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Law Enforcement Busts Man Attempting to Deliver Drugs to Prison

This is a release from the Polkton Police Department: On Monday, June 23, 2025 officers with the Polkton Police Department and Anson County Sheriff's Office and an Undercover Officer learned that some inmates at our good ol female institution wanted an officer to bring some suboxone in to the facility.

They provided a phone number for the delivery person. Sooooo we had an undercover call him up and ask him if he would bring the drugs to us, and he agreed and said he would pay the undercover \$ 2,000.00.

The person doing the delivery was identified as Justin Robert Murphy from Salisbury prior to his arrival. Officers set up in the area of the meeting spot where the undercover could be watched and as soon as Murphy arrived officers conducted a vehicle takedown. Mr Murphy did try to shove the drugs in his private area once he saw police but he was unsuccessful. Murphy was arrested and charged.



Justin Robert Murphy

Polkton Saturation Speed Enforcement Event Yields 66 Citations and a Drug Bust

This is a release from the Polkton Police Department: The Polkton Police Department has been busy and wanted to say thank you to all agencies that assisted us.

On Wednesday, June 18, 2025 the Polkton Police Department was assisted by other agencies and conducted a saturation patrol in the Town of Polkton. The Monroe Police Department, Anson County Sheriff's Office, Stanly County Sheriffs Office, Norwood Police, North Carolina Highway Patrol and others assisted us with this saturation. Officers conducted speed enforcement and issued citations for traffic violations. Those totals were 66 citations issued for violations.

During one of the traffic stops a quantity of pills and cash were located and seized. That was headed to someone in our town to be distributed. Total weight was 79.98 grams of Schedule 1 narcotics.

We can't say "Thank You" enough for these agencies assisting.

Jeremy Jamaine Harwell Charged with Insurance Fraud

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey announced the arrest of Jeremy Jamaine Harwell, 51, of 175 Davidson Drive, Wadesboro. Harwell is charged with one count of insurance fraud and one count of attempting to obtain property by false pretense. Both charges are felonies.

According to special agents with the NC Department of Insurance's Criminal Investigations Division, Harwell filed a false claim to Southern General Insurance Company, providing false statements and forged invoice documents in attempt to substantiate his claim. He collected \$400 from the company.

The incident occurred on September 23, 2024, according to the warrant. Harwell was arrested on June 20, held at Anson County Jail and released on a \$20,000 unsecured bond. He will appear in Anson County District Court on July 8.

"Insurance fraud hits consumers in the wallet," 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.

North Carolina's May Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted May 2025 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, unchanged from April's revised rate. The national rate was unchanged at 4.2 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed decreased 5,637 over the month to 5,092,894 and decreased 4,394 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 284 over the month to 196,576 and increased 6,683 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 400 to 5,091,900 in May. Industries experiencing increases were Construction, 1,600; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,300; Government, 300; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 100; and Private Education & Health Services, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Professional & Business Services, 2,200; Manufacturing, 400; Information, 200; Financial Activities, 100; and Other Services, 100. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Since May 2024

	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025
N.C.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
U.S.	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2

Since May 2024, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 67,900 with the Total Private sector increasing by 54,600 and Government increasing by 13,300. Major industries experiencing increases were Private Education & Health Services, 18,100; Professional & Business Services, 15,500; Government, 13,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 13,200; Construction, 7,900; Other Services, 4,800; Financial Activities, 1,300; and Mining & Logging, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases over the year were Manufacturing, 5,400; Information, 800; and Leisure & Hospitality Services, 200.

Tips for Caring for Livestock in Extreme Heat

Last week brought the hottest temperatures of the summer so far to our area. It is very important we manage our livestock during such temperature extremes to avoid heat stress. Check out the tips below to help keep your livestock safe this summer.

