

THE EXPRESS

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

Wadesboro Police Chief Brandon Chewning Retires

Major Steven Kelly, long-serving Wadesboro Police Department officer, retired January 12

After serving with the Wadesboro Police Department for over 26 years, Police Chief Brandon Chewning officially retired on January 30.

The Wadesboro Police Department's Facebook page featured this moving tribute to the retiring chief:

Congratulations Chief Brandon Chewning on 26 years of outstanding service to the citizens of Wadesboro. Chief Chewning mentored and motivated countless Wadesboro Police Department officers during his tenure; his legacy of remarkable dedication, resolute integrity, impeccable professionalism, and tireless public service will live on through them.

Job outstandingly well done Sir! You will be missed.



Brandon Chewning



Steven Kelly



Interim Wadesboro Police Chief Jason Eschert Sworn in on February 3

On February 3 Interim Wadesboro Police Chief Jason Eschert took the Oath of Office at the Wadesboro Town Hall Meeting. Chief Eschert is pictured above with retired Wadesboro Police Chief Theddis Spencer.

Brendan Gibbons is New Veteran Services Officer for Anson County

Brendan Gibbons is Anson County's new Veteran Service Officer. Brendan is a Marine Corps veteran and retired detective from the New York Police Department. He has been an active veteran advocate for over 20 years. Brendan resides in Union County with his family.

The Veteran Service office is located at 575 US Highway 52 South in Wadesboro. Brendan can be reached at 704-694-4418 or 704-465-0086.



Brendan Gibbons

Library Author Event Features Health Dept. Director Brian Ellerby

The Hampton B. Allen Library invites you to join them for their author event featuring local author Brian Ellerby. The event takes place on Monday, February 17 at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Brian will be discussing his book *The No-Death Option*.

There will be a book signing at the end of the presentation. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Mobile Food Market is February 20

The next Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, February 20, starting at 4:00 p.m. at Elderly Services / Wadesboro Elementary School, located at 321 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Food will be given away, including fresh vegetables, fruit and bread (if available). There will be blood pressure and blood sugar checks, along with other healthy living topics and booths.

This free event offers citizens of Anson County six to eight different types of fresh produce monthly. This is a free initiative, so please come and get some produce. **Nothing is required to receive produce, just come.**

The event is sponsored by the Anson County Extension and its partners.

This event is to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county. It will also serve as an educational event to offer education on the two targeted areas of the county health assessment which are tobacco use and hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas.

Free Movie Screening is *The Forge*

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) will present a free showing of the movie, *The Forge* this Friday, February 14. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for the 6:00 movie. After graduating from high school without any plans for the future, Isaiah receives a push to start making better life decisions. This family movie is a must-see!

BRLC will have refreshments. The event is free, but donations to support the services of BRLC are gratefully accepted.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information you can call 704-826-8737, check their Facebook page or visit www.burnsvillelc.org.



Pictured above are, from left, Hilary Wall, Claretta Little, Lisa Clark, Noelia Chumpitaz, Lori Ross, Felicia Wall (sitting), Brian Ellerby, Misty Puckett, Wendy Burr, Melissa Garrison and Taniqua Lisenby.

National Wear Red Day at the Anson County Health Department

Friday, February 7 was National Wear Red Day, and the Anson County Health Department staff, pictured above, went all in to support this very important cause.

What is National Wear Red Day you ask? Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the No. 1 killer of women. Nearly 45% of women over age 20 are living with some form of cardiovascular disease. CVD is also the leading cause of maternal death in the U.S., or more simply put, heart disease is the No. 1 killer of new moms. National Wear Red Day, which is held the first Friday in February, is the American Heart Association's signature women's initiative. Go Red for Women urges everyone to join in advocating for better health and well-being for all women.

Each year Go Red for Women asks everyone to wear red and join the movement online by sharing on social media using #WearRedDay, #WearRedAndGive and #GoRedforWomen.

According to the American Heart Association's 2025 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistical Update, cardiovascular disease remains the greatest health threat for women. This is why the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement is asking women to make bold moves today for healthier tomorrows.

Find educational resources to support women's heart health at every age, through every stage of life at the website GoRedforWomen.org and learn more about National Wear Red Day at WearRedDay.org.

Black History Month 2025 Events

There are several events scheduled to honor and recognize the contributions of African-Americans to America history during the month of February.

