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

Municipal Election Candidates. VOTE on Tuesday, November 7!

The Municipal Election takes place next Tuesday, Nov. 7. Remember to take an acceptable voter ID with you. Details about the election, including polling places, is available on pages 5 & 6 of this edition of The Express. The following people have filed to be candidates in the election:

- ANSONVILLE**
- **Mayor** - Angela (Tina) Caraway, Joe Estridge
 - **Council** - Mark Beloin, Sarah Burns, Denise Watkins Cannon, Jesse T. Huntley, Phyllis Watkins
- LILESVILLE**
- **Mayor** - Bernice Bennett
 - **Commissioner** - Lewis Adams, Charles (Chuck) Cook, Christopher Harrington, Gaye Harrington, Randy Henry, John Montgomery, Hannah Spencer
- MCFARLAN**
- **Mayor** - Diane Timmons
 - **Council** - Debbie Bryant, Michael Foster, Kim Gainey, Gene Harney, Jerry Wilson Timmons, Gail J. Whittington
- MORVEN**
- **Mayor** - Marjorie Cole, Tim Watkins
 - **Council** - Tanya Chance, Corinthia Lewis Lemon, Alvis Snow
- PEACHLAND**
- **Mayor** - Clint Davis
 - **Council** - Jeff Davis, Kaylin Blake Treadaway, Alex Xavier
- POLKTON**
- **Mayor** - Myra Thomas Dagleish, Cynthia Williams
 - **Commissioner** - Johnny Faulk, Laurin Francey, Russell Goodwin, Jimmy Hildreth, W. Clifton Martin III, Sissy Stegall, Bernard Sturdivant
- WADESBORO**
- **Mayor** - John Ballard
 - **Council** - JoAnn Bennett, Ida Cason, Lewis Evans, Lawrence Parsons, Russell Sikes, Garrett Snuggs



HMOC "Community" Basketball Court Holds Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Event

On Saturday, October 21 Harvest Ministries pastors, leadership, and several community members joined together to formally dedicate and "open" the recently upgraded outdoor basketball court area on the campus of HMOC. HMOC Founding Pastor Tim Adams shared, "This space has been a safe haven, a place for hundreds of local children and youth to come to play basketball and be in a good environment, and to see this amazing transition is just a testament to the need of something like this in our area."

Current HMOC Lead Pastor Steve Adams added, "It has always been the same mantra here... 'Find Needs and Fill Them, Find Hurts and Heal them.'" My father many years ago saw a need for this basketball court for our young people, so we put up plywood backboards, and rims, cleaned the existing asphalt as much as the funds would allow, and many people were provided a good place to play. But today, today is a testament to this community seeing the need and working to upgrade and enhance this area. The outpouring of financial support to have this new and improved basketball court is really remarkable. Over \$7,000 in donations were contributed - all because people saw and still see the value in providing a safe and usable outlet for our youth."

Adams continued, "On any given night 30 to 40 young folks are here, in a well-lit, camera controlled, and community policed area, so the basketball court meets many needs beyond just a place to shoot hoops."

Prior to the ribbon being cut local Pastor Tobias Wall offered a prayer of continued safety, use, and positivity to come from the upgraded recreational area, as well as blessings over Anson County and its young people.

Pastor Steve thanked the over 20 businesses and local individuals who donated to make this event possible, as well as the hundreds on social media who supported.

Special Thanks to Commissioner Harold Smith, Evadne Smith & Smith Funeral Home, Poisson Law Firm, Michael Covington (Morven Community Store), Jay Ayers, Robbie Hill, Anson Exteriors (Marco Mendoza), Sandhills Voter Initiative, Wesley Martin, H&S Paving, Pastor Randy Storz, Attorney Scott Forbes, Commissioner Robert Mims, Jan Long, Derek Bowens, April Burch, Cliff Martin, Pastor Tim Adams, Harvest Ministries, City Reach Community Center, The Express Newspaper, and the various anonymous donors!

Pastor Steve reiterated that this project would not be possible without this local community by stating, "People never invest in something where they don't see the return - and this county graciously gave because of the value in this project. For that, THANK YOU!"

For more information on the various programs of Harvest Ministries you can reach Adams at 704-695-2879.

Board of Education Called Meeting Set for November 6

Middle School project is on the agenda

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a called meeting on Monday, November 6 at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel and the middle school construction project.

Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11 (a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11 (a)(5).

Open Session to the public will begin after closed session. The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Wingate University Adding Marching Band in 2024

As fun as Wingate football games are now, they'll be even more of a spectacle next year. Wingate University is marching into the on-field-entertainment space with the decision to form a marching band. A director of athletic bands will be hired over the next few months, and Wingate's first band camp will take place in August 2024, in time for next fall's football season.

