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

The Anson County School System has announced several leadership transitions, reflecting its ongoing

District names new directors and principal appointments

Anson County Awarded \$500,000 **Grant For Job-Creating Project**

Meat Slaughterhouse to bring 61 jobs to Ansonville

Governor Josh Stein has announced nearly \$1.9 million in rural infrastructure grants to four North Carolina counties, including a \$500,000 award for Anson County. The funding, approved by the Rural Infrastructure Authority, will support the reuse of a 28,441-square-foot building in Ansonville.

Halal Meat Slaughter House, Inc., a family-owned meat processing company, plans to relocate and expand operations in the facility. The project will create 61 new jobs and represents a private investment of more than \$4.4 million.

'These rural infrastructure grants are a strategic investment in small towns across our state," said Governor Stein. "They will lead to growth and opportunity in communities like Ansonville.

Other grants were awarded to Gaston, Alexander, and Burke counties. The total investment supported by the program to more than \$74 million and 170 new jobs statewide.

Federal Health Policy In 2025: **Key Changes Ahead**

Medicaid reform, Medicare payments, and telehealth in focus

Federal health policy is shifting quickly in 2025 following new executive orders and passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). These changes are creating uncertainty for patients, providers, and communities.

Medicaid Reform The OBBBA introduces new work requirements, six-month eligibility reviews, \$35 co-pays, and limits on provider payments. It also restricts eligibility for some immigrants and ends federal Medicaid funding for reproductive health services. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the law will reduce federal Medicaid spending by \$793 billion over 10 years and could leave millions without coverage.

Medicare Payments Physicians will receive a temporary 2.5% increase in 2026, but advocates warn this is only another "doc fix" and does not solve long-term payment shortfalls as practice costs continue to rise.

Telehealth One bright spot is bipartisan support for telehealth. The new law allows telehealth expenses to qualify for Health Savings Accounts and lets high-deductible plans cover virtual visits sooner. Experts expect ongoing momentum, though permanent reforms are still needed.

Community Health Centers Federally Qualified Health Centers remain in limbo with only short-term funding extensions, making it difficult to plan for staff and services in underserved areas

The Road Ahead Advocates encourage healthcare professionals and patients to stay engaged with policymakers, emphasizing reforms to stabilize Medicaid, protect Medicare payments, and expand telehealth access.

What It Means For You

- Medicaid coverage may be harder to keep New work rules and six-month eligibility reviews could cause many to lose coverage, even temporarily. • Doctors under pressure - Medicare payments are not
- keeping up with costs, which may affect access to care.
- Telehealth gets a boost Virtual visits will remain easier
- to access and may be covered by more insurance plans.
- Community clinics at risk Health centers that serve rural and low-income areas still face unstable funding

Initial Affordable Care Act Rates for 2026 are Now Posted

Insurers request significant increases

The N.C. Department of Insurance has posted the requested 2026 Affordable Care Act plan rates for the individual and small-group markets. All participating insurers are seeking increases, some substantial, citing rising health care costs, the expiration of the enhanced subsidies that were introduced in the American Rescue Plan Act and then extended in the Inflation Reduction Act, and new federal rules.

Officials warn that with subsidies ending, many North Carolinians may struggle to afford coverage, and younger, healthier people could drop out of the market, driving costs higher.

Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey said the department is reviewing all filings to ensure rates are not excessive or discriminatory. Consumers with questions may contact NCDOI at 855-408-1212.

The website is ncdoi.gov.

South Piedmont To Offer Nurse Aide Refresher Course This Fall

Registration open for October session

South Piedmont Community College will offer a Nurse Aide Refresher Course from October 2 to November 4, 2025. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., totaling 40 hours over five weeks. The course is designed for individuals with a current or

expired listing on the North Carolina Nurse Aide Registry who want to sharpen skills and regain certification. Program Director Jessica H. Bowers said the goal is to prepare competent, caring professionals ready to reenter the healthcare workforce.

Tuition is \$248, and students must provide identification and proof of registry status. For details or registration, visit spcc.edu/programs/nursing-related-courses.

Free Lunches on Mondays at BRLC

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center is providing free lunches every Monday in September from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meals are available for senior citizens and those with limited mobility. The center is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in

Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

For more information, call 704-826-8737, email burnsvillelc@gmail.com.

commitment to placing strong, student-centered leaders in key positions across the district. • Dr. Toni Warrick has been named Director of Human Resources and Federal Programs. Dr. Warrick

Anson County Schools Announces Leadership Updates

educational leadership. • Dr. Joshua McLaurin has been appointed Executive Director of Secondary Education for Improvement. He transitions from his role as Director of Human Resources and Operations. His new position will focus on advancing equity and academic growth in

previously led Federal Programs, MTSS, Beginning

Teachers, and Instructional Leadership Coaching. Her

expanded role will build on her extensive experience in

• Dr. Travis Steagall will serve as Director of Operations. Formerly principal of Peachland-Polkton Elementary School, he will now oversee district-wide operations, systems, and services, drawing on his strong background in school leadership.

secondary education.

• Mrs. Mary Beth Kiser has been named Principal of Peachland-Polkton Elementary School. She previously served as assistant principal at the school and is praised for her dedication to student learning and strong connection with the school community.

Anson County Schools invites the community to join in congratulating these leaders as they begin their new roles. Their dedication and vision will continue to strengthen the district and support student success in the years ahead.



Dr. Toni Warrick



Dr. Travis Steagall



Dr. Joshua McLaurin



Mrs. Mary Beth Kiser

Grace Senior Center Has It Going On In September!

Grace Senior Center is an excellent resource for Anson County's senior citizens. They provide programs, services, activities and fellowship that are beneficial.. ALL FREE...AND ALL FUN & INFORMATIVE!

