

THE EXPRESS

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

Sheriff Howell Recognizes Anson 911 Telecommunicators

This is a release from Anson County Sheriff Scott Howell: Anson County Sheriff Scott Howell and the staff of the Sheriff's Office are proud to recognize and celebrate the dedication and hard work of our telecommunicators during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, observed this year from April 13 to 19.

This annual event honors the vital contributions of emergency dispatchers who serve as the critical link between the community and emergency services.

Sheriff Howell invites the community to join in expressing gratitude to our telecommunicators for their unwavering dedication and service. "These ladies do an outstanding job. We are so lucky to have the caliber of people representing us on every call for assistance," Sheriff Howell stated. "Their professionalism and commitment ensure that Anson County remains a safe place to live and work."

Since 1992 Anson County Emergency Communications has provided dispatch services for law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, and eight fire departments. Our telecommunicators are committed to delivering the highest quality of service 24 hours a day, ensuring that every call for help is met with a prompt and professional response. Their efforts are instrumental in saving lives, protecting property, and assisting citizens in their times of need. In 2024 Anson County achieved a significant milestone by completing the transition to the Next Generation 911 (NG911) network. This modernized system enhances our ability to accurately locate callers and efficiently dispatch emergency services, further supporting the critical work of our telecommunicators.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, initially established in 1981 and recognized by a presidential proclamation in 1994, is held annually during the second week of April to honor public safety telecommunicators for their commitment, service, and sacrifice.

Sheriff Howell said, "Our 911 Telecommunications is composed of highly trained telecommunicators who manage thousands of calls annually, many of which are true life-and-death situations. Their job requires quick decision-making, thorough knowledge of protocols, and the ability to remain composed during emergencies. Every call they take represents a person in need, a life at stake, or a community moment requiring clear, decisive communication. Whether it's helping a parent administer CPR to their child, sending help to a motor vehicle crash, or calming a caller experiencing a mental health crisis, our telecommunicators do more than answer the phone. They are heroes that provide a lifeline to our community."

Settlement Made with Man Who Was Wrongfully Arrested After Deputy Planted Drugs in His Vehicle

This is a release from the Anson County Sheriff's Office: The Anson County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Scott Howell announce that a settlement has been reached between Ray Kifer, Jr. and the Anson County Sheriff's Office concerning the unlawful arrest of Mr. Kifer by the Anson County Sheriff's Office in 2018.

In March 2018 Anson County Sheriff's Deputy David Burroughs planted drugs in Mr. Kifer's car, when he was off duty. Other members of the Anson County Sheriff's Office stopped Mr. Kifer on a traffic stop acting on information from Burroughs that drugs were in the car. Mr. Kifer was unlawfully arrested after the drugs that Burroughs planted in the car were discovered by deputies. Mr. Kifer was transported to the Anson County Magistrates Office.

After information from Mr. Kifer's family was communicated to the late Sheriff Reid, he requested an internal investigation. Mr. Kifer was released from custody that same evening. All charges against Mr. Kifer were rightly dismissed because he was innocent of all crimes for which he had been accused.

Deputy David Burroughs was fired by Sheriff Reid and later charged for the crimes he committed against Mr. Kifer. Burroughs was subsequently convicted for his criminal conduct.

Sheriff Howell and the members of the Anson County Sheriff's Office apologize to Mr. Kifer and his family for all the hardships they have gone through during this ordeal.

South Piedmont Sponsors Job Fair

South Piedmont Community College is sponsoring the Union County Job Fair. The event will take place on Tuesday, April 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Union County Agricultural & Conference Center, located at 3230-D Presson Road, Monroe. (Just off Highway 74, between Wingate and Monroe.)

During this event, attendees will get to:

- Meet with dozens of employers from throughout Union County and beyond.
- Distribute their resumes.
- Explore career opportunities in our local area.
- Network with employers and fellow job seekers.

Attendees will also be able to learn about South Piedmont's educational opportunities and how the college can help take your career to the next level.

Dozens of employers will be on site to meet with attendees, including: ATI Specialty Materials, Atrium Health EVS, Autumn Care of Marshville, Berry Global, Edwards Wood Products, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Greiner Bio One, Harris Teeter Distribution Center, ICON Aerospace, McGee Corporation, Pruitt Health, StaffMark, State Employees' Credit Union, Union County Local Government and many more!

The Job Fair is being presented in partnership with Centralina Workforce Development Board, NC Works, Union County Chamber of Commerce, and Union County Public Schools.

For more information contact Kristie Phiher at kphifer@spcc.edu.

Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes every Thursday in April. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.



