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

## Sheriff's Candidate Mike Smith Requests Runoff Election

On Wednesday, May 14 Steven Adams, Elections Director at the Anson County Board of Elections, announced that Sheriff's candidate Mike Smith had requested that a runoff Primary Election be held. The runoff election will be between Landric Reid, who received 39.6% of the vote (1,651 votes) in the first Primary Election, and Smith, who received 33.56% of the vote (1,399 votes).

Reid needed 40% of the vote, plus one vote to win the election.

Adams stated that the dates for the second elections are:  
• Early Voting - Thursday, July 3 through Saturday, July 12  
• Last day to request absentee ballots is Tuesday, July 8  
• Primary Election date - Tuesday, July 15. All precincts, 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Who can vote? Because this is a Democratic Primary Election, you can vote if you are: 1) A Democrat who did vote in the first Primary Election; 2) A Democrat who did not vote in the first Primary Election; or 3) An unaffiliated who voted Democratic in the first Primary Election.

No party changes or new registrations are allowed from the first Primary Election to the second Primary Election. For more information contact Adams at 704-994-3223.

## Wadesboro Institutes Trash Pickup Changes

In a release from the Town of Wadesboro: After six months of discussion and public input, the Town of Wadesboro is reducing curbside trash pickup service to once-per-week. Just like many in our community, Wadesboro is faced with significant financial challenges. As a result the Town must make tough decisions to responsibly manage public monies and to ensure quality public services are sustainable for the long-term.

The new service schedule will begin Monday, June 30, 2014. Customers who currently receive trash service Monday and Thursday will now have trash service only on Monday. In comparison, customers who currently receive trash service Tuesday and Friday will now have trash service only on Wednesday. Uptown customers who received trash service everyday will now have trash service only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The new guidelines are designed for efficient pickup with minimum disruptions to the customer. Customers now have two options. First, customers can place out bagged trash in up to 4 containers totaling 128 gallons. Alternatively, customers can place out up to 4 trash bags without any container. Under both options, up to 10 pieces of empty cardboard outside any container or bags will be picked up. Non-residential furniture pick-up is limited to 2 items per week. The trash fee will remain unchanged at \$15 per month. All other sanitation services remain unchanged.

More information is available on the Town's website, [www.cityofwadesboro.org](http://www.cityofwadesboro.org), or call City Hall at (704) 694-5171 for more details. The Town apologizes for any inconvenience.

### Trash Collection Rules

**General**  
Monthly Rate: \$15  
• Required Container(s): Customer may either: 1) Use up to 4 containers totaling 128 gallons. All trash must be in a bag designed to be a trash receptacle and placed in an eligible container for service, or 2) Place up to four bags designed to be a trash receptacle without any container.  
• Trash Day: Monday or Wednesday. Trash must be at curb by 7 a.m. on designated trash pickup day. Customer may put out up to 10 pieces of empty cardboard outside container. Non-residential furniture pick-up is limited to 2 items per week.

**Uptown**  
Monthly Rate: \$15  
• Uptown is Rutherford to Morgan to Washington to Martin.  
• Required Container(s): Customer may either: 1) Use up to 6 containers totaling 192 gallons. All trash must be in a bag designed to be a trash receptacle and placed in an eligible container for service, or 2) Place up to six bags designed to be a trash receptacle without any container.  
• Trash Day: Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Trash must be at curb by 7 a.m. on designated trash pickup day. Customer may put out up to 10 pieces of empty cardboard outside container. Non-residential furniture pick-up is limited to 2 items per week.

## Monroe Connector Bypass Back on Track

### Federal approval moves project forward

The N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) reached a milestone on May 15 as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued the Record of Decision for the 19.7-mile Monroe Connector Bypass, a new roadway that will span from I-485 in Mecklenburg County to Highway 74 near Marshville in Union County. This move allows NCDOT to immediately resume purchasing right of way, conducting permitting work and developing the final design for the project.

"We're pleased that FHWA has allowed us to restart work on this critical project," said NCDOT Chief Engineer Mike Holder. "It will help greatly reduce congestion and provide a strategic connection between eastern Union County and Charlotte, a major economic center."

This environmental documentation is required under the National Environmental Policy Act. This law requires federal agencies to incorporate environmental standards into decision-making processes, consider the environmental impacts of projected actions and present practical alternatives to those actions.

