

THE EXPRESS

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GRADUATION SPECIAL EDITION...CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ANSON COUNTY GRADUATES



ANSON HIGH SCHOOL AND ANSON COUNTY EARLY COLLEGE HONOR GRADUATES FOR 2025

Reverend Terry Little Selected as National Speaker

Reverend Terry Little, Pastor of the West Deep Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Wadesboro, has been selected to be the opening speaker at the 91st Annual Session of the National Baptist Deacons Convention of America. The event will convene on Sunday, July 20 at 11:00 a.m. at the Marriott Hotel, located at 425 North Cherry Street in Winston Salem, NC.

Pastor Little also serves with the North Carolina General Baptist State Convention and is the former Moderator of the Zion Missionary Baptist Association. He has served as Pastor of West Deep Creek MBC for 21 years.

Little is married to Lisa H. Little of Charlotte and they are the parents of two children and grandparents of three grandchildren.

Wadesboro Coalition for Peace Kickoff

Next meeting is scheduled for July 2

This is a release from the Town of Wadesboro: Nearly 200 community members packed Smith's Funeral Home on June 18 for the launch of the Wadesboro Coalition for Peace, a united effort to confront the impact of gun violence in Wadesboro and across the county.

Wadesboro Mayor Fred Davis opened the meeting with a message of welcome and urgency. Leon Gatewood, CEO of HOLLA! Community Development Corporation (CDC) moderated the gathering, which focused on healing, accountability and hope. Speakers shared powerful reflections, voicing both grief and frustration over the recent spike in gun-related tragedies, while also pledging to take bold, united action.

At the meeting, Wanda Smith, the mother of 22-year-old Desmond Tra'Jon Pegues, bravely shared her heart-wrenching journey of loss as she spoke about the pain of losing her son to violence and the ongoing process of navigating life through unimaginable grief. "We cannot afford to be silent or divided when it comes to the safety of our children and our community," Davis said. "We are standing together to let people know Wadesboro refuses to accept violence as the norm."

The coalition is grounded in the belief that real change begins with unity as demonstrated by the following strong network of grassroots organizations partnering with the Town of Wadesboro: HOLLA! CDC; the New Rural Project; Black Voters Matter; D.E.N. (Developing, Educating, Nurturing); Brothers 4 Life; the Caraway Foundation; Behind These Prison Walls; and local pastors and community members.

The energy in the room made one thing clear: This is just the beginning.

The next community meeting will be held Wednesday, July 2 at 6 p.m. at Smith's Funeral Home, 603 Salisbury Street, Wadesboro. All are encouraged to attend, get involved and be part of the solution.

Wadesboro Summer Youth Work Program to Equip Teens with Job Skills

Application period ends July 1, for ages 15-18

This is a release from the Town of Wadesboro: The Town of Wadesboro is giving local teens a chance to gain valuable job experience this summer through its Youth Work Program. The initiative, open to residents ages 15 to 18, is designed to help students build their resumes, develop workforce skills and earn income while contributing to their community.

Set to run from July 7 through August 15, the program offers a six-week paid opportunity for teens to engage in real-world work settings. Applications will be accepted from June 18 through July 1, with limited spots available.

Teens who meet the eligibility requirements - being a Wadesboro resident and between 15 and 18 years old - are encouraged to apply before the July 1 deadline.

For more information or to apply, call Town Clerk Debbie Cox at (704) 694-5171 or email her at dc Cox@wadesboronc.gov.



ANSON HIGH SCHOOL & ANSON COUNTY EARLY COLLEGE JUNIOR MARSHALS 2025

Water Safety Tips

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to think about the importance of water safety to protect their children during the summer. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), drowning is the number one cause of death for children 1-4 years old in the United States. Over 4,500 people died due to drowning each year from 2020-2022, 500 more per year compared to 2019.

For families going to the beach, remember to pay attention to the warning flags that indicate the possibility of rip currents.

"North Carolina's beaches, lakes and pools will be crowded as we head towards the Fourth of July holiday," said NC Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey. "Remember to pay attention to the warning flags at the beach that indicate the possibility of rip currents. A rip current's force is strong enough to pull even the strongest swimmer out to sea."

If caught in a rip current, stay calm, don't fight the current and escape the current by swimming in a direction parallel to the shoreline. If at any time you are unable to reach the shore, draw attention to yourself and call for help.

"Most people believe a drowning person involves flailing arms or frantic calls for help, but that is not the case," said Causey. "Drowning happens quietly when a helpless person is unable to take a breath."

Water Tips:

- Always watch children and never leave them unattended.
- Keep children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings.
- Always keep a charged phone nearby.
- Use self-closing and self-latching gates.
- Know how to perform CPR on children and adults.
- Understand the basics of lifesaving so you can assist in an emergency.
- Install a fence at least four feet high around the perimeter of a pool or spa.
- Ensure all pools and spas have compliant drain covers. Install an alarm on the door leading from the house to the pool.

Bluegrass Acoustic Music Jam

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam on Thursday, June 26, 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.

Free Homebuyer Class on Saturday

Johnson Chapel Church is sponsoring a homebuyer class on Saturday, June 28, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. The class is free, with no registration fee. All are invited to come and be informed.

The class is hosted by realtor Jason Gaddy and loan officer April Palacios.

Johnson Chapel Church is located at 501 Prescott Street in Wadesboro.

The Express is
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Tab Donations Added Up to Over 60,000 Tabs

Anson County Farm Bureau Women's Committee representative Cathy Kelly delivered 60.6 pounds of soda tabs to the Charlotte Ronald McDonald House. That equals approximately 60,600 tabs! They are then sold and the money is used to help sick children and their families have a free place to stay during their treatment.

Cathy Kelly said, "We will continue collecting tabs! Let's make next year's delivery 100,000 tabs. There's a collection container at the Anson County Farm Bureau office, located at 211 Morven Road in Wadesboro. Please save your tabs from drink cans, canned foods, and even pet food cans. You can drop them off Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m."

Thank you all for participating in this project.

