

THE EXPRESS

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • TheExpressNews@gmail.com • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

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



Long Serving Magistrate Weaver Thomas Hung Up His Robe on December 31

After serving the State of North Carolina for 35 years, Chief Magistrate and community leader Weaver Thomas has retired as of December 31.

Congratulations Mr. Thomas, and thank you for your commitment to justice, fairness and the rule of law in Anson County.



Anson Bearcats Spread Holiday Cheer with Annual Community Visits

On Saturday, December 14 the Varsity and JV Boy's Basketball Bearcat teams made their 5th Annual visit to two local health and rehabilitation facilities: Anson Health & Rehab and Wadesboro Health & Rehab. During their visits the players spent time with as many residents as possible, handed out candy canes to all residents and staff, and sang a few Christmas carols.

The residents' enjoyment was evident, and the student athletes found the experience equally rewarding. The program values giving back to the community that consistently supports them, and this visit was a way to say "Thank You" and "Merry Christmas" to everyone they had the opportunity to meet.

Following the visits, the teams gathered at Lady Bug restaurant for their annual team Christmas dinner. The program extends its gratitude to the restaurant's owners and staff for the delicious food and warm hospitality.

The Bearcats Boy's Basketball program would like to express its continued appreciation to the Anson community for its unwavering support, and they look forward to welcoming everyone at a home game in the near future.

Christmas Giving Project, 44 Years of Giving to Those in Need

The Christmas Giving Project that benefits Anson County Schools' students and families was a huge success this year thanks to the generosity of the community, local businesses, civic groups and anonymous donors. Over 100 children and over 30 families were provided with Christmas gifts and groceries through the project.

The project, which originally started 44 years ago through First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, has grown each year to support more and more families in need. Once again this year, Jon G's BBQ in Peachland played a significant role in the project by organizing a donation drive and raising over \$3,000 for groceries for needy families. First Presbyterian Church also contributed \$500 plus donations from church members, and together they were able to purchase around 15 buggies full of groceries for families. A large toy donation was also given that provided additional opportunities to help families in need. Any monetary donations received after December 21 will go toward the Missions / Blessing Bag Project at First Presbyterian Church, which provides food for students to take home on weekends.

The community came together to make sure that every child and their family had a memorable Christmas this year. The project organizers were humbled by the generosity of the local community and beyond, and were touched by the smiles and gratitude from the families who received gifts and groceries. Food Lion in Wadesboro helped support the project with their kindness by providing a personal cashier lane, on a busy Friday afternoon, which allowed the process of buying groceries for the 30+ families to go quickly and smoothly. It truly was a heartwarming sight to see everyone come together to make a difference in the lives of these children and their families.

A special thank you goes to the school guidance counselors, social workers, nurses, and principals for their assistance in providing gift information for the project. And a big thank you to the members of First Presbyterian Church, Anson County Schools' Central Office staff, and the custodial crew for their hard work and teamwork in organizing and transporting the gifts. It was a true team effort that made the Christmas Giving Project a huge success.



Commissioners Meet January 7

The first January regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners will take place on Tuesday, January 7 at 6:00 p.m. The second January meeting takes place on Tuesday, January 21.

Meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live-streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Secure Your Load

When you are carrying a load in your truck or pulling a loaded trailer make sure that your load is secured. Here are important tips:

- Before driving, make sure everything in your vehicle is tied down
- Secure larger items directly to your vehicle
- To keep smaller items from flying out, cover them with tarps, nets or covers
- Don't overload your vehicle
- Your vehicle's load shouldn't go above the level of your truck or trailer
- All items should be covered to keep them stable

Bluegrass Accoustic Music Jam

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam on Thursday, January 9, 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. Musicians, singers and spectators are welcome. Jam sessions are open to all age levels and skill levels. Children age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

A second Jam will be held on Thursday, January 23 at the same time.

If you have any questions please contact Dianne or Caroline at the library, 704-694-5177. You may also contact event volunteer Randy Collins at 336-430-6318 (call or text) or via email at vaguitar@msn.com.

Annual Toll Rate Increase for the Triangle Expressway and Monroe Expressway

The annual toll rate increase for the Triangle Expressway and Monroe Expressway took effect on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

NC Quick Pass customers in a traditional 2-axis vehicle can expect:

- An increase of 11 cents from \$3.94 to \$4.05 if traveling the 18 miles of the original Triangle Expressway.
- An increase of 12 cents from \$4.07 to \$4.19 if traveling the 18 miles of the new extension of the Triangle Expressway.
- An increase of 7 cents from \$2.85 to \$2.92 if traveling a full-length trip on the Monroe Expressway.

The full toll rate schedule for both facilities is available online at ncquickpass.com.

Toll revenue is used to pay off bonds sold to fund construction, as well as support the operations and maintenance of each toll facility.

The annual toll rate increase includes an additional rate increase for customers without a NC Quick Pass account or applicable out-of-state account. As a result, customers with an account will save 50% on all North Carolina tolls compared to the current 35% savings.

The N.C. Turnpike Authority and NC Quick Pass have taken steps to ensure all customers have the opportunity to pay the lowest toll rate:

- Launched new NC Only Account for customers to save 50% on tolls in North Carolina without a transponder.
- Reduced the pre-paid balance requirement from \$20 to \$10 for new NC Quick Pass accounts.
- Launched retail partnerships to sell NC Quick Pass Sticker transponders in 7-Eleven locations near NC toll facilities and through Amazon.
- Sending 300k free transponders to customers who receive a toll invoice from NC Quick Pass between November 11, 2024 – February 28, 2025.

To learn more or open an account today, visit: ncquickpass.com or the NC Quick Pass app.

Space Heater Safety Tips

Portable electric space heaters can be a convenient source of supplemental heat for your home in cold weather. Unfortunately, they can pose significant fire and electric shock hazards if not used properly. Fire and electrical hazards can be caused by space heaters without adequate safety features, space heaters placed near combustibles, or space heaters that are improperly plugged in.

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States. More than 65,000 home fires are attributed to heating equipment each year. These fire result in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property damage.

Safety should always be a top consideration when using space heaters. Here are some tips for keeping your home safe and warm when it's cold outside:

- Make sure your space heater has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Before using any space heater, read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully.
- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas and test them once a month.
- Proper placement of space heaters is critical. Heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.
- Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire. Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater.
- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces. Never place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture, or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.
- Always unplug and safely store the heater when it is not in use.