

1524
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #149
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.

Board of Education September 24 Meeting Rescheduled to October 1

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, October 1 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. The meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the Closed Session. Open Session should begin at about 5:30 p.m.

Roads Still Closed in Anson County, Other Effects of Hurricane Still Present

After being closed for several days, Anson County schools resumed classes on Monday, September 24. It is reported that some local farmers are facing a shortage of crops after devastating floods destroyed hundreds of acres of land. Many roads in Anson County are still closed due to being washed out and damaged. North Carolina Department of Transportation spokesperson Timothy Anderson says they're doubling up their efforts to assess and repair the damage. "We started out with two teams per county. Now we have 17 assessment teams. 12 of those are assessing Union and Anson Counties," said Anderson. Anderson said it would take two to three days to fix Mayesville Road, but with more than a hundred roads impacted in Anson and Union Counties, it will take a lot longer. "Several of our counties will have the repairs done quickly, but Anson and Union Counties will take substantially more time. Anson and Union will likely take several months to complete all the work." NCDOT officials say to check out the website DriveNC.gov for the latest list of closed roads in NC.

As Flood Waters Recede North Carolinians Focus on Recovery

The state's work on Hurricane Florence is shifting from emergency response to recovery, Gov. Roy Cooper said Monday, but North Carolinians need to remain careful in areas hit hard by the storm. "Florence is gone but the storm's devastation is still with us," Gov. Cooper said. "As we're shifting from emergency response to full-time recovery from the storm, please remain careful in hard-hit areas and please, please stay away from flooded roads." Statewide thirty-five people have died as a result of the hurricane. An 82-year-old male died from suicide in Beaufort County on Saturday after his house was condemned due to flooding. A 51-year-old female was discovered in a submerged vehicle in Robeson County. Across southeastern North Carolina on Tuesday, seven rivers were at major flood stage and three are at moderate flood stage.

Road closures had dropped to around 400 as of Monday afternoon, down from a high of more than 1,600. NCDOT advises motorists not to travel in the following counties because of flooding and washed out roads and bridges: Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, Jones, Lenoir, Pender, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland and southeastern Wayne (south of U.S. 70 Business and east of U.S. 117). For the latest road conditions, visit DriveNC.gov. Storm-related power outages in North Carolina were down to around 5,000 from a peak of about 800,000, thanks to ongoing work by utility crews. As of press time, statewide approximately 2,200 people remained in shelters, down from a peak of approximately 20,000. People who may need temporary housing following the storm are encouraged to apply with FEMA at disasterassistance.gov. Florence survivors are beginning to take steps to recover from the storm. So far, 78,000 North Carolinians have applied for federal disaster assistance. Nearly \$21 million in Individual Assistance grants from FEMA have been approved. North Carolinians who suffered damage from Florence are urged to apply for disaster assistance immediately by calling 1-800-621-FEMA or TTY 800-462-7585 to register via telephone or by using the FEMA app or visiting disasterassistance.gov to register online. Survivors with homeowners and/or flood insurance should file claims with their insurance company if they haven't already done so and should not wait to begin their cleanup and repairs. Take photos of damage and save all receipts for cleanup and repairs.

Ansonville Fire Department Goes Above and Beyond After Hurricane

Letter to the Editor
Mrs. Margaret Sheppard says Thank You to the Ansonville Fire Department for repairing her garage roof that was damaged during the storm. "It was a surprise to me," said Mrs. Sheppard. "I was speaking with Scott Thompson the local florist, and he stated, 'I am happy to see your roof fixed.' I asked, what roof? He told me that the fire department had repaired the roof for me. When I reached home and saw the roof repaired I went to the fire department immediately and thanked them." There are still plenty of good people in the world, and especially the Ansonville Fire Department. What a surprise! Thank you to the volunteers. It's good to have good neighbors!
Thanks again, Margaret Sheppard
Editor's note: Mrs. Sheppard is a good neighbor too. Among other things, she contributes cakes every year to the Ansonville Fire Department during their annual barbecue.

Anson High School Class of 2003 Reunion

The Anson High School Class of 2003 will have their 15th Reunion on Saturday, October 20 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. For more information about the reunion please contact OnJerya Smith at 704-475-1776 or ansonhsco2003@gmail.com, or join the Facebook group at AHS Class of 2003.



Anson Academy Students Receive Clear Book Bags

Something new is in the air at Anson Academy. Students are now sporting clear book bags. These were purchased by Anson Academy with a donation from Walmart. The new book bags add an additional layer of safety for students by making it difficult to conceal any unauthorized items. The students were excited about the new accessory to their school uniform. Pictured above, from left, are Brandon Sorrenti, Tharianna Medley, Jazzman Hemphill, Dashaun Murray and Caitlyn Arant.

