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# THE EXPRESS

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

## One Stop-Early Voting for 9th Congressional District Contest Begins Today

Early voting began today, Wednesday, August 21, for the upcoming September 10 General Election to fill the vacancy in North Carolina's 9th congressional district in the United States House of Representatives for the remainder of the 116th United States Congress. Voters will choose between Dan McCreedy, the Democrat Party candidate, Republican Dan Bishop, Libertarian Jeff Scott and Green Party member Allen Smith.

The seat has been vacant since the opening of the 116th Congress, following the refusal of the North Carolina State Board of Elections to certify the results of the November 2018 election in the district due to allegations of electoral fraud.

**One Stop Early Voting** takes place at the Anson County Board of Elections Office, which is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early Voting runs through Friday, September 6.

If you don't vote during Early Voting you will need to vote at your regular polling precinct on Election Day, Tuesday, September 10, from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be no voting at the Board of Elections Office on Election Day.

**Registration to Vote** for this election ended on August 18. If you are already registered to vote in Anson County, and your name or address has not changed, you did not need to register to vote again. Voters who did not register by the August 18 deadline may register and vote during One Stop Early Voting only, and will be required to show documentation of their identity and residence in the form of current and valid photo identification, or a copy of one of the following documents that show the name and address of the voter: a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document.

**Absentee By Mail Voting** is available upon request from the voter, a near relative or legal guardian\*. New state law requires that all requests must be made on the official Absentee Ballot Request Form, which is available online at [www.co.anson.nc.us/202/Board-of-Elections](http://www.co.anson.nc.us/202/Board-of-Elections). Or application may be made in person at the Anson County Board of Elections Office, or in writing to the Anson County Board of Elections at PO Box 768, Wadesboro, NC 28170. The deadline to apply for an Absentee By Mail Ballot is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3. (\*Near relative is defined as: spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent or stepchild.)

For more information contact Steve Adams, Director of Elections, at 704-994-3223 or [sadams@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:sadams@co.anson.nc.us). The Board of Elections Office is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The mailing address is: PO Box 768, Wadesboro NC 28170.

## Department of Social Services Will be Closed this Thursday

Staff training on Thursday, reopens on Friday

The Anson County Department of Social Services (DSS), including the Anson County Child Support Office, will be closed on Thursday, August 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for staff training and organization. Offices will reopen on Friday, August 23 at 8:30 a.m.

Anyone wishing to make a Child Protective Services or Adult Protective Services report during that time may call 704-694-2167 or 704-694-4188.

## Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday

A new shipment of USDA foods will be distributed on Saturday, August 24, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The items are distributed on a first come, first served basis for eligible Anson County citizens.

All participants who plan to pick up food are asked to bring someone to help them if they need help, as BRLC will no longer be able to provide this support.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution Division provide these food items through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for individual's eligibility. The food items will only be available to Ansonians. Individuals who have not registered or received food before from the BRLC Emergency food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. Those families who receive food stamp assistance will automatically qualify. Parents are asked not to bring children due to limited seating space. Neighbors are asked to please park in parking lot behind center.

The USDA prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political belief, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Not all prohibited bases will apply to all program and activities.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information check [www.burnsvilleglc.org](http://www.burnsvilleglc.org).

## Do You Have a Coat or Blanket You Would Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program throughout the year. They distribute coats and blankets to several of the churches and schools in Anson County as well as directly to those people in need. Now that winter is over, do you have a coat or blanket that you can contribute to this cause?

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.



Celebrating Atrium Health Anson's 5th year are, from left, Brittany Tyson, Barron Taylor, Wendy Hagin, Shannon Cox, Dr. Kola Adekanmbi, Will Albritton, Holly Brewer, Heather Honeycutt, Nicole Clontz, Myra Deason, Dawn Phillips and Paul Marcom.

## Atrium Health Anson Celebrates Five Years

Atrium Health Anson recently celebrated its 5th year anniversary. Within the past five years Atrium Health Anson has been recognized at the state and national level for its new and innovative Medical Home Model of Care. This model of care focuses on significantly improving the health status of the citizens of Anson County by getting patients to the appropriate level of care in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Atrium Health Anson has reduced unnecessary admissions to the Emergency Department, putting a process in place to serve patients with chronic conditions in a more appropriate setting such as primary care. Last year alone Atrium Health Anson transitioned about 2,700 of its 15,000 Emergency Department patients to the Medical Home resulting in improved health outcomes at a lower cost to those patients.

Other patient care enhancements included increased access to primary care services in Anson County through expanded hours at Carolinas Primary Care, expanding the Inpatient Admission Criteria allowing more patients, as appropriate, to stay in Anson County and avoid being transported out of Anson County to another hospital, new specialist physicians in Atrium Health Anson's Specialty Clinic space (orthopedics, women's care, psychiatry, and sleep medicine), virtual capabilities (neurology, stroke and inpatient hospitalists), and new, state-of-the-art CT, Ultrasound, and Laboratory equipment to aid new procedures and tests that are now available at Atrium Health Anson.



