AUGUST 19, 2026 • VOLUME 38, ISSUE NO. 1936

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No Water Balloons Please at Wadesboro Park Splash Pad

The Town of Wadesboro is asking visitors to leave the water balloons at home when enjoying the town's splash pad.

While water balloons may seem like a natural addition to some summertime fun, pieces of broken balloons can enter the splash pad's water lines, clog pipes and pumps and cause the entire system to stop working.

Town officials are asking everyone to help keep the splash pad clean and operating by not bringing or using water balloons at the facility. Keeping balloon pieces out of the system helps prevent unnecessary shutdowns and keeps the water flowing for everyone.

So bring the kids, swimsuits and towels - but please skip the water balloons. A little cooperation can help keep the splash pad fun, clean and running throughout the season.

Pesticide Continuing Education Classes Set for Thursday, August 27

The Anson County Cooperative Extension Office will offer two continuing education classes for North Carolina certified pesticide applicators on Thursday, August 27.

The first class will be held from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. and will provide two hours of continuing education credits. Eligible categories are A, B, D, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, T and X.

A second class will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and will provide two hours of V continuing education credits for certified pesticide applicators.

Both classes will be offered through the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Anson County Center, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro.

Participants are asked to RSVP by calling 704-694-2915 or emailing *aimee_colf@ncsu.edu*.

Charlie's Angels to Host Legacy of Love Scholarship Fundraiser

Charlie's Angels Nonprofit Organization will host its Legacy of Love Scholarship Fundraiser on Saturday, September 12 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro.

G-Man will serve as host for the evening, which will feature performances by D. Morton & Gifted, Flossie Boyd-Johnson & Favor, The McDuffies, The Sweet Singing Harmonettes, The Holy Voices, The Good News Angels and Albertina & The Chosen Vessels.

Charlie's Angels is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering love, support and a sense of community while helping young people prepare to become leaders of tomorrow. The organization provides scholarships to high school students to help them pursue their academic goals and hopes its efforts will inspire others to give back and make a positive impact in the community.

The fundraiser will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. Doors open at 4:00 p.m., the show begins at 5:00 p.m.

Advance tickets are $20, tickets at the door will be $25. To purchase tickets, contact Lisa Little at 704-475-0890.

Vendor spaces are also available. For vendor information, contact LaTrice at 704-915-6946.

Anson Early College Students Reach New Academic Milestones

As South Piedmont Community College and Anson County Early College prepare to welcome students for the 2026-27 academic year, they are celebrating a year of significant academic progress marked by higher pass rates and record numbers of students earning college credentials before graduating from high school.

During the 2025-26 academic year, Anson County Early College students completed 821 South Piedmont courses. Students earned a grade of C or higher in 690 of those classes, resulting in an 84 percent pass rate. That marks an improvement of nearly 15 percentage points since the 2022-23 academic year.

The Class of 2026 also achieved impressive results. Of the 50 graduating seniors, 30 students — or 60 percent — earned an associate degree while completing high school. Just three years earlier, 37 percent of graduates reached that milestone.

Students also made gains in earning workforce credentials. Eighteen graduates earned a certificate, while 12 students graduated with both an associate degree and a certificate, representing substantial increases over 2022-23.

Dr. Travis Teague, South Piedmont's Vice President of Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, credited the continued success to the growing partnership between the college and Anson County Schools.

"South Piedmont is proud to partner with Anson County Schools to provide students with an opportunity to earn college credentials while completing their high school education," Teague said. "The achievements of Anson County Early College students demonstrate the impact of this partnership and our shared commitment to helping students build a strong foundation for future success."

Located on South Piedmont's L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton, Anson County Early College allows students to earn college credits while completing their high school diploma requirements. The program enables students to accelerate their education while significantly reducing the cost of earning a college degree.

Additional information about Anson County Early College and South Piedmont's high school programs is available at:
spcc.edu/academics/areas-of-study/high-school-options.

Democratic Party to Meet August 27

The Anson Democratic Party will meet Thursday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m. at Democratic Headquarters, located at 1218 E. Caswell Street in Wadesboro, beside La Fogata Restaurant.

