

THE EXPRESS

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

Anson Ag Fair Is Saturday

Celebrating farming, food, and fun in Wadesboro

Wadesboro is about to get its boots muddy and its spirits high as the Anson Ag Fair trots into town this Saturday, September 20. The event takes place at the Extension Center, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro, and runs from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. - short, sweet, and packed with more farm flair than a tractor parade.

The fair promises a celebration of agriculture in Anson County, where chickens, crops, and community pride all get their moment in the sun. Whether you come for the displays, the neighbors, or just to see if somebody actually deep-fries a vegetable, there’s something for everyone.

Organizers say it’s the perfect place to learn, laugh, and maybe even leave with a renewed respect for the folks who grow your food. So polish those boots, dust off that hat, and join the fun—it’s a fair bet you’ll have a good time.

Anson County Beekeepers to Host Bee Day this Saturday

Hands-on learning, state inspector visit, and refreshments planned

The Anson County Beekeepers will host their annual Bee Day on Saturday, September 20 in Wadesboro. The event promises a day of learning, fellowship, and support for both seasoned and beginning beekeepers.

Snacks and drinks will be provided by Taylorboys Outdoors. Special guest Shirley Harris, State Bee Inspector with the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA), will attend to share her expertise and answer questions.

For those who attended the 2025 bee class and are interested in completing their practical test, Bee Day will be the opportunity to do so.

Attendees are encouraged to check the Anson County Beekeepers Facebook page for more details. To receive the event address, message Taylorboys Outdoors directly.

Pickleball For Partnership Tournament Set For October 4

Fundraising event supports children and families in Anson and Montgomery Counties

Pickleball paddles are about to start popping in Mt. Gilead as the second Pickleball for Partnership fundraising tournament returns Saturday, October 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 127 E. Allenton Street. Organizers promise a full day of fun, food, and fast feet — all for a good cause - Anson County Partnership for Children.

Spectators are encouraged to bring a chair, cheer on the players, and maybe even practice their best “oohs” and “aahs” when someone nails a tricky shot. The Toasty Traveler food truck will serve breakfast and lunch, proving once again that the only thing better than winning a pickleball match is celebrating with a hot meal afterward.

For families, the event includes free children’s activities and use of the playground beside the courts — a perfect way for kids to burn energy while parents wonder how pickleball suddenly became more popular than tennis.

Guests can also try their luck with 50/50 raffle tickets. Last year’s winner walked away with over \$1,000, which, co-incidentally, is enough to buy a small mountain of pickleballs. Tickets are available at the Anson County Partnership and Montgomery County Partnership offices or on the day of the event. The Anson Partnership office is located at 117 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Special thanks go to Dr. Amy J. Horne for coordinating the tournament. Players are reminded to include their level of play when registering — no one wants to accidentally challenge a seasoned pro when they only just learned the difference between a dink and a drive.

“Every registration to this event brings us closer to achieving our mission of supporting the children and families of Anson and Montgomery Counties,” organizers said. “Together, we can create a brighter future — one pickleball point at a time.”

For more information, contact Anson County Partnership at 704-694-4036.

Chamber On The Half Shell Oyster Roast Cracks Open September 26

Oysters, music, and a wheelbarrow stuffed with mystery treasures

Clear your calendars and loosen your belts - the Chamber on the Half Shell Oyster Roast is back, and it’s ready to steam, shuck, and serve up one of Anson County’s favorite fall feasts. The fun kicks off Friday, September 26, from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Flake Haven Events Venue, located at 5298 NC-742 in Wadesboro. The Blewett Dam Band will provide the soundtrack, ensuring plenty of two-stepping between oyster slurps.

This year’s Pearl Sponsor is Anson Health and Rehabilitation, proving once again that nothing brings people together like a pile of oysters and a stack of paper towels. Tickets are \$75 - which is a bargain considering the price of oysters and the live entertainment. And in a technological twist, receipts now double as tickets. That’s right - no more losing paper stubs in your truck’s cup holder.

Tickets can be purchased at: ansoncountychamber.org/chamber-events/oyster-roast, by emailing info@ansoncountychamber.org, or by calling 704-694-4181.

The ever-popular Wheelbarrow Raffle returns, featuring a barrow brimming with goods worth more than \$500. Tickets are \$20, available at the Wadesboro ABC Store or online. You don’t even need to be present to win — though honestly, skipping oysters, music, and the chance to wheel home a prize sounds like a poor life choice.

