

1809  
Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #149  
Wadesboro, NC  
28170

Postal  
Customer

# THE EXPRESS

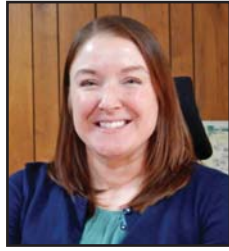
205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • [TheExpressNews@gmail.com](mailto:TheExpressNews@gmail.com) • [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)

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



## Courtney Palmoore is New Anson County Veteran Services Officer

Courtney Palmoore is on the job and ready to serve the veterans as Anson County's new Veteran Services Officer. Courtney retired from the US Army and resides with her family in Richmond County.



The Veteran Services office is located in the Government Annex, located at 575 US Highway 52 South in Wadesboro, the former Pee Dee Electric building. Palmoore can be reached at 704-694-4418 or 704-465-0086 or [cpalmoore@ansoncountync.gov](mailto:cpalmoore@ansoncountync.gov).

## Morven Elementary School Cheerleaders Win Award

Voted Best Youth Entry in Wingate Christmas parade

Morven Elementary School's Lil' Lions Cheerleaders participated in the Town of Wingate Christmas Parade in December under the leadership of Coaches India Wall and Shania Sturdivant. Initially Ms. Wall held a cheer camp for students in K-5 last year and the response was phenomenal. This year, tryouts were held so the girls were able to go through the same process just as the girls at the high school and middle school. The girls have been working so hard to showcase themselves within the community. When they perform, they usually do two cheers and a dance. They have participated in two basketball games with the Bearcats in which they did a superb job. At each performance the Bearcat fans were brought to their feet to cheer the Lil' Lions on. MES Principal Dionnya Pratt said, "Needless to say, the Wingate award was well deserved because of the Lil' Lions' hard work and dedication. To the Wingate Parade Committee, we say thank you for recognizing our Lil' Lions. With that being said, we look forward to seeing more of the Lil' Lions soon!"

## Manhunt for Dewon Rayquan Hailey, Wanted for Murder of Jamarcus Sellers of Rockingham

Jamarcus D. Sellers of Rockingham was murdered on Wednesday, March 6 at the Oak Hill Apartment Complex in Wadesboro.



Dewon Hailey

The Wadesboro Police Department has identified a suspect who was still at large as of press time. He is Dewon Rayquan Hailey, 26, of Wadesboro. Here is a release from the Wadesboro Police Chief Brandon Chewning: "On Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 12:50 a.m. the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a call for service at Oak Hill Apartment Complex, 1355 North Greene Street, Wadesboro, North Carolina. Officers arrived to find a single victim suffering from numerous gunshot wounds. The victim is identified as 30 year old Jamarcus. D. Sellers of Rockingham, North Carolina. Sellers was taken to Atrium Health Anson where he succumbed to his injuries a short time later. The Wadesboro Police Department, along with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, began investigating this matter and quickly identified one (1) suspect, 26 year old Dewon Rayquan Hailey of Wadesboro. Within hours of receiving the call, warrants were obtained charging Hailey with First Degree Murder. Investigators believe that Hailey acted alone and do not expect to charge anyone else with Seller's death. Officers, Deputies, Special Agents, and Investigators have been relentlessly searching for Hailey. It is believed that Hailey could be in the Union County, North Carolina area. As of the time of this press release, Hailey is still a fugitive from justice and investigators are seeking any information as to his whereabouts. If you see Hailey, please call 911, or if you have any information as to his location, please call the Wadesboro Police Department Tip Line at (704) 694-2160. I would like to send my personal and our department's most sincere condolences to the friends and family of Mr. Sellers. It saddens me to see such a young vibrant life taken in a senseless act of violence. I would like to assure the community that the Wadesboro Police Department will not condone criminal behavior and we will continue working tirelessly to make Wadesboro a safer and better place. I would also like to thank the men and women of the Wadesboro Police Department, Anson County Sheriff's Office, Monroe Police Department, and the North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections Division of Community Supervision for their assistance during this investigation and fugitive manhunt." The murder suspect, Dewon Hailey, is 26 years old, 5'7" and 200 pounds with long black hair.

## Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets March 19

The Anson County Board of Commissioners now meets two times per month. The first regular meeting for March took place on March 5. The second meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m. The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201. The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

## Barbecue Fundraiser this Friday!

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy delicious barbecue while helping support Galilee AME Zion Church's upcoming anniversary. The event takes place this Friday, March 15 at City Reach Community Center which is located beside Harvest Ministries in Wadesboro (behind Pizza Hut). They will begin serving Tim's special barbecue chicken or pork plates at 11:00 a.m. Come early before it sells out! Bulk pork barbecue will be available for \$10 a pound. You can dine in or take out. Deliveries are available for orders of 6 or more plates. Call Clayton Coleman at 704-690-3932.