"So much of this is about the game-day experience," says Dr. Jessie Wright Martin, chair of the music department. "A lot of it's about building traditions. That's going to be a big part of it: finding somebody who has a vision for the University, for what the game day looks like. They'll collaborate with Athletics, cheerleading and other student groups to strengthen the game-day experience."

The University joins 10 other football-playing South Atlantic Conference schools in having a marching band.

Martin has already started recruiting locally, and the director of athletic bands will ramp that effort up in the new year. Scholarships will be available for band members. Martin says the collegiate marching-band experience is quite different from high-school-level marching band. Instead of competitions, the band will play for games and other University events.

The Wingate marching band will give musicians a chance to continue something they love, even if they aren't music majors. It also provides them with a built-in peer group as they transition to college. "People who participate in band and choir in high school want to continue in college, because they love it and they can be with their people," Martin says.

Trevor Helms, a junior majoring in communication and minoring in music, plays in the pep band as well as the chamber and wind ensembles. He marched with his trumpet on fall Friday nights for five years before college (including in eighth grade) and is excited to return to his marching-band roots. "I really enjoy being part of the game-day atmosphere," he says.

Movement, Helms says, is key to getting the crowd involved. "They drummed this into our heads when I was in high school: People naturally pay attention to motion," he says. "Whatever you're doing that's moving, whether it's a small thing or the entire band marching across the field, it's naturally going to command the attention of whoever's watching."

Marching band is a different type of musical experience for Wingate's music department. Martin says that the Wind Ensemble is for serious musicians who are looking to hone their craft; marching band, she says, attracts good musicians who are more interested in creating the right atmosphere and getting people pumped up for the game.

"It's a fun show, and that's what it should be," she says. "It's entertainment, and it just adds to the party atmosphere."

North Carolina's September Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted September 2023 unemployment rate was 3.4 percent, an increase of 0.1 of a percentage point from August's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 3.8 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased 0.5 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 14,985 over the month to 5,087,812 and increased 124,714 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 3,119 over the month to 176,650 and decreased 26,072 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 10,100 to 4,948,400 in September. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 4,900; Professional & Business Services, 3,700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,400; Information, 1,500; Government, 600; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,600; Financial Activities, 1,100; Manufacturing, 900; Construction, 400; and Other Services, 100.

Since September 2022, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 105,000 with the Total Private sector increasing by 87,800 and Government increasing by 17,200. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 31,000; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 27,900; Government, 17,200; Professional & Business Services, 14,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 11,700; Other Services, 4,300; Information, 2,300; Financial Activities, 200; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Construction, 2,300; and Manufacturing, 1,700.

Lunch and Dinner Plate Sale at Gumby's

Faith-Based Center of Hope will sell lunch and dinner plates this Friday, November 3, beginning at 11:00 a.m. from Gumby's, located at 10140 US Highway 74, Lilesville, near Pee Dee Electric. Look for the big Gumby's sign! A donation of \$10 gets you a delicious meal!

You can place orders in advance and get more information by contacting Vancine Sturdivant at 704-294-0480 or Patricia Robinson at 704-465-8942.

Wadesboro Lions Club's Eyeglasses Recycling Program

The need for used glasses is great. According to the World Health Organization, 153 million people have uncorrected refractive errors (near-sightedness, far-sightedness or astigmatism). Most of these vision impairments are quickly diagnosed and easy to treat with corrective lenses. Still, millions of people in developing nations are pushed deeper into poverty simply because they do not have glasses. They can't learn, because reading is difficult. They can't work to the best of their ability, because they can't see clearly.

For children, clear vision means a better education, healthier development and a better quality of life. For adults, it means greater employment opportunity and economic strength. For seniors it means less dependency on others.

The Lions of Wadesboro and North Carolina collect over 170,000 pairs of eyeglasses each year to address the need for glasses, making eyeglasses recycling one of our most popular activities. Please place your used eyeglasses into one of the recycling boxes located at the following locations in Wadesboro:

- Anson Family Optometric, 1134 Holly Street
- Northcutt Auctions, 1132 East Caswell Street

Recycling boxes are also available in most post offices throughout the county.

Only complete reusable glasses with both plastic and metal frames, gold frames in any condition, antique glasses and new lenses can be recycled.

For information about the different projects of the Wadesboro Lions Club please call Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

Veterans Day Service at North Wadesboro Baptist Church

A Veterans Day service will be held at North Wadesboro Baptist Church on Saturday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m. The community is invited to join in this showing of thanks to all our men and women who have served in the military.

The church is located at 1211 North Greene Street in Wadesboro.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner To-Go on Saturday, November 11

The Lamb of God Church in Wadesboro is hosting a community outreach, giving out free Thanksgiving dinner to-go plates on Saturday, November 11. They will also give away coats. The event begins at 11:00 a.m. The dinner plates and coats will be on a first come, first served basis.

This event will take place in the Wadesboro IGA parking lot, located at 805 Camden Road. For information call 843-623-3777.