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

## Board of Education Regular Meeting Scheduled for Monday, December 17

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, December 17 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. The meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m. with the Closed Session. Open Session should begin at about 4:30 p.m.



Newly promoted Cadet Sergeant Major Robert Crump (left) and Cadet Executive Officer Timothy Marshall (right) stand proud and tall during the ceremony, as the Cadet Company Commander Caitlin Turner gives the commands to the unit.



Brothers Tony (left) and Ray Blaylock shake hands of congratulations after Ray pins the Sergeant rank on the uniform of older brother Tony.

## Anson High JROTC Cadets Earn Promotions

The Anson High School JROTC Bearcat Battalion had its first promotion ceremony of the 2018-19 school year on October 15. More than 50 cadets were promoted to their new ranks. The promotion ceremony is a custom rich in tradition and history and is adopted by JROTC programs to recognize cadets for their hard work, dedication, discipline and sacrifice.

Promotion is based on the cadet's potential and abilities to successfully undertake positions with increased duties and responsibilities. The JROTC instructors place a great amount of trust and confidence in these selected cadets to help manage the battalion. In order to be promoted to the next rank, cadets are required to pass all of their classes during the promotion period and uphold the standards set forth by the program.

The rank structure is similar to that of the United States Army, which includes enlisted and officer ranks.

The following personnel were promoted: Blalock, Ray-Private 2nd Class; Cox, Douglas-Corporal; Eppolito, Diamond-Corporal; Gibson, Cameron-Corporal; Marshall, Talia-Corporal, Blaylock, Tony-Sergeant; Liles, Rickasia-Sergeant; Bennett, Alvin-Sergeant First Class; Ruppe, Antney-Sergeant First Class; Caple, Maliyah-First Sergeant; Crump, Robert-Sergeant Major; Crain, Jarica-2nd Lieutenant; Dumas, Katlin-2nd Lieutenant; Hairston, Corey-2nd Lieutenant; Jackson, Kelisha-2nd Lieutenant; Waring, Noah-1st Lieutenant; Turner, Caitlin-Captain; Marshall, Timothy-Major; Breeden, Imeen-Corporal; Caruso, Jacob-Corporal; Garris, Shavonda-Corporal; Jackson, Kimyada-Corporal; Polk, Diamond-Corporal; Williamson, John-Corporal; Hersey, Sean-Sergeant; Hoskins, Achee-Sergeant First Class; Williams, Hykeem-Sergeant First Class; Jones, Joshua-First Sergeant; Robinson, Nakayla-2nd Lieutenant; Sturdivant, Brianna-2nd Lieutenant; Martin Jaleah-Captain, Polk, Joshua-Lieutenant Colonel; Chance, Mason-Corporal; Lassiter, Madison-Corporal; Sanderson, Mahogany-Corporal; Smith, Mason-Corporal; Stewart, Ebony-Corporal; Teal, Adam-Corporal; Horne, Taylor-Corporal; Miller, Lashay-Sergeant First Class; Rorie, Hannah-Sergeant First Class; Wilson, Bryce-First Sergeant; Liles, Bianca-2nd Lieutenant; Lopez, Yasmin-2nd Lieutenant; Sturdivant, Mya-2nd Lieutenant; Wall, Jada-2nd Lieutenant; and Booker, Jaquavius-Captain.

## Only 4 Days Left to Enroll in Affordable, Comprehensive Coverage on HealthCare.gov

NC Navigators are here to help!  
North Carolinians can call 1-855-733-3711 or visit [ncnavigator.net](http://ncnavigator.net) to schedule a free appointment or find a free enrollment event

December 15 is the last day for North Carolinians to enroll in affordable, comprehensive health coverage for 2019 on [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov), the Health Insurance Marketplace established by the federal Affordable Care Act. North Carolinians who have questions or want help enrolling or re-enrolling in 2019 coverage can call 1-855-733-3711 (toll-free) or visit [ncnavigator.net](http://ncnavigator.net) to schedule a free, in-person appointment with an NC Navigator near them, or to find a free enrollment event in their area.

