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

### 3 Arrested for Murder of Tony Gainey

On Friday, March 17 at approximately 1:35 p.m. Anson County Deputies responded to an area on Airport Road in Wadesboro along with the North Carolina Highway Patrol in reference to a traffic accident.

During the initial investigation it was determined that the victim, Anson High School student Tony Ahmad Gainey, 19, of Wadesboro, suffered an apparent gunshot wound.

Investigators with the Anson County Sheriff's Office responded and secured the scene. Leads were developed that resulted in the arrest of Richard Jamile Ennis, 19, of Wadesboro, Taqual Hakeem McCants, 18, of Wadesboro, and a juvenile. Ennis and McCants have both been charged with murder and are in custody. The juvenile has been served with a juvenile petition for murder and is being held at a juvenile detention facility.

Anson County Sheriff Scott Howell said, "This is still an ongoing investigation. Our investigators were assisted by the State Bureau of Investigation. Officers worked hard on this case every day. Some of those days turned into 12 to 16 hour days. They were able to follow leads that led to these three suspects."

Howell continued, "I want to thank the community, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, and Wadesboro Police Department for assisting the Sheriff's Office during this difficult time. I encourage anyone with information about this case or any case to please contact the Sheriff's Office."



Ennis



McCants



### Wadesboro Police Department Recognizes Anson County Social Workers

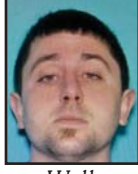
Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer said, "March is National Social Worker Awareness Month. The Wadesboro Police Department thanks all the Anson County Social Workers for your support and services."

### David Wells Arrested, Charged with Attempting to Bring Narcotic Into Anson Correctional

The Polkton Police Department, along with the Anson County Sheriffs Office and Investigators at Anson Correctional, were able to make an arrest over the weekend and obtain warrants on others. David Wells was arrested at Anson Correctional on Saturday, March 25 after officers were working a conspiracy case at the unit. Wells conspired with Jennifer Hughes, Melissa Spellman and Sarah Temple, all residents of the facility, for Wells to bring a Schedule 3 narcotic into the facility during visitation.

Officers were able to intercept Wells and keep the contraband out of the facility. More arrest are expected in this ongoing case.

Polkton Police Chief Tim Hutchinson said, "Officers worked hard on this case and continue to work hard to do our part to keep contraband out of these facilities."



Wells

### North Carolina's February Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted February 2023 unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from January's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.2 of a percentage point to 3.6 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate increased 0.2 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 7,942 over the month to 4,980,817 and increased 12,985 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 5,599 over the month to 188,194 and increased 10,988 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 8,900 to 4,884,600 in February. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 3,700; Government, 2,600; Manufacturing, 1,200; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 600; Financial Activities, 500; Professional & Business Services, 500; and Other Services, 400. Major industries experiencing decreases were Information, 1,300; Construction, 300; and Mining & Logging, 100.

Since February 2022, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 144,100 with the Total Private sector increasing by 136,100 and Government increasing by 8,000. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 37,700; Education & Health Services, 28,900; Professional & Business Services, 27,600; Financial Activities, 10,200; Construction, 9,400; Other Services, 8,300; Government, 8,000; Manufacturing, 7,600; Information, 5,400; and Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,200. The only major industry experiencing a decrease over the year was Mining & Logging, 200.

### Mobile Health Clinic Offers Health Care for You and Your Family

The Atrium Mobile Health Clinic operates two days a week in Anson County. No appointments are necessary, walk-ins only. Please wear a mask.

• Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at HOLLA! Community Center, located at 229 East Main Street in Morven  
• Thursdays 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Burnsville Fire Station, located at 13380 Highway 742 North.

**The Mobile Health Clinic offers diagnosis and treatment for:**  
• Short-term health problems like sprains, cuts and infections, including flu and strep throat

• Long-lasting diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and arthritis • Minor injuries • Patients 2 and up.

**Additional well services offered are:**  
• Help connecting with resources for non-health care needs. • Some recommended screenings and procedures will be referred to Atrium Health facilities in the area.

### Recruiting Volunteers for Meals on Wheels

Grace Senior Center is recruiting volunteers to help with their Meals on Wheels by delivering meals. If you are interested in helping Anson County's shut-in and elderly citizens with this important program, please contact Cynthia Miles at 704-694-6616.

### Celebrate Week of the Young Child

Celebrate the Week of the Young Child with daily activities to spark creativity and learning for the whole family beginning April 1.

Did you know the first 2,000 days of a child's life are the most crucial time for brain development? That's five-and-a-half years from birth to kindergarten when children develop the skills and learning tools they'll use for the rest of their lives. Parents and caregivers will be given resources about brain development to kick off Week of the Young Child on Saturday, April 1.

