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

## Davon Jermel Wall Charged with Murder of Tre'von Gaddy

On Sunday, June 16 at approximately 9:53 p.m. the Wadesboro Police Department (WPD) responded to a call reporting gunshots around Camden Road and Highway 742 South. Simultaneously, the WPD and Anson County Emergency Medical Service were dispatched to an unknown medical call at the Stop & Shop, located at 604 Camden Road in Wadesboro.



Wall

First responders arrived to find 26 year old Tre'von Gaddy deceased on the curb in front of the Stop & Shop from (a) gunshot wound(s). Officers from the WPD, with assistance from the Anson County Sheriff's Office, immediately established a crime scene. WPD Investigators requested and were provided assistance by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI). WPD Investigators and NCSBI Special Agents worked throughout the night processing the crime scene and interviewing witnesses. Less than 18 hours after finding Tre'von Gaddy deceased, warrants were obtained for the arrest of 19 year old Davon Jermel Wall, charging him with 1st-degree murder.

The next few days were spent by officers, investigators and special agents attempting to locate Davon Jermel Wall. On Thursday, June 20 at approximately 11:00 p.m. Davon Jermel Wall was arrested for the murder of Tre'von Gaddy and placed in the Anson County Jail without bond. Wadesboro Police Chief Brandon Chewning said, "Speaking on behalf of the entire Wadesboro Police Department, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the friends and family of Tre'von Gaddy. I would also like to thank the Anson County Sheriff's Office and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation for their assistance with this investigation."

## Monroe Expressway Bond Rating Upgraded

On June 20 S&P Global Ratings announced it raised the North Carolina Turnpike Authority's (NCTA) long-term rating to 'A-' from 'BBB+' on the Monroe Expressway senior toll revenue bonds and the Turnpike's subordinate Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan.

"The A- rating for the Monroe Expressway marks a significant milestone in NCTA history," said J.J. Eden, Executive Director of the Turnpike Authority. "Since opening in 2019, the Monroe Expressway has given customers precious time back into their lives and that is the cornerstone of our organization."

S&P Global Ratings credits the upgrade to, "improved financial risk profile of strong due to the expressway successfully finishing ramp-up, as demonstrated by sustained traffic and revenue growth maintained in line with forecast expectations."

## Wadesboro Summer Jam is Saturday

The community is invited to Wadesboro's Summer Jam, to be held this Saturday, June 29 in the uptown area. The event begins at 12 noon, and will feature live music, vendors, family fun and a fireworks show in the evening.

## 'Operation Firecracker Booze It & Lose It' Campaign is Underway

Show your patriotic spirit and keep America safe and be aware of the dangers of drinking and driving.

The annual 'Booze it and Lose it' campaign, which begins today and ends on July 7, uses public outreach and stepped-up law enforcement to discourage drunk driving. Statewide, law enforcement will be patrolling and doing more checkpoints to promote safety and remove impaired drivers from the roads.

"Celebrating this time of year often involves alcohol, which can lead to additional impaired driving crashes," said Mark Ezzell, director of North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program. "Last year, 388 people died in crashes involving drivers who were under the influence of alcohol. That's unacceptable. Our law enforcement partners from Murphy to Manteo will be working this campaign to catch impaired drivers."

A total of 162 alcohol-related crashes and four fatalities occurred on North Carolina roads during the Fourth of July weekend in 2023, according to crash data from the N.C. Department of Transportation. The "Booze It & Lose It" campaign serves as a reminder that there are severe consequences for reckless behavior.

"Finding a sober ride home is one of the simplest things you can do to prevent summer fun from turning into a tragedy," said Durham County Sheriff Clarence Birkhead. "All too often we see impaired drivers injure themselves and others when they choose to drive under the influence. That's why my deputies will be joining with law enforcement from across the state during Operation Firecracker to do our part to stop people from driving impaired and doing harm to others out on the road."

There are plenty of safe ways to arrive safely to a destination, including designating a sober driver or calling a taxi or rideshare service. It is always good to plan ahead and work towards making a safer environment and a safer holiday for everyone. Please visit NCDOT's website to learn more about the campaign and consequences of impaired driving.

## Bluegrass Jam Scheduled for Thursday

Hampton B. Allen Library will host another Bluegrass Jam on Thursday, June 27, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Little Theater (library lower level). The jam session, led by Randy Collins, is open to all ages and skill levels.

Musicians, singers and spectators are welcome to attend. Participants who are 12 years of age or younger will need to be accompanied by an adult. This is a free event and open to the public. The jam session will be held twice each month on the second and fourth Thursdays. Future dates will include July 11, July 25, August 8 and August 22.

If you have any questions please contact Dianne or Caroline at the library, 704-694-5177. You may also contact event volunteer Randy Collins at 336-430-6318 (call or text) or via email at [vaguitar@msn.com](mailto:vaguitar@msn.com).



