

Students, Parents, Mentors...You Are Invited to the First Super Saturday!

This is a release from Anson County Schools: You're invited to our FIRST Super Saturday event hosted by the Professional School-Based Mentoring Team in partnership with Dr. Adolph Brown – happening Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Anson High School!

Super Saturday is more than just an event — it's a personal and professional development retreat built for students, educators, and parents. These Saturday sessions are created to address the real, urgent needs of our school communities when they need it most.

From 1:00-3:00 pm, students will take part in powerful group sessions focused on:

- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) • Character Education
- Impulse control and behavior support with engaging presentations by a Dream Team of Mentors, students will explore topics around Character, Choices, and Consequences — all designed to help them tap into their inner superhero.

Investigation Underway into Possible Animal Abuse on Mayflower Road

On Thursday, April 24 deputies with the Anson County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence on Mayflower Road following a report of possible animal abuse. Upon arrival deputies discovered nine dogs at the property, and all of them appeared to be in a malnourished state. Tragically, one of the dogs was found deceased.

Anson Animal Control was contacted and they responded to the scene. Animal Control took possession of the deceased dog and have initiated a necropsy (animal autopsy) to determine the cause of death.

Sheriff Scott Howell stated, "We hope to receive the necropsy results within the week. They will help determine whether the dog suffered from disease, died of natural causes, or if abuse played a role in its death."

In addition to the deceased dog, Animal Control removed five other dogs from the property that were found chained. Three additional dogs were running loose and could not be safely contained at the time. Safe traps have been set in the area in an effort to capture those remaining dogs and ensure that they receive the care they need.

If criminal activity is confirmed, appropriate charges may be filed in accordance with NC General Statutes.

Sheriff Howell added, "This investigation remains active and ongoing. The Anson County Sheriff's Office is responsible for the investigation, while Anson Animal Control is handling the care and custody of the animals. Our agencies are working closely together to ensure the animals' welfare, and that justice is served where necessary.

The staff at the Anson County Sheriff's Office and I are committed animal lovers. We will continue to support the protection and rights of animals in Anson County.

We would like to thank the citizens of Anson County for their continued patience and for bringing this matter to our attention. Your involvement is crucial in helping us protect the most vulnerable members of our community."

NC Achieves HPAI-Free Poultry Status

North Carolina poultry has been designated High Path Avian Influenza-free by the World Organization for Animal Health. This designation means that the state can resume exports and international trade for poultry products.

Broilers, or chicken raised for meat, are the top agricultural commodity for North Carolina, representing more than \$5.6 billion in cash receipts for farmers annually. More than 941 million broilers are raised each year in the state. North Carolina also ranks first in the nation in poultry and egg cash receipts and is the second-largest turkey-producing state in the nation, raising more than 29 million turkeys annually. North Carolina exported \$347.4 million worth of poultry and poultry products in 2024.

"This designated status change is a welcome one from the standpoint of trade," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, "but it is important to note that the virus causing HPAI is still present within wild bird populations in our state. Poultry owners are encouraged to continue to follow strict biosecurity measures and monitor their flocks for signs of illness. Steps should be taken to minimize exposure to wild birds as much as possible."

Poultry owners should report flocks with high mortality to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Division, 919-707-3250 or the N.C. Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System 919-733-3986.

More information about High Path Avian Influenza is online at ncagr.gov/divisions/veterinary/AvianInfluenza.

Seize Your Business Opportunities with SPCC's Small Business Center

This is a release from South Piedmont Community College: The Small Business Center at South Piedmont Community College wants to be your partner in success.

2025 is brimming with possibilities, and we want to ensure you make the most of every opportunity. Whether you're dreaming of starting a new venture, aiming for business growth, or contemplating a reinvention, now is the perfect time to take action.

Training: www.ncsbc.net | Counseling & Premier Mastermind Group: spcc.edu/small-business-center/mastermind-group

Upcoming Small Business Webinars (Info & register at www.ncsbc.net, click on "Training" and click on "South Piedmont Small Business Center" in the dropdown menu)

- Apr 30 - Intro to Nonprofit Financials
- May 14 - Steps to Startup
- May 15 - Who & Where are your Customers?
- May 21 - Developing a Business Plan
- May 27 - Tech Talks for Small Business Owners
- Jun 2 - Beauty Business Success



was the runner-up to Wingate, followed by the University of Wisconsin. Other schools in the competition included the University of Nebraska, the University of Florida, the University of Michigan and the University of Virginia.

The competition graded colleges on how well they brought students and Special Olympics athletes together on the field, presented displays of inclusion, and creatively used social media to spread the word about inclusion around campus.

Last fall, Wingate launched Julia's Learning, in which five young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live in dorms, take classes, and participate in extracurricular activities on campus. In addition, as part of the annual Day of Giving and Service, for the past three years Wingate has hosted a pair of baseball games featuring clients from Union Diversified Industries in Monroe, all of whom have IDD. Wingate students serve as buddies and fill the stands during the games.

Wingate also graded highly because of several other activities throughout the past year, including a bowling exhibition featuring members of the school's acrobatics & tumbling team, Julia's Learning students and UDI clients; the Wingate softball's team's close work with UDI to create the Union Bulldogs unified softball team; and other partnerships between UDI and Wingate's nursing program, women's basketball team, occupational therapy department, and Collaborative for the Common Good.

