

## Early Childhood Educator Job Fair Set for March 9

**Anson County Partnership for Children aims to strengthen local workforce**

Those who feel called to make a difference in the lives of young children will have an opportunity to explore new career pathways during the Early Childhood Educator Job Fair on March 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. at 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro. The event is hosted by the Anson County Partnership for Children.

The job fair will connect prospective educators with early learning facility directors and owners from across the community. Attendees will be able to learn about available positions, discuss qualifications and explore opportunities within the growing field of early childhood education.

The event comes at a critical time for North Carolina's child care industry. A recent survey conducted by the U.S. Chamber Foundation in partnership with the NC Chamber Foundation and NC Child estimates that child care-related employee turnover and absenteeism cost the state approximately \$4.29 billion annually. An additional \$1.36 billion in tax revenue is lost each year due to workforce disruptions tied to child care challenges, bringing the total estimated annual economic loss to \$5.65 billion.

The survey of 517 parents with children under six found that 35 percent of parents who experienced employment disruptions in 2023 left the workforce directly because of child care problems. Additionally, 15 percent of working parents plan to leave their jobs within the next year, with women more likely than men to consider stepping away from work due to child care challenges.

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Experts emphasize that investing in affordable, high-quality child care is essential to strengthening North Carolina's economy and supporting working families. Business and community leaders continue to call for collaborative solutions that ensure families have access to reliable child care while stabilizing the workforce that supports it.

In response to these challenges, the Anson County Partnership for Children is actively developing strategies to strengthen early childhood programs locally. One key initiative is the Early Childhood Educator Job Fair and Bootcamp, designed to address high turnover rates among early childhood educators in Anson County.

Following the job fair, interested participants will have the opportunity to attend a complimentary bootcamp where they can complete required training and orientation needed to begin working in early childhood settings. Organizers say the program is designed to equip applicants with the knowledge and confidence necessary to build successful and sustainable careers while supporting program quality and workforce stability in the region.

For more information about the Early Childhood Educator Job Fair, please call 704-694-4036 or email [karen.gerald@ansonchildren.org](mailto:karen.gerald@ansonchildren.org).

## Book Lovers, Mark Your Calendars for Library Sale

**You're invited to shop, save and support library programs**

Clear a little space on your bookshelf - and maybe in your trunk - because the Friends of the Hampton B. Allen Library are rolling out tables of treasures for a lively book sale on Saturday, February 28, from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

The sale will be held at the Hampton B. Allen Library, 120 South Greene Street in Wadesboro, and promises something for every kind of reader. From page-turning novels and beloved classics to children's books and hidden gems you didn't know you needed, shoppers can browse, discover and stock up at bargain prices.

Even better? Every dollar spent goes right back into supporting library programs and services that benefit the entire community. Proceeds help fund special events, activities and resources that make the library a vibrant hub for readers of all ages.

Organizers encourage residents to come early for the best selection, bring a friend and enjoy the thrill of finding that perfect read. It's a simple way to support the library...and leave with an armful of stories.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

## Bluegrass Pickers to Tune Up at the Library

**All skill levels welcome - even the "still learning G" crowd**

If you've got a banjo, a fiddle, a guitar ... or just the courage to play three chords with confidence, the Hampton B. Allen Library invites you to its Bluegrass Acoustic Set on Thursday, February 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the library's Little Theater.

This easygoing jam session is open to musicians, singers and spectators of all ages and skill levels. Whether you've been picking for 30 years or just learned how to tune your instrument last Tuesday, there's room in the circle for you.

Expect foot-tapping rhythms, heartfelt harmonies and at least one enthusiastic solo that may or may not stay in the same key. Around here, bluegrass isn't about perfection, it's about participation. If you miss a chord, just play it again with confidence and call it "improvisation."

Listeners are just as welcome as pickers, and sometimes the crowd claps along in better time than the band. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Bring your instrument, your voice or simply your appreciation for good, homespun music and community fun. For more information, call 704-694-5177.

## Take Off Thursdays Ready For Liftoff At South Piedmont

**New employer engagement initiative connects students and job seekers with regional career opportunities**

South Piedmont Community College is introducing a new employer engagement initiative designed to connect students and community job seekers with regional career opportunities.

Beginning this spring, the College will host Take Off Thursdays, an on-campus recruiting experience that brings together students, job seekers, and employers to network, explore industries, and discuss employment pathways.

Spring Take Off Thursdays events will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 19; Thursday, March 19; and Friday, May 8.

Participating employers include Alliance Health and Homecare, Carotek, Coca-Cola Consolidated, McKenney's, Northeast Tool & Manufacturing, and SEECO. Employer participation is subject to change.

All events will take place at South Piedmont's Old Charlotte Highway Campus in the Building A Conference Center.

Take Off Thursdays will continue throughout the year, with additional recruiting events scheduled for the Anson Campus beginning in fall 2026.

For questions about Take Off Thursdays, contact Director of Career Services Debbie Normandia-Berrios at [dnormandia-berrios@spcc.edu](mailto:dnormandia-berrios@spcc.edu).

## AA Meeting Schedules

The Anson County Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Group meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. for an Open Topic Meeting.

The Harmony Group meets on Wednesdays at 12 noon for an Open Discussion Meeting.

Anyone who thinks they may have a problem with drugs or alcohol, AA wants to help.

All meetings are held at the AA Building, located at 2177 Country Club Road in Wadesboro, across from the EMS building. The meetings are non-smoking and handicap accessible.

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**Thirsty Thursday**  
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**Friday**  
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**Craft Cocktail Saturday**  
12-9pm

**Sunday**  
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**Requirements:** Must be at least 18 years old; High school diploma and N.C. driver's license; Be able to pass drug test; Pass criminal background check. Would need own transportation. Need to live in Anson County, be available after hours and weekends.

**We are seeking an applicant who is compassionate and non-judgemental.**

*If interested you may bring your resume to the office:*  
Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition  
204 East Wade Street in Wadesboro  
Office hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

*Or you can mail your resume: P.O. Box 694, Wadesboro, NC 28170*  
*Please do not submit resume by social media. It will not be accepted.*  
*Resumes accepted until March 2*

**For any questions please call 704-694-4499 and ask for Karen. EOE**

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