## Morven Elementary School Celebrates Students Striving for Excellence

"Striving to be better today than I was yesterday." The Morven Elementary School students pictured above proudly show off their Certificates of Completion.

Morven Elementary School thanks all of you for taking those extra steps to reach excellence. Congratulations students!

## Allie Steagall Named District Softball Player of the Year

Allie Steagall has been named District 6 (2A) Player of the Year by the NC Softball Coaches Association along with earning All-District and All-State honors. District 6 counties include Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, and Union. She is a member of the Anson High varsity softball team.



Allie Steagall

Allie was a Rocky River All-Conference selection after leading the conference in batting average and on-base percentage.

Allie is also a member of the Carolina Cardinals National 16u travel softball team and the Anson High School varsity volleyball team.

As a rising junior at Anson High School, Allie is a member of the National Honor Society and the Rotary Interact Club. She also serves as co-president of the FCA.

She is the daughter of Travis and Nicole Steagall of Peachland.

## North Carolina's May Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted May 2024 unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, increasing 0.1 of a percentage point from April's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.0 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate increased 0.3 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 3,965 over the month to 5,079,871 and increased 24,423 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 803 over the month to 187,503 and increased 14,437 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 14,400 to 5,006,800 in May. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 6,800; Professional & Business Services, 6,800; Education & Health Services, 2,600; Other Services, 1,700; Government, 700; Information, 400; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 2,000; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,500; Financial Activities, 700; and Construction, 500.

Since May 2023, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 72,400 with the Total Private sector increasing by 57,900 and Government increasing by 14,500. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 21,600; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 20,300; Government, 14,500; Professional & Business Services, 10,600; Construction, 8,300; Financial Activities, 5,700; Other Services, 5,500; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases over the year were Manufacturing, 7,400; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,900; and Information, 2,900.

## Kids Expo Scheduled for Saturday, August 24

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce's 5th Annual Kid Expo will be held on Saturday, August 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. This event offers kids (grades K-12) an opportunity to create, develop and market a product or service that they are passionate about. Strictly for kids only, adults are not allowed to help sell or market the child's product or service. It takes place in the parking lot and Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church, located on Lee Avenue and East Wade Street in Wadesboro. If their product is food, participants can decide whether to set up inside or outside.

The event is not only a showcase for the children, but an opportunity to understand the elements of owning one's own business. The kid vendors will learn and use real life skills such as math, communication, and creative thinking. Development and marketing of their product or service will have an impact on their sales at the event and offer them some insight into what it takes to own their own business.

The public is invited to come browse, shop, and stay for the awards presentation as the Chamber acknowledges Most Original Business Idea, Highest Business Potential and Best Presentation / Creativity in each age group.

Registration is open until July 19 for Anson County kids and those from surrounding counties. Visit this site: [form.jotform.com/241654792208057](http://form.jotform.com/241654792208057).

Sponsorships are available at different levels. If your business or organization is interested, or if any individual is interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Sandy Cox at the Chamber for more information, 704-310-8948 or [info@ansoncountychamber.org](mailto:info@ansoncountychamber.org).

## Next Meeting of the Anson Commissioners is July 16

The Anson County Board of Commissioners will meet on Tuesday, July 16 at 6:00 p.m. 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](http://youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

## Operation Medicine Drop-Off Drive Thru

Get rid of old, unused or discontinued medications at the Operation Medicine Drop-Off Drive Thru at Grace Senior Center on Thursday, July 25, from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Medications accepted are injectables, needles (insulin or regular), nuclear medicines, liquids or over-the-counter medications. No registration is required.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA. The telephone number is 704-694-6616.

## Lilesville's July 4th Parade has Been Cancelled

The Town of Lilesville's July 4th Parade and celebration has been cancelled. The event had been scheduled for Saturday, June 29.

## Anson County Beekeepers Meet Thursday

The Anson County Beekeepers will hold their regular bee meeting on Thursday, June 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The guest speaker is Shirley Harris, NCSBA Apiary Inspector, featuring her presentation on "Who wants to Bee a millionaire?" And Wade Turner-Piedmont Regional Director with a brief NCSBA update.

There are 50-50 drawings to help earn funds for the association. If you are able to bring some items for the drawings, the Anson Beekeepers will greatly appreciate it. There will be no meal during the meeting.

Not a member but would like to learn more about the local chapter and beekeeping educational programs, or need a beekeeper to re-home a visiting swarm? Visit the "Anson County Beekeepers Association" Facebook page for more information.

## Chair Exercise Class at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting a chair exercise class Thursday, June 27. The class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

## ACTS New Location Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is July 16

The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting to celebrate the new facility for the Anson County Transportation System (ACTS). There will be tours of the building, and light refreshments will be served while they last.

The event takes place on Tuesday, July 16, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The ACTS Office is located at 573 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.