OCTOBER 8, 2025 • VOLUME 37, ISSUE NO. 1891

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The Anson High School Class of 1965 in attendance at the reunion are, from left, ***front row:*** *Myra Thomas Dalgleish, Diane Raye Hargett, Toby Kiker and Ramona Beachum Miller.* ***Second row:*** *Gornie Williams, Harvey Randall, Dianne Seago Driggers, Judie Watkins Paul, Hilda Johnson Pope, Frances Brock Pope, Becky Pope Estridge, Doris Jordan Ratliff and Judy Cox.* ***Third row:*** *Walter Thomas, Frances Thomas Alsborg, Fleeta Mayse Jarman, Elaine Arrington Deese, Laura Frances Luther Webb, Pat Caudle Grant, Linda Cornwell Smith, Barbara Dabbs Sexton, Roy Dawkins, Nelson Horne, Larry Hinson and Ray Hasty.* ***Back row:*** *Carolyn McCormick Morris, Warren Kimrey, Delaine Hill McCormick, Dawn Streater Burtt, Patsy Winfield Long, Warren Kelly, Bill Springer, Otis Galliher, Beemie Gilmore, Lavon Tyson and Delane Horne.* ***Not pictured:*** *Preston Williams*

Anson High Class Of 1965 Celebrates 60 Years Of Laughs and Love

Classmates reunited on September 27 with hugs, happy tears, and a few legendary tall tales

They arrived with name tags, yearbooks, and the kind of smiles you only get from seeing the friends who knew you before your knees clicked. On Saturday, September 27, the Anson High School Class of 1965 gathered for its 60th Reunion - part family reunion, part comedy special, and entirely heartwarming.

Stories flew faster than the pep band ever played: who married whom, who still drives the same route to work, and who can still do the twist (answer: more folks than their doctors would recommend). The playlist was all '60s gold, the desserts were dangerously good, and the laughter? Let's just say the class gift to the venue may have to be a new set of chairs after all that bouncing to the Four Tops.

Between hugs and "Do you remember when…," classmates toasted teachers, celebrated classmates no longer here, and marveled at how the years somehow made friendships softer, sweeter, and stronger. If time is a great storyteller, then this crowd is its happiest ending.

Before the night ended, classmates promised not to wait another decade to do it again. Judging by the sparkle in the room, the Class of '65 has plenty more chapters to write - and they're still the best kind of page-turners.

Parent/Teacher Conferences Scheduled for October 20

Anson County Schools has announced that Monday, October 20 will be a Mandatory Teacher Workday for all schools across the district. While students will have the day off, teachers will be on campus for professional duties and to meet with parents.

The Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., offering families the opportunity to discuss student progress, review report cards, and address any academic or behavioral concerns.

Parents are encouraged to attend and meet with their child's teachers during these scheduled hours. Conferences provide a valuable chance to strengthen communication between home and school and to support student success throughout the year.

Masquerade Book Bash Promises Mystery, Masks, and Lots of Fun!

You're invited to unmask your inner bookworm

Get ready to trade your library card for a masquerade mask - Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting its first-ever Masquerade Book Bash on Thursday, October 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lockhart Taylor Center. It's part fundraiser, part party, and all-around literary fun (with slightly fewer shushing librarians than usual).

The evening will feature music, food, and entertainment - perfect for anyone who enjoys a good plot twist with their dinner roll. Guests are invited to don their finest mystery masks while mingling, laughing, and perhaps pretending they just finished reading War and Peace.

Tickets are $50 each, or you can splurge on an 8-seat table for $400 and feel like the head of your own book club dynasty. All proceeds help the library purchase up-to-date equipment, furniture, and supplies for year-round programs serving children, teens, young adults, and seniors.

"It's a fun way to support the library while having a little mystery in your evening," said one volunteer. "And yes, you can absolutely check out the punch bowl without a library card."

For more information - or to reserve your seat at the literary event of the season - contact Hampton B. Allen Library at 704-694-5177.

DMV Expands Online Driver License Renewals

Skip the line - keep the license - embrace the couch

In a move to further streamline services and reduce wait times at driver license offices statewide, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV) announced that eligible drivers without a REAL ID can now renew their driver license online for a second consecutive time. This change, effective immediately, stems from Senate Bill 245, signed into law last week by Gov. Josh Stein.

"We encourage our customers to renew their driver license online if they're eligible. It's fast, easy, and helps reduce wait times at our offices," said DMV Commissioner Paul Tine. "By choosing online services, you're freeing up space for those who need in-person assistance." Translation: click a few buttons - rescue a neighbor from a long line.

For now, the change applies to non-REAL ID driver licenses only and not State ID cards.

The law also allows REAL ID driver licenses to be renewed online a second consecutive time if the customer has had an in-person transaction with a new photo taken since the last renewal. In many cases, that face-to-face visit was to get a REAL ID outside the normal renewal period, but it can also include name changes, in-state address changes, or duplicates. NCDMV expects these additional renewals to be available in the next several weeks - so yes, your most recent DMV selfie may finally pay dividends.

One more upgrade is on the way: the law will allow teen drivers to move from a Level 2 Limited Provisional License ("before 9s") to a Level 3 Full Provisional License ("after 9s") online, also in the next several weeks. (Teens can already upgrade from Level 3 Full Provisional to a regular Class C license online on their 18th birthday - because nothing says "adulthood" like renewing something on the internet.)

