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

## New Anson Hospital Gets Green Light from Regulators

Carolinas HealthCare System, owner of Anson Community Hospital, recently gained approval from North Carolina regulators to construct a new hospital in Anson County. Plans are to begin the \$20 million project during 2013. The approval awarded was a certificate of need, which is required to acquire, replace or add facilities and equipment.

"This is the main project of the Anson Centennial Project," said Dr. Fred Thompson, President of Anson Community Hospital. "The original hospital, called the Anson Sanatorium, was built in 1913, and we have served the area continuously since then. Now, in our second century of care, we will make a tremendous step forward with this new, state of the art hospital."

The first part of the process for Carolinas HealthCare is to perform site selection and design the facility. This process is expected to take six months. Potential sites near Highway 74 are already under consideration.

The construction is expected to take about 12 to 15 months, with a target to be in operation in 2014. Early plans call for a single story, 47,000 square foot hospital. It will feature a 24 hour emergency department, 15 beds, a pharmacy, laboratory, surgery services and imaging services such as x-ray, mammography and ultrasound. Mobile services such as MRI will also be available.

A spokesman for Carolinas HealthCare said the new facility will feature flexible shared spaces which will make for more efficient use of patient beds. What this means is that beds can be used for inpatient and observation needs as well as for emergency, surgical and primary care services. There will be a central nursing unit for the entire facility.

The health-care system views the new hospital as a key component in what it calls the Anson Centennial Project. That initiative aims to change the way health care is delivered in rural Anson County, because the current model is not sustainable, the health-care system has said. The model includes options such as faith-based community-health services, wellness coaching and a sliding scale pharmacy with medical management counseling. It will emphasize wellness disease prevention, management and screenings.

"For many years the Anson County Hospital was the only hospital between Wilmington and Charlotte," Thompson said. "We are proud of our heritage. We have a slogan, 'Since 1913, taking care of the neighborhood.'"

Thompson concluded, "We look forward to providing healthcare to Anson County and the surrounding area for another 100 years."

Carolinas HealthCare is the largest health-care system in the Carolinas and the second-largest public system in the nation. It owns, leases or manages 38 hospitals in the Carolinas. It has more than 48,000 full and part-time employees and 1,500 physicians.

## Wadesboro Hires New Town Manager

After a nationwide search, attorney Alex Sewell has been selected as Wadesboro's new Town Manager. Sewell previously worked in the Apex Town Manager's Office while concurrently completing a dual-degree JD/MPA program.

While at the Town of Apex, Sewell graduated from Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law where he was ranked in the top 10% of his class. Additionally he has completed all required coursework for a master's degree in public administration where he is tied for the highest grade point average in his class.

Sewell said, "I would like to express how happy I am to be here and how positive I feel things are looking for Wadesboro. Everyone here has been very welcoming."

Wadesboro Mayor Bill Thacker commented, "After several months of rigorous searching, including analyzing resumes and conducting interviews, I think the board has made an excellent hire for the future of Wadesboro."

Sewell has experience in all phases of municipal administration, including economic development, strategic planning, public works, finance, public safety, grant-writing, human resources and municipal law.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to not only serve the Wadesboro community, but to become a part of it. Wadesboro is an already great place with the potential to be even better," Sewell commented.

## Anson County Unemployment Rate 11.6% in November

After a strong improvement in employment in September, and further gains during October, Anson County's employment rates for November dipped slightly. November's unemployment rate was 11.6%. October's unemployment rate was 11.2%, September's rate was 12% and August's rate was 13%.

Looking back at November 2011, the rate then for Anson County was 11.5%.

Anson's total labor force in November was 11,340. Of that number 10,019 were employed and 1,321 were unemployed. In October the total labor force was 11,308, with 10,506 employed and 1,252 unemployed.

Unemployment rates increased in 81 of North Carolina's 100 counties in November, decreased in 13, and were unchanged in six. When compared to the same month last year, unemployment rates declined in 95 counties.

