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



## February Celebrates Black History

**Honoring legacy, achievement, enduring influence**

February marks Black History Month, a time dedicated to recognizing the achievements, contributions and enduring impact of African Americans throughout the nation's history. Observed annually across the United States, the month provides an opportunity to reflect on both the struggles and triumphs that have shaped the country.

Black History Month traces its origins to 1926, when historian Carter G. Woodson established "Negro History Week" to promote the study of African American history. The observance was expanded to a full month in 1976, ensuring that the stories of innovators, leaders, artists, educators and everyday citizens would receive the recognition they deserve.

During the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976, President Jimmy Carter issued an official message recognizing February as Black History Month. In that statement, he urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

From the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the courage of Rosa Parks to the literary brilliance of Maya Angelou and the scientific achievements of Dr. Mae Jemison, African Americans have played a vital role in shaping American culture, civil rights, science, business, education and the arts. Countless others - teachers, veterans, entrepreneurs and community advocates - have also strengthened neighborhoods and communities in meaningful ways.

Black History Month is not only about looking back. It also serves as a reminder of the ongoing work toward equality and opportunity for all. Schools, churches, civic groups and organizations often host programs, discussions and events throughout February to highlight local and national figures whose stories deserve to be shared.

As communities observe Black History Month, the focus remains on honoring the past, celebrating the present and inspiring future generations to continue building a more inclusive and just society.

## Healthy Living Anson Study Seeks Local Participants

Adults in Anson County have an opportunity to take part in a research study focused on improving diet and overall health through a "Food Is Medicine" approach. The Healthy Living Anson Study is a dietary and lifestyle intervention research project designed to evaluate whether targeted food support and education can improve dietary intake among adults with or at risk for chronic illness.

The study will examine how access to healthy foods and structured lifestyle education may benefit individuals managing or at risk for conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Participants will receive food and education on adding more fruits and vegetables to their diets over a four-month period, along with guidance on increasing physical activity.

In addition to nutritional support, participants will receive individual assistance and attend group sessions. The study also requires completion of three surveys and basic health measurements, including checks such as blood pressure. Participants will receive a \$20 gift card after each completed survey and set of health measures, for a total of up to \$60.

Over the nine-month study period, participants will spend approximately 15.5 hours engaged in program activities. Adults 18 years of age or older who reside in Anson County may be eligible if they have or are at risk for a chronic condition, make their own food decisions, are able to attend in-person meetings and light exercise sessions, and are willing to try the study-provided meals. Participants must also have freezer space available to store provided meals and cannot have another member of their household currently enrolled in the study.

The Healthy Living Anson Study is affiliated with UNC-Chapel Hill and is supported locally by The Caraway Foundation.

To learn more or to enroll, contact the study team at 919-843-3539 or email [hlsnsstudy@med.unc.edu](mailto:hlsnsstudy@med.unc.edu). For more information about The Caraway Foundation, call 704-761-4351 or email [info@thecarawayfoundation.org](mailto:info@thecarawayfoundation.org).

## Terrific Kids Shine At Peachland-Polkton Elementary

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School proudly celebrated its Terrific Kids for the first nine weeks during a special recognition ceremony held Tuesday, February 17. The event honored students who have demonstrated outstanding character, positive attitudes, and a commitment to doing their best both inside and outside the classroom.

Teachers and staff recognized dozens of students for consistently showing respect, responsibility, kindness, and leadership. Families and school supporters joined in applauding the honorees, making the celebration a meaningful moment for the entire school community.

Front row, from left: Merry Cabarse, Evelyn Madera, Crew Martini, Landyn Capps, Janelly Perez, Kenzi Rorie, Kacey Garcia, Josiah Sanchez-Reyes, Sthaysy Vasquez, Atlas Powell, Wren Poplin, Orion Stanley, Raelyn Tillman, Harper Knotts, Dallas Hagin, Caiden Parker, Annistyn Tarlton.

Second row: Clay Murdock, Salem Ricketts, Alejandra Castillo-Darrow, Nylah Gaddy, Kenzie Bowers, Kyrie Thomas, Ellie Henry, Zoey Murdock, Hector Flores Salvador, Carson Prouty, Bernardo Rodriguez, Jordyn Hancock, Dalton Huntley.