"This recognition illustrates the commitment that Wingate University has to the well being of all people, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities," says Michelle Lancaster-Sandlin, executive director for IDD initiatives at Wingate. "These types of activities are just who we are as an organization."

In the competition, schools were given 18 challenges during the Unified College National Championship week, with either 10 or 25 points awarded for each challenge completed, depending on the challenge's difficulty level. All challenges were judged based on Instagram posts made by the schools. Wingate was one of only seven schools to complete all seven challenges. A panel of judges broke the tie based on creativity, execution, connection to the Special Olympics mission, and school spirit.

Learn more about Julia's Learning at wingate.edu/admissions/julias-learning.

Governor Speaks to NC Sheriffs' Association, Outlines Budget Provisions to Keep North Carolinians Safe

On Monday, April 28 Governor Josh Stein spoke to the NC Sheriffs' Association at their annual spring conference to share his appreciation for the work they do to keep North Carolinians safe. The Governor highlighted his proposals to address staffing shortages and create a dedicated Cold Case Unit and a Fentanyl Control Unit.

"Serving in law enforcement is a special calling – one of service and bravery. We ask them to run towards danger when the rest of us might flee," said Governor Josh Stein. "I will continue to use every tool possible to advocate for law enforcement officers so that they have the resources to do their jobs well and make North Carolina safer and stronger."

Governor Stein's 2025-2027 budget proposal is dedicated to keeping families safe. It includes provisions to support law enforcement by raising salaries for all state law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and youth counselors and by offering signing bonuses to Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) graduates. The proposed budget also creates a Fentanyl Control Unit intended to investigate and stop the flow of narcotics and a Cold Case Unit to dedicated to cracking unsolved cases of sexual assault.

Horse Owners Are Encourage to Vaccinate Against Mosquito-Borne Diseases and Rabies

Coggins testing and rabies vaccination should also be a part of equine care

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler is encouraging equine owners to have their animals vaccinated against Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis and West Nile Virus. "Mosquito-breeding season in North Carolina lasts from spring until the first frost and horses are at risk if not properly vaccinated," Troxler said. "EEE is fatal 90 percent of the time in horses and WNV has a fatality rate of 30 percent. However, both diseases are preventable by vaccination."

So far this year we have had no cases of EEE or WNV, but last year there were five cases of EEE and two cases of West Nile Virus, Troxler added.

State Veterinarian Dr. Mike Martin recommends that equine owners talk to their veterinarians about an effective vaccination protocol to protect horses from mosquito-borne diseases. The combination vaccination initially requires multiple injections for horses, mules and donkeys that have no prior vaccination history.

Mosquitoes can breed in any puddle that lasts for more than four days, so removing any source of standing water can reduce the chance of exposing animals to WNV or EEE. Keeping horses in stalls at night, using insect screens and fans, and turning off lights after dusk can also help reduce exposure to mosquitoes. Insect repellants can be effective if used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Symptoms of EEE include impaired vision, aimless wandering, head pressing, circling, inability to swallow, irregular staggering gait, paralysis, convulsions and death. Once a horse has been bitten by an infected mosquito, it may take three to 10 days for symptoms to appear. **Symptoms of WNV** include fever, weakness or paralysis of hind limbs, impaired vision, head pressing, seizures and aimless wandering.

People, horses and birds can become infected from a bite by a mosquito carrying these diseases, but there is no evidence that horses can transmit these viruses to other horses, birds or people through direct contact.

Equine care also includes keeping up to date on equine infectious anemia (EIA) testing, commonly referred to as the Coggins test. "It's also a great time to make sure your animal is current on its rabies vaccination," Troxler said. "We have had a positive case of rabies in livestock already this year. All livestock are naturally curious animals, which puts them at risk for a bite if a rabid animal gets through their fence line."

Anson Farmers Market is Open Every Saturday

The Anson County Farmers Market is open for the season, and will be open each Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 12:00 noon through September 27, with fresh and local produce, meats, eggs, baked goods, jewelry, soaps, candles, textiles and more from local artisans! Come check it out.

The Farmers Market is located at 1736 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro, just past Wadesboro Primary School.

For more information about the Farmers Market or to become a vendor, or to host a weekday market in your area of Anson County, contact Leslie Lee at 704-695-4415 or ansonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com, message through the Facebook page, Anson County Farmer's Market or Instagram @ansoncountyfarmersmarket.

Special Olympics Names Wingate National Champion

Wingate University has been recognized as national champion by Special Olympics North America.

Wingate topped the field of 30 schools that competed during the 2025 Unified College National Championship. The recognition was announced on Tuesday during a live ceremony held over Zoom and co-hosted by ESPN personality Victoria Arlen.

San Diego State University

Commissioners' Regular Meetings for May

The first May meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners takes place on Tuesday, May 6 at 6 p.m. The second meeting in May takes place on Tuesday, May 20 at 6 p.m.

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.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live-streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Commissioners to Hold Special Meeting

A special meeting for the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for this Thursday, May 1 at 10:00 a.m. It will 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.

Presbyterian Church Yard Sale

Presbyterian Church of Wadesboro is holding a yard sale on Friday and Saturday, May 2 & 3. The Friday sale hours are 12 noon until 5:00 p.m. and the Saturday sale hours are 7:00 a.m. to 12 noon. All proceeds will go to the Mission Committee of the church.

The church is located at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Everyone is invited to come and shop for a great deal!