Pinwheel Planting Raises Awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month

Pictured above are participants in the Pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention pinwheel planting that took place at the Anson County Courthouse on Monday, April 7. The month of April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The event was sponsored by the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition (ACDVC), Anson County Partnership for Children, Anson County Government and Prevent Child Abuse America.

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.

Anson County Resident Sharon Little Graduates from Leadership Development Program

Sharon Little (pictured below in the center) of Anson County recently graduated from the NC Rural Center's Homegrown Leaders program, a three-day regional leadership and community economic development program that develops and supports highly motivated leaders committed to regional collaboration. The training, held in Albemarle from April 8 to 10, drew existing and emerging leaders from across Central North Carolina.

Graduation certificates were presented to the program's 23 participants upon completion of the training.

"Through Homegrown Leaders, we equip and empower rural leaders to have a greater impact on regional economic development," said Olaunda Green, director of leadership training for the Rural Center. "Their vision, determination, and deep-rooted connection to their communities inspire them to help shape the future of their regions and the next generation of rural leaders."

Class participants included local government and health professionals, government officials, and faith and nonprofit leaders.

"Leadership development is at the core of the Rural Center's work, and now more than ever it is important that our leaders are equipped with the skills and tools to foster growth and innovation," said Rural Center President and CEO Patrick Woodie. "We're excited to see the impact our Homegrown Leaders graduates will have in their communities and regions to create a thriving future for generations of residents."

For information about Homegrown Leaders, visit ncruralcenter.org/homegrown-leaders.

About the NC Rural Center The NC Rural Center has worked since 1987 to develop, promote, and implement sound economic strategies to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians. The Rural Center serves the state's 78 rural counties with a special focus on people with low-to-moderate incomes and communities with limited resources. To learn more about how the NC Rural Center is developing and supporting rural leaders across the state, visit ncruralcenter.org.

Special Olympics Anson County Spring Games

Special Olympics Anson County is excited to host its Spring Games with limited participation on Tuesday, April 29 at Anson High School.

In the event of rain, the Games will be held on Thursday, May 1.

You are invited to "Be a Fan in the Stands" welcoming the Special Olympians as they come onto the field. Just an hour of your enthusiasm would be very much appreciated. Opening Ceremonies will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the Track and Field events starting immediately thereafter.

In addition to staff and athletes, only registered volunteers will be allowed on the field. Badges must be worn at all times.

Volunteers Needed If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to assist setting up the field with signs, tables, chairs and tents, or serve at the registration/informational tables, please contact Sylvia Tillman at (704) 690-0602 before Tuesday, April 22.

Each athlete will have an assigned student buddy throughout the day.

In advance, thank you for your support of our Special Olympians.

The Anson County NAACP Meets April 28

The October meeting of the Anson County Branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) will be held on Monday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. They welcome you to come and see what is going on. "Each one reach one."

Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month.

For more information contact Anson NAACP President Sinic Marsh at mrrshs6@yahoo.com or 704-254-0630.

Class of 1985 Reunion Information

This is a release from Tracy Medley Merriman: Thank you all for your responses and your willingness to attend our 40th class reunion on Saturday, September 20, 2025. We are moving forward with our planning. We need your continued support.

Letters and registration forms have been sent out, and if you do not have this information please contact Tracy Medley Merriman through Facebook messenger.

Lent Community Give-Away Event

Harris Chapel AME Zion Church, along with other churches in the community, decided that during Lent, which started on Ash Wednesday, March 5 and ends Thursday, April 17 - and for the next 40 days, members will each give up one item that they no longer use or never used and place those items in a bag. Then those items will be given away at the 1st Lent Community Give-Away.

Here are the details for the Giveaway Event:

- Saturday, April 19 - 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon
- **Location** The Harris Chapel Church parking lot, Highway 145, Morven
- **Free!** Clothing, shoes, housewares, kitchen items, bedding, handbags & more!

Writer's Club Contest Winners Featured at the Library on April 21

On Monday, April 21 the Hampton B. Allen Library will be featuring the winners of the Anson County Writer's Club 2024 contest at 10:30 a.m. The event will be in the Library's Pritchett room. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the program.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

New members welcomed

The Writers' Club meets on the fourth Sunday of each month, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, except in July and December.

All meetings are open to the public. New members of all ages are welcome.

For more information call Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211 or email: sandybruney@gmail.com.

Class of 1977 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman High School Class of 1977 is meeting on Saturday, April 26 at 11:00 a.m. at Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro to discuss their 50th Class Reunion.

All class members are invited and encouraged to attend to make this event successful!