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

## The Anson County NAACP Meets on Monday, July 22

The July meeting of the Anson County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will be held on Monday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the HOLA! Community Center, located at 229 East Main Street in Morven. They welcome you to come and see what is going on. "Each one reach one."  
For more information contact Anson NAACP President Sinic Marsh at [mrs6@yahoo.com](mailto:mrs6@yahoo.com) or 704-254-0630.

## Dates Set for the 2024 Anson Ag Expo & Fair

Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 20-21, the dates for this year's Anson Ag Expo & Fair. The event's planning committee has started meeting to prepare for traditional and new fall festivities.  
The annual 4-H Youth Livestock Show will be hosted by the Anson Cattlemen's Association and be held at 2385 Little Creek Road in Ansonville on Saturday, August 24. The Ag Fair will be held at the Extension Center in Wadesboro on Saturday, September 21. The Family Fall Fest will be on the Square in Wadesboro on West Wade Street and Greene Street on Friday night, September 20, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.  
The Family Fall Fest will feature fall and agriculture themed games and competitions for kids. There will also be face painting, bouncy houses, food trucks, games for children and so much more. Come out and enjoy an evening of family fun and entertainment.  
The 4-H Youth Livestock Show will begin at 10:00 a.m. The Ag Fair will be open to the public on Saturday from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. in Wadesboro.  
Be on the lookout for more information to come, including schedules, fair book release, and much more. Come out and join the fun, and help us celebrate agriculture in Anson.

## South Piedmont Receives \$500,000 Digital Champion Grant

South Piedmont Community College is one of 63 community service, nonprofit, higher education, and regional organizations that will receive \$30 million in Digital Champion grants to help North Carolinians access and use high-speed internet. The grant program, funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act, will expand digital equity programming and advance digital inclusion and opportunity across the state.  
"We are thrilled to have been awarded these funds, and we can't wait to put this grant to work for our community," said South Piedmont President Dr. Maria Pharr. "Internet access is a non-negotiable for modern students, yet significant gaps in digital access exist within our service area. This grant will help South Piedmont to close the digital divide and put higher education within reach for more residents of Anson and Union counties."  
South Piedmont has received \$500,000 in Digital Champion funding. The money will be used for a number of initiatives, including studying students' internet access; connecting students with community resources to access the internet; providing enhanced internal resources, such as hotspots available by reservation; installing one additional on-campus laptop checkout kiosk; promoting the College's Digital Literacy course and providing tuition vouchers for students who take the course.  
The Digital Champion Grants are being awarded by the N.C. Department of Information Technology's Office of Digital Equity and Literacy.  
"We were thrilled to receive so many great applications from organizations across the state that want to help more North Carolinians take advantage of digital opportunities," said NCDIT Secretary and State Chief Information Officer Jim Weaver. "With firsthand knowledge of their communities' needs, these grantees will help us build digital equity so everyone in the state can take part in the modern digital economy."  
All projects will develop or expand digital equity programming and address at least one of the following elements of digital inclusion:  
• Affordability of reliable high-speed internet  
• Provision of internet-enabled devices (computer, laptops, etc.) that meet users' needs  
• Access to digital literacy and skills training  
A list of all awardees with project descriptions is available at [ncbroadband.gov/digital-champion-grantees](http://ncbroadband.gov/digital-champion-grantees).

## David Duncan Arrested for Assaulting Elderly Citizen

On Friday, July 12 at approximately 9:35 a.m. the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a residence on Arbor Street in reference to a welfare check. When officers arrived it was apparent that the elderly resident had recently been assaulted. Officers determined that the assault took place the night prior at the residence. The victim was taken to Atrium Wanson with serious head and facial trauma. Shortly after, warrants for the arrest of David Duncan, 52, were obtained.



David Duncan

Duncan, a resident of Richmond County and currently on Post Release (formally known as Parole) was taken into custody at approximately 3:35 p.m. by Hamlet Police Department. Duncan was charged with Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injuries and Assault on an Elderly Person. There are likely to be more charges forthcoming due to the ongoing investigation by the Wadesboro Police Department.  
Duncan is currently in the Anson County Jail under a no bond NC Post Release Warrant.  
The Wadesboro Police Department would like to thank the following agencies for their assistance: Hamlet Police Department, Rockingham Police Department, Richmond County Probation and Parole, and Anson County Probation and Parole.



