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

Commissioners Meet June 2

The first June meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners takes place on Tuesday, June 2 at 6 p.m. The second June meeting takes place on Tuesday, June 16 at 6 p.m.

Meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center, 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.

School Board Meeting is June 11

Public invited to attend or tune in online

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its June regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 11. The meeting will be held 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 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5).

Open Session to the public will begin at 9:30 a.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 9:30 a.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

North Carolina Unemployment Rate Holds Steady At 3.7 Percent In April

North Carolina's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.7 percent in April, according to figures released by the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate matched March's revised figure and remained below the national unemployment rate of 4.3 percent.

Compared to April 2025, North Carolina's unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point.

State officials reported that the number of employed North Carolinians decreased by 9,660 over the month to 5,097,931, while the number of unemployed residents dropped by 482 to 196,615.

Despite the slight monthly decline in employment, total nonfarm employment increased by 16,000 jobs in April, reaching 5,096,100 statewide.

Several major industries posted gains during the month, led by Leisure and Hospitality Services with an increase of 5,700 jobs. Professional and Business Services added 3,100 jobs, while Construction gained 2,700 positions.

Additional increases were seen in Trade, Transportation and Utilities, Financial Activities, Government, Private Education & Health Services, Other Services and Information.

Manufacturing was the only major industry to experience a decline in April, losing 100 jobs statewide. Mining and Logging employment remained unchanged.

Over the past year, total nonfarm employment in North Carolina increased by 45,800 jobs. Private Education and Health Services showed the largest yearly gain with 19,300 additional jobs, followed by Construction with 13,600 and Leisure and Hospitality Services with 11,300.

Manufacturing continued to show the largest annual decline, down 10,600 jobs compared to April 2025.

State officials noted that employment estimates are subject to monthly and annual revisions.

Mark Holloway Charged Following Investigation into Morven Fire Department Funds

The Anson County Sheriff's Office has announced the arrest of a Morven man following a months-long, multi-agency investigation into alleged financial misconduct involving the Morven Volunteer Fire Department. According to information released by the Sheriff's Office, the investigation began in February 2026 after authorities launched a probe into a series of suspicious fires in the Morven community.



Mark Holloway

The investigation involved the Anson County Sheriff's Office, the Anson County Fire Marshal's Office, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

During the investigation, officials reportedly uncovered evidence indicating that funds allocated to the Morven Volunteer Fire Department had allegedly been misappropriated for personal use. As a result of the investigation, Mark Holloway was arrested on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. Authorities said Holloway has been charged with 5 counts of felony larceny by employee and 5 counts of embezzlement.

Holloway was transported to the Anson County Jail and placed under a \$50,000 secured bond.

Officials said he is scheduled to appear in Anson County District Court on June 5, 2026.

Authorities stated the investigation remains ongoing and that additional charges could be filed pending further review of evidence and financial records.

Bluegrass Acoustic Music Jam

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam this Thursday, May 28, 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. Musicians, singers and spectators are welcome. Jam sessions are open to all age levels and skill levels. Children age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have any questions please contact the library at 704-694-5177.



Pictured above from left are Mackenzie Bowman, Elijah Sellers, Nahaji Johnson and Dallas Lilly. They won the North Carolina State Championship in the 4x100 Meter Relay.

Board Of Education Recognizes Bearcat Track Teams And State Champions

Members of the Anson High School track and field program were recognized during the May 18 meeting of the Anson County Board of Education for an outstanding season filled with championships, state competition and individual honors.

The entire Bearcat track team was recognized by the board and Superintendent Dr. Brian Ratliff for demonstrating dedication, teamwork and determination while competing - even at the highest level in North Carolina.

School officials said the team's success reflects the talent, hard work and pride that continue to define Anson High School athletics.

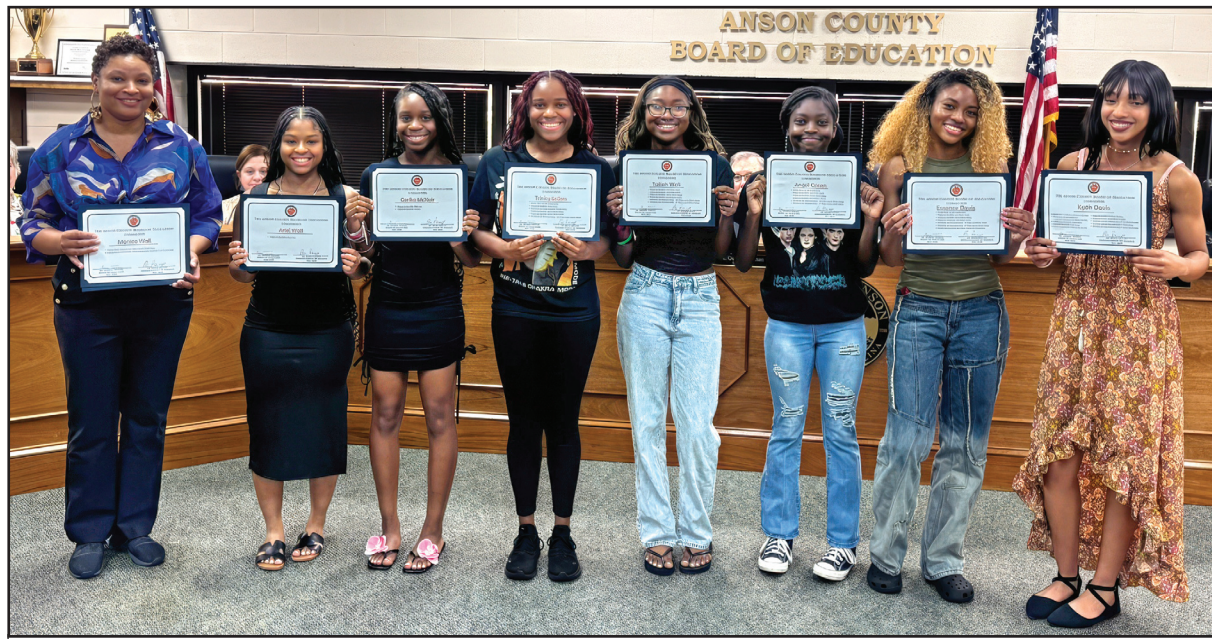
Mackenzie Bowman, Elijah Sellers, Nahaji Johnson and Dallas Lilly received special recognition for winning the State Championship in the 4x100 Meter Relay.

