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

## Project Feed a Child Helps Feed School Kids on the Weekend

This is a release from Cassandra Reid of the Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation: The Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation is in the second year of its backpack food program. The foundation realized there were kids at the high school level who were not getting enough to eat on the weekends. Knowing this, the foundation decided to step in and help where we could. For some children, lunch at school on Friday may be the last meal that they have until Monday morning when breakfast is served at school. Knowing that could be the case hurts. It's hard to study when you are hungry. So our goal is to try to help alleviate the pains of being hungry.

Right now we are only able to provide food on the last weekend of the month. One of our goals is to increase the number of weekends that we are able to send the backpacks home with the teens. We have fundraisers throughout the year, but we continually look for donors to help us provide food to the teens who need our help. We are thrilled that BB&T, Food Lion and some area churches stepped up to help us in our first year. We owe them all a big Thank You, and we are very grateful for their support. We are looking forward to working with them again in the future. Our children need our help, and we are doing what we know we need to do to be a service to them. We want to show them someone cares and give them some encouragement.

Project Feed a Child has become very popular with the students and they look forward to receiving the backpacks when they are given out. Because of the confidential nature of the program, only the school counselors and teachers know which of the students are receiving the backpacks. We know there are more kids in need, but because of funds we are not able to help all the kids that we would like. This has been a great journey for us and has been very positive for our teens. The amount of \$250 will feed a teen for the school year.

If you would like to help us provide backpacks for these teens, you can contact the program's coordinators: Patti Poulcott at 704-694-8386 or Christine Hall at 704-690-2596.

The Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation is exempt under IRS Section 501(c) (3) and any donations to the foundation are fully tax deductible.

## Tractor Supply Paper Clover Fundraiser Supports Anson County 4-H

From April 11 to 22 Tractor Supply in Wadesboro is partnering with the National 4-H Council to offer a Spring Paper Clover Promotion to help support local 4-H programs in counties that have these stores. Individuals have the choice of adding \$1 per paper clover at checkout. There is no limit on how many paper clovers you purchase. Proceeds will go to the local 4-H program, helping to keep cost at a reduced price for day camps, and allow older 4-H youth to attend leadership trainings and conferences.

On Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Anson County 4-H will be at Tractor Supply asking for your support in purchasing paper clovers for \$1. They will have plenty, so buy as many as you like - all in support of 4-H.

Anson County is truly grateful to have a Tractor Supply in the county because there are only 31 in the state of North Carolina. So, if you have not already done so, please plan to go down to the store, make a donation or purchase one...or ten clovers. Over \$935,000 was raised through this spring promotion to support 4-H across the country. Remember, the proceeds are going to a great program that supports great youth and adults right here in Anson County! Hope you will come out and support this cause!

## Today Marks the 50th Anniversary of the Death of Dr. Martin Luther King

North Carolinians are encouraged to participate in bell ringing ceremonies and commemorative events

Today, Wednesday, April 4, 2018, marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In honor of the life and legacy of Dr. King, four North Carolina organizations are holding events around the state and North Carolina institutions are encouraged to hold bell ringing ceremonies at 7:01 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4th. Institutions interested in participating in the nationwide bell toll can register their event on the National Civil Rights Museum's website.

Governor Roy Cooper will serve as the keynote speaker for the commemorative event at Williston Middle School in Wilmington, NC. The event is hosted by the MLK 50-year Anniversary Commemoration Commission.

Dr. Martin Luther King was scheduled to conduct a voter registration drive in Wilmington on the day he died, but cancelled his appearance to stand with sanitation workers in Memphis, TN. In celebration of his life the Wilmington event will feature a bell toll at 7:01 p.m.

Commemorative events on Wednesday in NC include:

- Drum Majors Alliance hosts MLK event at the Enterprise Conference and Banquet Center in Winston-Salem, NC from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
  - The American Bible Society heads MLK event at Little Rock AME Zion Church in Charlotte, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
  - MLK 50-Year Anniversary Commemoration Commission event at Williston Middle School in Wilmington from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
  - Capital City Lawyers Association celebrates the life of MLK at First Baptist Church in Raleigh, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- For a complete list of events across the U.S., including a live-stream of activities scheduled at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, TN, visit the National Civil Rights Museum's website at [mlk50.civilrights museum.org](http://mlk50.civilrights museum.org).

## Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser for Ansonville Historical Society

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a delicious spaghetti supper on Saturday, April 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ansonville Fire Department.