All Animals at Anson Animal Shelter Safe After Storm

As reported last week, the Anson County Animal Shelter suffered roof issues during Hurricane Florence. But, thanks to hard work by the dedicated staff there, volunteers and other agencies, all of the animals that were housed in the shelter are safe. Here are updates by Maureen Lett, Director of Anson County Animal Shelter:
• September 18 - As you may, or may not know, the Anson County Animal Shelter has had some damage from the storm. No animals were euthanized, injured or harmed in any way. Our dogs, thankfully, are at Columbia Medical Services in Columbia, SC, transported there by GROWL and Dog4U, Inc. They are safe and sound. They are hopefully going to be adopted or pulled by rescues from there.
• September 20 - Twenty-four of our dogs at the Anson County Animal Shelter that were evacuated to Columbia, SC over the weekend of September 15-16 because of the flooding got their second chance at new lives today. All of our 15 cats are getting a second chance too, as they left yesterday for Anderson County P.A.W.S. in Anderson, SC. The storm has brought much damage...shutting the shelter down until repairs are made. But, sometimes a storm is a blessing in disguise. It has built new relationships in helping save animals, and proved that a little old shelter can do great things with people who care...and that anything is possible with teamwork. There are so many people to say Thank You to. People who stood in the rain, waded through water, lifted, carried, and lugged animals and food. Not because they had to, but because they wanted to - because we needed help. When I took this job I knew nothing about running a shelter. I'm the first person to admit it. There have been lots of obstacles, lots of bad days. Parvo, the first month I took over, almost did me in. Bad press and distemper almost got me too. Then this flood. But, for whatever reason, we always pull through - sometimes a little bruised...but always a little smarter, stronger, more resourceful and with ever-growing support and help. Again, without support, we are dead in the water. (Pun intended)
• Here is an update from Dawn Pennington, Columbia Medical Services - September 20:
I have some fantastic news that I want to share, especially to everyone that has worked tirelessly for the Anson County NC dogs! Today 74, yes seventy-four, dogs were pulled from Columbia Animal Services by the rescue network with the Humane Society of the United States. 24 of those precious lives were Anson County dogs! I am so excited for these dogs! That leaves 12 to work on, but that's a new mission! Truthfully, it is likely that if not for the NC dogs, this massive rescue pull wouldn't have happened. I am grateful in so many ways that as I type this 74 precious ones got that lifeline to rescue they needed! One life saving mission dominoed into this! I am so grateful to everyone who worked in any fashion for these animals. We are thrilled, and I share the excitement! So thankful room was made for these dogs without hesitation!

Bearcat Football Game is at AHS Stadium this Friday

Superintendent Freeman invites the community to come out and enjoy the game
From Anson County Schools Superintendent Michael Freeman: I am very excited to formally announce that the Anson High School Bearcats will be playing our second home varsity football game this Friday, September 28 at AHS! All fans are encouraged to attend. You will enjoy this awesome game between AHS and South Granville High School beginning at 7:30 p.m. As most of you know we are currently involved in a major construction project at the Bearcat Stadium. Additional safety measures will be implemented. Our Bearcat fans and student participants did an awesome job last week in complying with these requests. The following items are a few examples of our expectations:
• All spectators will enter at the main stadium gates located in the student parking lot off of Bearcat Drive, which may be reached from Anson High School Road.
• The Highway 74 side of the athletic complex in front of H-Building, D-Building, K-Building and the JROTC Wing will be closed to the public and visiting team.
• Absolutely no spectators, children of staff or visitors, etc. will be allowed on the track area or sidelines - security officers and school system staff will monitor this closely. All spectators (adults, children and students) will remain in the stands.
• The small concession stand will not be open; however, the regular concession stand will be open as usual.
• Bathroom facilities will be open.
• Some minor construction materials may be in the area - guests should not move or tamper with any construction materials. Parents should not allow children to climb on or play on equipment, temporary fencing, or other athletic equipment, etc. Basically, just be prepared to have fun and be flexible as we support our team. I want to thank each visitor in advance for your support and understanding as we enjoy our second 2018 home football game. Go Bearcats....
Sincerely, Michael H. Freeman, Ed.S. Proud ACS Superintendent

Blood Drive at Brown Creek Baptist Church is Saturday

Give blood and help save local lives! Donate blood with Community Blood Center of the Carolinas. Call 1-888-59-BLOOD or visit www.cbcc.us to make an appointment at any location. More public drives can be found at Community Blood Center of the Carolinas' website www.cbcc.us. CBCC has donation centers in Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia, Hickory, and Greensboro. The next event coming up for Anson County will be this Saturday, September 29, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Brown Creek Baptist Church, located at 4210 Highway 742 North in Wadesboro.

Peachland's 'Music on the Square' is Sat.

The Town of Peachland invites everyone to come and enjoy their 12th annual 'Music on the Square' which will be held this Saturday, September 29, from 3 to 10 p.m. This free event will feature two bands: Breaking Away from 3 to 6 p.m. and Loaded Dice from 7 to 10 p.m. Also there will be lots of food vendors, activities for the kids and more. Among the many vendors are youth and women's groups from local churches and the fire department. A wide variety of beverages and food will be available. For more information call Lynn H. Griffin at 704-272-7781.

Discover Your Inner Artist in September Oil Painting Workshop

Charleston artist Joyce Hall returns to Cheraw on September 28-30 with an oil painting workshop. Interiors will be the topic for the workshop which will be offered to artists of all skill levels including beginners. Joyce is an international award winning oil painter and has exhibited in galleries and museums nationally. www.thestudiosc.com
Cost for the 3 day workshop is \$200. A supply list will be provided to participants upon registration. The workshop will be held at the Cheraw Police Department Community Room - 258 Second Street from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. For more information contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at telephone 843.537.8420 x 12.

Wadesboro Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at the Papa Joe's Restaurant the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information about these meetings or becoming a member, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.