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

## Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet December 3

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 3 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](http://youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

## Unemployment Rate Was 4.2% in October

Anson County's unemployment rate for October was 4.2%, close to September's 4.1% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate was 3.6% in October, also similar to September's 3.5% rate. Anson's total labor force in October was 10,611. Of that number 10,170 were employed and 441 were unemployed. In September the total labor force was 10,502 with 10,073 employed and 429 unemployed. Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 86 of North Carolina's counties in October and remained the same in 14. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.8 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 2.7 percent. Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases and one remained the same. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 4.9 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 2.8 percent. The October not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.6%. When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 54 counties, decreased in 24, and remained the same in 22. Four of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, seven decreased, and four remained the same. The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in October by 24,205 to 4,967,970, while those unemployed increased by 6,774 to 185,142. Since October 2018, the number of workers employed statewide increased 141,652, while those unemployed increased 4,053.

## Chop Shop Discovered, Suspect Don Briningstool Still at Large



Don Briningstool

On Tuesday, November 19 detectives with the Anson County Sheriff's Office conducted a welfare check at a residence located at 102 Whiteman Church Road in the Burnsville Community following numerous complaints from residents in the area. While conducting the welfare check detectives located what appeared to be a chop shop. A chop shop is a place where stolen vehicles are dismantled so that the parts can be sold or used to repair other stolen vehicles. Detectives obtained consent from occupants of the property to conduct a search, and evidence was located to include the body and parts of a 2019 Dodge Challenger that was reported stolen from the Raleigh area. Detectives along with investigators from the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV) License and Theft Bureau identified and charged a suspect, Don Briningstool. As of press time Briningstool is still at large. Anyone with information on Briningstool's whereabouts are asked to please contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188 or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at 704-695-3111. Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid said, "I would like to thank the citizens of Anson County for their concern for the community and reporting the suspicious activity. I encourage all citizens to report any criminal or suspicious activity."

## Shooting Investigation Leads to Narcotics and Gun Seizures

Donald Davis Burr II and Jessica Hair arrested

On Saturday, November 2 the Anson County Sheriff's Office was notified of a shooting that had occurred on the southern side of Wadesboro. While conducting an investigation into the shooting detectives determined that the incident had not occurred where previously reported, but had occurred at 902 Pecan Street in Wadesboro. Detectives obtained a search warrant for the residence, and that led to the seizure of multiple firearms and approximately nine ounces of methamphetamine.



Donald Burr



Jessica Hair

Jessica Hair, 31, was charged with Resist, Obstruct and Delay; Possession of Methamphetamine; and Possession of Ecstasy. Hair was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$62,500 secure bond. Donald Davis Burr II, 37, was charged with Resist, Obstruct and Delay; Possession of Methamphetamine; Level II Trafficking in Methamphetamine; Possession of Firearm by Felon; Maintaining a Dwelling, Possession with Intent to Sell and Deliver Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Felony Obstruction of Justice; and Altering a Serial Number on a Firearm. Burr was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$504,500 secure bond. Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid said, "I would like to thank the detectives and deputies of the Anson County Sheriff's Office for their hard work and dedication. If any citizens have any information regarding drug activity, please call the Anson County Sheriff's office at 704-694-4188 or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at 704-695-3111."



## Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Fourth Graders Visit Raleigh

Fourth grade students from Peachland-Polkton Elementary School visited Raleigh, NC on Thursday, November 14. Students enjoyed the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, the Capitol Building and the NC Legislative Building where they were greeted by and spoke with politicians Thom Mcinnis and Todd Johnson, who is an Anson County native. These students are from the classes of Mrs. Kaity McPherson and Mrs. Kristie McCollum.

## Food Lion Rated Most Popular Grocery Store in NC

Food Lion was rated the most popular grocery store in North Carolina, according to a new survey by news site 24/7 Wall St. ([247wallst.com](http://247wallst.com)) To rank grocery stores in each state, the news site used a combination of data from Yelp and Google Trends. There are nearly 500 Food Lion stores in towns and cities across North Carolina, including the one located in Wadesboro.

There are over 36,000 grocery stores in the United States. While some are smaller, independent stores or specialty outlets that focus on groceries from a certain area, Americans tend to buy the bulk of their food at large regional or national chains. Regional chains like Hy-Vee, Albertsons, or Publix may be a staple in some parts of the country, but they are completely unknown in others.

To determine the most popular grocery store in every state, 24/7 Wall St. ranked grocery stores using a combination of data from business directory website Yelp and Google Trends. From Yelp, they determined the five grocery stores with the most reviews in each state and compared their Google search frequency from Nov. 12, 2018 to Nov. 12, 2019 using Google Trends. The grocery store with the highest search frequency on Google Trends in a given state was listed as the most popular grocery store in that state.

Shoppers want to go to a grocery store they trust, a store that offers high-quality products like meat, produce, and more at a fair price. Grocery stores can easily lose business if they stock substandard products. These can ruin a dinner or, worse, sicken consumers who eat contaminated products.

