

THE EXPRESS

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



No Crime Found After Alarm and Unlocked Door Discovered at Anson County Board of Elections

Investigation reveals elderly man mistakenly entered building through unsecured door

A reported burglar alarm at the Anson County Board of Elections office in Wadesboro prompted a police response and investigation Saturday, October 24, but authorities determined that no crime had been committed.

Wadesboro Police Department officers responded to the Board of Elections office at 402 Morven Road and discovered that the building's main entrance door was unsecured.

Officers immediately entered the building and conducted a thorough search to ensure no one was inside and that there were no immediate threats. After clearing the building, officers remained on the scene until a designated key holder arrived. Deputies from the Union County Sheriff's Office also assisted in securing the location.

As a precaution, Wadesboro Police Chief Michael Childers contacted the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to determine whether anyone had entered the building unlawfully or disturbed election-related property.

SBI agents responded, processed the scene and reviewed available security camera footage. At approximately 7:26 p.m., investigators advised Wadesboro police that an elderly man had entered the building through the unsecured front door, looked around and then left.

Based on the investigation and surveillance footage, authorities believe the man may have entered the building intending to vote, but quickly realized the Board of Elections office was closed and departed.

The supervising SBI agent determined there was no evidence that a crime had occurred and closed the investigation.

Election officials also conducted a thorough inspection of the facility and confirmed that no equipment, records or other property had been tampered with or disturbed.

Chief Childers expressed appreciation to the SBI and Union County Sheriff's Office for their assistance and reaffirmed the department's commitment to protecting the community and ensuring the security of public facilities.

Copper Theft Increasing Across Anson and Surrounding Areas

A growing wave of copper thefts across Anson County and seven neighboring counties is causing widespread communications outages and raising concerns about public safety, including potential disruptions to emergency services.

Kinetic, a telecommunications provider serving the region, reports that thieves have stolen approximately 16,000 feet of copper cable across Anson, Cabarrus, Davidson, Moore, Richmond, Rowan, Scotland and Union counties in recent months. That's more than three miles of cable, enough to stretch across approximately 53 football fields.

The company says thieves have repeatedly cut and stolen copper lines, with the latest incident reported October 22. Fiber-optic lines have also been damaged during the thefts, causing additional service interruptions.

These crimes can affect far more than telephone and internet service. Damaged communications infrastructure can threaten access to essential services, including 911 emergency communications, police and fire departments, and healthcare facilities.

Kinetic is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals responsible for the thefts.

Repair crews are working to restore service to affected customers as quickly as possible following each incident. Meanwhile, Kinetic is cooperating with local law enforcement agencies and implementing additional security measures, including surveillance cameras and GPS tracking devices, to help combat the thefts.

The company is addressing similar problems across its 18-state service area.

Anyone with information about copper theft is encouraged to contact local or state law enforcement or call Kinetic toll-free at 1-855-268-2211, Option 1.

While thieves may see stolen copper as an opportunity to make quick money, the damage they leave behind can disrupt entire communities and potentially interfere with emergency assistance when every second counts.

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.

Calvary Episcopal Church Celebrates 206 Years in Wadesboro

Congregation reflects on its past, looks forward to another year of faith, fellowship and community service

Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro celebrated its 206th anniversary in October, marking more than two centuries of worship, fellowship and service to the Anson County community.

Founded in 1820, Calvary was among the first Episcopal parishes established in North Carolina. The American Revolution had ended just 37 years earlier, and the Episcopal Church, newly independent of the Church of England, was establishing its own identity. Calvary became part of that historic rebuilding.

The congregation's earliest services were held at Wadesborough Academy. In 1831, members moved into their first church building, a wooden structure at the corner of East Wade and Brent Streets. The present church opened on Easter Sunday in 1893. Designed by parishioner John E. Hill, the building was inspired by his memories of English country churches.

