

Mobile Food Market is Thursday

The next Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, August 21, starting at 10:00 a.m. It is being held in conjunction with the Grace Senior Center's Senior Picnic in the Park event at Little Park, located at 845 Airport Road in Wadesboro.

The Senior Picnic is for senior citizens, but the Mobile Food Market is available to all ages.

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.

Help with produce bags will be provided for elderly or disabled attendees.

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 for you 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 & hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas.

Annual Randy Travis Music Festival in Marshville Set for September 20

Full day of live music, food, games, and community fun in downtown Marshville

The Marshville Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Randy Travis Music Festival on Saturday, September 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in downtown Marshville. The festival promises a thrilling family-friendly day filled with live music, delicious food, children's games, street vendors, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy time with friends and neighbors in a safe and festive setting.

Although Marshville native and country legend Randy Travis is on tour and will not be in attendance this year, the Chamber has planned an exciting lineup of performers sure to keep the crowd entertained throughout the day.

This year's bands include:

- Next Chapter
- South Wind
- Buddy Ray Cutshaw
- Anna Stamato
- Darren Deese
- Journey Tribute Band

Organizers encourage residents and visitors alike to come out, celebrate the spirit of Randy Travis and Marshville, and enjoy one of the community's signature events.

Local Author Spotlight: John Witherspoon at the Hampton B. Allen Library on September 15

Community invited to hear stories, ask questions, and purchase signed books

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a special author event on Monday, September 15, at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Featured local author John Witherspoon will discuss his new book "Smitty Stories: Short Stories" and share insights from his writing journey.

Everyone is invited to attend this free event, meet the author, and enjoy a morning of storytelling. Copies of "Smitty Stories" will be available for purchase.

For more information call the library at 704-694-5177.

New Data Cards Show How North Carolina Children Are Faring

County-level reports present crucial benchmarks on child health and wellbeing in all 100 counties

Statewide child advocacy nonprofit NC Child has released its 2025 County Data Cards, which outline 15 key metrics assessing child and family health and well-being. Drawing from reports by agencies such as NCDHHS, NCDPI, and NCDPS, the cards capture 2023 data to give communities the most current picture available.

Each of North Carolina's 100 counties has its own data card, and NC Child also publishes a statewide snapshot to allow comparisons. The cards track progress in five areas: maternal and infant health, family economic security, education, health, and child welfare and safety.

In North Carolina, 40.4% of children live in poor or low-income homes, while 18.9% live in food-insecure households. Although these numbers improved slightly over the past year, advocates worry that federal cuts to programs like Medicaid and SNAP could erase those gains.

"The County Data Cards equip decision makers, community leaders, and child advocates across the state with the latest information about what children and families in their community need to thrive," said NC Child Executive Director Erica Palmer Smith. "Together, we can continue advocating for policies that improve the lives of all North Carolina children."

The 2025 County Data Cards for Anson County and all other NC counties are available at ncchild.org/datacards.

NC Child, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the state's only multi-issue child advocacy organization. Its work focuses on health and well-being, early childhood education, and family economic security, while also serving as a leading source of research and data for policymakers and advocates. For more information, visit ncchild.org.

Anson Ag Expo & Fair is Sept. 18-20

Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 18-20, the dates for this year's Anson Ag Expo & Fair.

Ag Fair The Ag Fair will be held at the Extension Center in Wadesboro on Saturday, September 20.

The Ag Fair will be open to the public on Saturday from 12:00 until 2:00 p.m. Come out and join the fun, and help us celebrate agriculture in Anson.



Meeks from the SonShine Committee, determined to hijack the funeral, while Dewey's brother, who's got his sights set on Dorothy's home.

Of course, it wouldn't be a small-town send-off without more colorful characters showing up: Stephanie Sark as sweet Fairy June with Tonya Manus as understudy, Teri Brown as Martha Ann, David Michael as Benny Charles, Hawk Forsyth as Dewey Jr., Tyler Baucom as Attie Van Leer, and Evan Grier as Beecham.

Funerals have a way of bringing out the worst, the best, and - most importantly - the funniest in people, and this family is no exception. With Southern charm, sassy comebacks, and just enough scandal to keep your nosy neighbor whispering for weeks, Southern Fried Funeral is a big-hearted comedy about family - Southern style.

Performances run September 12 through September 21, with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. at the Ansonia Theatre.

Don't be the one scrolling through spoilers on Facebook because you missed it. This is the season opener at the Ansonia Theatre, and honey - it sets the tone.

Tickets are available now at ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950.

Y'all... "Southern Fried Funeral" is Coming in HOT to the Ansonia Theatre!

Bless their hearts, the Frye family is barely holding it together after Dewey's untimely departure—and we get front row seats to all the casseroles, chaos, and small-town scandal that follow in "Southern Fried Funeral," directed by Tommy Wooten.

At the heart of the story is Dorothy Frye, played by Ruth Ann Harris, who's suddenly left to keep her family together when her husband Dewey passes on. But keeping the peace proves near impossible with daughters Claire Watkins as Sammy Jo and Gina Clarke as Harlene constantly butting heads. Adding to the madness, Kim Austin stirs the pot as the overbearing Ozella

Scotty Roy Hills Captured After 24-Hour Manhunt

Anson Sheriff Scott Howell announced the capture of Scotty Roy Hills, who had been on the run since the early morning hours of Monday, September 8. The incident began when the Rockingham Police Department initiated a vehicle pursuit after a car was flagged by the FLOCK camera system as carrying a wanted subject. The chase continued into Anson County, where deputies with the Anson County Sheriff's Office successfully deployed stop sticks on Highway 74 near Harrington Road, disabling the suspect vehicle.

