205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • The Express News @gmail.com • www. The Express Newspaper.com

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



### Statewide 'Booze It & Lose It' Campaign Launched August 25

The N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program gathered with officials in Charlotte on August 20 to announce the launch of the upcoming Labor Day "Booze It & Lose It" campaign. The statewide enforcement initiative runs from August 25 through September 7 and uses amplified outreach and enforcement efforts to keep impaired drivers off the road during one of the busiest and most dangerous travel times of the year.

Drivers can expect to see an increase in saturation law enforcement patrols and checkpoints statewide over the next few weeks.

While Labor Day is a popular time for final summer getaways, it is also a very dangerous time to be on the roads," said GHSP Director Mark Ezzell. "It marks the conclusion of the '100 Deadliest Days,' which is the time between Memorial Day and Labor Day where we see a spike in teen-related crash fatalities. This campaign reminds everyone to make smart decisions behind the wheel and prioritize safety.

During last year's Labor Day campaign, there were 444 alcohol-involved crashes in North Carolina. Eleven of these crashes resulted in fatalities.

"In addition to enforcement, good engineering, and strong public outreach efforts, we need a commitment from all of our motoring public to be safe on the roads," Lathrop said. "It cannot be said enough: don't speed, avoid distractions, always wear your seat belt and never drink and drive.

#### **Law Enforcement Responds to Gunfire at Oak Hill Apartments**

The Wadesboro Police Department, along with the Anson County Sheriff's Office, responded to Oak hill Apartments at 1355 North Greene Street in Wadesboro on Friday, August 22 at approximately 9:51 p.m. following multiple calls reporting shots fired.

Upon arrival officers discovered multiple vehicles and buildings that had been damaged by gunfire. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

The incident remains under investigation. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Wadesboro Police Department at  $70\overline{4}$ -694-2167.

#### **Chamber on the Half Shell** Oyster Roast – Fall Is Almost Here!

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the return of the Chamber on the Half Shell Oyster Roast, one of the county's favorite fall events. The celebration will be held at Flake Haven Events Venue, located at 5298 NC-742, Wadesboro.

This year's Pearl Sponsor is Anson Health and Rehabilitation.

Tickets are available now at:

ansoncountychamber.org/chamber-events/oyster-roast. Prices are \$65 per person through September 7 and \$75 per person after that date. New this year, receipts will serve as tickets, and guests may simply follow the prompts online after purchase.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For details, call the Chamber office at 704-310-8948 or

email scox@ansoncountychamber.org. The event will again feature the popular Wheelbarrow

Raffle. The raffle prize includes a stocked wheelbarrow valued at more than \$500. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at the Wadesboro ABC Store or online at: ansoncountychamber.org/chamber-events/oyster-roast. Winners do not need to be present to claim the prize.

The Chamber thanks the community for its support and looks forward to welcoming everyone to celebrate the season with food, fellowship, and fun.

## Commissioners Meet September 2

The first September meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners takes place on Tuesday, September 2 at 6 p.m. The second September meeting takes place on Tuesday,

September 16.

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 and

search for Anson Commissioners.

#### Kids Expo on Saturday Was a Smash Success!

This is a release from the Anson County Chamber of Commerce: The song says "Oh what a night," but I would say "oh what a day." Another successful Kids Expo is in the books, thanks to the sponsors, volunteers, and participants who made it possible. Everyone had an amazing time!

• Special thanks to South Piedmont Community College for sponsoring this great event and to Dr. Stacy Waters-Bailey, President of the college, for welcoming participants.

• Many thanks to First Baptist Church for hosting us.

• Thank you to all community sponsors, whose support makes these events possible.

• A big thank you to the volunteers: Caty Edwards, Chamber Board chair, Randy Collins, vice chair, Teresa Cochrane, board member, Tami Newell, board member, Jeremy Taylor, board member, Sable Toney, board member, Amanda and Kennedy Jones with Uwharrie Bank, for working registration, judging, and serving lunch, Dave Edwards for delivering pizza, Scott Rivers for cooking hot dogs, Amanda McFayden and Kennedy for registration, judging, and serving lunch, and Elizabeth Rizzo and Scott Rivers, who shared books from Partnership for Children.

We are grateful for the support and especially for the great books that were shared. This year's expo had more than 50 participants, with many selling out their products. Every child received an Award of Excellence ribbon for a job well done.

**Event Category Winners** Ages 4-10\*\*

• Most Original Business Idea – Fruity Freeze Pops, Merritt Taylor

• Highest Business Potential - Fortune Pops, Cooper and Owen Wyatt • Best Creative Booth - Ainsworth Crew: Char, Cal and Rea Ainsworth

\*\*Ages 11-17\*

• Most Original Business Idea - DNA Wood, Ansley and Dawson Raker Highest Business Potential – Snack Attack, Nora Edwards

Best Creative Booth – Lily Pad Creations, Lily Nance

Congratulations to all of our young entrepreneurs on their creativity, innovation, and hard work. The event was a huge success, full of fun, learning, and community spirit.

