

# THE EXPRESS

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



## “Booze It & Lose It” Holiday Enforcement Campaign Begins

Law enforcement officers are stepping up patrols as part of the statewide “Booze It & Lose It” holiday enforcement effort that started on December 13 and concludes January 2. “If you’re out celebrating this holiday season, make sure you have a sober ride home,” said Mark Ezzell, director of the North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program, or NCGHSP. “If you drive under the influence, you have a lot to lose. Not only could you kill yourself or someone else, but you could face thousands of dollars in court costs and fines, jail time, or a revoked license.”

The “Booze It & Lose It” holiday effort is the largest impaired driving campaign run by the N.C. Governor’s Highway Safety Program. Throughout the campaign, law enforcement agencies statewide will increase patrols looking for impaired drivers.

NCGHSP will be supporting the campaign through a combination of paid media advertising and social media outreach.

So far this year, 432 people have been killed in North Carolina in alcohol- or drug-related crashes. Here’s how that compares to the number of people killed in impaired crashes over the same time period dating back to 2018: 2021 503 deaths; 2020 500 deaths; 2019 403 deaths; 2018 463 deaths.

The N.C. Governor’s Highway Safety Program reminds all travelers to stay safe on the roads this holiday season by:

- Never driving impaired and always finding a safe ride home
- Buckling your seatbelt when riding in any seat in the vehicle
- Following the speed limit

For more driver safety tips and program information, follow them @NCGHSP on Facebook and @NC\_GHSP on Twitter and Instagram.

## It Was a Packed House Last Weekend! Get Your Tickets Now for the Ansonia’s Christmas Play, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

The Ansonia Theatre is packing in the crowds this holiday season with its production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!* Over 800 people showed up for the opening weekend! There are three performances left. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Get your tickets online at [ansoniatheatre.com](http://ansoniatheatre.com) or call 704-694-4950. This hilarious Christmas classic will give you all the feels.

## Howell Remains Anson Sheriff as Legal Dispute Over Who is Sheriff Proceeds

*This article is presented courtesy of WFAE 90.7, public radio in Charlotte. (www.wfae.org) Written by Greg Collard, News Director:* A superior court judge denied a preliminary injunction to Gerald Cannon, who was appointed and sworn in as Anson County sheriff on Monday night, December 5. The Anson County Commission, with new board members, appointed interim Sheriff Scott Howell the following night (Tuesday, December 6) to fulfill the term of the former Sheriff Landric Reid, who died in late September.

The ruling means that Howell will continue as sheriff while Cannon’s legal challenge to remove him from office makes its way through the court system.

The question of who replaces Reid has been the subject of controversy since he died on September 21. Reid, a Democrat, was the only person on the general election ballot.

In October, the Anson County Democratic Party’s executive committee chose Cannon, a veteran of the Wadesboro Police Department, to be awarded Reid’s votes. But Howell contested that result. He was part of a group that filed a grievance with the state Democratic Party over the process. The state party’s Council of Review sided with Howell’s group and invalidated the local party’s nomination of Cannon on several grounds.

The local party nominated Cannon a second time last Saturday, but by then the election was certified and he couldn’t be awarded Reid’s votes. It was up to the county commission to accept or reject the nomination.

The commission, with two outgoing commissioners and supporters of Cannon, called an emergency meeting Monday evening and appointed Cannon. A commission with new members sworn in the following night then appointed Howell to a four-year term amid complaints that the previous night’s meeting was illegal.

Attorneys for Cannon say they are proceeding with the case. A hearing has not been scheduled.

## Leadership Anson 2023 Taking Applications

**Apply by this Friday!**

Are you looking for ways to get engaged and plugged in to Anson County? Would you like to learn more about the place you live and/or work? Would you like to grow your leadership skill? Apply for the upcoming Leadership Anson class.

Applications are due by Friday, December 16. For additional information contact Shelby Emrich at: [semrich@ansoncountychamber.org](mailto:semrich@ansoncountychamber.org).

## Community Christmas Blessing Event is this Sunday

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center is holding their annual Community Christmas Blessing Event this Sunday, December 18 beginning at 10:30 a.m. It will take place indoors.

The public is invited for this giant giveaway of hundreds of toys, prizes, bicycles and much more.

The event, sponsored in part by Poisson Poisson Bower, will take place at Harvest Ministries, which is located behind Pizza Hut in Wadesboro.

## Governor Offers Reward for Information on the Destruction of Electric Utility Infrastructure in Moore County

**Reward Matched by Duke Energy, Moore County**

Governor Roy Cooper announced that the State, Duke Energy and Moore County are each offering monetary rewards of up to a total of \$75,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the destruction of utility substations in Moore County. The State is providing up to \$25,000, while Duke Energy and Moore County are also each offering rewards up to \$25,000.

On Saturday, December 3, at approximately 7:00 p.m., an individual or individuals attacked Duke Energy utility substations in Moore County with gunfire, damaging the utility grid and leaving more than 45,000 homes and businesses without electricity. State and federal law enforcement are working with the Moore County Sheriff’s Office to investigate this incident.

“An attack on our critical infrastructure will not be tolerated,” said Governor Cooper. “I appreciate the coordinated efforts of law enforcement to leave no stone unturned in finding the criminals who did this and I thank Moore County and Duke Energy for matching the state’s reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.”

Anyone having information concerning this case should contact the Moore County Sheriff’s Office at (910) 947-4444, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation at 1-800-CALL FBI.

## Services for Consumers - Health Insurance

The North Carolina Department of Insurance (NC DOI) understands that choosing an insurance policy can be confusing. There are a lot of things to consider when selecting an insurance policy - will your doctor accept your insurance? How do I know what is covered? Do I have to use certain hospitals? Where do I get insurance? Once you start to use your insurance, there are other things that you may start to consider as well, such as - how much money will I have to pay? What if I have trouble getting my treatment covered or what if I’m denied?

The North Carolina Department of Insurance can help you with your health insurance questions and concerns. Their staff can help you:

- File a written complaint if you are not happy with an action taken by your insurance company
- Understand your rights and responsibilities regarding health insurance coverage
- File a medical appeal with your insurance company
- Request an external review if your claim was denied

How can the NC DOI help you? Call them toll-free at 855-408-1212.