Construction on the project is scheduled to start in late 2014 or early 2015. The toll road's cost has been estimated at 800 million dollars.

The bypass is designed to ease congestion on Highway 74 in Union County. It runs along Highway 74 near the Mecklenburg County line and I-485, goes east, then roughly parallels Highway 74 until it reconnects with the highway just west of Marshville.

It has been estimated that this bypass will reduce the time to travel from Anson County to Charlotte by approximately 20 minutes. It will bypass 26 traffic lights along one of the busiest roads in the state.

State officials still need two permits before they can start building - a wetlands permit and a water-quality permit - and a group opposed to the highway said it likely will sue again to stop construction. The project has been on hold since the Southern Environmental Law Center in Chapel Hill sued to stop bypass construction and won the support of a federal appellate court in May 2012. The SELC argued that the DOT's original environmental study was flawed, and state officials submitted a new plan last year.

The Monroe Connector Bypass website ([www.ncdot.gov/projects/monroconnector](http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/monroconnector)) contains additional project details and offers a resource section of archived information from previous studies and public meetings.



## Mobile Food Pantry Held April 2 with Lots of Help from Volunteers

They say it takes a village to raise a child - so likewise, it takes a group of volunteers to conduct a Mobile Food Pantry. This was the case at the Bethel Community Building on Wednesday, April 2. Pastors from the local Anson East-Union Methodist churches led the effort to provide supplemental food for those in need.

Nearly 30 volunteers worked to unload the food truck and distribute the various food items. The Anson Crisis Ministry, a local food agency, has partnered with the Methodist churches to conduct the 2014 Mobile Food Pantries. The weather was perfect and many clients brought their chairs and spent their extra time renewing old friendships and making new friends. The picture was similar to a summer family reunion with hugs and laughter among the crowd.

Over 200 individual households received food from the Second Harvest Food Bank. Foods received were peanut butter, white potatoes, oats, frozen chicken leg quarters, coffee, green beans, applesauce and much more. There were baskets, boxes, wagons and carts brought by the clients to use for transporting the food back to their cars or trucks.

At the registration table clients were required to provide their 2014 proof of all household income to be eligible for the food distribution.

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be held on June 4 at Lilesville United Methodist Church. For more information, you may call 704-694-2445.

## Deputy's Five Year Finds Service Revolver, Shoots Himself

Sheriff Tommy Allen issued a release on Saturday stating that the five year old son of Deputy Josh Beam found his father's service revolver and fired one round that struck the child in the top of his left ear. The incident happened around 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 17. The child had no other injuries. He was responsive and talking when he was taken from the Anson County Hospital to go to the Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte. Sheriff Allen reported on Monday that the little boy was doing fine.

"He was treated and released Saturday night from the hospital. The doctors believe he will make a full recovery, as the ear should heal back completely. He is back in school this morning (Monday)," Sheriff Allen said.

The Sheriff said that Beam, who was not on duty at the time of the accident, was the only other person in the house with his son at the time, but he was in another room inside the house when this occurred. Because Beam lives in Wadesboro the Wadesboro Police Department is investigating this incident, along with an internal investigation by the Sheriff's Office.

"Right now we are trying to determine how the child got the weapon and managed to fire it," Sheriff Allen said. "Sgt. Beam is very shaken by this incident to say the least. At this time he is on administrative leave, which is standard policy, until the investigation is completed. Our office is following protocol and have provided DSS with a copy of the initial report as well as the District Attorney's office."

The Sheriff's internal investigation will determine what actions, if any, may be taken regarding Sgt. Beam.

"If anything positive comes out of this I hope it is to remind all of us to make sure any guns we have around the house are stored in a secure place and out of reach from children. I'm sure every law enforcement officer who hears this story; the thought will go through their mind: 'Do I secure my weapon properly?' As we see from this event, it only takes a brief laps and a tragedy can occur. We were very fortunate that this was not more tragic. An angel must have been guiding that bullet," Sheriff Allen concluded.

## Sen. McLaurin Reacts to Injunction on Teacher Pay Law

In a release from Sen. Gene McLaurin: The Associated Press reported that Wake County Superior Court Judge Robert Hobgood issued a permanent injunction against a state law ending career status, passed in the 2013 state budget last July. School Boards across the state and in our district have struggled with how to apply the law, which would in effect end career status for our experienced teachers, offering a bonus in the amount of \$500 to the top 25% of teachers demonstrating proficiency.

