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

## Rockingham Man, Joshua Lamont Hamilton, Arrested for Attempted Murder in July Shooting

This is a release from the Wadesboro Police Department: On Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 10:55 p.m. the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a call for service at the Oak Hill Apartment Complex, located at 1355 North Greene Street in Wadesboro. Officers arrived to find a single male victim suffering from a single gunshot wound. The victim, of Wadesboro, was taken to Atrium Main Hospital in Charlotte where he remains in the Intensive Care Unit. The Wadesboro Police Department, along with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation began investigating this matter and immediately identified one (1) suspect, 22-year-old Joshua Lamont Hamilton of Rockingham. Within 30 hours of receiving the initial call, warrants were obtained charging Hamilton with Attempted First-Degree Murder and Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury. On Tuesday, August 20 the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) apprehended Hamilton and took him into custody. He is being housed in South Carolina until he is extradited back to Anson County. If anyone has information about this incident, contact the Wadesboro Police Department Tip Line 704-694-2160. We would like to thank the men and women of the Wadesboro Police Department, Anson County Sheriff's Office and North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations and South Carolina Law Enforcement Division for their assistance during this investigation. Sincerely, Chief Brandon H. Chewning and Detective Sergeant T. Nolen.

## Open House for Anson Schools is Thursday, August 22

All Anson County Schools are holding Open Houses on Thursday, August 22.  
**• High Schools** 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
**• Middle Schools** 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
**• Elementary Schools** 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
 If you still need to register your child for school, please go to [www.ansonschools.org](http://www.ansonschools.org) and click on the "Enroll Now" button.  
 Remember...the first day of school is Monday, August 26.

## Beekeepers Meet Thursday

The Anson County Beekeepers will hold their regular bee meeting on Thursday, August 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. Jody Taylor will talk about "The Sustainable Apiary." There will be no meal during the meeting. There will be 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. Not a member but would like to learn more about the local chapter and beekeeping educational programs? Do you need a beekeeper to re-home a visiting swarm? Visit the "Anson County Beekeepers Association" Facebook page for more information.

## Kids Expo is this 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. 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 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.

## Anson NAACP Meets August 26

The August meeting of the Anson County Branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) will be held on Monday, August 26 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." For more information contact Anson NAACP President Sinic Marsh at [mrshs6@yahoo.com](mailto:mrshs6@yahoo.com) or 704-254-0630.

## Huge Yard Sale to Raise Funds for Less Fortunate Citizens

**Donations of items or money are greatly appreciated**  
 Faith-Based Center of Hope will have a huge yard sale on Saturday, September 7 in the parking lot across from Papa Joe's Pizza, at 911 East Caswell Street in Wadesboro. It begins at 7:30 a.m. All proceeds will go to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters and Contributions and donations are appreciated. For more information please contact Vancine Sturdivant, CEO, at 704-294-0480, James Sturdivant at 704-294-8073; or Linda Richardson at 704-465-0243.

## Free Movie at the Library August 26 is *The Miracle Club*

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing the movie *The Miracle Club* on Monday, August 26 at 10 a.m. The movie is rated PG-13 and will be shown in the Pritchett room. It is a comedy drama based on the story of three generations of close friends. Any questions call 704-694-5177.



## Anson High School Band Camp. Preparing for a New School Year

The Anson High School Band started their season with a pre-season band camp in early August. Thanks to the student leadership team's dedication and effort, the program could operate at a higher level and provide more robust support to new members. The many moving parts of this program would be impossible to manage without them. The entire band has been working tirelessly during the two and a half week annual camp, logging over 120 hours of training even before the school year and band classes start. This year's halftime show, "Abracadabra," serves as a reminder that life is full of surprises and "aha" moments, encouraging the team to pause and appreciate the roses they find along the way. In the leadership photo above are (left to right): percussion captain Isaac Clarke, brass captain Macayla Mason, flute section leader Angelly Dollente, drum major Wendy Vazquez, colorguard captain Kadaysha Kostelnik, clarinet section leader Jayln Little, woodwind captain Jessica Laney and low brass section leader Jeremiah Liles. The Anson Varsity Majorettes joined the Anson High School Band for Camp from August 13 through August 17. Senior Chloe Drake (right) and Freshman Elin Lockhart worked tirelessly on the practice field to prepare for their first performance under the Friday night lights, which is this Friday night at home. Come out and join Elin, Chloe and the Anson High School Band in supporting the Anson Bearcats!