Third row: Avery Jarman, Kelson Rangel, Brooks Belk, Wyatt Le, Avery Baker, Janeline Sanchez Reyes, Dariela Hernandez, Stephanie Marsh, Alexis Williams, Olivia Carpenter, ShaNiya Taylor, Leonardo Venegas, Caleb Webb.

Fourth row: Brice Bailey, Savanna Williams, Anna Zamora, Randall Sturdivant, Sharice Robinson, Kennedy Harris, Shermiya Faulkner, Holden Taylor, Georgia Blalock, Jaydah Hardin, Lluvia Zavala. Not pictured: Jaylynn Cox and Luis Perez.

## Head-On Collision Claims One Life in Wadesboro

A late-night motor vehicle collision on February 16 claimed the life of one driver, according to the Wadesboro Police Department.

Officers responded at approximately 10:32 p.m. to a crash at the intersection of Kitty Bennett Road and U.S. Highway 74 Westbound. This is the intersection at Anson High School.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a single passenger vehicle was traveling the wrong direction - eastbound in the westbound lanes of U.S. Highway 74 - when it collided head-on with an 18-wheeler.

The driver of the passenger vehicle was pronounced deceased at the scene. Authorities reported that next of kin has been notified, but the identity of the driver has not been released at this time.

The collision remains under active investigation by the Wadesboro Police Department. Police Chief Michael Childers, along with members of the Wadesboro Police Department, extended thoughts and prayers to the victim's family during this difficult time.

## Man Arrested in Wadesboro on Multiple Felony Charges

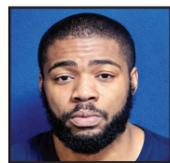
A Wadesboro man was taken into custody Monday, February 9, during a joint operation involving Wadesboro Police Officers and Probation and Parole Officers.

Jamarre Daquan Davis, born January 19, 1996, was located within the city limits of Wadesboro after authorities received multiple tips regarding his whereabouts. Officers reported that Davis was arrested without incident.

According to law enforcement officials, Davis was served with outstanding warrants, including absconding parole. Additional charges include attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon, assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, and possession of a firearm by a felon. All charges are felony offenses.

Davis was placed in the Anson County Jail under no bond.

Authorities expressed appreciation to community members who provided information that assisted in the arrest. Anyone with information related to criminal activity or wanted individuals is encouraged to contact the Wadesboro Police Department.



Jamarre Davis

## Suspect Arrested in Stolen Boat Case

A Polkton man wanted in connection with a stolen boat investigation has been taken into custody, according to an update released February 10, 2026.

Richard Dale McKenzie, 47, who had been charged with two counts of obtaining goods by false pretenses, was arrested and is currently being held at the Anson County Jail.

The charges stem from a January 8 investigation in which deputies with the Anson County Sheriff's Office recovered an Excel Viper F4 boat in the Mills Road area of Anson County. Authorities later determined the boat had been reported stolen from Huntley Marine in Pineville.

On January 16, detectives concluded their investigation and obtained criminal arrest warrants for McKenzie.

In the latest update, the Sheriff's Office thanked members of the public who shared information and assisted law enforcement. Officials stated that community cooperation played an important role in helping keep the area safe.

## College Funding Fair Set for February 21

Students and families looking for help navigating the path to higher education are invited to attend the Pathways to Purpose College Funding Fair on February 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at the HOLLA! Center, 229 East Main Street in Morven.

Hosted by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Tau Nu Zeta Chapter of Monroe, the event is designed to connect students with valuable financial aid resources and scholarship opportunities.

Attendees will receive information about available scholarships, guidance on completing the FAFSA and the opportunity to apply on the spot. Organizers say the fair is free and open to students and families seeking assistance with college funding.

The event aims to empower local students by providing practical tools and support to help them pursue their educational goals with confidence.

## School Board Meets Feb. 23

The Board of Education's next regular monthly meeting is Monday, February 23. It will be held in the Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed Session begins 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) & NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5).

Open Session for 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."

## Library to Show "Ruby's Choice" February 23

Movie lovers are invited to enjoy a free screening of the comedy-drama "Ruby's Choice" on February 23 at 10 a.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library.

The film, which stars Jane Seymour, Sam Rechner and Coco Gillies, blends heartfelt moments with humor as it tells the story of family, memory and resilience.

The movie will be shown in the library's Pritchett Room, providing a comfortable setting for guests to sit back and enjoy the show.

Admission is free.

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