Sponsorships For details on sponsorship opportunities, email scox@ansoncountychamber.org or call the Chamber at 704-310-8948.

The Chamber thanks the community for its support and invites everyone to come celebrate. After all, it’s not every day you get oysters, live music, and the possibility of going home with a wheelbarrow that may or may not change your life.

Military And First Responders Appreciation Night Set For September 26

Gold Star game to honor local heroes at Anson High School

Friday night lights will shine a little brighter on September 26 when the Anson Bearcats take the field against Pender High School—and the stadium crowd gets to cheer for more than touchdowns. The Anson County School District is rolling out the red carpet (well, technically the green turf) for Military and First Responders Appreciation Night at Anson High School Stadium, 96 Anson High School Road, Wadesboro. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m., but the gratitude starts the moment the gates open.

This is no ordinary game—it’s also the Gold Star Football Game, a heartfelt tradition honoring and remembering local military heroes and their families. In a show of gratitude, free admission will be provided to all military service members, veterans, and first responders with proper ID.

Guests should enter at the handicap accessible gate directly behind the baseball center field. During the game, individual recognition will be given to honorees in what promises to be an exciting night of football and community spirit.

Between the Bearcats’ gridiron grit and the community’s heartfelt applause, the evening promises a winning combination of football, fellowship, and full-throttle appreciation. The school district encourages everyone to attend and show support for those who serve, sacrifice, and protect both at home and abroad.

Armed Robbery Suspects Flushed Out Thanks to GPS Ankle Monitor

Crime Doesn’t Pay - Especially When Your Getaway Plan Involves Plumbing

On Wednesday, September 10, Wadesboro Police responded to Oak Hill Apartments after two men reported being robbed at gunpoint. The suspects fled with two firearms and what police described as \$40 in cash - a money haul unlikely to impress even the most frugal of criminals.

Cpl. Yarbrough and Officer Tupper, with backup from Cpl. Sikes and Officer Ivy, got to work right away. Their job was made easier thanks to suspect Jadon Carelock, who was already wearing a GPS ankle monitor as a condition of probation. In a move that will no doubt be remembered at future crime prevention seminars, officers were able to track his every step in real time.

Carelock later tried to destroy the ankle monitor by cutting it off and tossing it into a toilet. Unfortunately for him, toilets don’t erase GPS data, and plumbing is rarely an accomplice. Officers soon found Carelock and his alleged partners, Jamare Leak and Jahiem Leak, hiding out at Myrtlewood Apartments - without the knowledge or consent of the actual resident.

Police recovered the stolen guns, along with an extra unreported firearm. The individuals were charged as follows:

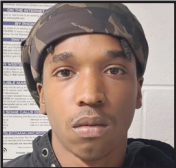
- **Jadon Carelock** (DOB: 08/05/1997): Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, Larceny of a Firearm, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, Possession of a Stolen Firearm, Felony Breaking and Entering. No bond at time of arrest.
- **Jamare Leak** (DOB: 12/02/2004): Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, Possession of a Stolen Firearm, Felony Breaking and Entering. \$20,000 bond.
- **Jahiem Leak** (DOB: 11/13/2006): Possession of a Stolen Firearm, Felony Breaking and Entering. \$10,000 bond.

The case wrapped up almost as fast as it began, thanks to quick police work and the fact that criminals still haven’t figured out that ankle monitors are basically crime’s worst accessory. Unsolicited advice: If you’re going to commit armed robbery for \$40, maybe rethink your career choices.

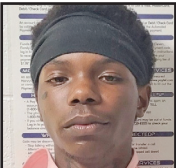
Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer said, “This case was swiftly resolved thanks to the dedicated efforts of our officers and the collaboration with Anson County Probation and Parole. We remain committed to keeping our community safe and holding those who commit violent crimes accountable.”



Jaden Carelock



Jamare Leak



Jahiem Leak

17% Increase In Adult Learners at South Piedmont

South Piedmont Community College’s Adult Education program is growing rapidly, with more than 2,100 learners served during Program Year 2024–2025 - a 17 percent increase over last year and 53 percent growth since 2022–2023.

Adult learners are turning to South Piedmont to earn a high school diploma or equivalency, learn English, strengthen literacy skills, or gain digital proficiency. “The numbers are impressive, no doubt, but what matters most are the stories behind them,” said Associate Vice President Kelly Stegall. “Every student who completes an Adult Education program is better prepared to provide for their family, achieve success, and reach goals they once thought out of reach.”