North Carolina had 34 counties that were at or below the state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.0 percent. Unemployment rates increased in 11 of the state's 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

The number of workers employed (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in November by 22,002 to 4,321,229, while those unemployed rose 6,570 to 424,893. Since November 2011, the number of workers unemployed decreased 45,145, while those employed increased 125,439.

Orange County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in November at 5.7 percent, and Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 16.3 percent.

## Domestic Violence Coalition BBQ Fundraiser is Friday

The Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition will hold their Annual BBQ Fundraiser this Friday, January 18 at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The cost per plate is \$8 and includes slaw, baked beans, roll and dessert. Sandwiches are \$3, and a quart bag of BBQ is \$10. Drinks are included for eat-in orders only. For more information call 704-694-4499.

## Anson County Early College Students Collect Food for Samaritan Inn



Timothy Ford's CILT ninth grade class at Anson County Early College collected canned goods to distribute to the residents at the Samaritan Inn on Salisbury Street in Wadesboro.

## A Wintry Mix Talent Show is this Thursday Night

Singer BJ Pratt heads up a great lineup of entertainment for the whole family!

If you're looking for an evening of good family entertainment, come to "A Wintry Mix Talent Show," to be held this Thursday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wadesboro Primary School gym (located on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro). The show only costs \$5 per ticket and all proceeds will go towards the Anson High School Majorettes' upcoming performance trip to Walt Disney World in Florida.

See local talents from gospel great, BJ Pratt to the Anson High School Cheerleaders, local singers, dancers, comedy and more.

The AHS Majorettes look forward to representing Anson County proudly and admirably while performing in Florida. They truly appreciate your support in all of their fundraising endeavors. Where else can you see a great show for just \$5? It's not a great cost, but it is a great cause. And it's going to be a toe tapping, finger snapping good time. So come on out. You can't even buy a Happy Meal for that!

## Tobacco Referendum Vote January 23rd in Cooperative Extension Offices Statewide

The upcoming Tobacco Associates Referendum will be held on Wednesday, January 23 at local County Extension Offices. All flue-cured tobacco farmers are eligible to vote. The Tobacco Associates Export Promotion Referendum will be conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service at polling places in each flue-cured producing county. A two-thirds favorable vote will allow the continuation of an assessment not to exceed 1/5 of one cent per pound to fund export promotion and expansion programs for the next three marketing years.

The export promotion programs of Tobacco Associates serve as the only independent voice promoting US tobacco abroad. Regardless of your contract origin, over 60% of market demand for US flue-cured is from a foreign buyer. With domestic and traditional market continuing to decline, developing new export customers and encouraging the use of US leaf by our traditional customers is more critical now than ever.

Voting in Anson County will take place at the Anson County Cooperative Extension Office at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro on Wednesday, January 23rd. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Three Inmates Indicted for September Lanesboro Murder

Three inmates from the Lanesboro Correctional Institute have been indicted by an Anson County Grand Jury for the September 28, 2012, murder of a fellow inmate and the assault with intent to kill of a second inmate. Sheriff Tommy Allen said that because all three suspects are serving terms in the NC Division of Adult Corrections, the District Attorney decided to go straight to the Grand Jury.

The three inmates are no longer at Lanesboro and will be brought to Anson County to have the indictments served on them. The three inmates were identified as: 1) Joel Coto Ortiz; 2) Julio Alberto Zelaya-Sorto and 3) Gregoria Cortez Vazquez. All three were indicted for First Degree Murder and Conspiracy to Commit Murder on inmate Wesley Eugene Turner, Jr.; and Assault with a Deadly Weapon (homemade shank) with Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury on inmate Christopher Keith Cook.

The Anson County Sheriff's Office and the State Bureau of Investigations conducted the investigation.

## Louis Armstrong Comes to Life on the Ansonia Stage January 26

In a release from the Arts Council: From New York City to Berkley, CA, from New Orleans to Edinburgh, Scotland, actor and playwright Danny Mullen has brought Louis Armstrong to life on-stage. Now he's bringing his one-man show to the Ansonia Theatre.