- On Saturday, February 22 at 6:00 p.m., there will be a presentation geared towards recognizing the struggles of early enslaved African-Americans. The program, titled, "Say Their Names. Tell Their Stories. Sing Their Songs" will feature stories told from an enslaved person's perspective. In addition, local musicians and choirs will sing the early songs of African-Americans that was either resistance music or faith music. These songs also served to provide the template for most of modern music. This program will be held at the SPCC Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. It is free and open to the public. For more information about this program contact Winnie M. Bennett, 704-465-0867.

- On Sunday, February 23 the Anson Youth Leaders Academy will present "Blacks in Wax: An Exhibit of African-Americans Who Shaped History." This display will take place from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact the Caraway Foundation at 704-761-4351.

- Also, during Black History Month the Watato Children's Choir from Uganda will give two performances in Laurinburg, NC and Hamlet, NC. The first performance will be on Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Scotland High School Auditorium, 1000 West Church Street in Laurinburg. The second concert will be held on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cole Auditorium, 1042 Hamlet Avenue in Hamlet. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for each event. Adult general admission is \$30 and children's admission is \$15. This event is sponsored by the Scotland Youth Development and HOLLA. For more information and to book your ticket call 704-695-4968 or 910-384-3168.

Domestic Violence Coalition BBQ Fundraiser is Feb. 28

Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition (ACDVC) will hold its annual BBQ Fundraiser on Friday, February 28, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. or until they sell out.

The event will be held at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at 304 East Wade Street in Wadesboro.

This will be take-out and delivery only Deliveries require a minimum of five orders. Deliveries are courtesy of the Anson County Sheriff's Office.

Costs Plates are \$10 and include chopped BBQ, slaw, baked beans, roll and dessert. Sandwiches \$5, Pints \$12 and Quarts \$22.

Call-ins or faxed orders are welcomed and encouraged to ensure you get yours before the food sells out! The fax number is 704-694-4515, the office number is 704-694-4499.

The Anson County Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center is a nonprofit organization funded solely by grants and fundraisers. They encourage you to come and to the event for some delicious BBQ while helping to promote awareness against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Thank you for your continued support!

About ACDVC Anson County Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center (ACDVC) was incorporated in March of 1998. Since then their overall mission is to provide a safe, compassionate, non-judgmental atmosphere for victims and survivors of domestic violence, family violence, and sexual assault where they can disclose and receive the services they so desperately need.

ACDVC's mission statement is: "To develop domestic violence awareness through community education and to promote empowerment for victims and families by developing a system for effective communication and facilitation of change."

- Services they provide The target populations for ACDVC are victims and survivors of domestic violence, family violence, and sexual assault. ACDVC plans to provide support services to non-offending family members and to the community at large. ACDVC provides the following services:

- 24-hour safe, non-judgmental and confidential crisis line 704-690-0362
- 24-hour safe, non-judgmental and confidential counseling
- Hospital accompaniment-health advocacy
- Court accompaniment-legal advocacy
- Liaison with victims and all systems in our community;
- Emergency transportation
- Help with appropriate emergency shelter
- Sexual assault advocacy
- Child advocacy
- 1-1 sessions with clients • Support group

Their advocates are here to help. You will talk to a compassionate, non-judgmental and caring person, all information is confidential.

ACDVC is located at 204 East Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro. They are open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The mailing address is: PO Box 694, Wadesboro NC 28170. Office 704-694-4499; 24 Hour Crisis Line 704-690-0362; Fax 704-694-4515. The website is: acdvrcc.org and you can find them on Facebook.

Elementary Schools

Parent / Teacher Conference is this Thursday

• **February 13**
All Elementary Schools
Parent / Teacher
Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 13. Early dismissal takes place for elementary schools only at 12:30 p.m. Conferences run from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Anson County Commissioners Meet February 18

The second February meeting for the Anson County Board of Commissioners will take place on Tuesday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m.

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.

Anson High School Class of 1985 Reunion

Classmates of the Anson High School Class of 1985 are asked to provide feedback about their interest in attending a 40th class reunion. The reunion date is September 20, 2025 at Twin Valley Golf Club in Wadesboro.

Requesting feedback from those interested in attending to respond through the Class of 1985 chat on Facebook Messenger by March 3 so that planning can move forward.