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

Covid Update for Anson County

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Wednesday, November 30 the county was at 7,958 total Covid-19 cases, with 10 active and 100 deaths. On November 17 the county was at 7,940 total Covid-19 cases, with 25 active and 100 deaths.

The Health Department offers Moderna COVID Vaccines on Thursdays. They offer the primary series and the bivalent "Fall" booster. They are offered on Thursdays in a walk-in clinic. No appointment is necessary.

Flu Shots Please note that flu numbers are high right now so if you have not gotten a flu shot, please do so. If you would like to schedule an appointment for a shot, please call (704) 694-5188.

The COVID testing site in Morven has closed, but you can still stop by the health department and pick up test kits to keep at home. If you aren't feeling well you can send someone and they will send some to you.

The Health Department is also offering N-95 masks. Stop in to pick one up.

For more specific information related to Anson County and NC please visit: covid19.ncdhhs.gov.

The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.

School Board Meeting is December 12

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, December 12. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at about 4:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.

Tondra Edwards Recognized for Compassionate Care, Earns Award

Tondra Edwards, a nurse at Atrium Health Anson, earned the prestigious and internationally known, DAISY award for her continued commitment to deliver outstanding care and compassion to her patients. As a result of a recent experience comforting loved ones through a patient's end-of-life experience, Edwards was nominated by the family and multiple coworkers for this award.



"Tondra shows kindness and compassion daily to everyone she encounters," said a patient's loved one. "While she cared for my family member who was nearing end of life, Tondra provided a shoulder to cry on and a measure of calm in the storm that we experienced. She did this by making our loved one comfortable while preparing us for the eventual outcome."

The DAISY Award is an international program that recognizes nurses for the exceptional care they provide to patients. The family of Patrick Barnes established the award in 1999 after he died from an auto-immune disease while being treated in a Seattle hospital. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System. The Barnes family was grateful for the care he received and created the award to thank bedside nurses for the job they do.

Edwards has worked at Atrium Health Anson for 18 years and is currently the outpatient community care manager. She has also provided bedside care on the medical surgical unit.

"The greatest reward of my nursing career has always been the satisfaction of serving others, providing care and support to patients and their families, through joy and pain, no matter what season of life they are in," said Edwards.

Drake Gallery: Wonderful Christmas Gifts Made by Talented Area Artists

Anson County Arts Council's Drake Gallery is home to all kinds of art and crafts, created by local artists, and it is for sale. You can find beautiful Christmas gifts that will never go out of style.

Items at the Drake Gallery include candles from Mills Bottom Farms, crochet by Kaye Ratliff, gemstone jewelry by Reva Carpenter, hardware jewelry line by Kristy's Creations, works by Dawn McElroy, art by Debbie Phillips, Vicky McLain, Elizabeth Schafer Oliver and Mike Phillips, photography by Lisa Jakobs, quilts (while they last!) by Cynthia Little, unique pottery by Carol Witherspoon, bowls by James Price, woodwork by Aaron Sleeper, furniture by Monica Schulze, lamps by Todd Moore, carved nativities by Emmett Patterson, handmade woven pine straw baskets & more by Shakeeka Watts Brooks, mushy dolls by Viktoria Nettleton, glasswork chimes & more by Yvonne Howland, personalized cutting boards and glasses by Sugarlumps Designs, and books by Sandy Bruney and Dr. Amy Jarman Horne. Ansonia Theatre tickets and gift certificates are available also.

The Drake Gallery is open Tuesday through Thursday, 12 noon to 4 p.m. It is located at 110 South Rutherford Street, beside the Ansonia Theatre. The telephone number is 704-694-4950.

MBM Twirly Girls' Christmas Show on the Square is December 21

The MBM Twirly Girls will present their annual Christmas Show on the Square in uptown Wadesboro on Wednesday, December 21 at 4:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to come out and see these girls and let them "twirl" you into the Christmas spirit!

Bring your own chairs and blankets and join in the fun.



Perfect Weater, Happy People...the Wadesboro Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Village was Great!

Pictured on the right, Aaron Shaver (Parsons Drug Company) and Sarah Burr (Kat & Liz) won the Best Homemade Float trophy from the 2022 Wadesboro Christmas Parade. Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. Director Julian Swittenberg presented the award. Their float is pictured above making a snowy presentation.

Thank you to Julian Swittenberg for another terrific parade, and for organizing the Christmas in the Village event that took place afterwards.

More parade pictures will be in the December 28 Express!



Who's the Anson County Sheriff?

It might take a lawsuit to figure out.

There's a big question in Anson County today - who is the sheriff?

The Anson County Commission, with two outgoing members, held an emergency meeting Monday night (December 5) to appoint someone to serve the term of the sheriff who died in September but was reelected in November without opposition. But Tuesday night (December 6), the new county commission threw that appointment out and appointed a different interim sheriff to a four-year term.

Confused? County Manager Leonard Sossamon certainly is. "I'm not sure right now - you'll have to ask our attorney Scott Forbes, who the real sheriff of Anson County is," Sossamon said following Tuesday's meeting. "Because I understood before this vote that Gerald Cannon was the sheriff. But now it may be a situation, because we have competing points of view, that one sheriff may have to sue the other sheriff for the seat."

The political saga started Sept. 21, with the death of Sheriff Landric Reid, a Democrat. His chief deputy - and good friend - Scott Howell became interim sheriff, but the county's Democratic Party executive committee on Oct. 8 nominated Cannon, a veteran of the Wadesboro Police Department, to be awarded the general election votes that went to Reid.

However, there were several problems with how the party voted on Cannon's nomination, and they had to basically start over. It wasn't until this past Saturday (December 3) that the local executive committee members had a nomination election. Cannon won that in a close vote, 59-54. The total does not represent the number of people who voted. It's primarily a reflection of precinct leaders, who represent several votes as well as county Democratic elected officials.