Senator Gene McLaurin said, "We are facing a teacher pay crisis in North Carolina. The legislature foolishly cut funds to pay teachers. Now, many of our best teachers are taking second jobs or leaving North Carolina just to make ends meet. This is one of the primary reasons I voted against last year's budget.

At best, this law would only benefit a quarter of our teachers - while leaving the rest behind. We can't fix this crisis by pitting our teachers against one another. Most of our educators are excellent professionals who care deeply for their students. All teachers deserve a competitive salary and the ability to provide for their families. Our state laws have no business picking winners and losers in the classroom, and I hope to work with my colleagues in Raleigh to make education a priority and raise teacher pay to the national average. I will continue to work hard every day to achieve such a plan."

## Heavy Rains Cause Sewer Spill in Wadesboro

The Town of Wadesboro sewer system experienced a sewer spill on Thursday, May 15 resulting in 1,560 gallons of sewer entering the waters of the State of North Carolina. Lampley Branch is the receiving stream of the sewer spill, which is part of the Pee Dee River Basin. There was not a fish kill as a result of the sewer spill.

The spill was caused by heavy rain - three inches was recorded. Inflow and infiltration into the sewer lines was at a greater rate than the pump station could handle. The NC Division of water Quality was notified on May 16.

For further information contact Hugh James at 704-694-5171.

## Tractor Trailer Overtakes on Highway 74 in Lilesville

A tractor trailer carrying grain overturned on Highway 74 in Lilesville early Monday morning, May 12. The accident occurred around 1 a.m. in the area of Camden Street. The driver was taken to Anson Community Hospital with minor injuries. Part of the eastbound lane of Highway 74 was closed for several hours for the clean up of a large amount of grain that was spilled onto the highway.

The driver stated to troopers that a deer ran into the path of his truck, and that when he swerved to avoid the deer he lost control. He was charged with failure to maintain lane control.

## Memorial Day Ceremony at the Courthouse

Anson County's annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 26 at 10 a.m. on the steps of the courthouse. Come out and join in honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in combat defending this great nation. Bring your own lawn chairs if you desire.

Any questions please contact Ted Ward, Anson County Veteran Service Officer, at (704) 694-4418 or [ward@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:ward@co.anson.nc.us).

## Arts and Crafts Workshop Every Tuesday

The Arts Council invited you to join them each Tuesday at the Arts Council office for art and fellowship. Local amateur artists, whether it is crocheting, painting, sewing, drawing or other, get together every Tuesday from 1 to 4 p.m. to share ideas and get tips. Come join in the fun.

There is no registration and no cost, but bring your own supplies. Also starting April 1st, Clinton Harvard will be giving drawing lessons. These are also free, but please bring supplies.

Contact the Anson County Arts Council for additional information at 704-694-4950.

## Anson Historical Preservation Commission Meets

An open meeting of the Anson Historical Preservation Commission will be held this Thursday, May 22 at 5 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro. The public is welcome to attend and participate.

## Board of Education Meets May 27

The Anson County Board of Education's May regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27. The Board of Education's June regular meeting has been moved to Thursday, June 26.

Both meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Closed Session taking place immediately after the opening of the meeting. Open Session to the public will begin at 6:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

## Anson High School PTO Meeting is May 27

The Anson High School PTO will meet on Tuesday, May 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the Media Center. The meeting will include a Parent EOC Prep Mini Workshop to assist parents in preparing their student for End of Course success; Recognition of 2014 Parent University Graduates; Recognition of 2012 - 2014 officers and Election of 2014 - 2016 officers; and information on summer activities for parents.

A sandwich meal will be served. Please call 704-694-9301 ext. 06408 or email [Montgomery.d@anson-schools.org](mailto:Montgomery.d@anson-schools.org) to RSVP or for information. PTO Memberships for the 2014 - 2015 school year will be available.

## Grace Senior Center to Hold Picnic in the Park

The annual Picnic in the Park hosted by Grace Senior Center will be held on Friday, May 30 at the Little Park picnic shelter beginning at 11 a.m. If you are interested in attending or would like more information please call to register 704-694-6616.

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)