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

School Board Meeting is November 20

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 20. The meeting will open in the Administrative Conference Room and go immediately into Closed Session. Open Session to the public will be held in the Administrative Board Room. Both meeting rooms are located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 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 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.



Lilesville Elementary Students and Staff Welcome New Teacher with Homemade Flag

This is a release from Lilesville Elementary School: Staff and students are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Butad to the LES family. In preparation for Mrs. Budad's arrival, students and staff worked together to create a collage of letters and artwork which piece together to show the flag of the Philippines. Mrs. Butad, we are thrilled to have you here with us. Thank you to everyone who has helped us welcome Mrs. Butad.

Monroe Expressway: Five Years of Connecting Communities

On November 27, 2018, the Monroe Expressway opened to provide travelers a congestion-free option when traveling through and in Union County. During the first 12 months of operations more than 4.7 million vehicles drove the Monroe Expressway, averaging 393,000 vehicles per month. In the past 12 months from October 2022 to September 2023, more than 7.6 million vehicles drove the Monroe Expressway, averaging 634,000 vehicles per month. Of the 7.6 million vehicles taking the Monroe Expressway, 12 percent are commercial trucks, providing more reliable travel time for North Carolina's freight and truck traffic.

The Monroe Expressway is an all-electronic toll road extending 18 miles from U.S. 74 near Interstate 485 in Mecklenburg County to U.S. 74 between the towns of Wingate and Marshville in Union County. The four-lane roadway provides seamless travel without having to slow down or stop to pay tolls.

Pat Kahle, President and CEO of the Union County Chamber of Commerce who was present at the opening of the Monroe Expressway, recently said, "The Monroe Expressway has been a wonderful addition to Union County's road network. Not only does it provide a faster alternative for our residents to get where they want to go, it is taking through traffic off of U.S. 74, so it is easier for people to shop at businesses located on our community's busiest corridor."

James "JJ" Eden, Executive Director of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority, said, "We are in the business of working with local communities to address their critical infrastructure needs. The Monroe Expressway continues to be very popular with a nearly 40 percent increase in traffic since opening."

Drivers who travel with a NC Quick Pass transponder save 35 percent on tolls in North Carolina. Currently, there are more than half a million NC Quick Pass accounts in the state. On the Monroe Expressway more than half of all customers choose to travel with a transponder to save on tolls.

To provide outstanding customer service for NC Quick Pass customers there are two local Customer Service Centers, one in Monroe and one in Charlotte.

In FY2023, the two service centers assisted 18,700 and 10,550 visitors, respectively.

Holiday Market for Missions is Saturday

Items for sale include pottery, wood crafts, fiber arts, jewelry, books and food

A Holiday Market for Missions will be held at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Wadesboro this Saturday November 18, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. It is sponsored by the First Presbyterian and First Methodist Churches.

The Market will feature a variety of crafts including pottery, wood crafts, fiber arts, jewelry, books, and food. Proceeds will support the churches' local missions efforts which consist of aiding families in crisis with utilities, food and children's Christmas presents. Come do your Christmas shopping and support a good cause.

For more information contact Kaye Ratliff at 704-694-5431 or Reverend Heather McIntyre at 704-694-3818.

Railroad Crossings to Undergo Maintenance

CSX Railroad has a railroad tie team scheduled to work in Anson and Richmond Counties from November 27 to December 1. Affected crossings will be closed for 3 to 5 days, except for crossings with only one way in or out. Those will be closed for approximately 12 hours. During the closures no vehicles will be able to cross over.

There are five crossings that are one way in or out with homes behind. According to Angela Nelis of Southern Commercial Development Traffic Control (SCD), a supervisor will notify the residents of the closing so that they can plan accordingly. SCD will be implementing detours during the closures.

On The Express Newspaper website (www.theexpressnewspaper.com) there is a link to a google map that shows the location of each crossing.

On the google map, by clicking on the "black" railroad circle you will see the expected closing date for this crossing. Please note that these are merely expected closing dates as they are subject to change.

Town of Lilesville's Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park Set for December 12

Save the date! The Town of Lilesville will host their annual lighted Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park on Tuesday, December 12 at Hatcher Park. The parade begins at 6:00 p.m. and Christmas in the Park will begin after the parade.

If you are interested in having an entry in the parade please contact the Lilesville Town Hall at 704-848-4711 or Beth Griggs Richeson at 704-212-8258 for all the details.

If you would like to be a vendor at the Christmas in the Park, contact Jamie Varela at 1-321-202-3465.

Wadesboro Christmas Parade is December 7

The Wadesboro Christmas Parade will be held on Thursday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. After the parade be sure to stay uptown and enjoy Christmas in the Village.

Anyone interested in participating in the parade can visit this site to sign up: form.jot-form.com/232854458550058. You can get more information by emailing uptown-wadesboro@windstream.net.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets Nov. 21

The Anson County Board of Commissioners now meets two times per month. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 21 at 6 p.m.

The 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.

Anson County Beekeepers Meet Thursday

For Anson County Beekeepers and honey bee enthusiasts, the Anson County Beekeepers' meeting for this month will be held on Thursday, November 16 at 7 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The guest speaker, Wade Turner, NCSBA Senior Regional Director, has presentation on state level opportunities and programs available through the NC association.

For more information you can check the Anson County Beekeepers Facebook page, "Anson Beekeepers Association."

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Terrific Kids

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School held its Terrific Kids Celebration for the first nine weeks on Tuesday, November 14. Pictured below are the students who were recognized for this honor. We are proud of these students for showing good character!

The Terrific Kids are, from left, front row: Victoria Barnhill, Johnny Olivarez, Walt Shaver, Maria Carrillo Cuevas, Rea Ainsworth, Cal Ainsworth, Jaiden Sturdivant, Taylor Phillips and Mathan Latchman. Second row: Logan Caudle, MJ Hildreth, Rivers Scarborough, Tucker Rose Flake, Kenzie Bowers, Charlotte Ainsworth, ChaNiyah Polk, Eve Edwards, Austin Sheppard, Zuri Smith and Leonardo Venegas-Alvarado. Third row: Isaac Reyes, Malakai Lindsey, Kaden Sikes, Chakur Leak, Randall Sturdivant, Brooks Belk, Autumn McMullen, Jaydah Hardin, KeEvonna Hailey, Aaliyah Tanner and Ozariah Burns. Forth row: Trinita Rose, Kennedy Williams, Cory Alexander, Brooklyn Maske, Cameron Gaddy, Caliyah Christian, Kelly Morales, Willow Poplin, Luke White and Princess Little.

Not pictured: Isaac Marsh, Shelby Pierre, Ashley Marsh, Rocio Ortiz, Jacob Allen, Colton Harding, Gage Cox, Riley Moreno, Walker Clark, Mi'Khiya Hall and Nathan Taylor.



Benefit Ride this Saturday

The PlayazElite Motorcycle will host a benefit ride this Saturday, November 18 at Hatcher Park, located at 206 Cowan Street in Lilesville. Registration runs from 10 a.m. until 12 noon, then it's kickstands up! at 12:00. Food will be served after the ride.

Also, there will be a 50/50 raffle drawing. This event is being held to raise funds to feed the homeless and to purchase gifts for the less fortunate for Christmas.

To ride, please donate \$20 for single riders, \$25 for two-up. If you are not a rider but would like to attend and enjoy the food, it is a \$10 donation. For more information please contact James Sturdivant at 704-294-8073.

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