

THE EXPRESS

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

Anson Mobile Food Market is July 17

The next Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, July 17, starting at 10:00 a.m. The location is HOLLA! located at 229 Main Street in Morven.

Food will be given away, including fresh vegetables, fruit and bread (if available). There will be blood pressure and blood sugar checks, along with other healthy living topics and booths.

This free event offers citizens of Anson County six to eight different types of fresh produce monthly. This is a free initiative, so please come and get some produce.

Nothing is required for you to receive produce, just come.

The event is sponsored by the Anson County Extension and its partners.

This event is to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county. It will also serve as an educational event to offer education on the two targeted areas of the county health assessment which are tobacco use and hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas.

NCDMV Announces Moratorium on NC Driver License Expirations

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV) announces that, effective July 1, 2025, Senate Bill 391 has been signed into law by Governor Josh Stein, establishing a moratorium on the expiration of Class C driver licenses in North Carolina. Under this legislation, Class C licenses (standard passenger vehicle licenses) expiring on or after July 1, 2025, will remain valid for driving purposes within the state for up to two years beyond the printed expiration date.

The moratorium, in effect through Dec. 31, 2027, applies only to Class C licenses and allows continued in-state driving privileges during the two-year grace period. Expired licenses will not be valid for any purpose other than establishing the license holder's driving privilege, including identification purposes and air travel, and may not be recognized by other states or federal entities. The moratorium does not apply to commercial driver licenses, or any licenses that are suspended, revoked, or cancelled.

"Thank you to the Legislature and Governor for this temporary measure to provide flexibility for North Carolina drivers while we work to address the increased demand for our services," said NCDMV Commissioner Paul Tine. "Customers may present expired Class C licenses for in-state driving privileges only if the expiration date is July 1, 2025, or later. However, we advise our customers to renew their licenses to ensure they remain valid for identification purposes, including to fly, rent a car, get a bank loan, fill a prescription and have documents notarized."

Ansonia to Present the Play *Grease*

The Ansonia Theatre is presenting the play *Grease*, directed by Tommy Wooten. It runs July 18-27, on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Get ready to hand jive your way back to Rydell High! Join the T'Birds, Pink Ladies, and all your favorite characters in this high-energy, feel-good musical that defined a generation. *Grease* is the story of sweet straight-laced Sandy, and slick smooth-talking Danny, whose summer romance gets a reality check when school starts - and cliques, leather jackets, and teenage antics take center stage.

Packed with iconic hits like "Summer Nights," "Greased Lightning," "Hopelessly Devoted to You," and "You're the One That I Want," this show is a rock 'n' roll celebration of love, friendship, and growing up.

Secure your tickets now at ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950.

Kids Expo Scheduled for Saturday, August 23

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce's Kids Expo will be held on Saturday, August 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 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 now for Anson County kids and those from surrounding counties. The deadline to register is July 18. More information at: ansoncountychamber.org. Visit this site for the registration form: form.jotform.com/251465174622052.

Sponsorships are available at different levels. If your business or organization is interested, or 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. There is also sponsorship info on the Chamber website: ansoncountychamber.org.

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.



Former Wadesboro Police Chief Brandon Chewning, Former WPD Major Steven Kelly Sworn in as Anson Deputies

This is a July 7 release from the Anson County Sheriff's Office: The Anson County Sheriff's Office proudly welcomes three new deputies who were officially sworn in today: Brandon Chewning, Steven Kelly, and Brandon Shull. Together, these distinguished gentlemen bring over 50 years of combined experience in public service and law enforcement.

Brandon Chewning is a retired Police Chief from the Wadesboro Police Department, bringing extensive leadership and policing expertise to the team. Steven Kelly also comes from the Wadesboro Police Department, where he served honorably as a Major before retiring. Brandon Shull brings valuable military experience, having served six years in the Army National Guard as a Sergeant.

We are honored to have these dedicated professionals join our Agency and look forward to the knowledge, discipline, and integrity they bring to the Anson County Community.

