Thank You

To all of my fellow Ansonians who supported my candidacy for re-election to the Anson County School Board, I am truly grateful.

Your votes matter and represent your choice for a knowledgeable, experienced, ethical and caring voice in the decision-making process as a board member.

I share the district goal to grow greatness in our schools by providing the best education for ALL children in ALL of our schools. I appreciate this opportunity to continue to do my part in making our goals a reality.

Marilynn Bennett





THE EXPRESS • November 9, 2022 • Page 2 Four Anson Schools Closed Wednesday and Thursday Due to High Rates of Illness

The Anson County School System put out this release on their Facebook page on November 8: Due to high rates of student and staff illness, Anson High, Anson Middle, Peachland-Polkton Elementary and Ansonville Elementary School buildings will be closed Wednesday, November 9 and Thursday, November 10 (Friday, November 11 is a holiday for students and staff). Students at these schools will transition to a remote learning day. Hard copy work packets with instructions for completing assignments will be given to students before leaving school today (Tuesday).

While these schools are closed, we will use this time to deep clean and prepare for our students to return on Monday, November 14. To further ensure that we are not spreading illness, there will be no athletic or extra-curricular activities for these schools. We ask everyone to help by washing your hands frequently, covering your mouth when you cough, and do not send your child to school if they are running a fever or are sick. This helps to prevent the spread of germs and will assist us in getting our students back in school.

Please stay healthy, and we look forward to seeing our students back at these schools on Monday, November 14. This closing is only for Anson High, Anson Middle, Peachland-Polkton Elementary and Ansonville Elementary Schools!

CSX Railroad Crossings to be Reworked in Anson

CSX Railroad has a surfacing gang starting on December 5 in Lilesville that will be working on 15 railroad crossings in Anson County going towards Monroe. This job is slotted for 2 weeks, December 5 through 16. Each crossing will be closed from 2 to 4 days pending weather, equipment and any unforeseen circumstances.

A Google map has been created that shows all of the crossings that will be worked. A link to the map is on The Express website, www.TheExpressNewspaper.com. If you click on the location it shows you an approximate closure date.

What is a surfacing gang? Regular maintenance of track includes life cycle replacement of rails, turnouts, and ties, plus ballast maintenance. After all of these, and at other regular intervals the track must be "surfaced." Surfacing consists of two steps: lifting the track to the desired level, then tamping or compacting the ballast into the void created by lifting the tie. Similarly, the track must be shifted into the desired alignment to fully restore the track geometry.

In current practice, one machine will do all of these, lift the track to the desired profile, shift it to the desired alignment, then tamp the ballast around the ties. These machines are computer controlled and (in good hands) can plot and tamp to very exact curves and perfect tangents, with spiral curves connecting each segment. These machines are called "tampers" but they are complete surfacing machines. They replaced tremendous amounts of back-breaking manual labor. (But to this day two or three people can and do manually jack up a low joint and tamp it even without any machine help and restore the track surface, but not a mile at a time.)

Anson County School News

Mr. Arthur Jackson Named Interim Principal of Anson Middle School

Mr. Arthur Jackson has been named the Interim Principal of Anson Middle School Mr. Jackson has spent the last year as principal of Wadesboro Primary School.

Prior to coming to Anson, he spent several years of his career in the Moore County School District as an assistant principal at Pinecrest High School and as an English Teacher in the Richmond County School District for 20 years. Mr. Jackson is a licensed administrator in the state of North Carolina. In 1997, he earned his Bachelor Degree in Pre-Law with a minor in Criminal Justice from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. In 2018, he earned his Master of Educational Leadership Degree from Gardner-Webb University.

When asked about hiring Mr. Jackson to be the principal of Anson Middle School Superintendent Howard McLean stated, "Mr. Jackson is a fantastic fit for Anson Middle School. His classroom and school leadership experience has prepared him to lead Anson Middle School to unprecedented heights. I am confident that he will be deeply invested into serving his school's students, staff, and stakeholders.

Mr. Jackson said, "I look forward to working with the Anson County Community. I believe that we can achieve great things together. Go Bearcats!'

Mr. Jackson will officially begin his new role on November 14.

Dr. Heather Gerald Named Interim Principal of Wadesboro Primary School

Dr. Heather Gerald has spent the last five years of her career in the Anson County School District. She has served as the Assistant Principal at Wadesboro Primary School for the past year. She also served as an instructional coach and elementary teacher for nine years.

Dr. Gerald is a licensed administrator in the state of North Carolina. In 2010, she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and AIG Certification from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. In 2012, she received her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Dr. Gerald earned the status as National Board Certified Teacher - Middle Childhood Generalist in 2017. She received her Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 2018 and completed her Doctorate of Educational Leadership from Wingate University in July 2022

"Dr. Gerald's academic and practical experiences have prepared her well to be a great principal. I have complete confidence that she will help lead Wadesboro Primary School on the path of success and achievement for years to come," said Mr. Howard McLean, Superintendent of the Anson County School District.

Dr. Gerald stated, "I am very excited about this opportunity to lead Wadesboro Primary School. I promise to work with stakeholders to ensure the success of our students. I want to say thank you to Mr. McLean, the board of education, and Anson County Schools for your support."

Dr. Gerald will officially begin her Principal duties on November 14.

Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-3185



KEROSENE · GAS ELECTRIC · WOOD

Friday, Nov. 11 10am-2pm At NORTH WADESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH **1211 North Greene Street in Wadesboro** ***** FOOD & DRINKS WILL BE SERVED LIVE MUSIC BY **QUANTELYA JOHNSON & JEANIE HAMPTON**

Join us and enjoy the day! *****

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS ANSON COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL, VFW POST 10403, SGT MAJOR MABLE MCLENDON, BOUNCE BACK THEARAPEUTIC MASSAGE, HYATT FARMS, DIGGS HUNTING AND FISHING, BRIAN ELAM GUIDED TOURS, MAD KATZ OUTDOORS, PEACHES AND CREAM, AND SPECKLED PAW COFFEE

Ms. Sandra Harrell Named Interim Assistant Principal of Wadesboro **Primary School**

Ms. Sandra Harrell began her career in the Anson County School District in 1984. During her education journey she has served as a teacher (including lead teacher for over 18 years), technology facilitator, parent coordinator, and most recently as the instructional coach at Morven Elementary School.

Ms. Harrell is a licensed administrator in the state of North Carolina. In 1980, she earned her Bachelor's Degree from North Carolina Central University. In 1987, she received her Master's Degree from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Ms. Harrell then went on to earn her degree in School Administration from Wingate University in 2015.

Ms. Harrell stated, "Serving as lead teacher allowed me to function in an administrative role and to touch more lives in a greater capacity. My passion and ompassion for the intellectual and academic well-being of students and parents provided me with the fortitude needed to succeed."

According to Superintendent Howard McLean, "Ms. Harrell's experiences and leadership skills make her a great fit for the Wadesboro Primary School students, staff and community. She will be a great asset and contributor to the Wadesboro Primary School administrative team. The staff, students and community are very fortunate to have her on their team."

Ms. Harrell will officially begin her new role on November 14.

