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

## Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet April 2

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2 at 6 p.m. The 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.

## Antonio Thomas Robinson Charged in Edward Garris Murder



Antonio Thomas Robinson

On Friday March 15 detectives from the Anson County Sheriff's Office and agents from North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) arrested Antonio Thomas Robinson, 27, of Wadesboro and charged him with Murder and Possession of Firearm by a Convicted Felon in the March 6 murder of Edward Garris.

On Wednesday, March 6 Mr. Garris was found shot on Sandy Ridge Church Road in Morven. During the investigation Sheriff's detectives and agents with the SBI followed up on leads and collected evidence leading to Robinson's arrest. Robinson was placed in the Anson County Jail with no bond, with a court date of March 25, 2019.

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "I would like to thank the citizens who came forward with information that aided in the arrest of Robinson. I want to encourage anyone with information in this case to contact the Sheriff's Office Investigation Division at 704-694-4188 because this is an ongoing investigation."



## Over 180 Attend Anson 4-H Clover Crawl

It was a cold and rainy night, but attendance was strong as over 180 individuals came out and had great time at this year's Anson County 4-H Clover Crawl dance and social. The event was held on Friday, March 8 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, from 6 until 11 p.m.

"Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise would like to extend a big thanks to all the supporters, sponsors, volunteers, parents and community for helping us to raise more than \$10,000 to go towards 4-H programs in the county."

## Board of Elections Special Meeting Rescheduled to April 2

The Anson County Board of Elections will hold a board meeting on Tuesday, April 2 at 5 p.m. The agenda for the meeting is:

- Call to Order/Invocation
- Approval of November 2018 minutes
- Ballot Update (Absentee by Mail Ballots must be available by March 29, 2019)
- May 14, 2019 Precinct Officials/Worker list updates/changes (Need Democrat Judge this election due to conflict)
- Budget discussion/approval of Board
- Questions, comments and other matters

The meeting will take place in the Boardroom at the Board of Elections office, 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. To appear on a meeting agenda you must provide notice in writing by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the next meeting. During all board meetings, those in attendance are asked to refrain from comments and questions to the board unless they are called upon by the board. At the end of each meeting the board will open the floor for comments and questions.

Steve Adams, Elections Director for Anson County will attend the Directors Association Conference March 31 to April 2 in Hickory, NC. The office will be staffed by part-time staff during that time.

For more information call 704-994-3223.

### UPCOMING DATES

- Friday, March 29** Absentee Ballots must be made available for Special May Primary Election
- Tuesday, April 2** Logic and accuracy testing for Special May Primary Election, 12 noon
- Tuesday, April 9** Regular Board of Elections Meeting, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 10** Mock Election with state board for Special May Primary Election
- Friday, April 12** Start publishing election notice for Special May Primary Election
- Friday, April 19** One Stop observer list due for Special May Primary Election & Voter registration deadline for Special May Primary Election
- Tuesday, April 23** Absentee Board meeting #1 for Special May Primary Election & Precinct official training (Ansonville, Burnsville, Gullledge, Lilesville), 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 24** One Stop Early Voting begins for Special May Primary Election
- Tuesday, April 30** Absentee Board meeting #2 for Special May Primary Election
- Tuesday, April 30** Precinct official training (Morven, McFarlan, Peachland, Polkton, Wadesboro 1), 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 2** Precinct official training (Wadesboro 2, Wadesboro 3, White Store & Make up), 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 7** Absentee Board meeting #3 for Special May Primary Election
- Thursday, May 9** Election Day observer list due for Special May Primary Election
- Friday, May 10** One Stop Early Voting ends for Special May Primary Election, 1 p.m.
- Monday, May 13** Pre-Election Day Absentee meeting, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 14 Election Day** for Special May Primary Election. All precincts open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## May 14 Date Set for Special Primary Election in North Carolina's 9th Congressional District

Primary Election is set for May 14, General Election set for September 10

A special election will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, to fill the vacancy in North Carolina's 9th congressional district in the United States House of Representatives for the remainder of the 116th United States Congress. The seat has been vacant since the opening of the 116th Congress following the refusal of the North Carolina State Board of Elections to certify the results of the November 2018 election in the district due to allegations of electoral fraud.

Republican Mark Harris led over Democrat Dan McCready in unofficial returns for the 2018 North Carolina 9th congressional district election by 905 votes, the closest race in the district in over sixty years. Although McCready had conceded defeat, the North Carolina Democratic Party alleged that electoral fraud had taken place. They filed affidavits with the North Carolina State Board of Elections alleging that independent contractors working on behalf of Harris had illegally collected absentee ballots. The North Carolina Board of Elections voted unanimously not to certify the election, and they would later order an evidentiary hearing to be held.

The board also opened an investigation around the activities of Leslie McCrae Dowless, a campaign operative with felony fraud and perjury convictions, who was hired by the Harris campaign. Incoming Democratic Majority Leader Steny Hoyer announced that the United States House of Representatives would not seat Harris until the fraud investigation had been completed.

After a delay caused by restructuring of the Board of Elections and delayed appointment of members by Republican allies of Harris, the board set hearings to begin on February 18, 2019. On that day the regulator reported that it had found evidence of "a coordinated, unlawful and substantially resourced absentee ballot scheme" that may have involved more than 1,000 ballots or ballot request forms. On February 20 Harris's son, John Harris, a federal prosecutor in North Carolina, testified to the election board that he had repeatedly warned his father not to hire Dowless because Dowless appeared to have previously engaged in illegal tactics to win votes.