Provide access to clean water at all times. Animals will drink more water under extreme heat conditions, so make sure you are taking that into account. If you have automatic waterers or float valves on tanks, check to make sure they are functioning properly. Also make sure there is easy access for all your animals. If you have a large herd, you may need to consider adding more troughs so that animals are not having to wait or fight for access to a water tank.

Provide shelter or shade. This can be from trees, lean-tos, a barn, or any other structure that provides shade from the sun. Animals can get sunburned like people can. Pink skin is at a higher risk of getting burned. Providing shade can help prevent sunburn. Sunscreen can be applied to pink markings on horses, but be careful to avoid the eyes.

Avoid any exercise or stress. If it all possible, do not work animals. The increased stress and activity can easily push animals into heat stress. If you do work your animals, try to use those cooler morning hours before the temperature starts to rise.

Don't keep animals confined together. Give animals space to spread out to increase air movement.

Avoid hauling animals when possible. Confining animals in a trailer, especially in large groups, can be deadly in high temperatures. Again, use cooler night and morning temperatures if animals absolutely must be transported.

Animals with black fur and hide are at higher risk of heat stress. Animals that are not acclimated to the heat, such as animals that have been transported in from a cooler climate, are also at increased risk.

Be sure to observe your animals frequently for signs of heat stress. Signs can vary depending on species, but look for increased pulse and respiration rates, panting, drooling, lethargy, and muscle weakness.

What to Do if My Animal is Showing Signs of Overheating? If your animals are showing signs of extreme heat stress or heat stroke, contact your vet immediately. Move animals to a cool shaded area with access to water. Overheated animals can be cooled off by hosing them down with cool water.

Anson County Farmers Market is Open Every Saturday

The Anson County Farmers Market is open for the season every Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon through September 27. The market offers local farm fresh produce, meats and eggs. Also available are baked goods, jewelry, soaps, candles, textiles and more from local artisans.

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

For more information about the market and how to be a part of it, contact Leslie Lee at 704-695-4415, email: ansonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com, or message through the Facebook page, Anson County Farmer's Market or Instagram @ansoncountymarket.

Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes every Thursday in July. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

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First United Methodist Church
Wadesboro

Part-Time
Administrative Assistant

The Administrative Assistant leads the administrative function for the church community and ensures the smooth operation of the church office. This position supports the mission and values of the church through a high level of service and strong organizational skills. This part-time position (20-30 hours per week) is hired by and accountable to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and is directly supervised by the Senior Pastor.

To apply, please submit cover letter & resume to Misty Hathcock (Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair) at: office@firstumcwadesboro.org

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Greet all guests and church members who visit and assist them as appropriate
- Develop a great working relationship with all staff and serve as a support to the Leadership Team
- Assist in preparation for worship, including preparation of bulletins for Sunday mornings, funerals, and special occasions
- Support the mission of the church through administrative tasks such as project management, data entry, and document preparation
- Help coordinate and design church communications, including social media, church website, and newsletters
- Coordinate church calendar for internal and external meetings/events
- Assist in the preparation of supplies required for church events
- Support Trustees by serving as liaison with vendors and cleaning staff
- Procure and maintain inventory of general office, kitchen, & cleaning supplies
- Answer and direct calls, distribute mail, and perform local errands
- Assist Pastor in completion of annual Charge Conference and year-end reports
- Maintain church membership roll
- Coordinating with Accountant office and Church Check-signers for bill payment and payroll
- Oversee Breeze Management software for contact information, membership, and finances
- Be open to receiving feedback from the Senior Pastor & SPRC
- Participate in annual job performance review coordinated through the SPRC, including the establishment and evaluation of annual goals
- Perform other duties as needed

Desired Qualifications

- 1+ years of experience in an office or customer service environment
- Skilled with Microsoft Office Suite
- Ability to learn new technology and software programs
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Good organizational skills and detail orientation
- Ability to work well with and adapt to the needs of others
- Flexible to adapt to changing needs and priorities throughout the day
- Supports the mission and vision of the church