South Piedmont offers five core programs to meet community needs:

- **High School Equivalency and Adult High School** – preparing adults to earn a diploma or equivalency credential.
- **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** – improving English skills and providing pathways to further education and careers.
- **Compass Education** – supporting adults with disabilities as they transition into employment or post-secondary education.
- **Digital Literacy** – teaching computer skills for employment, education & personal growth.

The program’s success is fueled by strong community demand, practical skills training, and partnerships with organizations such as Union and Anson County Transportation and local health and human services agencies.

Adult Education at South Piedmont reflects the diversity of the region. More than half of participants were employed while enrolled, balancing education with work and family. Fifty-two percent were between the ages of 25 and 44, and nearly half entered without a high school credential.

“As Adult Education continues to grow, we remain focused on creating accessible pathways that help students become more employable and increase their economic mobility,” Stegall said.

For more information visit spcc.edu/adult-education.

Governor Stein Announces Standing Orders to Increase Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

Governor Josh Stein has directed State Health Director Dr. Larry Greenblatt to issue a Standing Order allowing easier access to COVID-19 vaccines for adults. The Order will align with the FDA’s Aug. 27, 2025, approval indicating the COVID-19 vaccine for:

- All people 65 years of age and older.
- Individuals 18 and older who have at least one high-risk condition. This is a broad list that includes high-risk conditions such as obesity, asthma, diabetes, physical inactivity, depression, former or current smoking, and pregnancy, among many other conditions.
- If you think you may be eligible, you can view the list of risk factors for severe COVID-19 infection on the CDC’s website, cdc.gov/covid/risk-factors.

The move is intended to reduce barriers and expand access as North Carolina enters cold and flu season. Vaccination against COVID-19, flu, and RSV remains especially important for those at higher risk of severe illness.

The FDA approved the 2025–2026 COVID-19 vaccine in late August. With the Standing Order, pharmacists across North Carolina can now administer the updated vaccine directly to eligible adults. Children ages six months to 17 years should continue to receive vaccines through pediatricians or other health care providers.

According to NCDHHS, more than 70% of COVID-19 vaccines in the state were administered at pharmacies last year. Most major chains and many independent pharmacies now have the updated vaccine available. Residents are encouraged to call ahead to confirm availability and make an appointment.

The Standing Order brings North Carolina in line with most states that allow pharmacy-based access to COVID-19 vaccines without requiring a doctor’s prescription.

Crisis Ministries Provides Free Food Tuesday - Friday

Anson Crisis Ministries distributes free food items to over 1,000 families each month. This adds up to an estimated 50,000 people a year in Anson and surrounding counties. They serve families Tuesday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Anson Crisis Ministries is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-2445.

NAACP Meets September 22

The next meeting of the Anson County Branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) will be held on Monday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro.

They welcome you to come and see what is going on. “Each one reach one.”

Meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month.

For more information contact Anson NAACP President Sinic Marsh at mrshs6@yahoo.com or 704-254-0630.

Randy Travis Music Festival is Saturday

The Marshville Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Randy Travis Music Festival this Saturday, September 20, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. in downtown Marshville. The festival promises a thrilling family-friendly day filled with live music, delicious food, children’s games, street vendors, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy time with friends and neighbors in a safe and festive setting.

Although Marshville native and country legend Randy Travis is on tour and will not be in attendance this year, the Chamber has planned an exciting lineup of performers sure to keep the crowd entertained throughout the day.

This year’s bands include:

- Next Chapter, South Wind, Buddy Ray Cutshaw, Anna Stamato, Darren Deese, and Journey Tribute Band

Organizers encourage you to come out, celebrate the spirit of Randy Travis and Marshville, and enjoy one of the community’s signature events.

Crafting Gets Creative at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is breaking out the glitter and glue sticks for a craft workshop led by local creative wizard Arvonnia Edwards. The fun begins Monday, September 22, at 10:30 a.m. in the library’s Pritchett Room, and yes—supplies are provided, so there’s no excuse to skip.

Participants are asked to bring just two things: a ruler and scissors. That’s right, you can leave the hot glue gun and bedazzler at home (though no promises someone won’t sneak in a roll of duct tape, just in case).

Whether you’re a Pinterest pro or the kind of person who accidentally glues your fingers together, this workshop has a spot for you. Expect laughter, a little bit of learning, and maybe even a handmade creation you’ll be proud to display—if not in your living room, then at least on the fridge.

So mark your calendars, grab your scissors, and get ready to measure twice and cut once... or, at the very least, cut crooked and laugh about it.