When combined, these three provisions could shift up to 400,000 more transactions online instead of in person - which is great news for anyone who prefers the glow of a screen to the glow of a take-a-number display.

Ready to renew without leaving your favorite chair? Visit *ncdot.gov/dmv*.

Politics After Dark Returns For Fifth Time

Civics without the neckties - with politicians on their best behavior

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce will host its 5th Annual Politics After Dark on Tuesday, October 14, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Lockhart–Taylor Center, 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

The evening offers residents a chance to hear from community leaders, candidates, and elected officials in an informal setting - think town hall meets night school, with a strict two-minute microphone rule and zero credit for filibusters. Expect straight answers, or at least the best-polished versions; handshakes will be bipartisan, and promises are not redeemable for cash value.

Those interested in speaking are encouraged to register in advance; claiming a spot guarantees the microphone - not the thunder. Sign up at: *form.jotform.com/252105200267039*. Bring your best two minutes and your inside voice.

Since its start, Politics After Dark has become a staple of the Chamber calendar and a friendly arena for civic curiosity. Whether you're a longtime resident, a new neighbor, or simply politics-curious, come for the policy, stay for the neighborly eye contact - and bring questions sharp enough to cut through the politicians' talking points.

Cheraw Has Jazz! Celebrating the Legacy of Dizzy Gillespie.

Dizzy Gillespie's hometown of Cheraw, South Carolina, will usher in the 20th year of the South Carolina Jazz Festival October 16–19 with four days of music and celebration. The weekend coincides with the 108th anniversary of Gillespie's birth. More than 36 performances are planned, ranging from in-school programs to free community concerts and two major ticketed events. The festival will culminate on Sunday, October 19, with a free jazz concert at Pee Dee Union Baptist Church of Cheraw.

The festival kicks off Thursday, October 16, with Outdoor Lunchtime Jazz at Northeastern Technical College, where the Sam Edwards Quartet with Edwin Hamilton will present "Swinging & Singing the American Songbook" at 11 a.m. That evening, the Dizzy Gillespie Homesite Park will host Soda City Brass Band and the Cheraw High School Jazz Ensemble in a lively, family-friendly New Orleans-style program.

On Friday, October 17, the Theatre on the Green will feature international jazz vocalist Jaimee Paul and trumpeter Leif Shires from Nashville. Saturday evening, October 18, the stage welcomes New York City–based jazz pianist Emmet Cohen Trio and trumpeter Alphonso Horne. Weekend activities also include free concerts at Centennial Park, a history chat with Appalachian State University's Todd Wright at Wesley United Methodist, a be-bop parade, jazz crawls, a jazz brunch, and a book signing by county native Janice Gordon Gray.

The festival also brings visual arts to the forefront with Art on Town Green, the Italian Madonnari Chalk Competition, Kid's Art Alley, a jazz art exhibit by North Carolina artist Eric McRay, and a Sweetgrass Basket demonstration and talk with Mary Graham-Grant. Visitors can also enjoy the self-guided Historic Cheraw Cell Phone Tour, featuring over 25 sites of interest including Gillespie landmarks.

For golf enthusiasts, the Dizzy Gillespie Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held at Cheraw State Park. Interested golfers may contact Clarence Long at 478.737.3031. Tickets for Friday and Saturday evening concerts are $35 each, or $60 for a weekend pass. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843.537.8420 x12 or visit *www.scjazzfestival.com*.

See What's Snapping: SPCC Open House is October 21

South Piedmont Community College invites prospective students to an Open House on Monday, October 21, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Old Charlotte Highway Campus - Tyson Family Center for Technology. Registration is requested but not required - sign up at *events.spcc.edu*.

Guests can receive application assistance and admissions help, take campus tours, get financial aid guidance, and speak with faculty and staff to learn about degrees, workforce programs, clubs, and more.

Bring your questions and your goals - SPCC will be happy to answer both and help you map the next step in your education.

The address is: Tyson Family Center for Technology. 3509 Old Charlotte Highway Monroe, NC 28110.

Gulledge Fire Department BBQ Fires Up Good Eats and Great Company

Chicken or pork plates with all the fixin's this Saturday

Follow the smoky aroma and the sound of laughter - the Gulledge Fire Department is serving up a BBQ feast this Saturday, Oct. 11, starting at 11:00 a.m. until the last hush puppy tells you it's time to go.

Pick your team - chicken or pork - then the Gulledge chefs will pile on the classics: baked beans, slaw, rolls, homemade desserts, and a drink. It's the kind of plate that makes you forget which hand was holding the fork and which was shaking hands with neighbors.

Plates are $13 (a bargain for this much delicious), and $13 cartons are available warm or cold - perfect for tailgates, porch parties, or "I'm the office hero" Mondays.

Come hungry, leave happy, and enjoy the best kind of community fellowship - the kind where somebody passes the sauce and calls you "friend" by the second bite.

Fire Dept. Community Safety Day is Sat.

Big red fire trucks, bounce houses, and even a DJ…sounds like the recipe for a great Saturday! The Wadesboro Fire Department is inviting the community to its annual Community Safety Day on Saturday, October 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Food Lion Shopping Center parking lot, located at 1043 East Caswell Street, Wadesboro.