In "A Tuff Shuffle - Backstage with Louis Armstrong," Mullen portrays Satchmo backstage after a show. "After each concert, Louis Armstrong would be backstage greeting fans from all walks of life, a motley crew, all there together in the dressing room," says Mullen. With his portrayal Mullen aims to make the audience feel as if they're sitting backstage with Armstrong himself.

Danny Mullen has been fascinated with Louis Armstrong ever since he saw the music great on the Ed Sullivan show as a child. In junior high, he read about Armstrong's recordings being sent into outer space with other earth artifacts onboard a satellite, and he remembers hearing Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" in the movie "Good Morning, Vietnam" while he was in college.

In 1990 Mullen read a biography of Armstrong, and his connection with the music great strengthened. In 2000 he wrote his one-man show "A Tuff Shuffle." "Louis Armstrong is jazz," Mullen says, "and the history of jazz is the history of America."

Born in New Orleans and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Mullen earned a master's degree in American Studies and taught public school in Buffalo, acting in his spare time. He now lives in Charlotte where he is taught middle school, then arts and history courses at Salisbury's Livingstone College. He is currently teaching history at Charlotte's University of Phoenix campus.

"A Tuff Shuffle - Backstage with Louis Armstrong" comes to the Ansonia on Saturday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Arts Council, Lacy's, and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. They are available online at [www.ansoniatheatre.com](http://www.ansoniatheatre.com). Information at 704-694-4950.

Due to mature content, the show is not recommended for children. Broadway producer Woodie King, Jr. has said that "Nobody can play Louis Armstrong like Danny Mullen." Don't miss your chance to see why.



## Applications Being Accepted for No-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

The Sandra Harmon Clive Memorial Fund is currently accepting applications for their January Spay/Neuter Clinic. Qualified applicants are offered the services at no cost thanks to the generosity of the late Mrs. Clive. So far over 75 cats and dogs have participated in the program.

This program is offered to low income citizens and senior citizens in Anson County. You can find applications at Brown Creek Animal Hospital, the Anson County Health Department and Hampton B. Allen Library.

## Genealogical Society Meets Saturday

The Anson County Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, January 19 at 2 p.m. at the Historical Society office at 206 East Wade Street in Wadesboro. John Thomas Williams, Jr. of Albemarle will be the guest speaker to talk about the theatres in Wadesboro of the early to mid 1900's like the Opera house, Lyric, Ansonia, Ansonia #2, New Theatre and Wadesboro Theatre. He will share photos of Wadesboro from 1900 taken during the Eclipse. He is also doing research for the 2014 Calendar concerning drug store history of the area, and he will share a story of how great Grandfather Harrington fell to his death from the Parson Drug Store building on July 3, 1933.

For more information call 704-475-3877 or email [genealogy1959@yahoo.com](mailto:genealogy1959@yahoo.com).

## Frosty Feet 5k Run/Walk in Uptown Wadesboro

Keep your New Year's resolutions to become more physically fit and healthy by entering the "Frosty Feet 5k Run/Walk" to be held in uptown Wadesboro on Sunday afternoon, February 3, at 2:30 p.m. Burn off some calories BEFORE your super Bowl party!

For the run, wear your favorite team jersey and get into the spirit of the game. Or simply come out to run, walk or stroll with your family, friends, teammates or exercise buddies! This is sure to be a "fun run" and lots of prizes will be given away.

To register go to [www.sportoften.com](http://www.sportoften.com). Entry forms are available at Vac and Dash in Albemarle, Buff Monkey Fitness Company or Lacy's. Register early by February 1, and pay only \$20. Entry fee is \$25 the day of the race.

For more information contact Anne Hyatt at 704-694-0593 or [lahyatt@windstream.net](mailto:lahyatt@windstream.net) or Melanie Lyon at 704-695-2247.

Awards will be given for each age division ranging from age 5 to age 105!

All proceeds will go toward the Anson High School Majorettes and their upcoming performance trip to Walt Disney World. Come out in support of these Anson County girls. And whether you run for prizes, walk for exercise or stroll for fun, it's a guaranteed good time for all!

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