This is a fundraiser for the Ansonville Historical Society. The \$10 plate includes spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, dessert and a drink.



## Anson Schools Pay Tribute to Parkland, Florida Victims on March 14

On Wednesday, March 14 all of the schools in Anson County paid tribute to the students and staff who died on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Last week The Express featured pictures and descriptions of activities at some of the schools. Here are pictures and information from the other schools.

**Ansonville Elementary School** (pictured above) Students at Ansonville Elementary School participated in an activity to honor the 17 individuals who lost their lives last month in Florida. Prior to the school-wide activity, classroom teachers discussed with students the importance of showing compassion, caring for their peers, being respectful, and treating others with kindness. The entire student body and staff formed a giant 17 in the gym to pay tribute to those who died. Once in formation, everyone observed 17 seconds of silence in remembrance.

**Peachland-Polkton Elementary School** (pictured at right, top) Peachland-Polkton Elementary School chose to "Walk UP" instead of "Walk OUT." We challenged staff members and students to make an extra effort to be kind to their classmates, teachers and staff members. We came together and chose to Walk UP to a classmate who was sitting alone in the cafeteria, walk UP to a classmate who was playing alone on the playground, walk UP to teachers and thank them, or walk UP to someone we don't normally talk to and get to know them. We work together every day to keep our focus on being citizens of good character, but we made an extra effort on March 14th in remembrance of the victims. In the photo Mrs. Stewart's sixth grade class came up with creative ways to show good character and make an extra effort to be kind on March 14th!

**Anson Middle School** (pictured at right, second photo down) Anson Middle School students, faculty and staff participated in the National School Walkout as a way to show support for those who lost their lives to violence in Florida earlier this year. To prepare for the walkout students in their advisory classes were presented with a Powerpoint presentation that provided them with background information about the National School Walkout, students' perspectives from students who had first-hand experience from the massacre at the Parkland High School, and an explanation and expectations for Anson Middle's participation in the National School Walkout.

Each grade level was given an opportunity and a choice to participate or not to participate in various capacities. Sixth graders, for example, could choose to remain silent for 17 minutes to honor and respect the 17 victims' lives that were lost in the Parkland, Florida shooting. Those students who chose not to participate in the "walk" could use the 17 minutes to complete work for other classes or read. Both of these events occurred in the advisory classroom.

Students enrolled in seventh grade who chose to participate in the protest against violence were escorted to the school's gymnasium where they chose to either walk around the perimeter of the gym or to sit during the 17 minutes of silence. As with the seventh graders, eighth grade students who chose to participate were escorted by staff members to the school's track and were allowed to walk the track for 17 minutes. Those seventh and eighth grade students who chose not to participate remained in the classroom with another staff member and worked on homework or read for 17 minutes.

**Wadesboro Primary School** (pictured at right, third photo down) Wadesboro Primary School celebrated a day of kindness. We began first thing in the morning, greeting students as they entered the building by giving them a kindness sticker to remind them to show kindness throughout the day. Teachers delivered lessons to teach and encourage students to show respect, develop character and spread compassion.

Through special classes second and third grade students created a wall of kindness by writing words of encouragement, inspirational quotes and kind words for all who enter the building. Each faculty member added his/her own note to the wall as well. The wall of kindness continues to generate conversation between students, staff and visitors as it remains a focal point in the school foyer.

**Lilesville Elementary School** (pictured above) Lilesville Elementary School students and staff honored victims of school violence in a "Walkout Activity." The activity took place 17 minutes prior to afternoon dismissal in honor of the Parkland High School shooting. Staff and students "Walked Out" and reported to the gym for an assembly. The assembly included a tribute to the victims of school violence, a 17 second moment of silence/meditation, and a release of 17 balloons in honor of the victims of the school violence in Florida. Each balloon had the name of one of the victims of school violence. The balloons were released around the monument from the Old Lilesville School, as past meets present, by a school and community that honors Character Education. Character Education has been one of the trademarks of Lilesville Elementary School for many years, and this focus has been rejuvenated this school year. The school took time to help students understand the importance of being kind to each other and treating others like you want to be treated. The staff of Lilesville Elementary believes in educating the whole child and that teaching children to be good citizens is important.



## 50+ Club Meeting to Feature Gospel Music

Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, April 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre. A program of music will be presented by the Gospel Strings. Band members are Doris Hill, Rev. Steve Hill, Gary Carpenter, Dr. Leon Smith and David Napier. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the beautiful music of these talented artists. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.