

1620
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 49
Wadesboro, NC
28170

Postal
Customer

THE EXPRESS

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • TheExpressNews@gmail.com • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

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

First Nine Weeks of School Will be Remote Learning

School uniform requirement waived for first semester

The Anson County Board of Education held its regular board of education meeting on Monday, July 27 and approved revisions to the current 2020-2021 School Calendar as well as a Remote Instruction Plan. As shown in the school calendar, the board approved Plan C. Therefore, students will receive their first nine weeks of instruction through remote learning.

In the next days, parents will be contacted with specific information regarding their child's remote learning plan. They will be contacted through the school system's social media and also through SwiftK-12.

The district will reevaluate further plans in September.

Anson County School Superintendent Howard McLean said, "The nine week remote learning period decision is based on COVID-19 data and trends from Anson County, using information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCHHS). We determined that this will minimize risk to students and staff. Also, lots of students live with a grandparent in the household."

The Anson School System surveyed the community, and over 60% of the respondents were wary of in-person school at this time.

"We learned a lot during the shutdown that took place during the last months of the previous school year," added McLean.

Three plans were considered by Governor Roy Cooper as well as each North Carolina county school superintendent and school board. Plan A is in-person learning with key health and safety rules in place. Plan B is the same as Plan A, but with fewer children in the classroom at one time, rotating students on different days. Plan C is remote learning for all students.

Computers / Internet Access Superintendent McLean said that he and staff are working to help students get access to the internet for the remote learning. Many students have computers and internet access. But, for those students who do not have a computer and/or internet access, McLean reported that progress is being made to help alleviate that situation. The school system will release information about these important developments in the near future.

Athletics There will be no competitive sports before September 1. At that point the situation will be evaluated. Anson County will not have practice for any sports, but student athletes are encouraged to workout at home.

Dress Code The School Board approved a measure to suspend/waive Section B in the Student Dress Code, which is the requirement for standardized dress (school uniforms). This waiver will run through December or until second semester, which begins January 4.

Section A of the dress code remains in effect. It states that generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable, with specific, prohibited items.

The dress code can be found on the school Facebook page.

Superintendent McLean concluded, "I want parents and students to know that my recommendation to go to this Plan C remote learning has been done for the health and safety of students, their families and school staff. That is the top priority."

The school calendar is available on Anson County Schools' Facebook page.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet August 4

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

2020 Anson Ag Expo and Fair Updates

This is a release from Roshunda Terry, County Extension Director: After discussing with staff, community partners and the planning committee, our current restrictions, directives from our state leaders and complying with distance and safety precautions, we agreed to not have any face to face Ag Expo and Fair events this year. Currently, our 4-H youth are not able to have any face to face programming and we are not sure when that will be lifted with the current phase being extended by Governor Cooper.

Reaching out to businesses and individuals who have felt the financial strain during COVID-19 and are now trying to recover, it is not what we want to do either. Our plan is to move to a more virtual format to highlight our Farmer of the Year, their farm and family.

The Sandhills Showmanship Circuit, which is what the 4-H Livestock Show is a part of, will have a virtual livestock show for enrolled 4-H youth only. Additional information will be sent out by the 4-H Agent with rules and directions. All videos will be uploaded by August 15. When there is a link available to view the show, we will share with you via our Facebook page.

As more plans are set, we will keep you informed. We thank you for your willingness to help plan the events in years past, and we hope that next year all events will be reestablished and better than ever. Mark your calendars for September 23-25, 2021 for County Fair and Family Fall Fest events.

For the safety of our staff and others we felt this is the best route to take this year. Our intention is to keep everyone safe during these times while fulfilling our mission of supporting citizens in Anson County. We know that these are uncertain times and we try our best to do what is best for the majority. Please feel free to contact the office at you have any questions at 704-694-2915.



Pictured above are four "actors" from Anson County who had roles in the Color Purple. They are, from left, Joe Litaker, Don Scarborough, James David Lee and Allen Lyon. Many Anson citizens had small acting parts. See the movie and see who you recognize

Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall. The Director of Photography was Allen Daviau.

285 of Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, July 27 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 285 reported cases of COVID-19, an increase of 29 cases since July 20. 25 of those cases are active. At that point they had discharged 260 cases, 258 to baseline health and two deaths. On Monday, July 20 the Health Department reported that Anson County had 256 cases, which was an increase of 46 cases over the previous week.

Social Security Imposter Calls Flood this Region

Their caller ID uses Anson County numbers locally

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Southern Piedmont and Western NC is warning consumers about a series of scam phone calls that have been flooding the Charlotte region, including Anson County.

According to a voicemail left for a Charlotte resident, the message is coming from the Department of Social Security Administration (SSA). In the voicemail, the SSA imposter says that the consumer's Social Security number has been suspended due to suspicious activity in a different state. They are encouraged to return the call at 202-932-5334.

"We regularly receive reports of scams similar to this one. However, due to the volume of complaints we have received recently, we are taking the opportunity to remind consumers everywhere: **Never send money or personal information to people you don't know,**" said Tom Bartholomy, President and CEO of BBB Serving Southern Piedmont and Western NC. "Had consumers responded to these voicemails or phone calls, we suspect that the perpetrators would have encouraged the victims to either make a payment to recover their Social Security number, provide personal information to remove the alleged freeze, or both," added Bartholomy.