The Anson High School Lady Bearcats girls track team was also recognized for an outstanding season as Conference Champions, with numerous athletes qualifying for both Regional and State competition across multiple events. Officials praised the Lady Bearcats for their hard work, determination and commitment to excellence throughout the season.

Coach Wall was honored as Conference Coach of the Year, recognizing the leadership, dedication and success he has brought to the program.

"We are so proud of these student-athletes and Coach Wall!" Superintendent Ratliff said during the meeting.

Board members and school leaders congratulated Coach Wall and the entire Bearcat track program on what they described as an incredible season representing Anson High School with pride.



Pictured above with their recognition certificates are the Anson High School Lady Bearcats track team.

Charlotte Man Charged in Anson County Home Invasion Investigation

A Charlotte man has been charged following an investigation into a violent home invasion that occurred in Anson County in 2024, according to the Anson County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities said deputies responded on December 21, 2024, at approximately 9:30 p.m. to a residence on Bethel Road in the Wadesboro area after receiving reports of a home invasion involving a person being shot. When deputies arrived, investigators found several victims who had reportedly been restrained with plastic zip ties. Officials said one female victim suffered a gunshot wound to the leg, while two additional victims were assaulted with a handgun. The injured victims were transported to Atrium Health Anson for treatment.



Aaron Ratliff

During the investigation, evidence collected from the scene was submitted to the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory for processing. Investigators later identified 37-year-old Aaron Deunte Ratliff of Charlotte as a person of interest through DNA evidence obtained from items collected at the scene. Detectives obtained a search warrant for Ratliff's DNA and, with assistance from the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation Fugitive Team and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department CAT Team, located Ratliff in Charlotte.

Authorities said Ratliff was initially taken into custody on unrelated misdemeanor charges in Charlotte. Detectives with the Anson County Sheriff's Office later interviewed him and collected DNA evidence pursuant to the search warrant.

On May 18, 2026, investigators reportedly received confirmation from the State Crime Laboratory that Ratliff's DNA matched evidence collected during the investigation. Arrest warrants were then obtained, and Ratliff was taken into custody by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police on May 23 without incident. Officials said Ratliff is currently being held in the Mecklenburg County Detention Center awaiting extradition to Anson County.

According to the Sheriff's Office, Ratliff faces charges including first-degree burglary, robbery with a dangerous weapon, three counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and five counts of first-degree kidnapping.

Join the Bowman High School Class of 1976 50th Reunion

Reflect, reconnect, rejoice with your classmates for the Bowman High School Class of 1976 50th Reunion on Saturday, June 13. The event will be held in the Lockhart-Taylor Center, 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. Please join us for an elegant black-tie affair with dinner, dancing, live music, fun, games and photos!

Cost is \$75 per classmate / \$50 per guest. Make checks payable to: Bowman High School Class of 1976, PO Box 108, Wadesboro, NC 28170. Or, you can use the QR code or call 704-695-4968 with any questions you may have.



50 years is certainly worth celebrating! Come share in the excitement and party like it's 1976! See the Bowman High School Class of 1976 page on facebook for more details.

Anson County Farm Bureau Announces 2026 Scholarship Recipients

Anson County Farm Bureau has announced the recipients of its 2026 scholarships, recognizing three local students for their academic achievements and commitment to their community.

On May 14 the organization awarded 3 scholarships of \$1,665 each to outstanding students from Anson High School and Anson Early College.

The scholarship recipients are Madalyn Carpenter, Adisun Taylor and Elizabeth Steagall. According to Farm Bureau representatives, the students have demonstrated academic excellence along with a strong dedication to serving their community.

Farm Bureau congratulated the recipients and expressed pride in their accomplishments, noting that the organization looks forward to seeing their future contributions to the community.



Queen Rearing Workshop Planned June 13 In Lilesville

Local beekeepers - and anyone curious about the fascinating world inside a hive - are invited to attend a Queen Rearing Workshop on Saturday, June 13 at Pee Dee Electric. The workshop will focus on the process of raising queen bees, an important part of maintaining healthy and productive honeybee colonies. Experienced beekeepers are expected to share information and techniques related to queen development, hive management and bee health.

The event will take place at the Pee Dee Electric facility located at 9825 US-74 West in Lilesville. For more information, visit the Anson County Beekeepers Facebook page.