

THE EXPRESS

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

SPCC Hosts Application Night Aug. 4

Prospective students can receive one-on-one admissions assistance

South Piedmont Community College will host an Application Night on the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., offering prospective students personalized assistance with the admissions process.The upcoming event will be held on Tuesday, August 4.

The event will be held at two locations: the Tech Commons in the Main Building on the Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe and the Garibaldi Building on the L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton.

Designed for anyone considering college, returning to school or needing help completing an application, the event provides one-on-one guidance from college staff in a welcoming environment. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive assistance throughout the admissions process.

The first three applicants at each event will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card. In addition, everyone who attends will have a chance to spin a prize wheel for giveaways.

"Application Night is more than just filling out an application - it's the first step toward your future," said Recruitment Specialist Maggie Essenmacher. "Whether you're planning a new career, continuing your education or exploring your options, our team will be there to provide one-on-one support throughout the process and help you get started with confidence. We're excited to welcome you into the Gator family!"

The Old Charlotte Highway Campus is located at 1851 S. Piedmont Street in Monroe, and the L.L. Polk Campus is located at 680 U.S. 74 in Polkton.

Advance registration is requested at events.spcc.edu.

Stolen Mercedes Recovered in Wadesboro; Driver Arrested

A stolen 2025 Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon reported missing by the Asheville Police Department was recovered in Wadesboro on Thursday, July 23, following a coordinated response by local law enforcement.

According to the Wadesboro Police Department, officers received information that the black sport utility vehicle was traveling west on U.S. Highway 74 toward Wadesboro. Officers located the vehicle as it entered the city limits and initiated a traffic stop.

Police said the driver did not immediately stop but eventually pulled over on East Caswell Street near U.S. Highway 52 South. Officers safely contained the situation, issued verbal commands and took the driver into custody without incident.

During the arrest, officers observed a short-barreled AR-style rifle inside the vehicle. A records check confirmed the Mercedes-Benz had been reported stolen by the Asheville Police Department.

The driver was identified as Ali Capone Hope, 21. Hope was arrested and taken before an Anson County magistrate, where probable cause was found to charge him with possession of a stolen motor vehicle. He was given a \$5,000 secured bond and booked into the Anson County Jail.

Police Chief Michael Childers commended the officers involved for their professionalism and coordinated response, noting the stolen vehicle was recovered and the suspect taken into custody without injuries to officers, the suspect or members of the public. Childers also thanked the Anson County Sheriff's Office for its assistance during the incident.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Suspect Charged After Investigation Links Vehicle Chase & Lumber Theft

A Wadesboro man faces felony charges after a police investigation connected a vehicle pursuit with the theft of construction materials from a local job site.

According to the Wadesboro Police Department, an officer attempted to stop a gray GMC pickup truck on Friday, July 18, because it was being operated without a registration plate. Instead of stopping, the driver fled through residential streets at a high rate of speed and escaped.

As the investigation continued, officers reviewed surveillance footage and identified both the suspect and the pickup truck involved.

The following day, officers responded to a construction site on Country Club Road after numerous pieces of lumber were found scattered in the roadway. Investigators determined the same suspect had returned to the construction site on multiple occasions and stolen approximately 120 pieces of lumber. Police also learned the GMC pickup being used had been reported stolen by the Monroe PD.

Through continued investigative work, officers linked the incidents and obtained warrants charging Demetrick Alexander McArthur, 43, with felony flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle and felony larceny.