The phone calls local residents have received are coming from various phone numbers, including out-of-state phone numbers and from "Unknown" callers. If you receive a phone call similar to this one, write down any information the caller provides you with, hang up, and contact the SSA directly at 1-800-772-1213. If you think it might be a scam, or think you may have been a victim, report it to BBB's Scam Tracker. Remember, the SSA will never call you asking for your Social Security number.

- They will never ask you to pay anything, nor will they threaten your benefits.
- Don't trust your caller ID. The internet has made it possible for scammers to use fake IDs when they call your home. If you receive a suspicious call, don't make any important decisions based on what your caller ID says.

Governor Cooper Issues Statement on the Effect of COVID-19 on the Latinx/Hispanic Community

Governor Roy Cooper and NC DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D. with Claudia Velasco-Osorio, Consul General of Mexico in Raleigh, and Jorge Archila, Consul General of Guatemala, released the following statement on the effect of COVID-19 on the Latinx/Hispanic Community:

We are deeply grateful to our Latino community for their hard work and recognize the vital role this community plays in keeping North Carolina running. Many in our Latino community work in essential jobs in food, construction, manufacturing and other industries that are the backbone of the state's economy. The nature of these jobs puts our Latino community at higher risk of getting COVID-19 both at work and in our neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, there has been a notable increase in COVID-19 cases among the Latino community living in North Carolina. The Consulates General of Mexico and Guatemala join Governor Roy Cooper and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to make an urgent call to the Latino community to take prevention measures against this virus. COVID-19 is highly contagious and, unfortunately, it is strongly affecting Hispanics.

Please get tested if you have symptoms such as headache, sore throat, fever or chills, cough, nausea, vomiting, congestion or runny nose, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, muscle pain, fatigue, among others. You can visit our online Symptom Checker available in English (ncdhhs-covid19-dtra.powerappsportals.us/en-US) and Spanish (ncdhhs-covid19-dtra.powerappsportals.us/es-ES), to see if you might need a test. North Carolina is making free testing sites available to everyone, regardless of your immigration status. (covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place) Taking care of your health is a priority.

For more information, dial 2-1-1 or visit nccare360.org.

The pandemic is not over and we must be very careful. If it is necessary to leave your house, we reiterate the importance of practicing your "Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash": wear a cloth face covering; wait 6 feet apart and avoid close contact; and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer. Remember, this is not a time for large gatherings or parties. Protect and care for your loved ones.

North Carolina and the Consulates General of Mexico and Guatemala can support all of you during this difficult time. Follow us on our social media. If you need food, please send a text message to 877-877.

Let's help our Latino community overcome the pandemic.

Lions Club Brooms are Available Now

Brooms...brooms...brooms! The Wadesboro Lions' brooms are available at these locations:

- Lacy's
- Martin Furniture
- Brasingtons
- Northcutt's Affordables (Marshallville)

The brooms are excellent quality and affordably priced.

Funds from the broom sales the Wadesboro Lions Club provide eye exams and glasses to numerous people throughout the year. They also send VIPs (visually impaired children) to Camp Dogwood (a camp on Lake Norman. Over 1000 people go each summer); and to a special VIP Fishing Tournament for the blind where 500 VIPs enjoy fishing, meeting other blind and visually impaired people, and learning daily living skills. And, they deliver food boxes at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For more information please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448 for more information.

The Color Purple Movie Was Filmed Here 35 Years Ago this Summer

The filming of the movie The Color Purple took place in Anson County during the summer of 1985. The story is an odyssey of self discovery for Celie, who is played by Whoopi Goldberg.

The old Bennett Home, which was owned by Wadesboro native Harry Huntley at the time, was transformed into a 1920's farm for the movie. The Bennett home was used as the major location for the film.

The film was directed by Steven Spielberg, and was produced by Spielberg,

NC Pre-K Applications Due Friday

The world has changed drastically in the last four months because of COVID-19. The global pandemic has impacted our daily lives, however it is time to prepare for the upcoming school year. There is still time to reserve your spot in the NC Pre-K program TODAY!

The NC Pre-K Program is FREE to qualifying families. It is a program designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-olds. Early childhood education lays the foundation for future success.

Did you know children who attend high-quality programs such as NC Pre-K are more prepared for kindergarten? Applications are available at the Anson County Partnership for Children or online at ansonchildren.org.

Children must be 4 years-old by August 31 to be eligible.

Don't miss the opportunity to enroll your child in the NC Pre-K program. The deadline has been extended to July 31, 2020.

Please drop off completed application to Anson County Partnership for Children, 117 South Greene Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

For more information please contact the Anson County Partnership for Children at (704) 694-4036.

Free Groceries for Families in Need August 5

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Missional Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, August 5 at Wingate Baptist Church, located at 109 East Elm Street in Wingate. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m.

- Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food.
- Arrive between 8 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food.
- If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445.
- You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.