

# THE EXPRESS

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

## Silent Witnesses Stand for Victims for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Event Oct. 30 honors lives lost and supports survivors

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, first observed nationally in 1987. The Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center (ACDVC) joins the observance each year through the Silent Witness Program, honoring those whose lives were taken by domestic violence, celebrating survivors, and uniting those committed to ending abuse.

Throughout October, life-sized wooden silhouettes will appear across Anson County. Each figure bears the name of someone who once lived, worked, and had family and friends—each a life ended violently by a partner, spouse, ex-spouse, or acquaintance.

Domestic violence often goes unseen and unreported. Between July 2024 and June 2025, ACDVC assisted 224 victims of domestic violence, with the highest number of cases among those ages 26 to 40. The center received 465 crisis hotline calls during that time. National data show that one in three women and one in four men have experienced physical violence from an intimate partner. According to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, every nine seconds a woman is assaulted. From January 1 to October 1, 2025, there were 52 homicides and 17 suicides related to domestic violence in North Carolina alone.

A special remembrance ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Anson County Courthouse. ACDVC invites all who have lost a loved one, been personally affected, or wish to show support to attend this meaningful gathering of remembrance and hope.

Anson County's known victims include Argatha H. Clark, Cindy B. McIntyre, Rebecca B. Morrow, Connie Newton, Laura Parker, Mary Polk, Danette Streater, Mary Jane Suess, Linda Kay Walters, Daisy Coleman Melton, Larry Thomas Lindsey, Jennifer Howell, Esther Brooks Hildreth, Sherri Feely Marshall, Elnora Sturdivant, Sherika Monique Little, Doretha Polk Smith, Rodney Smith, Kim Campbell, Deborah Wall Smith, Linda McCain, Daejunae Williams, Joseph Michael Hall, Dorothy Allen, Mianna Roach, three unnamed victims, and two unborn children.

For more information, contact the Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center at 704-694-4499 or the 24-hour crisis line at 704-690-0362.

Together, the community stands in remembrance, resilience, and the shared hope of ending domestic violence for good.

## Grace Senior Center Has It Going On In October!

Grace Senior Center continues to be one of the most active and welcoming places for seniors, offering health programs, games, presentations, and social fun all month long. Everything is free, friendly, and full of fellowship!

### ALL FREE...AND ALL FUN & INFORMATIVE!

• **Chair Exercise** – Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 23, 28, & 30, 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

• **Claris Companion Classes** – Wednesdays, October 8 & 22, 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

• **Senior Health Insurance Information Program (Open Enrollment)** – Wednesdays, October 15 through December 6, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

• **Color Me Calm** – Thursday, October 23, 12–1 p.m.

• Police Presentation: **Halloween Safety Tips** – Friday, October 24, 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

• **Puzzle for Peace** – Monday, October 27, 1–2 p.m.

• **Chair Volley** – Tuesday, October 28, 12–1 p.m.

• **Anson County Arts Council Program** – Wednesday, October 29, 1–2 p.m.

• **AHS Band Performance** – Thursday, October 30, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

• **Treat Bags Giveaway** – Friday, Oct. 31, 11a.m.–1 p.m.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA on the left.

For more information, call 704-694-6616.

## Weekend Of Halloween Fun!

**Farmers' Market, Arts Council, and partners host movie night and trunk-or-treat, Oct. 24–25**

The Anson County Farmers' Market, Anson County Arts Council, and other community organizations are teaming up for a weekend of family-friendly Halloween activities beginning this Friday, Oct. 24.

That Friday evening at 7:30 p.m., the Ansonia Theatre will host a free showing of the movie *Hocus Pocus*. Guests are encouraged to wear costumes, and snacks will be available for purchase.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, the community will gather for a Trunk or Treat from 1–5 p.m., hosted by the Anson County Farmers' Market at 1736 U.S. 52 in Wadesboro. Saturday's activities include a costume contest, prizes, face painting, candy, and complimentary Farm Bureau bags while supplies last. Anson County Partnership for Children will offer a story space with free books. BBQ will be available for purchase from the Anson Rescue Squad, and guests can shop with local farmers, bakers, and artisans.

For more information or to get involved, contact Liesl Hall at 704-238-7104, email [ansonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com](mailto:ansonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com).

