sparkle and fiddles that grin.

Some strings are in tune, some wander astray,

But every wrong note is confidently played.

- Musicians and singers, the bold and the brave,

Step up with three chords they almost have saved.

All ages are welcome, all skill levels too,

If you've got the spirit, we'll be waiting on you.

- Kids twelve and under must bring a grown guide,

To witness the magic (and tempo that slides).

So come for the music, the laughter, the cheer,

Bluegrass lives loud at the library here. *The End...*

Questions? 704-694-5177. And remember, in bluegrass, perfection's optional.

Eastview Cemetery Welcomes Donations, Needs Volunteers

Even cemeteries need a little life in their upkeep

Eastview Cemetery on Old Lilesville Road in Wadesboro is looking better these days - thanks to some new energy, fresh paint, and a few good-hearted volunteers who aren't afraid of a little ghostly company. Trustee Ken Caulder reports that entrances, walls, and handrails have all been pressure washed and painted, fallen trees cleared, and lawn care improved under groundskeeper Adam Pope, who's keeping things tidy on a regular schedule.

Trustees are now eyeing bigger projects - including a new sign reading "Eastview Cemetery Circa 1805" and long-needed repairs to the cemetery's roads. To make it all happen, they're asking for donations from anyone with family buried there (or just a soft spot for historic Wadesboro landmarks). "Every bit helps," says Caulder, who notes that even the smallest contribution adds up to big improvements. Donations can be sent to Eastview Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 274, Wadesboro, NC 28170, or by contacting Caulder at 704-694-2524.

So if you want to support a local landmark that's truly standing the test of time, Eastview Cemetery would be eternally grateful.