Of course, grocery stores usually do provide quality food for their customers, but perhaps their shoppers simply don't know how to identify produce at its peak. From avocados to zucchini, each fruit and vegetable has telltale signs that shoppers should look for.

Food Lion is based in Salisbury, NC. They operate 1,029 supermarkets in 10 states of the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States under the Food Lion banner. With about 63,000 employees, Food Lion, LLC. is currently owned by Ahold Delhaize after it was acquired by the Delhaize Group in 1974.

On December 11, 1957, Ralph Ketner, Brown Ketner and Wilson Smith co-founded the Food Town (later Food Lion) grocery store chain in Salisbury. Ketner served as President (later CEO, Chairman and Chairman Emeritus).

## Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) gives families a one-time vendor payment to help pay their heating bills. Families must meet all of the following: an income test, be responsible for its heating bills and include a U.S. citizen or an eligible alien.

To apply for the program, the following information is needed: name, date of birth, and social security numbers for each household member; household's income; savings and checking accounts; and property, stocks, bonds, and other assets. Applications will be taken for a household member age 60 and above or disabled person receiving a service through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), beginning December 1. All other households may apply beginning January 1. This program will end March 31, unless funds are exhausted.

Applications are available that the Grace Senior Center, Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center, Polkton and Morven meal sites. Also, applications can be accessed through [dhhs.gov](http://dhhs.gov). It is important to have a valid phone number and signature on the application. For more information, contact the Department of Social Services at 704-694-9351.

## National Wreaths Across America Day

Anson Memorial Park will join the more than 1,600 participating locations across the country to Remember, Honor and Teach on Saturday, December 14. Deadline to sponsor wreaths is November 30.

National nonprofit Wreaths Across America (WAA) is pleased that Leavitt Funeral Home and Anson Memorial Park in Wadesboro will be joining in the effort to support the mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, as an official location for 2019. This is the first year that the cemetery will participate in this national event.

The ceremony will take place at Anson Memorial Park on Saturday, December 14 at 12 noon. The deadline to sponsor wreaths is November 30, as orders must be in by Dec. 2. This also serving as a fundraising event for Anson Community Hospice as \$5 from every wreath sponsored will be donated to Anson Community Hospice.

Wreaths Across America started as a simple gesture of thanks that has grown into a national movement of dedicated volunteers and communities coming together to not only remember the nation's fallen and honor their service, but to teach the next generation about the sacrifices made for us to live freely. This year, there will be more than 1,600 participating locations placing wreaths on National Wreaths Across America Day - Saturday, December 14, 2019 - with more than two million volunteers coming together. The goal for Anson Memorial Park is to raise enough funds to place 300 veterans' wreaths on the headstones of all the local heroes laid to rest there, to ensure that the individuals who served to protect the freedoms of our country never be forgotten and to bring the community together in patriotic commemoration.

"We are forever grateful for the thousands of supporters who dedicate their time and effort to fulfilling our mission on a local level," said Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. "These individuals and their communities know the value of remembering the fallen, honoring those who currently serve and teaching the next generation about the sacrifices made for our freedom every day, and without their continued support, Wreaths Across America would not exist."

Those interested in volunteering for Wreaths Across America, or sponsoring a wreath for Anson Memorial Park, are invited to visit the website to learn more. National Wreaths Across America Day is a free, non-political, community event open to all people.

Please help our location lay wreaths at as many graves as possible by visiting [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) and click on "Menu" on the top right corner, and then enter "Leavitt Funeral Home and Anson Community Hospice." You will be able to purchase one or more wreaths and/or volunteer to participate in the wreath laying ceremony. Don't forget to click the "Invite" button to invite your friends and family to join you.

For more information, to sponsor wreaths or to sign up to volunteer, visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org) and select fundraising group number NC0331P. Locally you can contact Ken Caulder at Leavitt Funeral Home. The telephone number is 704-694-2524, or email [ken@leavittfh.com](mailto:ken@leavittfh.com).

## Town of Wadesboro Thanksgiving Schedule

The Town of Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29 to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no garbage pickup on those days. The garbage collection routes for Wednesday and Thursday will be picked up on Wednesday, November 27. The normal collection schedule will resume on Monday, December 2.

As always, you will still be able to leave your utility bill payments in the night deposit box at Town Hall. If you have an emergency, please call Dispatch at 704-694-2167.

## Town of Lilesville Thanksgiving Schedule

The Town of Lilesville Thanksgiving holiday garbage pickup schedule will be Wednesday, November 27 instead of Thursday, November 28. Lilesville Town Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Free Groceries for Families in Need December 4

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Mission Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry and Atrium Health Bus will be at Bethel Community Center, located at 5180 NC 742 Highway South in Wadesboro, on Wednesday, December 4. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m. • Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email [tshumpert@unc-cumc.net](mailto:tshumpert@unc-cumc.net). If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.