

THE EXPRESS

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

School Board Meeting is January 27

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 27. The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5). Open Session to the public will begin at 6:00 p.m.

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. Public comment will be held during the Open Session portion of the meeting at 6:00 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."

Driving in Winter Weather

The N.C. Department of Transportation proactively plans for winter weather and has crews ready to clear roads, but driving during and after rain, ice or snow can still be dangerous. Although the guidelines below can help prevent a wreck, the only way to be certain is to stay off the roads during dangerous conditions.

Before Driving Be sure your vehicle is running well and equipped properly for driving on potentially dangerous roads.

- You should have a supply kit that includes an ice scraper, snow brush, extra windshield wiper fluid and anti-freeze and a basic automotive tool kit that includes jumper cables and flares.

- Put in supply kit in your trunk in case you get stranded. Include a flashlight, first-aid kit, blanket, shovel, sand (to give tires traction), non-perishable snacks and drinking water and safety flares. You might want to include other items based on your personal needs.

- Be sure you have at least a half-tank of gas in your vehicle (short commutes can turn into long ones when a storm hits) and a full reservoir of windshield washer fluid.

Venturing Out First, don't go out unless you absolutely have to. If you must:

- Slow down and maintain a safe following distance between you and other vehicles. Pass with extreme caution. Excessive speed is the No. 1 cause of wrecks in winter weather.
- Do not use cruise control.
- Approach bridges and overpasses with extreme caution since they accumulate ice first. Do not apply your brakes while on a bridge.

Come to a complete stop or yield the right of way when approaching an intersection where traffic lights are out. Treat this scenario as a four-way stop.

- Clear as much as possible snow and ice from your vehicle – from the windows, mirrors, roof, hood, trunk, bumper, headlights and tail lights – of snow and ice to keep it from blowing off and obscuring your view or hitting other drivers' vehicles.

- Drive smoothly, without sudden accelerating, braking or turning.

Black Ice Appearing as wet spots on a road, black ice is often the result of melting ice and snow that refreezes into thin layers. Although NCDOT does its best to treat areas that are prone to black ice, it is unpredictable, and most of the time, drivers aren't aware of it until it's too late.

- Don't drive unless you absolutely have to do so. The safest way to avoid black ice is to stay off the roads

- If you do have to drive, do so at a slow speed and leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle in front of you.

If You Start to Slide Don't panic.

- Avoid using your brakes, if possible. If you have to, use them gently. (Apply gentle, steady pressure to anti-lock brakes. For standard, brakes that are not anti-lock, pump the brake pedal gently to avoid locking up).

- Wait for your vehicle to slow down enough to regain traction before gently accelerating.

- For rear-wheel skids, turn the steering wheel in the direction your rear wheels are headed. Instead of focusing on what your vehicle might be headed toward, focus on getting out of the skid.

- For front-wheel skids, shift into neutral and don't try to steer immediately. When your vehicle begins to slow down, steer in the direction that you want your vehicle to go. Then, put the vehicle into gear and gently accelerate.

- If you begin to slide, take your foot off the gas and turn the steering wheel in the direction of the slide.

Applying the brakes will cause you to further lose control of your vehicle.

If You Get Stuck Don't spin your wheels (doing so will only dig you in deeper). Instead, turn them from side to side to help clear snow, and then turn the steering wheel so the tires are as straight as possible.

- Use a shovel to clear the snow in front of and behind your tires.

- Spread cat litter, sand or salt in the cleared areas around your drive wheels.

- Another strategy involves rocking the vehicle back and forth. (Check your owner's manual first; some vehicle transmissions might be damaged using this strategy.) Shift from forward to reverse and back again, using a light touch on the gas pedal. Resist the temptation to spin your wheels.

Bluegrass Acoustic Music Jam at the Library is January 23

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam on Thursday, January 23, 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.

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.



Lillian Blalock, Winner of the Anson County Schools District-Wide Spelling Bee, is pictured with Runner-Up Garrett Carpenter.

Lillian Blalock Won the Anson County Schools District-Wide Spelling Bee

Lillian Blalock, a fourth grader at Ansonville Elementary School, won the Anson County Schools District-Wide Spelling Bee.

Ansonville Elementary School stated, "We would like to give a huge shout-out to our very own 4th grader, Lillian Blalock, for winning the Anson County Schools - District-Wide Spelling Bee."

We are so proud of Lillian and our school runner-up, **Garrett Carpenter**, for working so hard and being stupendous spellers! Lillian will represent Anson County Schools in the upcoming Regional Spelling Bee.

WAY TO GO, LILLIE!"

- **Jayceon Hancock** represented Peachland-Polkton Elementary School in the District-Wide Spelling Bee. The school stated, "We are extremely proud of Jayceon Hancock for representing our school in the Anson County Schools District Spelling Bee!"

- **Blake McIver** represented Morven Elementary School in the District-Wide Spelling Bee. The school stated, "Congratulations to our MES spelling bee winner, third grader Blake McIver!! Blake represented our school in the district spelling bee today. Way to go!"



Jayceon Hancock represented Peachland-Polkton Elementary School in the District-Wide Spelling Bee.



Blake McIver represented Morven Elementary School in the Anson County Schools District-Wide Spelling Bee.

Partnership for Children Offers Free Car Seat Checks

Did you know that the Anson County Partnership for Children offers FREE car seat checks? If you are unsure about your child's safety seat or need help installing it, they have nationally certified child passenger safety technicians there to help you.

Just call the Partnership office at 704-694-4036 or stop by at 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro for more info.

The Partnership also offers car seats and booster seats at highly discounted rates for Anson County community members.

Free Movie is *The Forge*

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing the movie *The Forge* on Monday, January 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pritchett room. Everyone is invited to come enjoy the movie.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting a chair exercise class every Thursday in January. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome.

Elin Lockhart and Sophia Goodwin Claim First Place in Nations Cup Junior Duet Competition



In a remarkable display of skill and determination, Anson County twirlers Elin Lockhart and Sophia Goodwin have emerged victorious in the Nations Cup Junior Duet Competition, held on Saturday, January 18, in Aiken, South Carolina.

Their captivating performance left judges and spectators spellbound, solidifying their status as exceptional baton twirlers.

This triumph has secured their place on the 2025 IBTF Nations Cup, World Majorettes, and World Baton Twirling Championship Team. As the United States' representatives in baton twirling, Elin and Sophia will embark on a journey to Torino, Italy in August to compete for the Junior Duet World Championship. Their unwavering dedication and exceptional talent have propelled them to this momentous occasion.

Elin (on left), who lives in Wadesboro, is a freshman at Anson High School where she is the Feature Twirler. Sophia, who lives in Lilesville, is a junior at South Stanly High School.

This achievement holds significant importance in their twirling careers, serving as a testament to their unwavering commitment and remarkable ability to captivate audiences with their artistry. Their rigorous training and collaborative efforts have culminated in this remarkable milestone, potentially etching their names in the annals of baton twirling history.

As they prepare to face the world, Elin and Sophia are supported by the unwavering pride of their community and the nation. The upcoming competition in Torino will captivate the world, and all eyes will be fixed on these extraordinary twirling dynamos as they strive to claim the Junior Duet World Championship title.

We extend our best wishes to Elin and Sophia, and we eagerly anticipate their continued success in this captivating art form.