Candidates are invited to attend and will be given five minutes to speak or take questions.

All registered Democrats are welcome to attend.

For additional information contact Chair Dannie Montgomery at 704-694-8326.

Pictured from left are Andrew Martin, Betty Garris and Zoe Martin.

4-H Members Honored at Electric Congress

Andrew Martin and Zoe Martin earn top Duke Energy Progress territorial honors

Zoe Martin proudly represented Anson County at the 79th North Carolina 4-H Electric Congress, held July 14-16 at Appalachian State University in Boone.

She was accompanied by Anson County 4-H Volunteer Leader Betty Garris, who served as a chaperone.

The annual statewide event recognizes 4-H members for their achievements in the 4-H Electric Program. During the three-day event, participants took part in hands-on workshops, met representatives from sponsoring power companies and connected with other 4-H Electric Program winners from across North Carolina.

At the Electric Congress Awards Banquet, Anson County's Andrew Martin and Zoe Martin received special recognition for their accomplishments. Andrew was named the first-place Duke Energy Progress territorial winner, while Zoe earned second-place honors. Although Andrew was unable to attend the event, he was recognized for his achievement during the banquet.

Anson County 4-H congratulated Andrew and Zoe for their hard work, accomplishments and outstanding representation of the county's 4-H program.

Anson Elections Office Faces More Turmoil as Acting Director Unable to Continue

State Board will consider Anson early voting plan and complaints involving board member Thursday

Anson County's elections office is facing another leadership change as the November general election approaches, with acting Elections Director Gerald Poplin medically unable to continue performing the director's duties and the N.C. State Board of Elections again working to provide staffing for the local office.

Poplin was appointed acting director on August 5 by State Board of Elections Executive Director Sam Hayes as state officials stepped in to help stabilize the Anson County elections office following the departure of former director Neva Helms. Poplin has not formally resigned, but NCSBE spokesperson Jason Tyson said a medical issue prevents him from continuing his duties. State employees and assistance from neighboring counties are being used to staff the Anson office while longer-term arrangements are made. Parker Holland, the state's director of elections administration, is currently working in the local office.

The latest development continues an unusually turbulent period for the Anson County Board of Elections. Poplin followed Helms, who resigned in July after being appointed in May. Helms had succeeded longtime Elections Director Sherry Melton, whose removal had been sought by the local elections board earlier this year.

Allegations Follow August 5 Meeting The leadership issue comes amid a separate controversy involving Democratic Board of Elections member Ross Streater and Poplin following a special board meeting on August 5, only hours after Poplin's appointment.

According to reporting by The Charlotte Observer, an Anson County Sheriff's Office report states that Poplin told investigators Streater had been "giving Mrs. Kelly Newton the Board Chair a hard time" during the meeting. Poplin alleged that Streater then told him, "I'm going to take you outside and whoop your ass." According to the Observer's reporting, the deputy characterized the alleged statement in the report as a threat to assault Poplin. No charges were filed.

The Observer also reported that Streater separately contacted the Sheriff's Office concerning the same meeting. According to that report, Streater said he felt threatened by a statement Poplin allegedly made to him. Streater reported that Poplin said he had been sent to Anson County "to take care of people like him." No charges were filed in connection with Streater's report either.

Streater has denied threatening Poplin or saying he would "whoop" him. He has maintained that Poplin's statement was the one he considered threatening and said he interpreted the reference to "people like him" as racially motivated. Streater is Black.

Board Members File Complaints The disagreement has now reached the State Board of Elections. Three of Streater's fellow Anson County board members - Chair Kelly Newton, Secretary Kelly Knapp and member Matthew Longworth, all Republicans - have filed formal complaints concerning Streater.

According to The Charlotte Observer, the complaints extend beyond the August 5 incident. Knapp accused Streater of previously calling Newton "trailer trash" and repeatedly accusing Republican members of lying. Longworth described escalating confrontations during meetings that resulted in law enforcement being called. Newton alleged that Streater's conduct since 2025 has been "disrespectful, divisive, racially charged and disruptive." Knapp and Longworth have asked the State Board to remove Streater.