## Library To Show the Movie "August Rush" Monday, October 27

The Hampton B. Allen Library invites movie lovers to a special showing of *August Rush* on Monday, October 27, at 10 a.m. The film is rated PG and stars Robin Williams.

The movie will be shown in the library's Pritchett Room.

Everyone is welcome - hope you can join us!

## Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes every Thursday. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.



Weeping Mary Baptist Church in Winnsboro, South Carolina. The service will be held at Saron Missionary Baptist Church, 2285 Winfield Road in Polkton, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

The celebration continues on Saturday, November 1, with a Formal Gala at Twin Valley Golf Club, located at 2305 Country Club Road in Wadesboro, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The featured guest speaker will be Pastor Joseph McFarlen of Macedonia Baptist Church in Cheraw.

Gala tickets are available for \$50 for adults and \$25 for children ages 5–12. Payments may be made in cash on site or via CashApp at \$SMBCPOLKTON.

Pastor Wall and the Saron church family encourage everyone to take part in this special anniversary as they celebrate "the legacy and victory of the Lord's Church."

**About Saron Missionary Baptist Church** Nestled along Winfield Road in Polkton, the heart of Anson County, Saron Missionary Baptist Church stands as a living monument to faith, perseverance, and generational impact. For over a century, this sacred ground has been more than a building, it's been a spiritual home, a refuge, and a launching pad for ministry that reaches far beyond its walls.

Founded in the late 1800s by a group of determined believers, Saron began as a humble gathering of worshippers committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through eras of change, challenge, and triumph, the church has remained anchored in its mission: to preach the Word, uplift the community, and walk in the power of God's promises. Today we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors, with great pastors who have led the way and laid the foundation for Saron - men of God such as Rev. J. O. Long, Rev. McQueen, Rev. Barr, Rev. McCoy, Rev. Webster, Rev. Dr. Dean, and Rev. Lee.

The church's historic cemetery, located onsite, holds the stories of generations who laid the foundation for today's ministry. Their legacy lives on in every prayer, every song, and every outreach effort that flows from Saron's pulpit to the streets of Polkton and beyond.

Under the visionary leadership of Pastor Tobias and Lady Janette Wall, the deacons and trustees of Saron have entered a new season of strength and spiritual momentum. From dynamic worship services to community empowerment initiatives, the church continues to blend tradition with progress, honoring its roots while embracing a victorious future.

Recent milestones include the launch of new ministry associations, elegant branding that reflects Saron's identity, and a renewed focus on unity, excellence, and generational impact. The church's 155th anniversary celebration is set to be a powerful testament to God's faithfulness and the enduring strength of the Saron family.

Whether through morning encouragements, soul-stirring Bible studies, or creative outreach, Saron Missionary Baptist Church remains a beacon of hope in Anson County. And as the church continues to grow, one truth rings louder than ever: God did it, and He's still doing it.

For more information or to visit, Saron Missionary Baptist Church is located at 2285 Winfield Rd., Polkton, NC 28135.

## Anson County Residents Can Gain New Skills For Free!

### Learn How At South Piedmont's November 6 Webinar

South Piedmont Community College is offering Anson County residents a chance to learn about their exclusive scholarship opportunity, the Anson Advantage. A free webinar will take place on Thursday, November 6, at 6:00 p.m. During the event, Anson County residents will learn how they can earn a college degree or workforce certification at little to no cost through the Anson Advantage program.

**Register for the event at [spcc.edu/ansonadvantage](http://spcc.edu/ansonadvantage).** Attendees of the event will be entered to win a \$50 gift card.

These programs can be completed in less than a year and lead directly to jobs in high-demand fields such as: Construction • Early Childhood Education • Healthcare

• Manufacturing • Truck Driving • Welding • And more!

The Anson Advantage is a scholarship program created exclusively for Anson County residents. It helps make higher education more accessible by eliminating or significantly reducing the cost of earning a college degree or completing an in-demand workforce certifications at South Piedmont Community College.

"Live in Anson County? Your college education at South Piedmont could be tuition-free. The Anson Advantage program covers tuition and fees for eligible students, removing the financial burden so you can focus on your future. Whether you're graduating high school or changing careers, Anson Advantage makes your goals achievable," said Vice President of Student Services Dr. JJ Evans.

