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

## Anson Fall Fest and Ag Fair are this Friday and Saturday!

**Fall Fest, Friday, September 20** The Family Fall Fest will be on the Square in Wadesboro on West Wade Street and Greene Street on Friday night, September 20, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. All ages are invited to an evening of games, a petting zoo, food and FUN!

All activities are free to the public. The Family Fall Fest will feature fall and agriculture themed games and competitions for kids. There will also be face painting, food trucks, games for children, complimentary popcorn, sno-cones, and so much more. Come out and enjoy an evening of family fun and entertainment.

**Ag Fair, Saturday, September 21** The County Fair portion of the fifteenth annual Anson Ag Expo and Fair will be held Saturday, September 21 at the Extension Center on McLaurin Street in Wadesboro, from 12 until 2 p.m.

There's competition in crafts, canned goods, ag products, photography, art and handicrafts. The fair will be judged on Friday and open to the public for display on Saturday from 12:00 through 2:00 p.m.

Cash premiums will be awarded from \$6 for first through \$3 for third in over 200 categories. The 2023 county fair showcased 215 entries from 38 fair exhibitors, and \$903 was paid out in fair premiums. Class ribbons are awarded for all entries, with Best of Show and Juror's Choice ribbons awarded for each competition area per age division.

For additional information, contact the Anson County Cooperative Extension Service at 704-694-2915. Come out and join the fun. There is something for everyone. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!



## Class of 1974 Enjoyed 50th High School Reunion

The Bowman High School Class of 1974 held their 50th class reunion on Saturday, September 7 at Twin Valley Golf Club. About 100 classmates gathered to share dinner, door prizes, laughter and reminiscing. It was a joyful event for all who attended. All of the classmates look forward to their next time together!

As on member of the Class of 1974 said, "We've come a long way."

## Be 'SepticSmart' - Protect Your Health, Preserve the Environment

Approximately 50% of all occupied homes in North Carolina rely on septic systems - also known as on-site systems, decentralized wastewater treatment, cluster systems, and private sewage - to collect, treat and disperse their wastewater. This reliance on septic systems has remained consistent for more than 20 years and spans all 100 counties.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is proud to recognize SepticSmart Week, taking place from Sept. 16-20, 2024. This annual event focuses on educating homeowners and communities about the importance of proper care and maintenance of their septic systems SepticSmart Week | US EPA.

Septic systems, when properly maintained, are environmentally friendly and protect public health. These systems can serve as a long-term solution for wastewater treatment if proper attention is given to their use, inspection, operation, and management. It is essential for all North Carolinians who rely on septic systems to understand and follow best management practices to maintain this critical part of their home infrastructure.

In support of this effort, Governor Roy Cooper has officially proclaimed September 16-20 SepticSmart Week in North Carolina. More information and the proclamation can be found at: [governor.nc.gov/governor-proclaims-septic-smart-week-2024](http://governor.nc.gov/governor-proclaims-septic-smart-week-2024).

The EPA's SepticSmart initiative ([epa.gov/septic/septic-smart](http://epa.gov/septic/septic-smart)) is a national public education campaign offering valuable resources to homeowners, local organizations, and government leaders. These materials explain how septic systems work and provide practical tips for their upkeep.

- Think at the Sink! What goes down the drain has a big impact on your septic system. Fats, grease, and solids can clog a system's pipes and drainfield.
- Don't Overload the Commode! A toilet is not a trash can. Disposable diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, coffee grounds, cigarette butts, and cat litter can damage a septic system.
- Don't Strain Your Drain! Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances. Too much water use at once can overload a system that hasn't been pumped recently.
- Shield Your Field! Tree & shrub roots, cars & livestock can damage your septic drainfield.
- Keep It Clean! Contamination can occur when a septic system leaks due to improper maintenance. Be sure your drinking water is safe to drink by testing it regularly.
- Protect It and Inspect It! Regular septic system maintenance can save homeowners thousands of dollars in repairs and protect public health.

## Wildlife Agency to Hold National Hunting and Fishing Day Events in Ellerbe and Clyde

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will host two family-friendly events to recognize National Hunting and Fishing Day, an annual celebration promoting outdoor recreation and conservation.

An event will be held at the John Lentz Hunter Education Complex on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., located at 1017 Millstone Road in Ellerbe. There will be an array of outdoor activities for all ages. Attendees may explore interactive, wildlife-related exhibits and demonstrations, and participate in a scheduled program of events. Activities will include fishing, shooting ranges, archery, decoy carving, turkey calling, hunting and hunter safety demonstrations, skins and skulls demonstrations and a question-and-answer session with a wildlife law enforcement officer.

Registration is not required for this event. Another event will be held at Haywood Community College 185 Freedlander Drive, in Clyde, on the same day, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities include archery, falconry, kids activities, food trucks, interactive demonstrations and more. Pre-registration (by calling 828-593-9866) is required for Warrior Clan Youth Fishing Tournament participation.

More information is available on the Wildlife Commission's website: [ncwildlife.org/national-hunting-and-fishing-day](http://ncwildlife.org/national-hunting-and-fishing-day). National Hunting and Fishing Day, formalized by Congress in 1971, was created by the National Shooting Sports Foundation to celebrate conservation successes of hunters and anglers.

## Cheraw Jazz Festival in Dizzy's Hometown

Dizzy Gillespie's hometown of Cheraw, SC ushers in its 19th year of the South Carolina Jazz Festival October 18-20 with a weekend of great jazz and exciting activities. The weekend, which coincides with the 107th anniversary of Gillespie's birth, will showcase the unique bond Gillespie shared with his South Carolina roots and jazz.

