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

Teen Driver Law Changes Have Now Taken Effect

Upon passage of a bill by the North Carolina General Assembly, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles has announced changes to the graduated driver licensing (GDL) program for teens. Effective May 8, teen drivers will again need to have their Level 1 Limited Learner Permit for six months before being able to get their Level 2 Limited Provisional License. Teen drivers will still be required to: be at least 16 years old, log 60 hours of driving time, pass a road test and show printed proof of insurance in the teen driver's name.

The requirement to advance to Level 2 had been 12 months for most of the last 25 years since the GDL system was put into place in 1997. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the legislature temporarily shortened this requirement to six months. That provision lapsed at the end of 2022, leaving thousands of teen drivers and their families in limbo.

"Now that this requirement has been changed back to six months, we look forward to helping these teen drivers through this process," said DMV Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. "We ask for your patience as we work to accommodate the thousands of teen drivers that are suddenly eligible to take a road test and receive their Level 2 provisional license."

According to the new legislation, this six-month provision will again lapse at the end of the year. Beginning Jan. 1, 2024, the provision will permanently change to nine months.

Another change to the GDL system will allow Level 2 permit holders to be able to drive one passenger under 21 that is not a family member, if they are being driven directly to or from school. This is in addition to the existing provision allowing one passenger under 21 that is a family member.

As a reminder, NCDMV schedule changes went into effect on May 1. After noon, all customer services statewide are now provided on a walk-in basis. Appointments are only available in the morning through the 11 a.m. hour and can be booked at skiptheline.ncdot.gov.

Road tests, which a teen driver must successfully pass to achieve a Level 2 permit, are not available after 4 p.m.

Anson Mobile Food Market is May 18

The Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, May 18, starting at 10 a.m. at Peachland United Methodist Church, located at 19 Allen Street in Peachland. Attendees can receive free food items as long as supplies last. This is a free initiative, so please stop by and get some healthy food for your family. The event will include blood pressure and blood sugar checks, as well information on healthy eating and lifestyle.

This event is held to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county.

The ABC Reforendum in Anson County Passed. Now What?

Now that the ABC referendum passed in Anson County, alcohol can be sold throughout the county. If you are interested in or thinking about obtaining an ABC permit but aren't sure what to do next, please plan to attend an informational meeting on Thursday, May 25 at the REV-Uptown to hear Pat Preslar from the NC ABC Commission talk about next steps and answer any questions you may have.

The meeting will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. REV Uptown is located at 114 West Wade Street in Wadesboro.

Bluegrass Band The Grass Strings in Concert Thursday in Albemarle

Albemarle Parks and Recreation hopes you'll join them for Thursdays at the Station this Thursday, May 11 for a performance by The Grass Strings (pictured below) at 7:30 p.m. at Market Station. The Grass Strings is an experienced bluegrass band offering a wide selection of songs with excellent vocals.

The concert is free! All you need to do is bring a comfortable chair and enjoy the show.

The Market Station is located at 501 West Main Street in Albemarle. Refreshments will be available.



Pictured above are the Leavitt Funeral Home staff attending the SPCC Dedication Service in honor of the late Harvey Leavitt III. They are, from left, Pete Cox, Steven Kelly, Bob Garris, Odell Cox, Amy Tucker, Carrie Leavitt, Julie Johnson, Lynn Chewning, Fredricka Clarkson, Glenn Caulder, Ken Caulder and Jeremy Burr.

South Piedmont Community College Dedicates L.L. Polk Campus Auditorium in Memory of Harvey Leavitt III

On Friday, April 28 South Piedmont Community College held a ceremony to dedicate the auditorium on the L.L. Polk Polkton Campus in memory of the late Harvey Leavitt III. Mr. Leavitt was a South Piedmont trustee, a member of the SPCC Foundation Board, a community leader, and a beloved husband, father and friend.

SPCC issued this statement: "Mr. Leavitt will forever be part of our college and the lives it changes through education. You are always in our hearts, Mr. Leavitt, and we thank you."

Pictured at right are the Leavitt Family, Madeline, Carrie and Tyson, with Dr. Maria Pharr, SPCC President.



Peggy Tillman Celebrates 50 Years with the Post Office

Everyone who goes into the Wadesboro Post Office has experienced and enjoyed the friendly nature of Ms. Peggy Tillman. As she efficiently and professionally takes care of your postal business, you can count on her to share some conversation...and probably a laugh as well. Ms. Peggy has recently celebrated her 50th year with the Post Office! The actual dates are April 28, 1973 to April 28, 2023!

At 8 a.m. on Tuesday morning, May 9, Ms. Peggy was given a surprise party to mark her milestone, and a good time was had by all! The party was organized by Postmaster Jesse Flowers, Supervisor Theresa Williams, and her present and past coworkers.

Congratulations Ms. Peggy! Thank you for taking care of business for half a century!



Pictured above celebrating 50 years are, from left, Theresa Williams, Peggy Tillman and Jesse Flowers.

Motorcycle Benefit Ride

The Bowman High School Class of 1973 is holding a Motorcycle Benefit Ride on Saturday, May 20. The event will take place at White Pond Community Center, located at 2549 Sandy Ridge Church Road in Morven. The cost is \$15 for single riders, \$20 for doubles, and that includes food. Non-riders are welcome too, and can self pay for food.

Registration runs from 10-11:30am, then it's kick stands up at 12 noon!

For information contact Brenda S. Rorie at 704-695-5196.

Market on Market in Cheraw May 20

Market on Market will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in downtown Cheraw. The family-friendly monthly event features art, produce, food and entertainment on the third Saturday of each month, from May through the fall. Local farmers will also have produce and plants available for purchase.

There will be free "Flower themed" art activities for kids.

Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission by phone at 843.537.8420 x 12 for additional information about the Market event.



Pictured are, from left, Deion, Terrell, Orlando and Adrian with Ms. Peggy.



Pictured are, from left, Latoshia, Michelle and Dana with Ms. Peggy.

Anson County Sheriff Scott Howell Holds Promotion and Recognition Ceremony

In a ceremony held on Monday, May 1 at the Anson County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Scott Howell had the pleasure of swearing in two new deputies, Cory Howard and Jackie King. They will be assigned to the patrol division.

At the ceremony Deputy Ryan Melton was promoted to Shift Sergeant, and Sergeant Jonathan Hough was promoted to Detective. Sheriff Howell said, "These two deputies bring years of knowledge, training and experience to these positions and will help better serve our county in their new roles."



The Sheriff also took time to recognize two officers, who with their quick actions in stressful situations, helped save the lives of two individuals who had gone into medical emergencies after overdosing on two separate occasions. Deputy Greg Cox and Deputy Sam Mullis were awarded commendations for their life saving actions.

Sheriff Howell concluded, "I am proud of these deputies for their accomplishments, and I am proud of all the Sheriff's Office staff who work hard every day to serve the citizens of Anson County."