

THE EXPRESS

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Anson County Farmers Market Opens for the Season this Saturday

The Anson County Farmers Market opens for the season this coming Saturday, April 26. It will be open every Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon until September 27. The market offers local farm fresh produce, meats and eggs. Also available are baked goods, jewelry, soaps, candles, textiles and more from local artisans. Opening day will also feature a plant sale including vegetable, fruit, flower and herb seedlings and starts. The Farmers Market is located at 1736 Highway 52 South, just past Wadesboro Primary School. For more information about the market and how to be a part of it, contact Leslie Lee at 704-695-4415, email: ansonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com, or message through the Facebook page, Anson County Farmer's Market or Instagram @ansoncountyfarmersmarket.

Two-thirds of Anson County Bank Branches Closed in the Last Decade

Bill to address "banking deserts" is before the North Carolina legislature now

Sixty-seven percent of Anson County's brick-and-mortar bank branches closed over the last decade, mirroring a statewide trend. In the past 11 years, banks shut down 646 branches in North Carolina, or one of every four, with the largest share of closures coming in rural and less-wealthy counties. That's according to data from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which insures lenders and tracks bank locations. Anson County is in the top 10 for closures, losing four of its six branches, according to the data. Anson County's lone credit union, State Employees' Credit Union (SECU), has been there the whole time. North Carolina is unfortunately a hot spot for these growing "banking deserts." The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond said last year that North Carolina had the most banking deserts, by far, among the five states in the Richmond district. The phenomenon is most common in rural and lower-income counties. In "Tier 1" counties, which the North Carolina Department of Commerce defines as the most economically distressed in the state, banks closed nearly 40% of branches between 2013 and 2024. Anson County is a Tier 1 county. The North Carolina General Assembly is considering a bill to address the dwindling financial services options available to rural North Carolinians by granting credit unions changes they seek that would allow them to expand. House Bill 187 would let credit unions offer financial services to residents who live in areas without a nearby bank branch. Under current state law, people typically must be part of a defined group – like working for the same employer – to qualify for membership at a credit union, limiting who credit unions can serve. Credit unions and banks offer similar services like loans, checking and savings accounts, and credit cards. But unlike banks, credit unions are not-for-profit cooperatives. Every depositor is an equal part-owner of the credit union. "For-profit banks are leaving rural parts of the state because there just isn't enough money there to justify maintaining branches," said Dan Schline, CEO of the Carolinas Credit Union League. "Credit unions have the right model to serve these communities because credit unions are beholden to their members, who are all part-owners. Credit unions want to open more branches in these underserved parts of the state." This is the second time in the last few years credit unions have pushed for these reforms. Similar legislation passed the N.C. House of Representatives in 2023 by a wide margin, but it did not receive a hearing in the Senate before that legislative session ended in 2024.

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 mrshs6@yahoo.com or 704-254-0630.

Class of 1977 Reunion Planning 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!

Ansonville Elementary School Students' Class Trip to Reed Gold Mine

Ansonville Elementary School kindergartners and third graders were able to take a field trip to Reed Gold Mine on Tuesday, April 15 thanks to the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR). The AES students thoroughly enjoyed the multifaceted educational experience that combined history, science, and hands-on learning. Students learned about the history of the Reed Gold Mine, the first documented gold discovery in the United States, and the broader context of North Carolina's gold mining industry. They engaged in a variety of activities, including guided tours to the underground mine and stamp mill, panning for gold, an awesome geology talk, and several interactive exhibits.



Anson County Beekeepers Meet Thursday

The Anson County Beekeepers will hold their regular bee meeting this Thursday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The guest speaker will be Gladys Hutson who will present her books about bees and flowers. There will also be 50-50 drawings to help and earn funds for the association. If you are able to bring some items for the drawings they will be greatly appreciated. Not a member but would like to learn more about the local chapter and beekeeping educational programs? Do you need a beekeeper to re-home a visiting swarm? Visit the "Anson County Beekeepers Association" Facebook page for more information.

School Board Meeting is April 28

The Board of Education will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 28 in the Administrative Board Room. Closed Session begins at 5:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at about 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."