## North Carolina will Join Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Direct File for Tax Filing Season 2025

Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Revenue (NCDOR) Secretary Ronald Penny announced North Carolina will join the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Direct File program for the upcoming tax filing season. Beginning in 2025, eligible North Carolina residents will be able to utilize the free Direct File tool to submit both their both state and federal tax returns directly with the IRS. Approximately 1.25 million North Carolinians will be eligible to use Direct File for the upcoming tax season. The Biden-Harris Administration paved the way for this critical resource through the Inflation Reduction Act to provide a user-friendly, free filing option to taxpayers. "Filing taxes is often stressful, expensive, and time-consuming for North Carolina taxpayers and families. The IRS Direct File tool helps remove unnecessary hurdles and fees by allowing taxpayers to file directly with the IRS for free, keeping more money in their pockets," said Governor Cooper. "This resource will help ensure qualifying families receive tax credits. We are grateful to the Biden-Harris Administration for their diligent work in developing this tool and making it available at no cost to North Carolinians. We look forward to rolling it out as an option this coming tax season." "Making Direct File available as a filing option to North Carolinians is a huge win for working families. It provides a free filing option for eligible taxpayers, many who struggle to make ends meet," said NC Department of Revenue Secretary Ronald Penny. "Direct File will help minimize tax fraud, strengthening the security of our tax system and protecting our residents against identity theft so that we continue to invest in our state and its people. It will also reduce the number of paper filings state employees are required to process, which will increase overall efficiency at the Department of Revenue." "Thanks to President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, more than 1.25 million North Carolina taxpayers will be able to file their taxes online for free, directly with the IRS this coming Filing Season. Direct File will save North Carolinians time and money and help ensure they receive the tax benefits they are owed," said U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen. "After a successful pilot this Filing Season, we are pleased to expand the program as a permanent offering and welcome North Carolina as the latest new state to offer this free option to taxpayers." During the 2024 filing season, the U.S. Department of Treasury and IRS ran a successful Direct File pilot program enabling 140,000 taxpayers to claim over \$90 million in tax refunds. The average taxpayer spends approximately \$270 and up to 13 hours filing their taxes every year. According to the IRS Filing Season 2024 After Action report, the Direct File pilot saved an estimated \$5.6 million in tax preparation fees for participating taxpayers. "Code for America is thrilled to be working with North Carolina to expand FileYourStateTaxes to the Tar Heel State," said Amanda Renteria, CEO of Code for America. "Direct File is already changing the face of tax filing in America, democratizing access to the tax system, and empowering millions of taxpayers to easily claim the refunds they are due without fees. We are honored to be part of this project and to help bring these benefits to North Carolinians." "Direct File is an opportunity to reduce the overload of financial stress on families, especially those with lower incomes, by simplifying the process to pay their taxes and receive their tax refunds. When parents have more money, it reduces stress and creates opportunities for economic mobility. Ensuring caregivers have what they need before problems arise allows the children in their care to thrive," said Sharon Hirsch, President & CEO of Positive Childhood Alliance. "We are grateful for the Governor's support of Direct File to increase financial security and economic mobility for NC families." "OnTrack WNC tax preparation volunteers have years of experience serving low to moderate income taxpayers and we see firsthand how cumbersome, confusing, and expensive the tax filing systems have become," said Rebecca Strimer, VITA Coordinator and Housing Counselor at OnTrack WNC. "Access to free and simple federal and state filing systems through Direct File will be a big help to taxpayers and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs across the state. Despite our efforts to serve as many people as possible, many taxpayers spend hundreds of dollars each year on tax prep software and services. Direct File will expand our capacity to serve more North Carolinians through our VITA program." Read more about IRS Direct File at [directfile.irs.gov/about](https://directfile.irs.gov/about).

## School Board Meeting is Aug. 26

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 26. The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5). Open Session to the public will begin at 6:00 p.m. If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board. Public comment will be held during the Open Session portion of the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be live-streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

## Bluegrass Jam is Thursday

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam on Thursday, August 22, 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. 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: [vaguitar@msn.com](mailto:vaguitar@msn.com).