But the local party missed its window to get Reid's votes awarded to Cannon because the election was already certified. The nomination was essentially a recommendation. County commissioners had the final say.

Emergency meeting As of Saturday, Cannon had the support of the majority of commissioners. But the terms of two members expired Monday. Both were supporters of Cannon, including the outgoing chair. He called an emergency meeting Monday to appoint a sheriff. One commissioner, JD Bricken, posted on Facebook that he was notified by phone at about 5:15 p.m. of a meeting that was to begin at 5:30.

Forbes says he wasn't informed of the meeting and didn't attend. The four members who did attend unanimously appointed Cannon sheriff and had a swearing-in ceremony.

This helped set the stage for Tuesday night's meeting, which drew a standing-room crowd of people upset with the previous appointment or anxious that a county commission with new members would reverse itself. Many people were turned away because the meeting room was at capacity.

The role of race There is a lot of racial tension in this debate. Cannon is Black and Howell is white. There are accusations that white Democrats support Howell because of his race - and that Black Democratic leaders are doing the same for Cannon. The county Democratic chair, Dannie Montgomery, is Black. She says she's been wrongly accused of supporting Cannon because of his race.

"Some folks are like, 'You only want a Black sheriff,' and that's incorrect. We want the best individual for the job," she said Tuesday while commissioners were in closed session for 45 minutes to discuss the sheriff controversy.

Landric Reid's widow, Cassandra, sat a few seats away from Montgomery. She was there in support of Howell. Cassandra Reid is Black and believes Howell's race works against him with local Democratic leaders. "My opinion, Mr. Howell's a white man, Gerald Cannon's a Black man, and that's what they [local Democratic leaders] want to replace my husband with," Reid said.

After commissioners returned from the closed session, there was a motion to appoint Howell as sheriff, effective immediately. It passed on a 4-3 vote. One of the new members supported the motion; another voted against it.

Sheriff Howell, Sheriff Cannon After the meeting, Forbes referred to both Howell and Cannon as Sheriff Howell and Sheriff Cannon.

And there is already legal action. Cannon sued the county Tuesday afternoon. His lawsuit says that Forbes told him Monday evening that he was not the sheriff and he was not to go to the sheriff's office on Tuesday.

** The Anson County Sheriff Lawsuit document link is available at www.theexpressnewspaper.com.

Cannon's lawsuit says that Forbes told him Monday's emergency meeting and his swearing-in were illegal. Tuesday night, Forbes did not give an opinion on the legality of the emergency meeting, saying that it's up to the court.

Cannon's lawsuit asks the court for a preliminary injunction to prevent the county from refusing to let him take office.

Council of Review ruling Howell was part of a group that contested Cannon's Oct. 8 nomination. The group filed a grievance with the North Carolina Democratic Party.

** The Council Review of Hearing Order link is at www.theexpressnewspaper.com.

The state party's Council of Review on Nov. 3 invalidated the local executive committee's nomination of Cannon. According to the council's ruling, Montgomery did not give adequate notice to several members of its executive committee about its Oct. 8 meeting to nominate a sheriff's candidate.

It also says there was improper use of proxies for members who couldn't attend. And the ruling says that there was "uncontroverted" evidence that registered Democrats were not allowed into the meeting unless their names appeared on a list managed by Wadesboro police officers.

The Council's ruling condemns the use of uniformed officers to restrict registered Democrats from attending meetings.

*This article is presented courtesy of WFAE 90.7, public radio in Charlotte. (www.wfae.org)
Written by Greg Collard, News Director*

Ansonia Play The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Opens Friday

The Herdmans are the worst kids in the world and the Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro is bringing them straight to the stage! *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* runs December 9-18. The beloved young adult book of the same name comes to life in this hilarious play. It focuses on the six Herdman children - Imogene, Ralph, Claude, Leroy, Ollie, and Gladys who are notorious for their rowdy behavior, including fighting, smoking, cursing, drinking and shoplifting.

Through a routine bullying incident the Herdmans discover that the local church gives away free sweets, so they decide to attend for the first time. They are only planning on a one-time visit, but when they learn about the upcoming Christmas pageant they decide to stick around and participate. The pageant's usual director had an accident that put her in the hospital, so Grace Bradley is brought in to lead the rehearsals. The Herdman kids push their way into the lead roles of Mary, Joseph, the three Wise Men, and the Angel of the Lord. They have never heard the Christmas story before, but they want to learn everything they can. They are angry about the injustices that Mary and Joseph faced when they were put in the stable, and when King Herod tried to kill baby Jesus. They are confused by the three rich kings bringing jars of oil as a gift and start asking real questions about the Nativity story.

On the night of the pageant the entire town shows up to watch the disaster that they feel is sure to come but the Herdmans and the rest of the children end up teaching everyone about the true meaning of Christmas.

This wonderful cast of 27 includes Drew Forsyth, Regina Forsyth, Katrina Hilson, Jeremiah Forsyth, Andrew "Hawk" Forsyth, Gracielee Bricker, Caleb Wilson, Eversmith Tallman, Iwan Hilson, Rebekah Forsyth, Lela Chaney, Cali Green, Escher Tallman, Oliver Perkins, Malachi Forsyth, Eden Tallman, Surely Hilson, Allie Smith, Kerrigan Bennett, Kim Austin, Talia Tallman, Adrienne Becker, Karen Johnston, Ruth Ann Harris, Glenn Calder, Ayla Perkins and Logan Tallman.

The show is directed by Tommy Wooten, with Maggie Gibson, Robert Graves, Teri Brown, Brittany Price and Donnie Lewis. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950.