Anson County's May Unemployment Rate

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for May was 4.2%. In April it was 4.0%.

Anson's total labor force in May was 8,966, with 8,590 employed and 376 unemployed. In April the total labor force was 9,040, with 8,676 employed and 364 unemployed.

Here are other past rates in Anson County: **2025:** March 4.2%; February 4.5%; January 4.7%; **2024:** December 3.7%; November 4.0%; October 3.7%; September 3.7%; August 4.9%; July 5.0%; June 4.9%; May 4.0%; April 3.7%; March 4.0%; February 4.0%; January 4.0%. **2023:** December 3.8%; November 4.1%; October 4%; September 3.8%; August 4.2%; July 4.2%; June 4.2%; May 4.0%; April 3.6%; March 3.9%; February 4%; January 4.3%. **2022:** December 4.0%; November 4.6%; October 4.9%; September 4.2%; August 4.9%; July 4.7%; June 5.3%; May 4.7%; April 4.6%; March 4.9%; February 5.1%; January 5.1%. **2021:** December 4.4%; November 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 6.5%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The **2020** rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%.

In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the unemployment rate for May was 3.6%. In April it was 3.4%.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 93 counties in May 2025, decreased in four, and remained unchanged in three. Edgecombe County had the highest unemployment rate at 5.3 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 2.9%.

Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases and one decreased. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.9 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.1 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.6%.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 80 counties, decreased in nine, and remained unchanged in 11. Thirteen metro areas experienced rate increases over the year and two remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in May by 24,009 to 5,084,132, while those unemployed increased by 12,032 to 192,431. Since May 2024, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 36,949, while those unemployed increased 10,459.

SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center to Receive Major Upgrades

South Piedmont Community College is proud to announce major renovations to the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located in Wadesboro, Anson County. A cornerstone of both college life and community engagement, the Lockhart-Taylor Center has hosted countless events over the years - from weddings and celebrations to educational gatherings and community meetings. Now, it's time for the building to receive a much-needed transformation.

Thanks to a \$1.5 million investment from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (SCIF), the College is embarking on major renovations to the 9,000-square-foot facility. These upgrades are designed not only to improve aesthetics but also to enhance accessibility and functionality.

The planned improvements include the installation of an American with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant wheelchair lift and ramp. In addition to resolving long-standing maintenance needs, the renovation will include updated lighting, carpeting, and paint, giving the entire space a modern and welcoming look.

Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services and CFO Michelle Brock shared her enthusiasm about the project: "I'm especially excited to make the Lockhart-Taylor Center more accessible and give it the cosmetic refresh it truly deserves. This building has meant so much to our college and the broader community - it's time it gets the love and care it's earned."

The project is currently in the advanced planning phase. Construction activity is expected to begin early next year and will take about a year to complete. The construction will be completed in phases, and additional updates will be shared as progress continues.



The Anson County NAACP Meets July 28

The next meeting of the Anson County Branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) will be held on Monday, July 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro.

They welcome you to come and see what is going on. "Each one reach one."

Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month.

For more information contact Anson NAACP President Sinic Marsh at mrshs6@yahoo.com or 704-254-0630.

Huge Yard Sale is Saturday

Faith-Based Center of Hope will have another HUGE yard sale on this Saturday, July 12 in the parking lot across from Papa Joe's Pizzeria, at Plank Road Shopping Center, 911 East Caswell Street in Wadesboro.

It begins at 8:30 a.m.

All proceeds will go to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Contributions and donations are appreciated.

For more information please contact Vancine Sturdivant, CEO at 704-294-0480, Linda Richardson at 704-465-0243; James Sturdivant at 704-294-8073, Sheila Chambers at 704-690-4154 or Carol Leak at 704-441-5771.

Bluegrass Acoustic Music Jam at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam on Thursday, July 10, 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. A second July jam will be held on Thursday, July 24, same time.

If you have any questions please contact the library at

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