



NC State Board of Education Official School Report Cards Released, PPES Earns High Marks

The North Carolina State Board of Education report cards were recently officially released and Peachland-Polkton Elementary School (PPES) has been designated as a "B" school based on End-of-Grade testing data for the 2017-2018 school year.

Over the last five years the school has doubled its school proficiency. PPES also earned a school growth score of 95.7, which puts it in the top 2 percent of all schools in North Carolina and was 7th out of all elementary schools in the same category in North Carolina.

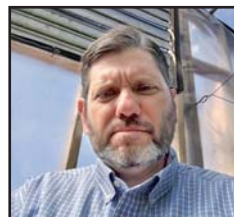
The PPES staff is very excited about the growth and success that the students are showing, and they are working diligently to help their students and community grow for future success.

Dr. Travis Steagall, Principal of Peachland-Polkton Elementary, added, "This is a testament to the hard work of our students, staff and community. This accomplishment validates that PPES is one of the best elementary schools in the state, and highlights Anson County as a premier location for families who are looking to relocate as a result of the Monroe Bypass. This accomplishment also has huge implications for economic development in Anson County as we aim to recruit businesses and families to our county. The success of our school, and all schools in Anson County, will help our county's churches, schools and homes begin to grow and prosper."

John Marek Launches Book of Short Stories

Incorporating real life events from the summer of 1969

Anson County Writer's Club award-winning author and Anson County Economic Developer John B. Marek is back with a brand new collection of short stories loosely based on his upbringing in rural Ohio. *Ocean of Storms* from Lulu Press is a literary triptych featuring three separate but related stories: "The Age of Rockets" tells a mysterious tale of the 4th of July storm of 1969; "Moonlight Laika" offers a different perspective on the first manned lunar mission; and "The Wreck" brings the story full-circle as a fisherman happens upon an ominous discovery.



As part of the Brown Bag Lunch Series, Hampton B. Allen Library, located at 120 South Greene Street in Wadesboro, will be hosting a Reading & Signing from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15. John will be reading selections from the book, discussing his real-life inspirations for the stories, taking audience questions and signing his books. He will also have prizes and giveaways for everyone in attendance.

No matter your zip code or birthdate, John's stories are relatable. Raised in rural Ohio and transplanted to North Carolina in 1995, he has developed a voice and style that blends the finest attributes of his native and adopted homes - authentic and adventurous with a splash of sophistication.

Marek is the author of numerous books, including nonfiction titles *Secrets of Neighborhood Marketing*, *Breakfast At Midway: A Lean Marketing Journey*, and *Ben and the Art of Lawnmower Maintenance*, and his short fiction collections *The Bug Jar and Other Stories* and *Ocean of Storms*. His work has also been featured in numerous online and print publications.

John can be found online at www.johnbmarek.com.

Shaundasia T. Smith Blood Drive is July 9

The Shaundasia T Smith Foundation will it's 5th annual Blood Drive on Tuesday, July 9 in memory of Shaundasia. The blood drive will be held at the Fireman's Training Center, located at 309 North Washington Street in Wadesboro, from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Cassandra Reid said, "Donations are down and the need for donations are greatest in the summer and holidays, making it hard to meet patient needs when this happens. You can make a difference and help save a life. One donation of blood can save up to three lives. Please help us help others and give the gift of life."

Donors can schedule an appointment online at www.redcross.org using the sponsor code "Shaundasia Smith." Or you can text Kaila Driggers at 704-991-5656. Blood donors can streamline their donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete a pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of their appointment. Walk-ins will also be welcomed on the day of the blood drive.

The Foundation thanks you in advance for your donation.

Catawba Queen Sightseeing Cruise

View Lake Normans unique beauty from the Mississippi River boat "Catawba Queen." Enjoy the open air deck as the captain tells you the history of Lake Norman and gives you a narrative on some of the celebrity homes.

Grace Senior Center is sponsoring this day trip to Lake Norman on Sunday, July 20. The cost is \$60 adult & \$55 senior (65+). The price of the trip includes: Transportation and lunch, and the a hour cruise on the Catawba Queen. You have your choice of homemade chicken salad, turkey or ham croissant. A vegetarian option is also available. All options are paired with Deep River kettle chips, homemade cookie, tea (sweet or non-sweet) & water.

Participants will depart from the Wadesboro Walmart parking lot at 7 a.m. and return there at 3 p.m. For more information call Mary Jones at 704-694-6616.

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