On February 21 Mark Harris announced that, "The public's confidence in the ninth district seat general election has been undermined to an extent that a new election is warranted." The Board of Elections voted unanimously to call a special election to fill the vacancy. This is the first House of Representatives election to require a "do-over" since 1974. Dowless has been indicted on felony charges.

The Primary will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, with the General Election on September 10, 2019, unless a primary runoff is required, in which case the runoff will be held on September 10 and the general election on November 5, 2019.

The filing period for candidates ended on March 15. A total of 13 candidates qualified for the primary, among them 10 Republicans, 1 Democrat, 1 Libertarian and 1 Green. Dan McCready, the Democratic Party nominee in the 2018 election, will run again, and will face no primary opposition. Among Republicans, neither Harris nor Robert Pittenger, the incumbent whom Harris defeated in the 2018 primary election, will run.

With the announcement by the State Board ordering a new election, it becomes the second congressional special election in North Carolina in 2019, the other being the 3rd congressional district's special election.

The 9th Congressional District of North Carolina is a Congressional district in south-central North Carolina. The district's current boundaries were redrawn in February 2016 after a U.S. District Court overturned the existing boundaries. The new congressional district consists of Union, Anson, Richmond, Scotland and Robeson counties; a southeast portion of Mecklenburg County; and parts of Cumberland and Bladen counties. Republicans have held this district since 1963.

The district is 65.17% urban and 34.83% rural. The population in 2016 was 778,477. The median income is \$61,369. The ethnicity of the district is 65.6% White, 19.45% African American, 7.74% Native American, 7.64% Hispanic and 2.53% Asian.

## Wadesboro Lions Club and Captain D's Spirit Night

On Thursday, April 4 the Wadesboro Lions Club will participate in Captain D's Spirit Night. Support your Wadesboro Lions Club by dining with Captain D's. (Drive-through or dine-in) If you use the drive-through, tell the order taker you want to support the Lions Club. This will not add anything to your meal cost, but will allow the Lions to receive a donation from Captain D's.

If you dine-in you will have an opportunity, for a small donation, to win a free meal or fries or fish sandwich and several other items.

All proceeds benefit the blind and visually impaired in Wadesboro and Anson County. For information about the different projects of the Wadesboro Lions Club please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

## Uwharrie Trail Half Hike

The first ever Uwharrie Trail Half Hike, hosted by the Uwharrie Chapter of Three Rivers Land Trust, will take place April 6 and 7. It will be a fun filled weekend of hiking, fellowship, campfire talks, and supporting conversation in the Uwharries.

Hikers will be traveling from Jumping off rock to Yates Place, where they will camp Saturday night and continue Sunday from Yates Place to the 24/27 Trailhead. We look forward to seeing you at the trail.

To sign up visit [threeriverslandtrust.org](http://threeriverslandtrust.org) and click on "Get Involved."

If you are interested in helping out as a sponsor or volunteer for the event please contact Stacey Kerney at [smthomson174@gmail.com](mailto:smthomson174@gmail.com).

## Free Tax Assistance at Grace Senior Center April 3

Free income tax assistance will be available for Anson County Residents sixty years of age or older of low or moderate income needing help in preparing their income tax returns. The assistance is a program sponsored by AARP and Grace Senior Center.

Volunteer counselors trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service will be at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, April 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free assistance is designed to help taxpayers fill out forms 1040EZ, 1040A, 1040 and the North Carolina return.

Persons using the service should bring a picture ID, this year's tax package, age and earnings statements (forms W-2) received from employers, interest statements from banks (form 1099-INT), a copy of last year's tax return, and any other relevant information concerning income and expenses. Electronic filing of returns will be available.

If you are interested call Grace Senior Center to register and for additional information at 704-694-6616 or 694-6217. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

## Community Parent Resource Fair at WES

Anson County Schools are excited to announce its First Annual "Community Parent Resource Fair." The theme is "Yes! It is necessary. Parent Resource Fair!" We would be delighted if you and your child would attend.

This fair is designed with the purpose of connecting parents with resources to help with education, community involvement and independent living. Vendors will be there to share information about resources that are available for your child. Agencies are scheduled to be in attendance.

Door Prizes will be given away. Supper will be provided.

Please plan to attend on Thursday, March 28 at Wadesboro Elementary School, from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. in Room 113.

## Uwharrie Bank to Celebrate National Walking Day...with a Walk!

On Wednesday, April 3, Uwharrie Bank associates will celebrate National Walking Day with the American Heart Association. In addition to wearing athletic shoes to work on Wednesday, employees from each branch will gather in their parking lots at 5:30 p.m. for a 30 minute walk in the community.

The American Heart Association recommends at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week for adults and 60 minutes per day for children and adolescents. If individuals don't meet that standard, they are at greater risk for heart disease, stroke and other chronic diseases.

As a community bank, Uwharrie is committed to the health and well-being of the communities it serves. For that reason, individuals and families near all branch locations are invited to join employees in the fun walk.

"By encouraging one another, we can make a difference for our communities to live longer, stronger, healthier lives." Community members who participate have the opportunity to win a gift certificate for new walking or running shoes.

For more information about Uwharrie Bank's wellness efforts call Susan Gibson, 704-991-1114.