



## MOBILE FOOD MARKET

FREE FOOD MONTHLY

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15 BEGINS AT 4PM

Location: Wadesboro Elementary School  
321 Camden Road in Wadesboro

FRESH VEGETABLES FRUIT AND BREAD (IF AVAILABLE)

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS

OTHER HEALTHY LIVING TOPICS & BOOTHS

Nothing is required for you to receive produce, just come.

Sponsored by NC Cooperative Extension, Anson County, Sandhills Aginnovation, Pilgrim's & Atrium Health  
Food given out as supplies last



### SBA Administrator Visits NC to Kick Off Black History Month

**SBA Administrator Isabel Guzman highlights black small business boom, formalizes strategic alliance with African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs.**

On Thursday, Feb. 1, Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the voice in President Biden's cabinet for America's more than 33 million small businesses, traveled to Durham, N.C. to kick off Black History Month and highlight how President Biden's Investing in America agenda is delivering for Black entrepreneurs.

Administrator Guzman started her day at an event with the African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs (The Alliance), where she spoke about how the Biden-Harris Administration is championing Black entrepreneurship in North Carolina and across America. During the event, Administrator Guzman joined Lenwood V. Long, Sr., CEO of The Alliance, in signing a strategic alliance memorandum, which represents a formal agreement between the SBA and The Alliance to work together to empower Black entrepreneurs.

Following the signing ceremony, Administrator Guzman traveled to a nearby Black woman-owned childcare center, Kate's Korner, which opened its doors during the Biden-Harris Administration's Small Business Boom (info is available at [sba.gov/article/2024/01/11/new-business-applications-reach-record-16-million-under-biden-harris-administration](https://sba.gov/article/2024/01/11/new-business-applications-reach-record-16-million-under-biden-harris-administration)) after receiving an SBA Community Advantage loan. The Administrator toured the facility and met with the business owner to discuss how the SBA is supporting Black entrepreneurs as the rate of Black business ownership grows at its fastest pace in 30 years.

In the afternoon, Administrator Guzman visited Mechanics and Farmers Bank on Durham's historic Black Wall Street, where she presented certificates of recognition to three local lenders – Carolina Community Impact, National Institute of Minority Economic Development, and Institute Capital – in honor of their work to deliver capital to traditionally underserved communities. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, the total number and dollar amount of SBA-backed loans to Black-owned small businesses has more than doubled, with Black entrepreneurs receiving \$1.5 billion in SBA loans in Fiscal Year 2023 alone.

Administrator Guzman ended her day with Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams at the ceremonial opening of a new Black-owned business, Missy Lane's Assembly Room, that serves as a creative hub, piano bar, coffee shop, and event space for the Durham community. Missy Lane's Assembly Room first opened its doors in 2024 after receiving an SBA-backed 7(a) loan in 2023.

**About the U.S. Small Business Administration** The U.S. Small Business Administration helps power the American dream of business ownership. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow, expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations.

To learn more, visit [www.sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov).



## MISSING DOG

Missing dog, last seen late December, at Winfree Road and NC 109 North. **REWARD OFFERED** for his return. Please call Wade Wallace. **704-607-1990 or 704-694-9993**

## ANSON PEDIATRICS

PROVIDING QUALITY PEDIATRIC CARE IN ANSON COUNTY

**Flu Shots Available We Offer ADHD Evaluations**  
**SAME DAY SICK APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE - ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**



**Sarah P. Elliott, MD**  
Serving Anson County  
Since 1996



*"Children Are A Gift From God"*

**Call 704-994-2300 for an Appointment**  
904 Morven Road, Wadesboro, NC 28170



### Tax Time is an Opportunity to Support North Carolina's Endangered and Nongame Wildlife

**State taxpayers receiving a refund can simply check a box to fund more conservation efforts**

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) invites those filing a 2023 North Carolina state tax return to donate all or a portion of their refund to the N.C. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund ([ncwildlife.org/Donate#Endangered](https://ncwildlife.org/Donate#Endangered)). Contributions will support research and conservation management projects for the state's most vulnerable wildlife populations.

"Funds donated using the tax-checkoff program amplify those provided by a federal grant for species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) in North Carolina," said Sara Schweitzer, assistant chief of NCWRC's Wildlife Management Division. "A \$100 donation is matched by \$186 in grants—truly boosting SGCN conservation in North Carolina. Our biologists and agency partners are working around the clock to enhance habitat and populations like wetlands for gopher frogs, salamanders and turtles. The support is more than matched and makes this conservation possible!"

Funds have supported projects to increase gopher frog populations and provided analysis to improve surveying abilities and detection of hellbenders in western river systems. The program supported a sea turtle nesting research project that resulted in determining a substantial increase in loggerhead sea turtle nests over the past 15 years. Loggerhead sea turtles ([herpsofnc.org/loggerhead](https://herpsofnc.org/loggerhead)) are listed as a threatened species. Other successful projects supported by the tax check-off program can be found in the NCWRC's Wildlife Diversity Program's quarterly reports (located at [www.ncwildlife.org](https://www.ncwildlife.org)).

Taxpayers can easily participate by checking line 30 on their North Carolina state income tax form; or, if filing through an online tax preparation software, enter the contribution amount when prompted to "N.C. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund."

For those wishing to donate and do not expect a state tax refund, direct donations may be made online to support nongame wildlife through the N.C. Wildlife Diversity Endowment Fund ([ncwildlife.org/Donate#Diversity\\_Fund](https://ncwildlife.org/Donate#Diversity_Fund)).

### The Month of February

*Here delicate snow-stars, out of the cloud, come floating downward in airy play, Like spangles dropped from the glistening crowd, That whiten by night the Milky Way. "The Snow-Shower," by William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878)*

February comes from the Latin word februa, which means "to cleanse." It was named after Februalia, the Roman festival of purification, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year.

#### February Calendar

- February 2 is Groundhog Day - the day we find out whether winter will last six more weeks or call it quits early. (Yeah, he didn't see his shadow this year!)
- February 11 is the Super Bowl in 2024
- February 13 is Mardi Gras (aka "Fat Tuesday" or Shrove Tuesday), which is the final feasting day before the Christian tradition of Lent begins on the following day, Ash Wednesday.
- February 14 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent.
- February 14 is always Valentine's Day
- February 19 celebrates Presidents' Day, a federal holiday also known as Washington's Birthday that is brought on the third Monday in February. (George Washington's actual birthday is February 22!)
- February's full Snow Moon February 24, 2024. Look skyward on that night to catch the best view of this full Moon!
- February 29 is Leap Day! Happening once every four years, we are given an extra day in February. Some think this day brings good luck.
- February's Birth Flower** Even though so many roses are sold during February due to Valentine's Day, the Violet and the Primrose are the symbolic flowers. The violet signifies watchfulness, loyalty, and faithfulness. Give a violet to someone to let them know that you'll always be there for them. The primrose lets someone know that you can't live without them.
- February's Birthstone** Like the violet, February's birthstone is a purple color. It's the beautiful amethyst.

**The Award-Winning Ansonia Theatre Presents:**  
**Directed by Tommy Wooten**

N O M ?

MISERY

February 16 - 25

By **William Goldman**  
Based on the novel by **Stephen King**

[ansoniatheatre.com](https://ansoniatheatre.com) 704.694.4950