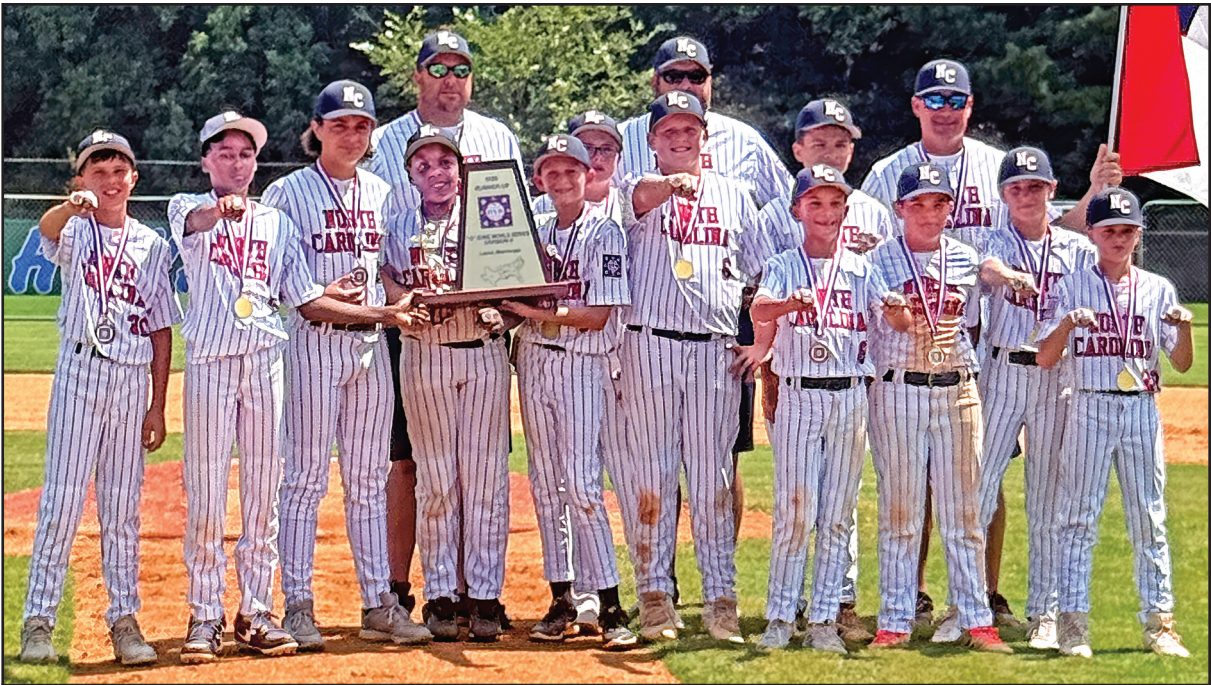
On Tuesday, July 21, officers located McArthur during a business check at Speedway on East Caswell Street. He was taken into custody without incident, transported before an Anson County magistrate, given a \$30,000 secured bond and committed to the Anson County Jail.

Police Chief Michael Childers commended the officers involved for their persistence and investigative work, which led to the suspect's arrest. He also thanked the Monroe Police Department for its assistance during the investigation.

Hot Car Safety

Every year children and pets die from heatstroke in cars, either because they were left or became trapped. More than half of these cases were because an adult forgot about the child or pet in the back seat.

- Put your purse or phone next to the child's car seat so you'll always check the back before leaving the car.
- Keep a stuffed animal or memento in your child's car seat when it's empty. Move it to the front as a visual reminder when your child is in the back seat.
- Making a habit of checking your vehicle before getting out could save a life.



Pictured above are Team North Carolina members Aiden Sheppard, Ari Marshall, Barrett Bates, Brandon Stansberry, Caleb Randall, Jacob Allen, Jax Hyatt, John Carter Chewning, Reese Conklin, Ross Burr, Vann Eudy, and Wesley Young. Manager Kyle Eudy, was assisted by Neal Conklin and Brian Allen.

What A Ride! Team North Carolina is Runner Up in Division II World Series!

On July 23 some of Anson County's finest athletes traveled to Laurel Mississippi for the 2026 Diamond Youth Baseball Ozone Division II World Series. After winning the state tournament our Anson team then became Team North Carolina as they represented the entire state during play with other teams across the nation.

During the double elimination tournament, Team North Carolina faced many skilled opponents like Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and Georgia. Livestream links were provided and hundreds of local viewers tuned in to watch each time they took the field. There was a bright light shining over all of Anson County. A light that showed hundreds of cheering fans pulling together for this amazing team, and a light showing the greatness of these boys both on and off the field. A team who played their hearts out in a national arena while representing us so admirably.

As the World Series concluded, Team North Carolina would end as Runner Up while representing the Field of Dreams, home of Anson Athletic Youth Association. And, we couldn't be any prouder of their team effort, team spirit, teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship.

Supporting this team and their families was a heartwarming experience. When we all come together to lift up and support our youth, who are so deserving of that support, the end result is even more special.

The boys, their managers, and families all deserve credit for the outstanding presence they showed during this entire season. We welcome you all back home with great pride for all you have accomplished. We look forward to seeing what is next for each of you. And for many, many great things to come in your future endeavors. Congratulations Team North Carolina!