Streater disputes the characterization of his conduct and has blamed Republican members for the increasingly contentious atmosphere at board meetings. He also indicated that, given the tension and his inability to influence outcomes as a Democratic member of the Republican-majority board, he has little desire to remain on the board.

Anson Has Two Matters Before State Board Thursday The Anson County Board of Elections will be the subject of two separate matters when the N.C. State Board of Elections meets Thursday, August 20, beginning at 9 a.m. in Raleigh.

First, the State Board is scheduled to consider Anson County's early voting plan for the November general election. Anson is among the counties where local board members did not unanimously adopt a plan. The State Board's agenda places Anson among a group of counties whose disagreements concern early voting dates or times. Members of the Anson County Board of Elections are anticipated to make a presentation to the State Board.

Later in the meeting, the State Board is scheduled for "initial consideration of board member complaints," including complaints involving "Streater (Anson County)." The agenda cites state law and administrative rules governing the State Board's authority in such matters.

The State Board expects to recess into closed session during the meeting and resume its open session at approximately 1 p.m. The Streater matter is listed later on the agenda following the resumption of the open meeting.

The two agenda items mean state elections officials will be dealing Thursday with both Anson County's unresolved early voting plan and the internal controversy involving members of its elections board at a time when the county is also operating without a permanent elections director.

Despite the continued turnover in Anson County's elections office, state elections officials have expressed confidence that the county will be prepared to administer the November election. In the meantime, State Board personnel and assistance from neighboring counties are helping operate the Anson County office while officials seek a longer-term staffing solution.

Harvest Ministries Hosts Civic Awareness Sunday

Harvest Ministries in Wadesboro hosted its first Civic Awareness Sunday on Sunday, Aug. 2, bringing together members of the congregation, community residents and candidates seeking public office in the upcoming November election. Church leaders say the event is intended to become an annual tradition focused on encouraging Christians to be informed, engaged and prayerful citizens.

Lead Pastor Steve Adams told those in attendance that Christians have a responsibility to understand government, pray for elected leaders and participate in their communities. He cited biblical passages encouraging believers to pray for those in authority, be "salt and light" in their communities and seek the welfare of the places where they live.

Harvest Ministries invited candidates running for national, state and local offices appearing on the November ballot to greet attendees and discuss their goals if elected.

The worship service included music by the Harvest Praise Team and a sermon by Adams titled "The Kingdom and the Community." During the message, he encouraged those present to remember four principles: that God's Kingdom is a Christian's first citizenship; that the community is the best place to demonstrate God's Kingdom; that the church should serve as salt and light in the community; and that believers should "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly."

Following the service, 12 candidates addressed the congregation, including candidates for district attorney, county commissioner, U.S. House, Anson County Board of Education, Clerk of Superior Court and the North Carolina House of Representatives.

The event concluded with "Cookies with Candidates" in the church fellowship hall, giving residents an opportunity to meet candidates one-on-one, ask questions and gather campaign information. Pastor Adams said the church does not publicly endorse candidates but believes voters should have opportunities to meet those seeking to represent them and to pray for wisdom before casting their ballots.

For information about Harvest Ministries and its community programs, call 704-695-2879 or visit *www.harvestmin.com*.

Seniors Head to Monroe for Seafood Outing

The Grace Senior Center is heading to Mayfair Seafood Restaurant in Monroe on Wednesday, August 26, giving area seniors a chance to enjoy plenty of seafood without having to drive - or clean up the kitchen afterward.

The group will leave the Grace Senior Center, 199 U.S. Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, at 10 a.m. and return around 3 p.m. Mayfair Seafood, a family-owned restaurant since 1991, offers favorites including shrimp, fish, crab legs, broiled seafood, steaks and more. Participants will purchase their own meals, so what goes on the plate - and how much - is entirely up to them.

Round-trip transportation is just $5, and the fee is non-refundable. Registration is open through August 21, but seating is limited. To reserve a seat, call the Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

Come hungry. The bus has to bring you home, but nobody said it couldn't bring you home full.