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

17 Year Old Tragically Killed in Hit and Run Incident in Wadesboro

This is a release from the Wadesboro Police Department: On Friday, July 26 the Wadesboro Police Department located an unidentified body on the roadside of Highway 52 South near Old Lilesville Road. Investigators believed the individual was struck by a vehicle and therefore turned the investigation over to the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. The Wadesboro Police Department was notified by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol that the body found was that of Anthony Valladares, a 17 year old who was previously reported as missing on July 23, 2024.



Anthony Valladares

Anyone with any information that could lead to the arrest of those responsible are requested to contact the North Carolina State Highway Patrol by calling *47 from a mobile phone. You can also call the Wadesboro Police Department at 704-694-2167.

Wadesboro Police Chief Brandon Chewning said, "I am asking that the community please join our department in keeping the friends and family of Anthony Valladares in your prayers."

Sheriff Scott Howell said, "The Anson County Sheriff's Office sends our deepest condolences to the family and friends during this very difficult time."

Statement from Agriculture Commissioner on Waiving of Motor Vehicle Regulations to Help Farmers

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler released the following statement regarding Gov. Roy Cooper's issuance of Executive Order 311 in preparation for the remnants of Hurricane Debby moving into North Carolina: "North Carolina's farm community is no stranger to dealing with hurricanes and tropical storms bearing heavy rain and know what needs to be done ahead of the storm to help limit damage. The waiving of some motor vehicle regulations related to agriculture is a big help to farmers readying their farms for bad weather.

"At my recommendation and as allowed by state law, the Governor has directed the Department of Public Safety to temporarily suspend weighing vehicles used to transport livestock, poultry, feed and crops in the state.

"This Executive Order will allow our farmers the opportunity to harvest as much of their crops as they can before the storm hits and will help ensure that livestock, poultry, crops and feed can be moved as needed. The order also temporarily suspends the maximum hours of service for drivers.

"I urge farmers to take this storm seriously and do what you can now to be prepared. Check your generators, fuel and emergency kits. We don't know what impact this storm will have yet on our state. But we do know that preparation saves lives and protects property."

Anson Mobile Food Market is Thursday, August 15 at BRLC

The next Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, July 18, starting at 10:00 a.m. at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC), located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information you can call 704-826-8737, check their Facebook page or visit burnsvillemc.org.

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 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.

Atrium Health Women's Care Mobile Health Event is Saturday

'Drive to Thrive' provides a wide range of services

Atrium Health Women's Care Drive to Thrive is mobile care unit that provides a range of women's care services in a warm, welcoming environment. It will be in the front lot of Atrium Health Anson this Saturday, August 10, from 9:00 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Atrium Health Anson is located at 2301 US Highway 74 West in Wadesboro.

Services include:

- Cervical cancer screening (Pap smear)
- Screening for urinary tract infections
- Screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Birth control (contraception), including same-day access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), like intrauterine devices (IUDs)
- First-time prenatal visits, if not established with an OB/GYN
- Postpartum visits
- Ultrasounds
- Mammogram referrals
- Social worker on-site to help connect with other resources

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended. You can call 704-468-0137 to schedule an appointment.

Visit AtriumHealth.org/MobileHealth or scan the QR code for the Drive to Thrive mobile health schedule, locations and more information. The website includes information on the Community Sliding Fee Discount Program that can provide up to a full 100% discount for qualifying patients.



Andrew Martin (center) poses with the Anson County Commissioners on August 6. Pictured are, from left, Jarvis Woodburn, JD Bricken, Jamie Caudle, Martin, Robert Mims, Priscilla Little-Reid and Lawrence Gatewood.

Anson County 4-Her Andrew Martin Addresses County Commissioners

Anson County 4-Her Andrew Martin addressed the Anson County Commissioners during their Tuesday, August 6 meeting. He shared an interesting presentation about how 4-H has positively impacted his life.

This weekend Andrew will represent Anson County 4-H as a delegate at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Youth Voice in Winston-Salem. The event brings together Youth Delegates from 4-H Youth Development clubs all around the state. Andrew will engage with local officials and learn about the functions of county commissioners and the county budgeting process.

Great job Andrew!

Wildlife Commission Announces 2024 Flounder Season

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) approved a temporary amendment to the flounder rule at their business meeting on July 25th that was subsequently approved by the N.C. Rules Review Commission (RRC) on July 31st. Under this modification, the 2024 flounder season will be open in Inland Fishing Waters and in Joint Fishing Waters for hook and line fishing only on September 1st and 2nd and again on September 7th and 8th. The daily creel limit is one fish with a minimum size limit of 15-inches.