## Avianna Borden Crowned Little Miss Las Amigas 2024

The Morven Chapter of Las Amigas held its thirty-seventh annual Little Miss Las Amigas Pageant in May at Morven Elementary School. Avianna Borden was crowned Little Miss Las Amigas 2024. Avianna is the daughter of Mr. Timothy Borden and Ms. Quinea Hudson of Wadesboro. She is 6 years old and attends Peachland-Polkton Elementary School where she is a rising first grader. She is a member of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. Las Amigas member Judy Simon sponsored Avianna.  
First runner-up was Kali Nicole Sturdivant, who is the daughter of Mr. Eric and Ms. Kellie Sturdivant. Kali is 6 years old and is a member of Flat Rock Missionary Baptist Church. Kali attends Lilesville Elementary School where she is a rising first grader. Kali was sponsored in the pageant by Las Amigas member Kristen Mims.  
Second runner-up in the Pageant was Miss Ja'Nasia Hudson, who was sponsored by Las Amigas member Joletha Little. Ja'Nasia is the daughter of Mr. Marcus and Mrs. Asia Gainey and Mr. Gary Hudson. She is 7 years old, a member of Smithville A.M.E. Zion Church in Cheraw, and she attends Wadesboro Primary School where she is currently in the second grade.  
Miss Samiya Willoughby, sponsored by Las Amigas member Elizabeth Kersey, was third runner-up in the pageant. Samiya is the granddaughter of Ms. Bridgett Tillman. She is eight years old and a member of White Oak Grove Baptist Church. Samiya attends Morven Elementary School where she is in third grade.  
In fourth place was Harper Bennett, sponsored by Las Amigas member Pat McCoy. Harper is the daughter of Ms. La Gwen Bennett and granddaughter of Ms. Gwendolyn Bennett. She is eleven years old and attends Morven Elementary School where she is in fifth grade. She is a member of Streater Grove A.M.E. Zion Church.

The Morven Elementary School's gym was beautifully decorated to reflect this year's pageant theme: "The Grace of An Orchid." During the pageant festivities two longtime members of the chapter, Ms. Beulah Pratt and Ms. Marilyn Bennett, were recognized for their outstanding service to the Anson County community. Ms. Pratt and Ms. Bennett have also served on the Anson County School Board for several years.  
The Morven Chapter of Las Amigas is local, nonprofit group which provides educational and other social activities designed to improve the Anson county community. There are fifteen members: Pat McCoy, President; Kristen Mims, Vice-President; Johnie M. Pettiford, Recording Secretary; Devin Pettiford, Corresponding Secretary; Joletha Little, Treasurer; Samantha Douglas, Financial Secretary; Shunee McRae, Reporter/Scrapbook; Elizabeth Kersey, Historian; Marilyn Bennett, Parliamentarian; Judy Simon, Chaplain; Elizabeth Kilgo, Sergeant-at-Arms; Winnie Bennett; Arnette Taylor; Beulah Pratt and Shay Jackson Green.



Pictured above left are Kristen Mims (Vice-President), Beulah Pratt, Marilyn Bennett and Pat McCoy (President).  
Pictured below, from left are Pat McCoy, Kristen Mims, Elizabeth Kersey, Winnie Bennett, Joletha Little, Judy Simon, Elizabeth Kilgo, Beulah Pratt, Marilyn Bennett and Samantha Douglas.



## Kids Immunization Character Party at the Health Department

All kids ages 0-17 are invited to the Anson County Health Department for their immunization party happening on Friday, July 19. Get those immunizations caught up while having a fun time with some of your child's favorite characters!  
The event runs from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Come have breakfast or lunch with your favorite super hero. There will be music, treats, gifts, giveaways, pictures with the characters...and more! They look forward to seeing you there!  
Attendance is by appointments only, so go ahead and give the Health Department a call for more information and to get on the schedule. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.  
The Health Department is located at 110 East Ashe Street in Wadesboro. You can follow them on Facebook.

## Operation Medicine Drop-Off Drive Thru

Get rid of old, unused or discontinued medications at the Operation Medicine Drop-Off Drive Thru at Grace Senior Center on Thursday, July 25, from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Medications accepted are injectables, needles (insulin or regular), nuclear medicines, liquids or over-the-counter medications. No registration is required.  
Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA. The telephone number is 704-694-6616.

## American Red Cross Emergency Preparedness Training

Grace Senior Center is hosting an emergency preparedness training presentation for seniors on Tuesday, July 30, from 10:00 until 11:30 a.m.  
**Disaster and Emergency Preparedness for Adults**  
• **Be Red Cross Ready** The presentation is designed to teach people how to prepare for and respond appropriately to disasters likely to occur in their community such as hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, etc.  
• **Hands-Only CPR** A 30-minute training teaching hands-on technique for CPR. Participants learn how to check for consciousness, call 911 (or the local emergency number) and give continuous chest compressions. CPR training certification is not provided through this course.  
• **Ready Rating** A 30-minute presentation explaining our free membership program to help businesses, schools, or organizations become better prepared for disasters and other emergencies.  
**Disaster and Emergency Preparedness for Youth**  
• **Prepare with Pedro Kindergarten** 2nd Grade. A 30-45 min preparedness program for students that follow Pedro the Penguin and his friends as they learn how to be prepared and act during an emergency.  
• **The Pillowcase Project** 3rd-5th Grade. A 40-60 min presentation that covers local hazards, coping skills, and personal and family preparedness through a "Learn, Practice, Share" framework  
Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA. The telephone number is 704-694-6616.

## Auditions for Upcoming Play Snow White and the Seven Dwarves

Heads up! Auditions for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* will be held on Monday, July 22 and Tuesday, July 23 at the award-winning Ansonia Theatre at 6 p.m. Casting all ages, so come on down! Be prepared to read from the script. The play will be presented September 20-29.  
Guest director for the play is Logan Tallman. You can call 704-694-4950 if you want a copy of the pages to practice for a specific role.

## Free Movie at the Library is Happiness for Beginners

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing the movie *Happiness for Beginners* on Monday, July 22 at 10 a.m. in the library's Pritchett room. The movie is based on the book by the same title. It is rated PG-13.  
Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)