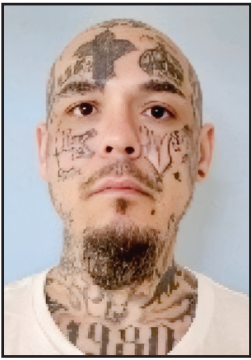
The driver, identified as Hills, fled on foot into a wooded area near Harrington Road. During the pursuit, he fired shots at officers before disappearing into the woods. Classified as armed and dangerous, Hills' escape triggered an intensive manhunt that lasted more than 24 hours. Deputies searched tirelessly, responding immediately to every tip and lead while canvassing numerous locations across the county.

Sheriff Howell gave special recognition to K-9 Landi, the Sheriff's Office's highly trained bloodhound, who played a crucial role in the capture. Reinstated to the Canine Program in 2023, Landi is trained for missions such as locating missing persons and tracking fleeing suspects. Landi spent countless hours tracking over varied terrain, ultimately leading deputies to Hills' hiding place under a building on property in the southern part of Wadesboro. Special thanks were also extended to Captain Jimmy "Dogman" Williams, Landi's handler, who was responsible for the dog's care and training and worked alongside Landi every step of the way.

Sheriff Howell commended his deputies for their persistence and professionalism and emphasized that the successful conclusion came through teamwork within the Sheriff's Office and with partner agencies. These included the Rockingham Police Department, Wadesboro Police Department, Richmond County Sheriff's Office, Stanly County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina Highway Patrol, Polkton Police Department, Anson County Emergency Management, Anson County EMS, and Anson County Communications.

He also praised the citizens of Anson County, whose tips, reported sightings, and encouragement were vital to the search. "This case came to a safe and successful conclusion through teamwork not only within the Sheriff's Office but also in partnership with the citizens of Anson County," Sheriff Howell said. "Your help was vital in bringing this situation to a close."

Sheriff Howell expressed his appreciation to all involved and thanked the community for their trust, encouragement, and support throughout the ordeal.



Scotty Roy Hills



Wadesboro Police Arrest Three After High-Speed Chase

Driver faces multiple charges, suspected fentanyl discovered at jail intake

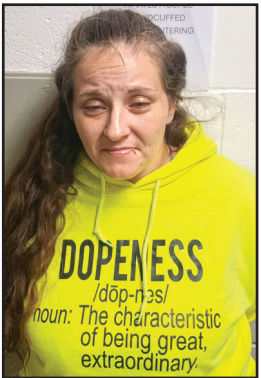
On September 3, at approximately 1:15 a.m., Officer Ivy of the Wadesboro Police Department initiated a traffic stop on Highway 74 Westbound in front of the Waffle House in Wadesboro. The driver refused to yield to blue lights and led officers on a high-speed chase. Sgt. Burch of the Wadesboro Police Department joined the pursuit, along with the Marshville Police Department and Union County Sheriff's Office. The chase ended in Monroe, N.C., when a Monroe Police Department officer deployed stop sticks to disable the vehicle.

The driver, identified as Lena Shepard, was taken into custody and charged with Driving While License Revoked (DWLR), Careless and Reckless Driving, No Insurance, Expired Registration, Failure to Yield to Blue Lights and Sirens, and Felony Flee to Elude.

Once booked into the Anson County Jail, detention officers discovered suspected fentanyl concealed in one of Shepard's body cavities. Shepard is being held without bond, and further charges are pending.

Two passengers were also arrested. Jason Porter was charged with Felony Possession of Fentanyl and received a \$5,000 secured bond. Breanna Bryson was charged with Felony PWISD Schedule III and received a \$5,000 secured bond.

The Wadesboro Police Department thanked the Marshville Police Department, Union County Sheriff's Office, and Monroe Police Department for their assistance in safely ending the pursuit. In a statement, the department reaffirmed its commitment to "pursuing justice and keeping our communities safe."



Lena Shepard



Jason Porter



Breanna Bryson

Peachland Cemetery Association Meets

The Peachland Cemetery Association will meet this Sunday, September 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the Peachland Fire Department, located at 35 East Passaic Street.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Board of Commissioners Meeting is September 16

The second September meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners takes place Tuesday, September 16 at 6 p.m.

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.

Senior Picnic in the Park is Thurs.

Grace Senior Center is hosting their annual Senior Picnic in the Park event this Thursday, September 11. It takes place from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Little Park, located at 845 Airport Road in Wadesboro.

All senior are invited to this free event that will feature outdoor fun for everyone. Join them for a picnic in the park and make unforgettable memories with old and new friends!

Please register to attend by calling Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

Mobile Food Market Anson County Cooperative Extension will hold their monthly Mobile Food Market at the Senior Picnic, starting at 10:00 a.m. Attendees are invited to receive free fresh produce. There will be free blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks, and healthy lifestyle information will be available. Help with produce bags will be provided if you need it.