"With the approval of the NCWRC and RRC, there will be a lawful recreational flounder season in both inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters for hook and line only," according to NCWRC Executive Director Cameron Ingram.

The designations for inland and joint fishing waters can be found online using the agency's fishing access area map (ncpaws.org/ncwrcmaps/FishingAreas) and zooming in on the Coastal Region where inland waters are shown with no color, joint waters are outlined in red, and coastal waters are outlined in blue. In Anson County there are several waters, including the City Pond, Little Park, Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge, Plank Road at Rocky River and the Pee Dee River at Highway 74.

"Wildlife Commission fisheries biologists will be conducting a flounder harvest creel survey during the open season dates at many boating access areas," said NCWRC Assistant Chief of Inland Fisheries Corey Oakley. "We look forward to speaking with anglers to better understand fishing effort and flounder harvest during the shortened season."

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) has stated they will not open the recreational flounder harvest season in 2024 due to the recreational sector exceeding the 2023 harvest allotment last year. Initially, the NCWRC proposed a temporary rule to close the flounder harvest season in 2024 in its jurisdiction, all Inland Fishing Waters and hook and line fishing in Joint Fishing Waters, to remain consistent with the NCDMF. However, after reviewing and considering the available data and public comments, the NCWRC adopted amendments to provide a limited 2024 flounder season that balances the needs of the resource and the public.

The harvest allotment for flounder, as set by the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission (NCMFC), is currently split 70 percent to the commercial sector and 30 percent to the recreational sector. The split is scheduled to transition to 50 percent for each sector by 2026. The NCWRC in a letter from Chairman Monty Crump requested the NCMFC to accelerate the transition to a 50 percent split for 2024 and allow a recreational season coastwide. The four-day season approved by the NCWRC was calculated to allow recreational anglers an opportunity to harvest fish without exceeding the allotment, if the allocation was shifted as requested.

Apply For NC Pre-Kindergarten Today

The Partnership for Children is accepting applications for NC Pre-K, a Kindergarten readiness initiative that is proven to help four-year-olds gain basic skills needed for success in elementary school. Children who are four years of age before August 31, 2023, are eligible to apply for this high-quality program, which is free to qualifying families.

"Pre-K is a place where children learn skills that are vital to child development. NC Pre-K children learn how to socialize, make their own decisions, and interact with others. These are all important skills for child development. To make the transition to kindergarten easier, children learn eye contact, gain self-confidence, develop work efficiency, create a stronger attention span, and work on temper control," said Karen Gerald, Child Care Services Coordinator, Anson County Partnership for Children.

Not only are children who attended Pre-K more successful in school, they usually have higher grade point averages and are more likely to graduate high school and college.

NC Pre-K classes operate on a regular school calendar and are designed to address emotional and social development, physical health, language development, and cognitive functioning. Through the incorporation of indoor and outdoor learning environments, students participate in active learning experiences to foster a lifetime love of learning.

A high priority is placed on serving children who meet the following criteria: child's family is at or below 75% of the state median income level, a disability has been identified, limited English proficiency, developmental differences, chronic health conditions, or a parent who is active military service personnel.

There are currently four centers operating NC Pre-K classes in Anson County. These classrooms are located at Anson Children's Center, Central Center for Children and Families, C's & T's Childcare, Morven Elementary School, and Open Doors Center for Children.

Parents or guardians interested in learning more about the NC Pre-K program should contact Karen Gerald at 704-694-4036 (Ext. 105) or karen.gerald@ansonchildren.org. Applications are available in the Partnership's Early Childhood Resource Center located at 115 East Morgan Street or online at www.ansonchildren.org.

The Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings who have lost a child of any age, welcomes you to attend their monthly meetings.

They meet on the second Thursday each month, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. "We need not walk alone."

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8.

For more information call Ken Caulder at 704-694-2524.

Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes on Thursday, August 8 and Thursday, August 22. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Bluegrass Acoustic Music Jam is Thursday

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam on Thursday, August 8, 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. The second jam for August will be held on Thursday, 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.

Anson Farmers Market is Open Every Saturday

The Anson County Farmers Market is open for the season, and will be open each Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through September 28, with fresh and local produce, meats, eggs, baked goods, crafts...and much more! Come check it out.

It is located at 1736 Hwy. 52 South, just past the Wadesboro Primary School.

For more information about the Farmers Market or to become a vendor, or to host a weekday market in your area of Anson County, contact Leslie Lee at 704-695-4415 or: ansonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com, or message through the Facebook page, Anson County Farmer's Market.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com