#### Photo courtesy of SPCC Advance Directive Lunch & Learn at Grace Senior Center

Grace Senior Center will hold a free Advance Directive Lunch and Learn on Monday, Sept. 8, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. The program will help ensure a person's medical preferences are met if they are unable to speak for themselves.

The presentation will focus on Living Wills, Durable Power of Attorney, and medical orders for life-sustaining treatment. These important documents allow individuals to plan ahead and make their health care wishes clear, reducing stress and confusion for families during emergencies.

Lunch will be provided at no cost to participants.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA. For information call 704-694-6616.

#### **Help for Parents of Children Who Stutter** is as Close as Your Computer or Local Library

Parents of children who stutter now have an important resource at their fingertips. The Stuttering Foundation's 16-minute film, "Help! My Child is Stuttering," is available online at \*www.stutteringhelp.org/content/help-my-child-stuttering\* and can also be viewed at participating libraries.

In the film, parents and speech-language experts discuss ways to promote easier talking during everyday interactions with children. Professionals share simple, practical tips that families can apply immediately at home.

The film features leading international specialists in childhood stuttering, including Lisa A. Scott, Ph.D., of Florida State University; Ellen Kelly, Ph.D., of Vanderbilt University; and speech-language consultants Frances Cook, MBE, MSc, Willie Botterill, MSc, and Elaine Kelman, MSc, from the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children in London.

"This is an important tool for families and teachers of children who stutter," said Jane Fraser, president of the nonprofit Stuttering Foundation. "This film is designed to give parents and teachers the tools they need to play a vital role in the process of helping children who stutter."

For more information about stuttering, write to the Stuttering Foundation, PO Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749, call 800-992-9392, or visit stutteringhelp.org. Since 1947, the Foundation has provided free materials to public libraries nationwide.

Libraries wishing to shelve the current offering can download a request form at: www.stutteringhelp.org/libraries-information or email info@stutteringhelp.org.

# VFW Post 10403 & Auxiliary Plans Bus Trip to Charleston

James D. Henderson VFW Post 10403 and Auxiliary will sponsor a bus trip to Charleston, South Carolina, on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025. The trip will depart from the Food Lion parking lot in Wadesboro at 6 a.m. The itinerary includes visits to the International African American Museum, Mother

Emanuel Church, Market Street, and Tangier Outlet Mall. Travelers will also stop at Golden Corral Restaurant, although lunch is not included in the package price.

A non-refundable deposit of \$40 is required to hold your seat, with the balance due by Oct. 6, 2025. The total donation for the trip is \$75.

For more information or to reserve your seat, contact: Rev. Anthony Hall - 704-294-5798, Donnie Lewis – 704-320-6376, or Joyce Little – 704-690-1908.

**Anson County's July Unemployment Rate Anson County** Anson County's unemployment rate for July was 4.5%. In June it was 4.6%.

Anson's total labor force in July was 9,045, with 8,638 employed and 407 unemployed. In June the total labor force was 9,132, with 8,712 employed and 420 unemployed. **Statewide** Statewide the unemployment rate for July was 3.8%. In June it was 4.0%. Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 75 counties in July 2025,

increased in 11, and remained unchanged in 14. Edgecombe County had the highest unemployment rate at 5.8 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 2.7%. Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases and one remained un-

changed. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.3 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.2 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.8 percent. When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment

rates decreased in 89 counties, increased in seven, and remained unchanged in four.

Fourteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and one increased.

# **Big Changes Coming for Retiree Health**

Grace Senior Center is Hosting Free Lunch and

**Plan in 2026** 

Retirees are encouraged to stay informed about upcoming changes to the State Health Plan that will take effect in 2026. To help navigate these updates, Grace Senior Center will host a free Medicare Eligibility State Health Plan for Retirees Lunch and Learn on Thursday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The session will provide important information about what retirees can expect from the new plan changes and how they may impact coverage. Lunch will be provided, and participants will have the opportunity to ask questions in a supportive setting.

Space is limited, and registration is required. To reserve a spot call 704-694-6616.

## **Discover Your Inner Artist**

Charleston artist Joyce Hall returns to Cheraw on September 19-21 for an oil painting workshop. "Painting Figures" will be the topic for the workshop. Joyce is an international award-winning oil painter. She has exhibited in galleries and museums nationally. www.thestudiosc.com

Cost for the 3-day work-

shop is \$215. A supply list will be provided to participants upon registration. The workshop will be held at the Cheraw Community Center 200 Powe Street from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Contact the Cheraw Arts

Commission 843.537.8420 x 12 to pre-register for the workshop or to receive additional workshop information.