Much credit was given to back-to-back homerun powerhouses Aidan Sheppard and Reese Conklin. Conklin drove in Brandon Stansberry for a 2 run homerun. Sheppard batted next with a solo homerun. Additionally Conklin would hit another for a total of 3 during their matchup with Tennessee.

Grace Senior Center Announces August Activities

Fitness, crafts, games and special events fill the August calendar

The Grace Senior Center has another full month of free activities planned for August, offering local seniors opportunities to stay active, get creative, learn new skills and enjoy time with friends.

ALL FREE...AND ALL FUN & INFORMATIVE!

- Monday, Aug. 3 - Claris Companion Tablet, 10-11 a.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 4 - Making Paper Flags, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 6 - Book Club, 10 a.m.-Noon; Sunflower Art, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 7 - Popsicle Stick Art, 1-3 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 10 - Healthy Aging Video (AARP), 1-2 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 11 - Scrapbooking 101, 11 a.m.-Noon.
- Thursday, Aug. 13 - Pipe Cleaner Art, 1-2 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 14 - Canvas Painting, 1-3 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 17 - Claris Companion Tablet, 10-11 a.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 18 - S'mores Stories, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 20 - Button Art, 1-2 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 21 - Senior Day Watermelon Social, 1-3 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 24 - Bingo, 1-2 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 25 - Paper Daffodils, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 26 - Day Trip to Mayfair in Monroe, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 27 - Tree Art (card stock), 1-2 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 28 - Wooden Flower Painting, 1-3 p.m.

Weekly activities include Well Balanced Chair Exercises on Tuesdays (Aug. 4, 11, 18 and 25) from 10 to 11 a.m. and Thursdays (Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27) from 1 to 2 p.m. Please note these updated class times.

Grace Senior Center invites area seniors to participate in the free activities, meet new friends and stay active. For more information or to register for activities, call 704-694-6616. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA on the left.

Music Bingo to Benefit Queen City Honor Flight

Wadesboro Rotary Club event will support veterans' trip to Washington

The Wadesboro Rotary Club is inviting the community to an evening of music, fun and fundraising during its Music Bingo event on Thursday, July 30, at Native State Beer Garden, located at 111 South Washington Street in Wadesboro, the former fire station.

The event begins with Music Bingo at 6 p.m. Instead of matching numbers on traditional bingo cards, players listen to songs, identify the music and mark the corresponding titles on their bingo cards. Organizers promise prizes, good times and an opportunity to support a worthwhile cause.

Donations collected during the evening will benefit Queen City Honor Flight, a nonprofit organization that honors America's veterans by providing free trips to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials built in recognition of their military service. The organization gives priority to World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans, as well as veterans with terminal illnesses. Volunteers accompany the veterans on each trip, helping ensure they receive the recognition and appreciation they have earned through their service to the nation.

The Wadesboro Rotary Club encourages residents to bring friends, enjoy refreshments, play Music Bingo and help support local veterans through Queen City Honor Flight. The event is open to the public and promises an entertaining evening while raising funds for a meaningful cause.

Anson County Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.4 Percent in June

Anson County's unemployment rate increased to 4.4 percent in June, according to preliminary figures released by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, placing the county 87th among North Carolina's 100 counties.

In May the unemployment rate was 4.1%.

The county's labor force totaled 8,865 people during June. Of those, 8,479 were employed and 386 were unemployed. The June unemployment rate was up from 4.1 percent in May, an increase of 0.3 percentage points. Despite the month-to-month increase, Anson County's unemployment rate remained lower than one year ago, when it stood at 4.6 percent in June 2025.

Across North Carolina, the statewide unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in June, unchanged from May but down from 4.0 percent one year earlier. Statewide, 5,052,373 people were employed while 185,010 were unemployed.

Among neighboring counties, Richmond County posted a 3.2 percent unemployment rate, ranking 17th statewide. Montgomery County ranked 22nd at 3.2 percent, while Union County was among the state's strongest labor markets with a 2.9 percent rate, ranking third overall. Stanly County reported a 3.5 percent unemployment rate.

Clay County recorded North Carolina's lowest unemployment rate at 2.7 percent, while Edgecombe County had the highest at 5.3 percent.

State officials noted that unemployment rates increased in 39 counties, decreased in 16 and remained unchanged in 45 during June. They also emphasized that employment figures are influenced by seasonal patterns, making year-over-year comparisons a better measure of long-term employment trends.