

Bluegrass "Picks" Up at the Hampton B. Allen Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host its Bluegrass Acoustic Set this Thursday, February 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. In plain terms: bring your banjo, fiddle, guitar, any other piece of musical equipment - or just bring your appreciation for toe-tapping tunes. The evening will feature traditional Appalachian bluegrass with chord progressions, harmonies and the occasional impressive (or at least enthusiastic) solo break.

Musicians of all skill levels are welcome, from seasoned pickers to those still negotiating friendly terms with the key of G. Listeners are encouraged to attend as well and provide moral support - and maybe a little rhythm clapping.

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call the Hampton B. Allen Library at 704-694-5177.

Governor Stein Celebrates Black Farmers

Governor Josh Stein joined the African American Heritage Commission and the Legislative Black Caucus to honor the contributions of Black farmers across North Carolina during a Black History Month celebration recognizing their historic and ongoing impact on the state's agricultural economy.

"I am honored to shine a light on the contributions of Black farmers, whose innovation and resilience helped build North Carolina's agricultural economy from the ground up," said Governor Josh Stein. "This year marks 100 years of celebrations during Black History Month and 250 years of America. We've made great progress in the fight for racial equality, but we must keep working to deliver a North Carolina where all people can thrive."

Dr. Valerie Ann Johnson, Chair of the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission, emphasized the enduring legacy of Black farmers. "Black farmers have been essential to North Carolina's story for generations, preserving land, feeding communities, and passing down knowledge rooted in practice, faith, and culture," Johnson said. "As we celebrate Black History Month, we honor not only this legacy, but the living contributions of Black farmers today whose work, despite natural and man-made challenges, continues to shape our economy, our food systems, and our shared future."

During the reception, Governor Stein inducted four individuals into The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of the state's highest civilian honors, recognizing their service and dedication to agriculture in North Carolina.

"These honorees represent the best of North Carolina through their contributions to agriculture," Stein said. "I am proud to honor their lasting impact on our farming communities and our state's future."

The newest members of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine are Phillip Farland, former State Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency; Timothy Pigford, farmer and civil rights activist; Jason Brown, owner of First Fruits Farm and former UNC and NFL football player; and Erin Martin, farmer and owner of Footprints in the Garden.

Governor Stein also recognized former United States Representative Eva Clayton, North Carolina's first Black congresswoman, for her lifetime of dedication to the state's agricultural industry. Congresswoman Clayton was previously inducted into The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Book Lovers, Mark Your Calendars for Saturday!

You're invited to shop, save and support library programs at Book Sale

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.

Homes of Hope Spring Bazaar & Craft Show Set for May 2

Vendors, Food Trucks & Sponsors Invited to Join Community Celebration

Anson County Homes of Hope is bringing color, creativity and community spirit together this spring with its Spring Bazaar & Craft Show, scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lockhart Taylor Center in Wadesboro.

The day promises fun, shopping and fellowship as local artisans and crafters showcase unique handmade gifts and specialty products. Guests can browse one-of-a-kind items, enjoy delicious food trucks and sweet treats, and soak in a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere designed to celebrate community connection.

Organizers are currently seeking vendors and food trucks to make this year's event bigger and better than ever. Spaces are available for just \$50 per 8-foot table. Businesses, entrepreneurs and community organizations are encouraged to reserve a spot and take advantage of a lively crowd eager to shop local and support area causes.

To reserve vendor space or obtain more information, call 704-465-2437 or call or text 704-668-4952 or 704-451-6825.

Sponsors In addition to vendors, event organizers are also seeking sponsors to help support the mission of Anson County Homes of Hope. Sponsorship opportunities are available at multiple levels to fit businesses and individuals who want to make an impact. Sponsor Levels: Platinum \$1,000; Gold \$750; Silver \$500, Bronze \$250; Patron \$100.

For questions, please call 704-465-2437.

Don't miss this exciting community event to promote your business, campaign, or "YOU!" - bring your family, invite your friends, and support local and Anson County Homes of Hope!

Late February Brings Nuts, Fairy Tales & Call to "March Forth"

If you thought the calendar was just quietly flipping toward spring, think again. The last few days of February - and the first steps into March - are packed with quirky celebrations, feel-good reminders and at least one day that encourages you to do absolutely nothing complicated.

- February 26 - Pistachio Day (Thursday): Time to crack open the snacks and pretend those bright green nuts are health food. Salted, roasted or tucked into ice cream, pistachios finally get their moment in the spotlight. Just remember - the shells don't magically walk themselves to the trash can.

- February 26 - Tell a Fairy Tale Day (Thursday): Dust off your dragons and princesses. Whether you're sharing a childhood favorite or creating your own heroic epic, today is perfect for a little imagination. Bonus points if your fairy tale ends with "and they all lived happily ever after... after paying their taxes."

- February 27 - No Brainer Day (Friday): A holiday dedicated to doing things that don't require heavy thinking. Order the usual. Wear the comfy shoes. Say yes to dessert. Finally - a day that understands us.

- February 27 - International Polar Bear Day (Friday): A reminder to appreciate these majestic Arctic residents - preferably from a safe distance and definitely not by trying to hug one. It's also a great day to learn about conservation and climate awareness.

- February 28 - Public Sleeping Day (Saturday): Before you grab a pillow and head downtown, note that this day highlights homelessness awareness. It's meant to encourage compassion and understanding - not napping in the produce aisle.

- February 28 - Sword Swallowers Day (Saturday): Yes, it's real. This jaw-dropping observance recognizes the rare performers who quite literally put their necks on the line for entertainment. Most of us will celebrate by swallowing carefully and sticking to soft foods.

- March 1 - Plan a Solo Vacation Day (Sunday): Ever wanted to travel without negotiating where to eat? Today's your excuse to dream up that solo getaway. No debates. No compromises. Just you, your suitcase and possibly room service.

- March 1 - World Compliment Day (Sunday): Hand out kindness like candy. Tell someone they look great, did a good job or make the best banana pudding in the county. Compliments are free - and they travel fast.

- March 2 - Old Stuff Day (Monday): A chance to finish what you started, fix what's broken or finally clean out that mysterious junk drawer. If it hasn't been used since 2012, it may be time to say goodbye.

- March 3 - I Want You to Be Happy Day (Tuesday): A simple reminder to brighten someone's day. Share a smile, lend a hand or buy the coffee for the person behind you in line. Happiness spreads quicker than gossip.



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MARILYNN BENNETT
School Board Member at Large

"...Committed to ideals and principles of education that promote sustained learning and growth for all children in Anson County Schools."

Advocate for Teachers and Students
Former Principal of Morven Elementary School
Former Assistant Principal and English Teacher of Anson High School & Anson Jr. High School



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Marilyn Bennett



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