"We have a lot planned for these last days," Mark Van Arnam, co-director of the NC Navigator Consortium, said. "We want to make it as easy as possible for consumers to get help. Call us, visit our website, come to one of our events. We are here to help. Time may be running out, but it's definitely not too late to enroll."

The NC Navigator Consortium, the state's only navigator organization, is holding nearly 30 enrollment events across the state between now and the end of this year's open-enrollment period, including multiple events on Saturday, December 15.

NC Navigators will be available at the enrollment events to hold free, confidential, one-on-one meetings with consumers. The enrollment events are completely free and open to the public. No appointment or prior registration is required.

NC Navigators are trained to help consumers enroll in coverage on [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov). They can help consumers understand the details of the plans available on [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov), complete the enrollment process and determine their eligibility for financial assistance. Last year, nine in 10 North Carolinians who enrolled in coverage on [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) received financial assistance.

After December 15, North Carolinians can only enroll in 2019 coverage on [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) if they qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. Consumers can qualify for a Special Enrollment Period if they experience certain life changes, like getting married or divorced, having a baby or adopting a child, moving, or losing health coverage. Learn more at [www.healthcare.gov/coverage-outside-open-enrollment/special-enrollment-period/](http://www.healthcare.gov/coverage-outside-open-enrollment/special-enrollment-period/).

NC Navigators are available throughout the year and can help consumers determine if they qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.

North Carolinians who are already enrolled in a [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) plan should log into the website to make sure their information is up to date. There are new plans available that might better fit their needs and budget.

## Two Different Christmas Shows to be Presented at the Rotary Planetarium and Science Center

The Wadesboro Rotary Planetarium and Science Center, an Anson County School learning resource center, will present two types of Christmas Shows for the public.

- *The Star of Bethlehem* will be shown on Sunday, December 16 at 5 p.m. and again on Tuesday, December 18 at 2 p.m. This full dome show, accompanied by Christmas carols, guides the audience through various historical and astronomical information on the Christmas story.
- *The Season of Light* will be shown on Monday, December 17 at 2 p.m. and again on Wednesday, December 19 at 2 p.m. This 35 minute full dome video traces the history of holiday customs that light up the holiday season.

During your visit the animal room and fluorescent mineral room will be available for viewing. Seats are limited in the dome to 20. Reservations are encouraged. There are no charges for the shows. Please call the planetarium at 704-694-4417 ext 01005 and leave a message with your name, show/time and number of seats you would like to reserve. The planetarium is located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

## Christmas Dinner for the Homeless is December 22

Faith Based Center of Hope will host their annual Christmas dinner for the homeless on Saturday, December 22 at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, located on Salisbury Street in Wadesboro, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Each year CEO Vancine Sturdivant joins with various churches, businesses, organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens to provide a hot Christmas meal for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Pastor Alban Burney and Deacon Dan Taylor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church has graciously opened their doors and allowed the dinner to be held there.

"My husband William L. 'Mr. Gumby' Sturdivant, Sr. and I started this in the late 1990s," Sturdivant said. "One of the highlights of the dinner is everyone who attends leaves with a gift-wrapped present or two. All during the year I will purchase items of clothing, sweaters, socks, gloves things for winter and wrap them. Each box will have on the bottom what is in there. The day before the dinner, bows are put on each gift. If we do not have a gift wrapped for someone, we have tables and cloth racks with new items hanging there, and they can pick out their size and we wrap them during the dinner. The look on their face is all the gratitude we need. We all know how it feels to open something at Christmas."

Pastor Michael McLeod of Pleasant Hill Missionary Church will present his Christmas blessing. He gives each person an envelope with money and allows use of the church van. Attorney Evadne Smith-Little will be present with clothing and shoes. Sturdivant concluded, "We need vans to help get our brothers and sisters to the dinner. Anyone wishing to donate to the dinner or give a monetary donation to help purchase winter items, please contact me at 704-848-4412. Thank you."

