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

## One Killed, Others Injured in Shooting Incident at “Block Party”

A man was killed and at least six other victims survived being shot at an event described as a block party in the early hours of Sunday morning, July 9. Law enforcement is asking for the public’s help in their investigation of the violence.

Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer issued this release about the incident:

“On July 9, 2023 at approximately 01:56 am the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a shot fired call at North Wadesboro Grocery, 1205 N. Green Street, Wadesboro, NC where according to witnesses a “block party” was being held. When officers arrived, they found one (1) victim who was pronounced dead at the scene and numerous others injured. Six (6) victims were taken to Atrium Health Anson with apparent gunshot wounds. As of 5:00 pm on July 9th, five (5) of the victims are still being treated by Atrium Health. Two (2) victims are listed in critical condition, three (3) are listed as stable, and one (1) victim was treated and released. The identities of the deceased and surviving victims have been intentionally withheld.

This incident is still being investigated. Anyone who was at this “block party,” or has any information about this incident, is requested to contact the Wadesboro Police Department at (704) 694-2167. Callers can remain anonymous.

The Wadesboro Police Department is being assisted in this investigation by North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement. The Wadesboro Police Department would also like to thank the following agencies for their assistance; Anson County Sheriff’s Office, Chesterfield County (SC) Sheriff’s Office, Marshville Police Department, North Carolina State Highway Patrol, Richmond County Sheriff’s Office, Union County Sheriff’s Office, Wingate Police Department, and Anson County Emergency Management.”

Chief Spencer said that investigators are trying to determine who organized the block party as well as find the gunman. It was reported that people from the area received flyers about the party, and that there were 300 or more people in attendance.

Spencer was quoted, “We know that they are blessed, from what we gathered it could’ve been worse than what was. With me being here 30-something years, I’ve never actually witnessed a block party to that extent going on without us already having information we didn’t have any information that this was going on until we actually got the call.”

The owner of North Wadesboro Grocery, Freweini Weneh, and an employee, Abesolom Taye, are facing charges brought by NC Alcohol Law Enforcement in association with the event. The charges include consumption of alcoholic beverages at an off-premises establishment and failure to superintend conduct on licensed premises.

## Free Summer Meals for Youth

Anson Middle School will operate as the Summer Meals Site, offering free breakfasts and lunches for kids and teens up to 18 years old. This program runs from Monday, July 10 through Thursday, July 27

Meal service times are:  
Monday to Thursday, Breakfast 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

## Dates Set for 2023 Ag Expo & Fair

Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 22-23, the dates for this year’s Anson Ag Expo & Fair. The event’s planning committee has started meeting to prepare for traditional and new fall festivities.

The annual 4-H Youth Livestock Show will be hosted by the Anson Cattlemen’s Association and be held at 2385 Little Creek Road in Ansonville on August 26. The Ag Fair will be held at the Extension Center in Wadesboro on Saturday, September 23. The Family Fall Fest will be on the square in Wadesboro on West Wade Street and Greene Street on Friday night, September 22 from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.

The Family Fall Fest will feature fall and agriculture themed games and competitions for kids. We will also have face painting, food trucks, games for small children and so much more. Come out and enjoy an evening of family fun and entertainment.

The 4-H Youth Livestock Show will begin at 10:00 am. The Ag Fair will be open to the public on Saturday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm in Wadesboro.

Be on the lookout for more information to come, including schedules, fair book release, and much more. Come out and join the fun, and help us celebrate agriculture in Anson.

## Anson Mobile Food Market is July 20

The Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, July 20, starting at 4 p.m. at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Attendees can receive free food items as long as supplies last. This is a free initiative, so please stop by and get some healthy food for your family. The event will include blood pressure and blood sugar checks, as well information on healthy eating and lifestyle.

This event is held to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

For more information visit [www.burnsville.org](http://www.burnsville.org).

## Outdoor Evening Concert this Thursday

The Cheraw Arts Commission presents a Free Outdoor Evening Concert this Thursday, July 13 near the Theatre on the Green area in Cheraw. The concert features the Teal Mills Band from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The band of top notch players performs rock and blues. This performance will feature the Teal Mills Band’s original drummer who has not performed with the band for 50 years!

Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs for the family friendly event. The event is sponsored by The Caffeinated Cow. In case of rain or extreme heat conditions, the concert will be moved inside the Theatre on the Green.

Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission 843.537.8420 x 12 for information.



## Summer Camp in the Park, a Wonderful Experience for Anson Youth

This is a release from the Anson County Martin Luther King Committee: The sponsors of the Summer Camp in the Park, Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Martin Luther King Committee, Parks and Recreation, and “ALL” parents would like to thank each and everyone who helped to make Summer in the Park a wonderful experience for the children of Anson County.

**Volunteers** - Ruth Robinson, Gloria Tillman, Emily Little, Carolyn Rosebud, Donnie Lewis, Miriam Liles, Gwen Ratliff, Bertha Hardin, Janie Liles, Hattie Little, Rev. Joann Bennett, Shirlene Davis, Deborah Davis, Timothy Little, Sun-Shine Heilig, Weaver Thomas, Jackie Liles, Cecil Lilly, Larry Bennett, Mary Wright, Rodney Hyatt, Carolyn Morman and Brenda Broadway.