## No School on Friday!

Friday, March 15 is an optional teacher work day for Anson County Schools, so there is no school for students that day. Have fun!

## NCCDD Celebrates Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month by With its "My Story Matters" Campaign

My Story Matters is a new campaign, launched during Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month, by the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) to learn about North Carolinians with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) across the state and the issues that are important to them. **Why are we doing this?** Your story is important! Your story is also a form of advocacy. Sharing your story with us can help us advocate together with key decision makers, lawmakers, and people who can help us make life better for people with I/DD like you in North Carolina. **How will this work?** • Complete an online form with information about yourself. • Upload a photo of yourself. It can be a selfie, a photo with your family or friends (let us know where you are in the photo!), or even doing something fun in your community. • If you agree to allow NCCDD to share your story online, you will have an option to give us permission. • Once we receive the information, the NCCDD team will take the time to read and understand your story. • If you said we can share it online, we will let you know via email when you will be featured! • For information and to participate visit: [nccdd.org](http://nccdd.org). **What's important to know?** Any information you provide on the form is for demographic reporting and for NCCDD's internal use only. Your data will not be shared with any third party or outside organizations. Your story matters! Share your story today!

## Statewide St. Patrick's Day 'Booze It & Lose It' Campaign is Underway

Luck won't be on the side of those who choose to drink and drive as St. Patrick's Day is celebrated over the coming week. From now until St. Patrick's Day on Sunday, March 17, statewide law enforcement officials will increase saturation patrols and driver checkpoints, with a focus on rural roads, to keep travelers safe. "Alcohol and other impairing substances tend to be a part of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, so we implore everyone to consume responsibly and avoid getting behind the wheel if they've been drinking," said Franklin County Sheriff Kevin White. Sheriff White's office hosted the statewide kickoff event Friday in Louisburg for the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program's holiday "Booze It & Lose It" campaign. "Having a plan in place to get home safely is imperative to avoid seriously injuring or killing yourself or someone else in a car crash," White said. A total of 229 alcohol-related crashes and five fatalities occurred on North Carolina roads during last year's St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign period. These numbers are a sobering reminder that there are severe consequences for reckless behavior. "Because St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday this year, we anticipate that alcohol consumption will increase both on the 17th and the weekend leading up to the holiday," said GHSP Program Director Mark Ezzell. "Don't take a chance. Designating a sober driver or using ride-sharing services and public transportation is the only safe alternative." There were more than 12,000 alcohol-involved crashes in North Carolina in 2023, resulting in 367 deaths. The "Booze It & Lose It" campaign complements the greater effort of NC Vision Zero ([ncvisionzero.org](http://ncvisionzero.org)) – a traffic safety initiative focused on eliminating deaths and serious injuries on North Carolina roadways while improving access to safe, sustainable and equitable mobility for everyone.

## Anson Mobile Food Market is March 21

The next Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, March 21, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Ansonville Town Hall, located at 8778 US Highway 52. Food will be given away, including fresh vegetables, fruit and bread (if available). There will be blood pressure and blood sugar checks, along with other healthy living topics and booths. This free event offers citizens of Anson County six to eight different types of fresh produce monthly. This is a free initiative, so please come and get some produce. Nothing is required for you to receive produce, just come. The event is sponsored by the Anson County Extension and its partners. This event is to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county. It will also serve as an educational event to offer education on the two targeted areas of the county health assessment which are tobacco use and hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas.

## North Carolina's January Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted January 2024 unemployment rate was 3.5 percent, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from December's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 3.7 percent. North Carolina's unemployment rate was unchanged from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 6,721 over the month to 5,068,208 and increased 64,125 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 1,640 over the month to 185,760 and increased 2,495 over the year. Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 11,600 to 4,977,200 in January. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 5,900; Construction, 4,000; Education & Health Services, 1,900; Other Services, 900; Financial Activities, 600; Manufacturing, 400; Government, 300; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 2,300; and Information, 200. Leisure & Hospitality Services employment remained unchanged. Since January 2023, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 75,200 with the Total Private sector increasing by 56,500 and Government increasing by 18,700. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 24,600; Government, 18,700; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 17,700; Construction, 8,800; Financial Activities, 7,500; Professional & Business Services, 3,300; Other Services, 2,500; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 600; and Mining & Logging, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 6,000; and Information, 2,700.