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

School Board Meeting is May 20

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 20 in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 3:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters related to student information, personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143-318-11(a)(1), NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5).

Open Session to the public will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The Open Session 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."

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 5:30 p.m.

Jamoszio Burch Faces Additional Sexual Offense with a Minor Charges

On Thursday, March 14, 30 year old youth basketball coach Jamoszio Burch of Wadesboro was charged with 1 Count of Human Trafficking of a Child, and 2 Counts of Indecent Liberties with Children.

Criminal investigators from the Anson County and Stanly County Sheriff's Offices have continued working on the case along with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, and on Monday, May 13 Stanly County deputies announced that Burch has been charged with two counts of Statutory Sexual Offense with a person who is 15 years of age or younger. Those crimes are alleged to have taken place in Stanly County.

Burch is being held on the Montgomery County Jail.

Burch led the NC Jayhawks AAU boys basketball team, which he advertised as a place to help boys become responsible and respectful young men. The team traveled to games in other areas including Stanly County. In addition to leading the AAU team, Burch was formerly an assistant coach at Union Academy in Monroe. The school stated that Burch's contract expired at the end of the most recent season and was no renewed. Burch is no longer associated with the school.

The investigation remains ongoing.



Jamoszio Burch

Anson County Man Charged in Richmond County Trailer Theft

Richmond County Sheriff Mark Gullede reported that on Tuesday, May 7 a deputy was dispatched to a residence located on Rosalyn Road in reference to a utility trailer being stolen. When a deputy spoke to the caller and a witness, they described a white male driving a red truck that pulled into the victim's yard and hooked up to a 14 foot utility trailer and drove off, dragging the wheel jack.

An investigator responded and began checking surveillance video in the area and located the truck and stolen trailer traveling on Ledbetter Street in Cordova. Investigators continued trying to locate the truck and contacted investigators with the Anson County Sheriff's Office. One investigator was familiar with the truck and provided the driver's information and address.

Investigators from Richmond County went to an address in Morven and were able to locate the trailer in a yard and recover it. The trailer was brought back to Richmond County and returned to the owner.

Investigators obtained warrants for Christopher Scott Derulle, 36, of Morven. Derulle was not at the address at the time the trailer was recovered.

On Thursday, May 9 an investigator located Derulle pulling into a business parking lot on Broad Avenue in Rockingham and conducted a traffic stop. Derulle was then arrested and served a warrant for felony larceny and injury to personal property. He was processed into the Richmond County Jail under a \$5,000 secure bond.



Christopher Scott Derulle

Anson County Woman Charged with Insurance Fraud, Attempting to Obtain Property by False Pretense

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey announced the arrest of Tammy Robbins Cox, 53, of 2073 Horne Town Road, Polkton on Wednesday, May 8. Cox was charged with insurance fraud and attempting to obtain property by false pretense.

According to special agents with the NC Department of Insurance's Criminal Investigations Division, Cox presented oral and written statements to Progressive Premier Insurance Company of Illinois to obtain additional coverage on a vehicle that had already been in an accident.

According to the arrest warrant, the offense occurred on Saturday, March 9.

Cox was released from custody under a \$8,000 unsecured bond and ordered to appear in Anson County Court on May 28.

"Insurance fraud is not a victimless crime," Commissioner Causey said. "Approximately 20 cents of every insurance premium dollar goes to covering the cost of fraud. I'm fighting this by aggressively pursuing and prosecuting insurance fraud in North Carolina."

If you suspect insurance fraud or other white-collar crimes, please report it. You may anonymously report fraud by calling the N.C. Department of Insurance Criminal Investigations Division at 919-807-6840 or toll free from anywhere in North Carolina at 888-680-7684.

Information is also available at www.ncdoi.gov.



Pictured above, from left, are speaker Quatavis Liles, Mark Marshall, Nathaniel Clark, Curtis Brown and Vernon Kersey.

Las Amigas Selects the Distinguished Man of the Year

Four gentlemen of Anson County were recognized as outstanding men of Anson County on Saturday, April 20 at Harris Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church in Morven by the Morven Chapter of Las Amigas. One individual, Mr. Nathaniel Clark, was selected as the Distinguished Man of the Year 2024.

Speaker for the occasion, Mr. Quatavis Liles of Morven, delivered an inspiring message to the group.

The Distinguished Man of the Year event is sponsored annually by the Morven Chapter of Las Amigas. Las Amigas is a local, civic, women's group that works to improve the community in which the members live.

Anson County School District Hires Interim Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Brian C. Ratliff

This is a release from the Anson County Board of Education: The Anson County Board of Education proudly announces Dr. Brian C. Ratliff as the new Interim Superintendent for Anson County Schools, effective June 1, 2024.



Dr. Brian Ratliff

Following the planned retirement announcement of Howard McLean as Superintendent of Anson County Schools, the Board initiated a rigorous selection process in March 2024 to identify his successor. With the invaluable assistance of the North Carolina State Board of Education, the Board received three commendable recommendations and applications for the interim superintendent position.

After thorough evaluation and interviews with each candidate, the Anson County Board of Education unanimously selected Dr. Brian C. Ratliff for the role, subject to approval by the State Board of Education. Dr. Ratliff brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new position.