The webinar will provide details on who qualifies for the Anson Advantage, which academic and workforce programs are covered, and how to apply. Participants will also have an opportunity to ask questions and connect directly with college representatives.

South Piedmont created the Anson Advantage to expand access to higher education and strengthen the local workforce by removing financial barriers for Anson County residents. Whether students are pursuing a degree, a short-term workforce credential, or a career change, the program makes it possible to start or continue their education with minimal out-of-pocket costs.

For more information visit [spcc.edu/ansonadvantage](http://spcc.edu/ansonadvantage) or call 704-272-5300.

## SPCC's Trunk Or Treat Summons Sweet Screams And Gator Dreams

### Free, family-friendly bash haunts the Polkton campus

South Piedmont Community College will host its 9th Annual Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton, where decorated car trunks magically transform into kid-sized candy castles and the only thing horrifying is how fast your treat bag fills up.

The popular community haunt invites children and families to enjoy safe trick-or-treating, games, and wildly themed trunks designed by SPCC students, faculty, and staff. Last year's monster mash drew 1,800+ attendees, 25 boo-tiful trunks, and more than 70,000 pieces of candy - enough sugar to make a zombie do algebra.

This year also premieres "Later, Gator! From Sketch to Spirit," a short film chronicling the creation of SPCC's own mascot, Al the Gator - proof that even friendly reptiles can have an origin story more gripping than a vampire handshake.

"Trunk or Treat is one of SPCC's largest community events of the year, bringing together students, faculty, staff, and families for a night of fun and giving back," said Dr. Alen Doty, Director of Student Life, Engagement, and Leadership. "Each year, it reminds us just how strong our SP spirit is when we come together."

The event is free and open to the public - costumes encouraged, jump-scares optional.

To register, visit [events.spcc.edu](http://events.spcc.edu).

## Homes of Hope Hosts Annual Christmas Bazaar Nov. 15

### Holiday shopping, food, raffles, and crafts return to the Lockhart-Taylor Center

Anson County Homes of Hope invites everyone to join in a day of holiday cheer at the 2025 Christmas Bazaar, taking place Saturday, November 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

in the Ingram Room at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

This year's bazaar promises a festive mix of raffles, food, arts, crafts, food trucks, and much more, making it the perfect place to get a head start on Christmas shopping while supporting local artisans and a great cause.

All proceeds from table rentals, raffles, and peanut sales go directly to support Homes of Hope, its programs, and residents. The event is proudly sponsored by Anson County Homes of Hope.

Vendors interested in selling their handmade art, crafts, or goods can reserve a table for \$50 by emailing [ansonhomesofhope@gmail.com](mailto:ansonhomesofhope@gmail.com).

## Saron Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates 155 Years

### Events honor legacy, faith, and community spirit

Saron Missionary Baptist Church in Polkton is joyfully celebrating 155 years of faith and fellowship with a series of special events honoring the church's long-standing legacy and spiritual victory. Senior Pastor Tobias Wall and the congregation invite the community to join in this milestone celebration.

The anniversary observance begins on Sunday, October 26, with guest speaker Pastor Ernest Chambers of

## School Board Meets October 27

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 27, in the Administrative Board Room at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed Session will begin immediately after the meeting opens at 5:00 p.m. to discuss matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5).

Open Session for the public will begin at 6:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to speak during public comment may sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting for individuals or groups who want to address the board. Public comment will be held during the Open Session portion of the meeting.

The meeting will also be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel. To tune in, simply search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

## Beekeepers Buzz into Action Oct. 23

The Anson Beekeepers are all abuzz about their next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office, 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. No meal will be served, but "honeyed" conversation is on the menu.

Guest speaker Jody Taylor of Taylorboys Outdoors and Apiary will present a talk on "Queen Power," sharing insights into the fascinating leadership and hive dynamics of the royal side of beekeeping.

Members can also take part in 50/50 drawings to raise funds for the association. Donations of drawing items are welcome and appreciated - the more the merrier (and buzzier).

Not a member yet? Curious about local beekeeping or need help with a wandering swarm? Visit the Anson County Beekeepers Association Facebook page to connect with the hive and learn more about upcoming programs.