Pictured above, Sharron Sturdivant and Glyseria Thomas welcome visitors to Atrium Health.

## 2019-2020 Early Release Wednesdays for All Schools

Anson County Schools will have early release Wednesdays again this year beginning next Wednesday, August 28, and on the dates listed below. Early release Wednesdays are designed to offer professional development for teachers and staff to support instruction.

Early release time for elementary schools will be 12:30 p.m. Early release time for middle and high schools will be 1:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday per month (excluding September, November, December and May):

**August 28 • October 30 • January 29 • February 26 • March 25 • April 29**

## Family Fall Fest at 2019 Ag Expo & Fair

The 2019 Anson Ag Expo & Fair is set and planning is underway for another great festival for families to enjoy. Family Fall Fest is scheduled for Friday night, September 20 at Circle G Arena in Lilesville. Mark your calendars to come visit, and better yet, participate.

The Anson Ag Expo & Fair Planning Committee has planned an evening of fun, food and games for the whole family to enjoy. Festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude around 8:00 p.m. Plan to enjoy a fun night for everybody.

Carnival type games will be available for children underneath the shelter, and prizes will be given for participation.

Older youth will enjoy relay style games set up in the shelter area. Traditional fall fair games are planned, including Dizzy Bat, Egg Toss, Tug-O-War Race and more. Games will wrap up around 7:30 p.m., and music for everyone to enjoy will begin in the shelter.

The Cupbearer and the Hog N Dog will be set up for the evening offering food truck fare and drinks. In addition, complimentary popcorn and sno cones will be offered for children and adults.

For those interested in the Ag Fair, it will also be on display on Saturday at the Cooperative Extension Center in Wadesboro from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Complete event information is available on the web at [anson.ces.ncsu.edu](http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu) and Facebook, under 2019 Anson Ag Expo & Fair. Like that page to receive event updates and be on the lookout for more postings.

Plan to come out and enjoy the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!

## Celebrating Smokey Bear on His 75th Birthday

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey wishes a very happy birthday to Smokey Bear, the mascot of wildfire prevention in the United States, who turned 75 on Friday, August 9. The Smokey Bear Wildfire Prevention campaign was created in 1944 and is the longest-running public service advertising campaign in U.S. history.

"Smokey Bear is one of the world's most recognizable and lovable characters," said Commissioner Causey. "He's been educating American children and families for generations about their role in preventing wildfires and Smokey's message is just as relevant and urgent today as it was in 1944."

Smokey Bear was created during World War II. With experienced firefighters deployed in the war, communities were faced with the difficult task of dealing with wildfires. Federal officials feared national forests could become targets. On August 9, 1944, the U.S. Forest Service created Smokey Bear as the national symbol for a fire prevention campaign.

Smokey's face appeared on posters, billboards, and postage stamps with his famous slogan: "Only you can prevent forest fires."

In 1950, firefighters in New Mexico's Capitan Mountains found a bear cub with burn injuries to his paws and hind legs after a fire. The cub was named Smokey Bear in honor of New York Assistant Fire Chief "Smokey" Joe Martin. The bear died in 1976 and was buried in what is now called the Smokey Bear Historical Park in Capitan, not far from where he was found.

In 2001, Smokey Bear's slogan was updated to: "Only you can prevent wildfires." Although Smokey Bear has already accomplished so much in his 75-year history, his work is far from over as wildfire prevention remains crucial, including here in North Carolina.

In 2018, there were 3,625 wildfires in North Carolina resulting in more than 18,000 acres burned across the state, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

State Fire Marshal Mike Causey and the Office of State Fire Marshal want you to celebrate Smokey Bear's birthday by remembering his important catchphrase: Only you can prevent wildfires.



## Trauma-Informed Care Training August 22

Trauma-Informed Care training will be held on Thursday, August 22 at the Anson County Cooperative Extension Center, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Deahdra Chambers will be the guest speaker. Resources and lunch will be provided free.

Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769 or by email at [connections-fsp@gmail.com](mailto:connections-fsp@gmail.com) for more information. The deadline to register is August 19.

## Free Movie is Ben is Back

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the Free movie for Monday, August 26 at 10:00 a.m. in the Little Theatre. The movie *Ben is Back* starring Julia Roberts and Lucas Hedges. Nineteen-year-old Ben Burns unexpectedly returns to his family's suburban home on Christmas Eve. Ben's mom Holly is relieved and welcoming, but wary of her son's drug addiction. Over a turbulent 24 hours new truths are revealed, and a mother's undying love gets put to the test as Holly does everything in her power to keep Ben clean.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the movie. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

## Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For information call 704-694-3516.

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpress.com](http://www.TheExpress.com)