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)

## Hometown Strong Visits Anson County

Governor Roy Cooper's Hometown Strong Rural Action Team visited Anson County in November. The team includes every state cabinet agency, and is led by Secretary of Health and Human Services' Mandy Cohen, Chief Deputy Secretary of Public Safety Reuben Young and NC Human Resources Director Barbara Gibson. Special members of the team include Ansonians Pryor Gibson, Lockhart Taylor, Kenny Flowers and Margaret Streater. Hometown Strong builds partnerships between state government and rural communities to support and advance local priorities.



"I want to make sure state government is listening to Anson County and doing everything it can to strengthen rural North Carolina," said Governor Cooper. "There is so much we have to do, and it is past time to help" The two-day visit took place in towns across the county on November 13 and 14, and identified unique success stories in a variety of topics such as economic development, education, and health.

Anson County School Superintendent Micheal Freeman stated, "I am so appreciative to Governor Cooper and his Hometown Strong Team for taking the time to simply listen to learn about our needs as well as to celebrate our accomplishments side by side with us. We were able to share our relationships and plans with SPCC and get great support" Local economic success stories were showcased in tours of Southern Fabricators, Hornwood and the Ansonia Theatre.

South Piedmont Community College (SPCC) also presented one of many education success stories. "Rural students face some unique challenges, and this can often impact their decision about entertaining higher education," said Dr. Maria Pharr, President of SPCC. To address the challenge of preparing low-income students for higher paying jobs, the community college created a cost-effective program called Career in a Year to provide education and training in a year or less for in-demand jobs in health fields, construction, transportation, early childhood and manufacturing.

NC HHS Secretary Mandy Cohen acknowledged Anson County's people as its story of success. "What makes Anson County unique is the sense of community that locals share. They are willing to work together and help each other. My department is committed to supporting the community and making sure that people have access to quality health care."

Anson County represented this region's Prosperity Zone, and Hometown Strong and will continue working together to identify top priorities for action.

## Walter Turner to Present Program at Brown Bag Book Club

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the Brown Bag Book Club meeting for Monday, December 17 at 12:00 noon in the Pritchett room. Walter Turner will be the guest author. Walter has written several books, numerous articles on transportation history for Our State and Business North Carolina, as well as the state's major newspapers. He currently writes articles for Anson County Historical Society News. Walter will be sharing information on Mary Louise Medley, author of *History of Anson County*, including her accomplishments and life. Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and enjoy this special program. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

## Miranda Richardson Named Administrator at New Anson Correctional Institution

Formerly Lanesboro Correctional Institution, transitioning to all female facility



The Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice has named Miranda Richardson as the administrator at Anson Correctional Institution in Polkton, a facility she once worked at early in her career.

Anson CI will be the new name of the former Lanesboro CI, which housed male offenders. A statewide facility re-missioning program will move female close and medium custody offenders from other female prisons to the newly-named Anson CI beginning in the spring. The new facility will provide more programming space as well as larger medical facilities for female offenders.

Richardson, 47, has spent nearly 25 years with the Department of Public Safety. She began her career in 1994 as a correctional Program Assistant I (now called case managers) at the former Sandhills Youth Center in McCain, where she was also a Program Assistant II and Program Supervisor.

In 2001 Richardson was promoted to Program Director at the former Anson Correctional Center before she was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Programs at Southern Correctional Institution in February 2006. She was promoted to administrator of the facility in December 2013.

Richardson is a native of Fayetteville where she graduated from E.E. Smith High School. She earned her bachelor of science degree in criminal justice, with a minor in psychology, from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

## Town of Wadesboro Christmas Holiday Schedule

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 to 26 to celebrate the Christmas Holiday. There will be no garbage collections on these days.

The normal Monday and Tuesday garbage collection routes will be picked up on Thursday, December 27. The normal Wednesday and Thursday garbage collection routes will be picked up on Friday, December 28. The Town of Wadesboro appreciates your consideration in allowing our employees time with their families during this holiday season. 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.