- On Sunday, April 2 visit the Pinwheel Prevention Garden in uptown Wadesboro. From April 1 to 10 a Pinwheel Prevention Garden will be displayed on the front lawn of the Anson County Courthouse. Blue pinwheels are the national symbol for child abuse prevention. The pinwheel's whimsical and childlike notions are reminders of the great childhoods we want for all children.
  - For Music Monday the community is invited to check out music and musical instruments from the Early Childhood Resource Center to listen and participate in making music as a family.
  - During Tasty Tuesday, the Partnership will share tips for healthy eating and ideas for a Taste the Rainbow party at home.
  - For Work-Together Wednesday, Partnership board members will visit childcare facilities to read.
  - On Thursday, April 6 visit the Partnership's Early Childhood Resource Center for Artsy Thursday, from 4 to 8 p.m. during the Spring Soiree Uptown to create spring-themed art and play. The Early Childhood Resource Center is at 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro.
  - For Family Friday the Partnership will share fan-favorite family activities to enjoy together.
- Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The Week of the Young Child aims to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.
- Visit the Anson County Partnership for Children's Facebook or Instagram page beginning Saturday, April 1 for Week of the Young Child daily activities.
- For further details contact the Partnership staff at 704-694-4036.

### HOLLA! Honored by North Carolina Magazine

HOLLA! has been selected as an honoree of the Black Business Ink Magazine's Power 100 - representing 100 of the most powerful and influential people and organizations across North Carolina. Black Business Ink is a North Carolina-based magazine that states that its mission is to move and inspire readers through the stories of Black entrepreneurs, business leaders, and community influencers who are impacting the present and shaping the future.



Black Business Ink states, "In celebration of its 20th Anniversary, Black Business Ink magazine has named the Black Business Ink Power 100. The most powerful and influential leaders and organizations from across North Carolina will be honored June 8 at 7 p.m. at the Black Business Ink 20th Anniversary awards ceremony at the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts in Greensboro. Tickets are available on [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) now."

According to the announcement, HOLLA! was "nominated by someone who was impressed by your professional acumen and civic accomplishments, and your nomination was subsequently affirmed by an independent Black Business Ink advisory panel."

Leon Gatewood, the founder and Director of HOLLA! said, "We appreciate Black Business Ink's acknowledgement of our intentional efforts to amplify positive movement in our community, while realizing we owe much of what we have accomplished to the support we receive from "great" people who care from near and far." "Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Powerball Ticket Sold in Gaston County Worth \$100,000 Expires Soon. Did you Buy It?

Powerball players in North Carolina, especially those around Gastonia, should double-check any tickets they have to see if they are the winner of an unclaimed \$100,000 prize. The \$3 Power Play ticket was purchased for the Oct. 5 drawing and will expire on Tuesday, April 4. It was sold at the Lake Wylie Mini Mart on 7015 Union Road in Gastonia.

The ticket matched the numbers on four white balls and the red Powerball in the drawing to win the \$100,000 prize. The winning numbers for the drawing were: 26-30-33-37-62-6

"Search everywhere you keep your tickets and double-check any you have to see if you have the winning ticket," said Mark Michalko, executive director of the lottery. "We hope that whomever purchased this ticket comes forward to claim their prize soon so we can celebrate their big win with them."

The odds of matching four white balls and the red Powerball in a drawing are 1 in 913,129.

To claim the prize, the ticket must be presented at lottery headquarters in Raleigh by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4. This deadline ends the 180-day period for winners to claim prizes from the Oct. 5 drawing.

To help find the winner, the Education Lottery is sharing news about the unclaimed prize with statewide media, posting alerts on the lottery's website and social media channels, and working with the store to post a banner alerting customers at the store of the unclaimed \$100,000 prize.

### Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets April 4

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4 at 6 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.

### Free Tax Assistance at Grace Senior Center on April 5

Free income tax assistance will be available for Anson County Residents sixty years of age or older of low- or moderate-income needing help in preparing their income tax returns. The assistance is a program sponsored by AARP and Grace Senior Center.

Volunteer counselors trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service will be at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, April 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day. This free assistance is designed to help taxpayers fill out forms 1040EZ, 1040A, 1040 and the North Carolina return.

Persons using the services should bring a picture ID, this year's tax package, age and earnings statements (forms W-2) received from employers, interest statements from the bank (form 1099-INT), a copy of last year's tax return, and any other relevant information concerning income and expenses.

Electronic filing of returns will be available. If you are interested call Grace Senior Center to register and for additional information at: (704) 694-6616.

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