**Contributors** - Helen Rorie, Janie Liles, Smith’s Funeral Home, Harvest Ministries, Strikers Bowling Alley, Lady Bug Restaurant, Quality Florist, Burger King and National Association of University Women (NAUW), McDonald’s and Alpha Phi Chi (APC), Electa Chapter 525 and Pilgrim Chapter 244, Zion Missionary Association, Ebenezer Deaconess Board, Monroe Mortuary, Harvest Ministries, Elder Noel and Sister Rose Thompson, Sharon Knotts, Darryl Simon, Rev. and Mrs. Michael McLeod, Kim Nesbitt, Shirley Streater, Dora Mungo and Judy Simon.

**Presenters** - Hampton B. Allen Library, Rev. Donna McNair, Wadesboro Post Office, Anson County Historical Society – Museum, South Piedmont Community College, Wadesboro Police Department, Anson County Department Social Services, Anson County Health Department, Pee Dee Electric, Wadesboro Fire Department, Anson County Sheriff Department, Anson County Agriculture Extension Office, HOLLA, Caraway Foundation, Anson County Board of Education, Anson County Board of Commission, Anson County Council on Aging and Wadesboro Housing Authority.

**Committee members** - Rev. Bernice Bennett, Rev. Dannie Montgomery, Marlene Richardson, Cornelia Liles, Sylvia Pratt, Frederick Allen, Tony Autry, Leon Gatewood, Ametra Crawford, Tina Caraway, Betty Huntley, Elizabeth Kersey and Winnie Bennett.

We attribute the success of the Summer Camp in the Park to all of you whatever your part! We know that all experiences will have a lasting impact on all of us!

Note: All children are not pictured.

## ACORNS Alert System Keeps the Anson County Community Informed During Emergency Situations

**Public safety officials encourage residents to create and update their information in the ACORNS platform**

In May 2022 public safety officials in Anson County announced that ACORNS was now available to all residents, replacing the previous ACORN system. ACORNS is a free service that allows individuals to receive notifications sent from National Weather Service (NWS) and local authorities to stay informed on potentially hazardous situations involving weather, traffic and other emergencies, including the spread of the coronavirus.

The switch to ACORNS allows residents to receive alerts via phone, text and email, and answer poll questions that will give Anson County officials critical information during emergency situations. Individuals who are signed up for alerts will receive reliable information from county officials, including tailored updates based on their specific needs and geographic location.

Individuals who were previously signed up for ACORN will need to enroll in ACORNS, and to review and update their information in the new platform to ensure accuracy. Residents and travelers to Anson County who were not previously signed up for ACORN should sign up for free at [www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us) to receive timely and actionable emergency alerts via email, text or voice message. They can also identify when and how they are alerted and communicated with before, during and after emergencies.

“ACORNS strengthens Anson County officials’ ability to communicate with residents when it matters most,” said R. Diggs, Chief, Anson County Emergency Services. “This service allows for critical communication with the public and provides individuals with the information needed to stay safe or take precautions during hazardous or emergency situations, especially during severe weather.”

ACORNS is powered by Rave and is trusted by thousands of institutions including state and local authorities, business and educational institutions. Rave sends millions of messages daily and during critical situations such as severe weather.

Community members are encouraged to sign up for ACORNS and input or update their information and notification preferences today at [www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us).

## Market on Market in Cheraw Saturday!

Market on Market will be this Saturday, July 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in downtown Cheraw. The family friendly monthly event features art, produce, food and entertainment on the Third Saturday of each month from May through the fall. Local farmers will also have produce and plants available for purchase.

There will be free art activities for kids. Also, there will be a “Cruise In” featuring cool cars. Deb Adams will provide free Yoga instruction at 9am. Towels or blankets are recommended for the Yoga time.

Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission 843.537.8420 x 12 for additional information.

## Meet the Authors Event at the Library July 17

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be hosting a Meet the Author event on Monday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m. in the Pritchett Room. The featured authors are Jack Brower, Sandy Bruney, Isabelle McCray, Kaye Ratliff and John Marek. Each author will represent a different genre of writing.

Everyone is invited to come and learn about different writing techniques and meet the authors. The authors will have books for sale as well. For information call 704-694-5177.

## National Night Out is August 1

Sheriff Howell would like to welcome the public to attend the annual National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. This is a free event for the public to enjoy the night with your local law enforcement and emergency services personnel. Fun activities include bounce houses, face painting, a showcase of patrol cars, free food, free drinks and free snacks! Also, there will be a live DJ to keep things moving!

Everyone is welcome. The event takes place across from the Sheriff’s Office on North Washington and East Wade Streets.

## Arts Council’s Bach’s Lunch is July 19

Support the arts in Anson County by enjoying a delicious lunch. The Anson County Arts Council is hosting the July Bach’s Lunch on Wednesday, July 19. The meals are “to go.”

“For July’s Bach’s Lunch we are proud to feature Brown Creek Creamery’s pimento cheese! They will serve with baguette slices, marinated slaw, fresh fruit, dessert & drink. \$10.”

The meals are by reservation only. Please call 704-694-4950 or text 704-221-3038 and give your name and the number of orders you would like to pick up. Pick up takes place at the Arts Council office, located at 110 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro, from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

This is a fundraiser to support the arts in Anson County.

## Ebenezer Presbyterian Church Cemetery Information Meeting

If you currently have a family member who has been buried at the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (EPC) Cemetery on Shiloh Church Road in Morven, or if you anticipate burying a family member or have made plans to be buried there in the future, please join EPC-Cemetery Committee for important updates, information and discussion on Saturday, July 15 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church which is located at 2271 Shiloh Church Road in Morven.