The anniversary celebration took place Saturday and Sunday, October 17 and 18, with a special Sunday worship service officiated by the Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

Weekend festivities included a Saturday luncheon, a presentation on the church's history by Junior Warden Trey Clark, and an opportunity for parishioners to share memories. Historic photographs and newspaper clippings were displayed, church members gathered for a group photograph, and a celebratory luncheon was held Sunday at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Adding a touch of history to the occasion, some members dressed in clothing reminiscent of the 1820s.

Calvary begins its 207th year under the leadership of the Rev. Anne Abdy, who answered the call to serve the congregation in September.

The church continues to welcome everyone to its weekly Sunday worship services at 11 a.m. Fellowship activities throughout the year include a Mardi Gras dinner, monthly Family Nights, a blessing of the animals, and a Halloween hot-dog roast and candy giveaway for local children.

Halloween Hot Dog & Marshmallow Roast Calvary invites the community to join them for this annual event this Saturday, October 31, starting at 5:00 p.m. on the church grounds at the corner of Brent and East Wade streets.

Community service remains an important part of Calvary's mission. Over the years, the parish has supported Anson County Homes of Hope, Anson Crisis Ministry, hunger relief efforts, youth activities, Girl Scouts and organizations assisting families and survivors of domestic violence.

Calvary also maintains a close relationship with All Souls' Episcopal Church in Ansonville, where worship services are held on the fifth Sunday of the month.

As Calvary Episcopal Church enters its 207th year, its mission remains rooted in providing a welcoming, holy place that encourages spiritual growth, fellowship and care for others in the tradition of the Episcopal Church.

For more information, visit www.calvarywadesboro.org.

The Wall That Heals Coming to Lancaster in November

Anson County residents will have an opportunity next month to experience one of the nation's most moving traveling memorials without making the trip to Washington, D.C. The Wall That Heals is coming to Lancaster, South Carolina, November 4 through 8, and Lancaster will be its only South Carolina stop in 2026.

The Wall That Heals is a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Measuring 375 feet long and reaching 7.5 feet at its highest point, the traveling memorial is designed so visitors experience the Wall gradually rising above them as they approach its apex, much as they do at the original memorial.

And for Anson County residents, it will be remarkably close to home. Lancaster is approximately 51 miles from Wadesboro, or about a one-hour-and-15-minute drive, making a visit an easy day trip. Route Planner

The Wall will be located at Springdale Recreation Center with additional displays and exhibits. Group and self-guided tours will be available.

The memorial arrives in Lancaster on Tuesday, Nov. 3, accompanied by a motorcycle escort. Construction begins Wednesday morning, Nov. 4, with The Wall scheduled to open to the public at 2 p.m. that afternoon. Once open, visitors will be able to experience the memorial 24 hours a day, including overnight, until the closing ceremony Sunday, November 8.

Several special events are planned during the visit. A Welcome Home ceremony will be held Thursday, Nov. 5, at 6:30 p.m. A Candlelight Ceremony is planned after sunset Friday, November 6. On Saturday, November 7, group tours begin at 9 a.m., followed by Lancaster's Veterans Day Parade at noon.

Sunday's observances will include the Reading of the Names at 9 a.m., followed by the closing ceremony at 1:45 p.m. The Wall will begin to be taken down at 2 p.m.

The Wall That Heals provides veterans who may be unable to travel to Washington — as well as their families, friends and younger generations — an opportunity to experience the names and magnitude of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in their own region. Its visit also provides an opportunity to remember those who died, recognize those who served and help preserve the stories of the Vietnam War generation.

For Anson County residents, this particular stop is especially convenient: a little more than an hour down the road for an experience normally associated with a trip to the nation's capital.

For complete information, schedules, volunteer opportunities and updates, visit www.thewallthathealslancastersc2026.org. The Lancaster County Veterans Affairs Office can also be reached at 803-283-2469.



Tickets Now Available for Barn Blast 2027

Barn Blast 2027 is coming on Friday, January 29, 2027, and tickets are now available to benefit the Anson County Partnership for Children. It's an evening of fun while raising money for a great cause. More details are coming.

For tickets or additional information, call 704-694-4036 or email elizabeth.rizzo@ansonchildren.org.