A wide variety of free and ticketed concerts and events are scheduled for the weekend of Friday, October 18 through Sunday, October 20. Two additional free concerts are planned for Thursday, October 17 that include a lunchtime concert at Northeastern Technical College and a kick-off evening concert at Dizzy Gillespie Homesite Park. This year's festival will culminate on Sunday, October 20, with a concert at the historic Old St. David's Episcopal Church in Cheraw.

Over 30 Jazz performances are scheduled during the festival that includes in-school performances. The concerts will feature regional musicians from both North and South Carolina and beyond. Featured artists for the ticketed evening performances at the Theatre on the Green will be saxophonist Dr. Michael White with "Sounds of NOLA" on Friday, October 18. Trumpeter Joe Gransden will perform at the Theatre on the Green Saturday, October 19 and present "Celebrating Diz and the Great American Songbook." Weekend activities include free performances at Cheraw's Centennial Park, a Be-bop parade, evening jazz crawls, lunchtime and breakfast jazz, and afternoon jazz. A free concert will be presented at the Gillespie family's home church, Wesley United Methodist Church featuring Cheraw native Dr. Robert Gardiner.

Art abounds during the weekend with the festival's 16th Italian Madonnari Chalk Competition. Additional art related activities include pine needle basket artist, Kids' Art Alley, Art on the Green, caricature artist, musical sculpture exhibit and community art installations.

Visitors can enjoy a self-guided Historic Cheraw Cell Phone Tour to over 25 points of interest, including Dizzy Gillespie related sites. Also, the video "From the Be to the Bop-the Musical Legacy of Dizzy Gillespie" will be shown on Saturday courtesy of SC ETV and Public Radio.

Tickets for a single evening concert at the Theatre on the Green are \$30 per person or a two day weekend ticket is \$50 per person. For more information call 843.537.8420 x12 or visit [www.scjazzfestival.com](http://www.scjazzfestival.com).

## Randy Travis Festival is Saturday

The Randy Travis Festival in Marshville is happening Saturday, September 21.

The Lions Club will have a complete assortment of their broom inventory for sale during They invite you to come over and say hello...and maybe purchase an excellent quality broom too!

Brooms available will be: household, soft sweeps, patio, toy and whisk brooms. Plus they are selling raffle tickets for a \$15,000 prize!

All proceeds from the broom sales benefit the blind, visually impaired, and needy of Anson County and North Carolina. Donations are gratefully accepted.

The Lions Club welcomes new members. If you are interested come by and learn more.

Also, the Lions Club recycles eyeglasses, so please bring any you would like to donate.

## Market on Market in Cheraw is Sat.

Market on Market will be this Saturday, September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in downtown Cheraw. The family friendly monthly event features art, baked goods, crafts, produce, and entertainment on the third Saturday of each month from May through the fall. Local farmers will have produce and plants available for purchase.

Kids can enjoy free art activities. Mini flags and craft pinwheels will be available to decorate for the upcoming Bebob Parade to be held during SC Jazz Festival (October 18-20).

For additional information call the Cheraw Arts Commission 843.537.8420 x 12.

## Bluegrass Acoustic Music Jam at the Library is Thursday

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam on Thursday, September 26, 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.

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](mailto:vaguitar@msn.com).

## SPCC Increases Educational Attainment at Anson Correctional Institution by Nearly 400 Percent

South Piedmont Community College is celebrating a state-leading increase in educational attainment by incarcerated individuals at Anson Correctional Institution.

"South Piedmont's Department of Correctional Education has dramatically increased the number high school equivalency credentials and vocational courses completed by students at Anson Correctional Institution," said Interim President Michelle Brock. "I want to congratulate the instructors involved in this achievement, as well as the students for their hard work in advancing their education and preparing for productive lives after they are released."

Last year, the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction issued a challenge to the state's prison facilities to increase the number high school equivalency and vocational certifications earned. During the competition, which ran from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, incarcerated individuals earned 3,930 educational credentials, nearly quadruple the three-year average of 949 educational credentials earned each year during 2020-23.

Anson Correctional Institution was the state's overall winner of the challenge, increasing educational achievement by 398 percent.

"I have to give our Correctional Education team a huge shout-out and congratulations. This is for not only meeting the HiSET and vocational course goal set for us in the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction challenge, but for crushing that goal by almost 400 percent. Our team took home first place, not only in our region, but for the entire state," said Director of Correctional Education Jason Miller.

"This team of instructors along with our Anson Correctional partners dug in to not only increase our class sizes, but also to assist more students with achieving their goals of vocational course completions and HiSET graduations."

Anson Correctional Institution houses female offenders in close- and medium-custody housing units and male offenders in a minimum-custody unit. South Piedmont partners with Anson Correctional to provide educational programming to the offenders.



## Book Giftings for the Genealogy Room Hampton B. Allen Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library was presented with two books for the genealogy room. The Harward-Eury Connection compiled by Clinton Harward and the Kiker-High Connection by Clinton Harward and Mary H. Jordan. These books will be available for researchers in our local history room.

Clinton Harward is pictured above presenting the books to Dianne Welch. Welch said, "We are delighted to add these to our collection of materials."

## Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center's After School

- Mondays & Tuesdays 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- Qualified adult volunteers
- Inspiration Time, snacks, history, math, reading and other exploration
- Community sewing - Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. Need sewing or alteration? All ages will be exposed to this work of art. Have items that need sewing? Come and enroll. Call 704-778-7478
- Center 704-826-8737