Check the Express Events Calendar for even more activities at Grace Senior Center. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA. For information call 704-694-6616.

Claris Companion Tablet Classes Once training is completed participants can check out the tablets for one or two weeks.

- Monday, September 1 Office Closed • Tuesday, September 2 – Skin Care Presentation, 12 pm–2 pm
- Wednesday, September 3 Painting Leaves, 12 pm–1 pm
- Thursday, September 4 Book Club, 10 am–12 pm
- Chair Exercises, 1 pm-2 pm
- Friday, September 5 Cheese Pizza Drop-In, 12 pm–1 pm
- Monday, September 8 Advance Directive, 12 pm–2 pm • Tuesday, September 9 – Chair Exercises, 10 am–11 am
- Claris Companion Tablet Class, 12 pm-1 pm
- Thursday, September 11 No Chair Exercise • Monday, September 15 – National Donut Day Drop-In, 12 pm–1 pm
- Tuesday, September 16 Chair Exercises, 10 am–11 am
- Ovarian Cancer Discussion (ACHD), 12 pm-2 pm • Wednesday, September 17 – Suicide Prevention Presentation, 12 pm-2 pm
- Thursday, September 18 Chair Exercises, 10 am–11 am Color Me Calm Color Sheets, 12 pm-1 pm
- Friday, September 19 Line Dancing, 12 pm–2 pm • Monday, September 22 – Recognizing Fall Prevention Week: Word Search and Dis-
- cussion, 12 pm-1 pm
- Tuesday, September 23 Chair Exercises, 10 am–11 am
- Hearing Aid Information (Concerns of Balance), 12 pm-2 pm • Wednesday, September 24 – Claris Companion Tablet Class, 12 pm-1 pm
- Fall Prevention Information (Handouts), 12 pm-1 pm • Thursday, September 25 – Chair Exercises, 10 am–11 am
- Movie Day (The Book Club), 12 pm-2 pm
- Friday, September 26 Fall Prevention Jeopardy, 12 pm–1 pm • Monday, September 29 – VFW Day Presentation with Mr. Jesse Campbell, 12 pm–2 pm
- Tuesday, September 30 Chair Exercises, 10 am–11 am

Honoring Veterans And Supporting Our Community

Wreaths Across America in Anson County set for Dec. 13

Anson County will join the national Wreaths Across America effort on Saturday, December 13, 2025, placing wreaths on veterans' graves at Anson Memorial Park. The ceremony honors the service and sacrifice of local veterans with dignity and remembrance. This year's program also supports Anson Community Hospice, with a portion of

wreath sponsorships benefiting patients and families in need of end-of-life care. Community members are invited to sponsor a wreath for \$17, volunteer on Wreath Day, donate to Hospice, or help spread the word.

Through this partnership, Anson County continues to honor the past while serving the present, symbolizing both remembrance and hope. To sponsor a wreath, visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

Amazon To Build 10 Billion Dollar Artificial Intelligence **Innovation Campus In Richmond County** Monumental investment promises hundreds of tech jobs, training programs,

and major economic boost Amazon Web Services is launching a \$10 billion artificial intelligence and cloud

computing campus in Richmond County, now confirmed as one of the largest capital investments in North Carolina state history. This groundbreaking project will anchor Richmond County as a regional center for AI and cloud computing, delivering jobs, education, and growth opportunities for years to come. **Key Highlights**

• The AI campus, to be built in the Energy Way Industrial Park, will create at least

500 high-skilled jobs - ranging from data center engineers to network specialists - and support thousands more in construction and supply chains. • Officials expect significant upgrades to local infrastructure, including water, wastewater,

and fiber optics, with no taxpayer cost. · Amazon's investment includes a workforce training component, partnering with local

colleges on programs such as data center technician courses and fiber-optic workshops.

• The company is also launching a \$150,000 community fund, offering grants up to \$10,000 to support STEM education, economic development, sustainability, and well-being in Richmond County.

• "Artificial intelligence is changing how we work and innovate," said Governor Josh Stein, calling the investment a step toward keeping North Carolina at the forefront of innovation. Broader Context Amazon has already contributed more than \$12 billion to North Carolina's economy since 2010, supporting thousands of jobs and strengthening the state's technology infrastructure.

Bluegrass Acoustic Set Returns to the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host its Bluegrass music acoustic set on Thursday, September 11, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the library's Little Theater. These sessions are open to musicians, singers, and spectators of all ages and skill levels.

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone is invited to come out and join the fun. For more information, call the library

at 704-694-5177.

NAACP To Host Community Meet And Greet Event set for Sept. 15

Anson County

at Hampton B. Library with voter registration available

The Anson County NAACP is inviting the public to a nonpartisan meet and greet on Monday, Sept. 15, at 6:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Hampton Library, located at 120 Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Organizers have said that the gathering is an opportunity for community members to come together, learn more about the local NAACP chapter, and share ideas strengthening engagement in the county. In addition to fellowship and conversation, voter registration will be made available

The event is open to all, and the NAACP emphasizes that it is strictly nonpartisan, welcoming participants of every political affiliation

Joy Gfeller and Students to Perform at the Hampton B. Allen Library

Musical program is scheduled for Sept. 8 in the Little Theater

Library will present a special program musical Monday, September 8, at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Little Theater. The featured performers will be Joy Gfeller and several of her students. Everyone is invited to enjoy the music and talent of this group. For questions, call the library at 704-694-5177.

The Hampton B. Allen

Bowman Senior

High School Class Of 1971 to Meet October 4

Gathering scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library

The Bowman Senior

High School Class of 1971 will hold a meeting on Saturday, October 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the Little Theater Room of the Hampton B. Allen Library. Class members

discuss plans for their next reunion along with other information concerning the Class of 1971.