Dr. Ratliff holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Youth/Counseling from Liberty University, a Master's Degree in Educational School Counseling from Lynchburg College, and a Doctoral Degree in Education with a focus on Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Virginia. His educational background, coupled with many years of leadership and management experience that the board deems relevant to the position of Interim Superintendent for Anson County Schools, including roles as Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent in various Virginia public schools, uniquely positions him for success in leading Anson County Schools.

Throughout his career, Dr. Ratliff has been recognized for his exemplary leadership. He was honored as the Virginia Association of School Superintendents - Region VII Superintendent of the Year for 2019, a testament to his dedication and commitment to educational excellence.

The Board of Education is confident that Dr. Brian C. Ratliff's qualifications, extensive experience, and proven track record make him exceptionally qualified to serve as Interim Superintendent of Anson County Schools. His leadership will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and advancement of the school district.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Ratliff to the Anson County Schools community. Together, we look forward to a bright future of academic achievement and student success under his guidance.

2nd Primary Election Results

A second Primary Election was held on Tuesday, May 14, with Anson County voters participating in two races. Here are the unofficial results as of press time. (The statewide results are for 2637 precincts out of a total of 2659 precincts. The Anson results are for all 9 precincts.)

Winner is in bold. Statewide vote totals are followed by Anson vote totals in parenthesis.

- NC Lieutenant Governor (Rep) - Jim O'Neil 32,832, 25.58% (22 votes, 11.96%), **Hal Weatherman** 95,512 votes, 74.42% (162 votes, 88.04%)
- NC Auditor (Rep) - **Dave Boliek** 66,402, 53.26% (68 votes, 38.42%), Jack Clark 58,269, 46.74% (109 votes, 61.58%)

NC Medicaid Expansion Hits 450,000 Enrollees in Just Five Months

Communities across the state continue to experience the life-changing impacts of Medicaid expansion as the state surpasses 450,000 North Carolinians signed up and more than one million prescriptions covered. The milestone means three-fourths of those eligible for expansion have now gained coverage.

"In the five months since expansion launched, more than 450,000 North Carolinians gained coverage to access health care providers, prescriptions and other services," said Governor Roy Cooper. "This is life saving and life changing health care that will help more North Carolinians stay healthy, provide for their families and enjoy a promising future."

Since Dec. 1, 2023, Medicaid has covered more than 1,000,000 prescriptions for new enrollees for things like heart health, diabetes, seizures and other illnesses and covered more than \$17.9 million in claims for dental services. Additionally, more than \$347.5 million in reimbursements has gone directly to providers in North Carolina. Rural North Carolina counties are seeing higher percentages of enrollments. More than 12% of the adult populations in Edgecombe, Robeson and Swain now have health coverage through Medicaid.

"From the day we launched Medicaid expansion, we've been committed to getting people covered and getting them care as fast as possible," said NC Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "We are doing that even faster than expected and ensuring North Carolinians receive the health information, support and care they need to help them stay healthy."

Many people who now qualify for North Carolina Medicaid under expansion work in child care centers, grocery stores, nursing homes, clothing stores, restaurants and other industries who may not have comprehensive health insurance through their jobs. People who did not qualify for Medicaid in the past may now be eligible, including those who are single or do not have children. More than one in three new enrollees are between 19 and 29 years old and live in rural communities.

The Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Dashboard is now updated to show further trends in enrollment. While the dashboard was updated Wednesday, the data analytics are as of May 3, so the latest number is not reflected. The number of enrollees as of Thursday, May 9, 2024, is 451,194.

Those who have not yet applied should visit Medicaid.nc.gov to see if they are eligible. Individuals can also connect with state and local support teams to better understand their health care coverage options, complete Medicaid applications and navigate enrollment.

The NCDHHS Medicaid expansion website provides information on eligibility, how to apply and where to find support. To learn more or apply for North Carolina Medicaid, visit Medicaid.nc.gov.

Juneteenth Celebration is June 15

The Anson County Branch of the NAACP is proud to present this year's Juneteenth Celebration Festival on Saturday, June 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Anson County Courthouse. Beginning at Greene Street and moving along Wade, Martin, and Morgan Streets.

Vendors are welcome. Register on becoming a vendor at www.ansoncountynaacp.org or email NAACP President Sinic Marsh at admin@ansoncountynaacp.org.

The Anson County NAACP Meets Sunday

The Anson County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) meets at 5:00 p.m. every 3rd Sunday of each month at the HOLLA! Center in Morven. The next meeting will be on Sunday, May 19. They welcome you to come and see what is going on. "Each one reach one."

The HOLLA! Community Center is located at 229 East Main Street in Morven. For more information contact Anson NAACP President Sinic Marsh at mrs6@yahoo.com or 704-254-0630.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets May 21

The Anson County Board of Commissioners meets two times per month. The first May meeting was held on Tuesday, May 7.

The second meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00 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.

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.

Scholarship Opportunity for North Carolina Students!

North Carolina students from households making \$80,000 or less could have their tuition and fees fully covered thanks to the Next NC Scholarship! The scholarship is for community colleges and public universities in North Carolina.

This is money that doesn't have to be repaid!

Applying is very simple, you just submit your FAFSA form... and that's it! If you're eligible, you will receive the Next NC Scholarship. There are no additional forms to fill out.

Check out the information video on YouTube to learn more - just search for "NextNCScholarship."

Visit: nextncscholarship.org.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com