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

## Anson Teachers, Paraprofessionals and Principal of the Year Announced

**Principal of the Year** is Becky Flake of Lilesville Elementary School

**Teachers of the Year:** Wendy Dalrymple, Anson Early College; Gennifer Jones, Anson High School; Luke Hyatt, Anson Middle School; Tracy Preslar, Ansonville Elementary School; Joyce Bennett, Wadesboro Primary School; Cynthia Teresa, Lilesville Elementary School; Andrea Marshall, Morven Elementary School; Kacie Hayes, Peachland-Polkton Elementary School; Lauren Leary, Wadesboro Elementary School.

**Beginning Teachers of the Year:** Peter Ascitutto, Anson High School; James Woodard, Anson Middle School; Felicia Xavier, Wadesboro Primary School; Abby Dagenhart, Lilesville Elementary School; Kenji Boggan, Morven Elementary School; Stephanie Turner, Peachland-Polkton Elementary School; Katie Taylor, Wadesboro Elementary School.

**Paraprofessionals of the Year:** Cynthia Mabry, Anson Early College; Connie Knotts, Anson High School; Constance Rivers, Anson Middle School; Danielle Clements, Ansonville Elementary School; Qumecia Johnson, Wadesboro Primary School; Carlitta Hildreth, Lilesville Elementary School; India Wall, Morven Elementary School; Margaret Bowers, Peachland-Polkton Elementary School; Sharolyn Carpenter, Wadesboro Elementary School.



courses requiring precision, such as safely parallel parking a dump truck, or using the bucket of a backhoe to accurately drop a golf ball into cylinders of various sizes.

The overall goals of the conference include helping NCDOT employees advance their skills with emphasis on safety when operating these machines. The competition also fosters team spirit, recognizing employees who excel at their jobs. The winners from each event will represent Division 10 at the statewide conference in Raleigh June 20-21:

- **Lowboy Truck Exercise: Chris Turner, Anson Maintenance**
- **Single Axle Truck Exercise: Tommy Staton, Anson Maintenance**
- Motor Grader Truck Exercise: Travis Roberts, Stanly Maintenance
- Tractor-Mower Exercise: Chris Edwards, Stanly Maintenance
- Backhoe Exercise: Cody Stegall, Cabarrus Maintenance
- Tandem Axle Truck Exercise: Will Davidson, Union Bridge
- Boom Truck Exercise: Will Davidson, Union Bridge

## NCDOT Conference Winners Include Anson Employees

The N.C. Department of Transportation held its annual Equipment Operator Training Conference at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center in Albemarle on April 18, giving employees an opportunity to take part in a friendly competition of skill and accuracy.

Employees from Division 10, which includes Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Stanly and Union counties, maneuvered heavy their equipment through several obstacle

## North Carolina's March Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted March 2023 unemployment rate was 3.5 percent, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from February's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.5 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate increased 0.2 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 15,686 over the month to 4,996,448 and increased 15,354 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 4,983 over the month to 183,118 and increased 10,914 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 7,000 to 4,891,600 in March. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 2,900; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 2,400; Other Services, 1,100; Professional & Business Services, 800; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 800; and Mining & Logging, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Financial Activities, 700; Information, 300; and Construction, 200. Government and Manufacturing employment remained unchanged.

Since March 2022, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 132,900 with the Total Private sector increasing by 128,400 and Government increasing by 4,500. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 36,900; Education & Health Services, 27,700; Professional & Business Services, 24,700; Other Services, 9,400; Construction, 8,600; Financial Activities, 7,500; Manufacturing, 5,800; Information, 4,600; Government, 4,500; and Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,200. Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the year.

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

Grace Senior Center is an excellent resource for Anson County's senior citizens. They provide programs, services and activities that are beneficial...all free...and fun! Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA. For information call 704-694-6616.

**May Events**

- **Chair Exercise** every Tuesday and Thursday, 10am-11am. (No class May 4 or 23.)
- **Book Club** every 1st Thursday of the month, 10am-12pm.
- **Bridge Club** every 2nd Thursday of the month, 1pm-4pm.
- **Tea Talks** Friday, May 5, 2:30-3:30pm.
- **Muffins for Mom** Wednesday, May 10, 2:30-3:30pm.
- **Senior Bingo** Tuesday, May 16, 1-2pm.
- **Craft and Workshop** Thursday, May 18, 12 noon-2pm.
- **Senior Line Dancing** Friday, May 19, 2:30-3:30pm.
- **HEATH EXPO** Thursday, May 25 at Lockhart Taylor Center, 514 N. Washington Street in Wadesboro, 10am-1pm.
- **Popcorn and a movie** (Movie is *Ever After*) Tuesday, May 30, 1-3pm.
- **Painting Party** Wednesday, May 31, 2:30-4:30pm. Supplies will be provided.

## Class of 1971 Reunion Meeting

All classmates of the Bowman Senior High School Class of 1971 are invited to attend a meeting to discuss plans for this year's reunion. The meeting will take place on Saturday, April 29 at 1 p.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library. For information call Patricia Little at 704-695-6724.

## Yard Sale & Bake Sale May 6

The Burnsville Ladies Auxiliary will hold a Yard Sale and Bake Sale starting at 7 a.m. on Saturday, May 6 at the Burnsville Fire Department.

Donations for the sale are appreciated. Someone will be at the Fire Department on May 1, 3 and 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. to accept the donations. For more information contact Suzanne Yates at 704-826-8949.

## Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets May 2

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2 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](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

## Hargett Store House Band Concert

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces a musical program featuring the Hargett Store House Band on Monday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theater. Come and enjoy some beautiful bluegrass, country and gospel music. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

## Horse Owners Encouraged to Act Now to Vaccinate Against Mosquito-borne Diseases and Rabies

### Coggins testing and rabies vaccination should also be a part of equine care

North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler is encouraging equine owners to have their animals vaccinated against Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis and West Nile Virus. "Mosquito-breeding season in North Carolina lasts from spring until the first frost and horses are at risk if not properly vaccinated," Troxler said. "EEE is fatal 90 percent of the time in horses and WNV has a fatality rate of 30 percent. However, both diseases are preventable by vaccination."

Last year, there were no recorded cases of EEE and one case of WNV. In 2021, there were three recorded cases of EEE and two cases of WNV.

State Veterinarian Dr. Mike Martin recommends that equine owners talk to their veterinarians about an effective vaccination protocol to protect horses from mosquito-borne diseases. The combination vaccination initially requires multiple injections for horses, mules and donkeys that have no prior vaccination history.

Mosquitoes can breed in any puddle that lasts for more than four days, so removing any source of standing water can reduce the chance of exposing animals to WNV or EEE. Keeping horses in stalls at night, using insect screens and fans, and turning off lights after dusk can also help reduce exposure to mosquitoes. Insect repellents can be effective if used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Symptoms of EEE include impaired vision, aimless wandering, head pressing, circling, inability to swallow, irregular staggering gait, paralysis, convulsions and death. Once a horse has been bitten by an infected mosquito, it may take three to 10 days for symptoms to appear.

Symptoms of WNV include fever, weakness or paralysis of hind limbs, impaired vision, head pressing, seizures and aimless wandering.

People, horses and birds can become infected from a bite by a mosquito carrying these diseases, but there is no evidence that horses can transmit the viruses to other horses, birds or people through direct contact.

Equine care also includes keeping up to date on equine infectious anemia (EIA) testing, commonly referred to as the Coggins test. "Since January there have been 20 cases of EIA in North Carolina. There is no vaccine and no cure for this disease so testing annually is important," Troxler added. "It's also a great time to make sure your animal is current on its rabies vaccination. In 2022, seven cases of livestock infected with rabies were reported to our Veterinary Division. Since January, we have had two positive cases in livestock. Historically, most of the cases have been in cows but all livestock are naturally curious animals, which puts them at risk for a bite if a rabid animal gets through their fence line."

## Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament is Saturday

The 8th Annual Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament, sponsored by Gum Springs Baptist Church Youth, will be held on Saturday, April 29. The event will take place at Twin Valley Golf Club with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

This is a two man Captains Choice with 1 A player per team. The cost is \$65 per person which includes golf, a cart and lunch. Mulligans will be sold. There will be a split the pot on hole 14.

There will be cash prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place. Also closest to the pin prize and a longest drive prize.

For registration and sign up sheets contact Twin Valley at 704-694-2336, or you can call Lynn Whitlock at 704-695-2200. A sign up sheet is available at Twin Valley. **Sponsorships are available.** Call Lynn Whitlock for more information 704-695-2200.

## BRLC Offering 6 Weeks of Craft Classes

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) says, "Let's enjoy being creative together. Do you want to have fun, relax and grow a little? Come join in creating different crafts at BRLC."

BRLC will host 6 weeks of craft classes with instructor Beverly Hunt. Classes are on Tuesdays, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. beginning on May 2.

Participants will enjoy fun and crafts as well as a light lunch. This is an opportunity to be creative, and meet and learn who your neighbors are.

Call and register at 704-778-7478. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The website is: [www.burnsvillelc.org](http://www.burnsvillelc.org).

## TGIF Paint Party on May 5

City Reach Community Center is holding a TGIF Paint Party on Friday, May 5, from 7 to 10 p.m. It will be a fun way to say "thank you" to the week behind as well as the weekend ahead! This mini mental vacation includes an instructed paint and sip session, food & beverages, karaoke, card games, corn hole, pool, paint kit raffle and an overall great atmosphere to unwind!

Here is the schedule:

- 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Network, Music, Find Your Seat, Receive Paint Materials, Grab Your Drink.
- 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Step-by-Step Painting
- 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. Eat and Be Merry! Paint Kit Raffle.
- 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. Karaoke & Games!

The address is 1124 East Caswell Street (Highway 74) in Wadesboro, behind Pizza Hut. The cost is \$30 per person. For information and to buy tickets you can scan the QR code at right or send a text to 704-294-9556 to get paper tickets.



## Morven Cemetery, Inc. General Membership Meeting

The annual general membership meeting for Morven Cemetery, Inc. will be held on Monday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Morven Baptist Church, located at 318 East Main Street in Morven.

## Cheraw Arts Commission Offers Pottery Classes in May

The Cheraw Arts Commission will offer Pottery Classes in May. The 2 part classes will provide instruction in basic handbuilding pottery skills. Participants will create bowls, mugs and wall sconces. The first class will be held on Monday, May 8 followed by the final class on Monday, May 22. Class time is 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and will be held at the Cheraw Community Center - 200 Powe Street.

Class instructor is ceramic artist Jane Crossman. All supplies are included in the \$75 fee. Call the Cheraw Arts Commission for additional information and to register by May 1 (843.537.8420 x 12).

## Wadesboro Lions Club Meets at Papa Joe's

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at Papa Joe's Restaurant in Wadesboro every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. They welcome new members. If you are interested in learning more about the Lions Club and the many good causes they support locally, you are invited to visit. Join in and enjoy the fellowship...plus delicious Papa Joe's pizza!

For more information regarding Lions, membership and their services to our community, please call Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.