

Friends of Anson County
Animal Shelter Launches
Business Partnership Drive

Community Support Sought to Begin 2026 Strong

Friends of the Anson County Animal Shelter is inviting local businesses to help close out 2025 and launch 2026 on a strong note by becoming business partners in support of the shelter and its programs. The organization is currently seeking businesses willing to make a once-a-year donation or recurring sponsorship to help meet ongoing needs at the shelter.

Organizers note that anyone who owns even one pet understands the time, care, and resources required to properly look after animals. In addition to caring for shelter animals, the Anson County Animal Shelter provides valuable community services, including a pet food pantry and low-cost spay and neuter clinics that benefit families across the county.

A recurring sponsorship allows Friends of the Anson County Animal Shelter to better budget, plan, and expand services that directly impact animal welfare in the community. Business partners play a key role in ensuring these programs remain available throughout the year.

Businesses interested in becoming partners through a once-a-year donation can learn more and sign up by visiting www.friendsofansonianimal.org. More information about the organization and its mission is also available on the website.

In a message to the community, Friends of the Anson County Animal Shelter expressed appreciation for past and future support and extended best wishes for a prosperous New Year, emphasizing that every contribution helps improve the lives of animals and strengthens services for Anson County residents.

Barn Blast 2026 to Celebrate
30 Years of Supporting Children

Community Invited to Join Anniversary Celebration

As 2026 approaches, the community is invited to help kick off a milestone celebration as Anson County Partnership for Children marks 30 years of service with Barn Blast 2026. Organizers say the event will be both a celebration and a heartfelt thank-you to those who have supported the partnership's mission through the years.

Barn Blast 2026 promises an evening filled with games, lively auctions, and plenty of fun, while also highlighting the important work being done to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child. Community members are encouraged to attend and show their support for programs that continue to make a meaningful impact on local families.

The event also serves as an opportunity to recognize the unwavering commitment of supporters whose involvement has been crucial to the success of the partnership's mission. Organizers emphasize that continued community support will help the organization achieve even greater outcomes for children in the years ahead.

If you're interested in becoming a sponsor or if you would like to purchase tickets, more information is available by visiting www.ansonchildren.org. Additional details and updates about Barn Blast 2026 are also available through the organization's outreach channels.

Director Elizabeth Rizzo, writing on behalf of Anson County Partnership for Children, expressed appreciation to the community for its continued dedication and support, noting that organizers look forward to welcoming guests for what promises to be an unforgettable evening in service of children.

Annual Toll Rate Increase for
Triangle and Monroe Expressways

Ring in the New Year with confetti, resolutions, and a slightly higher toll receipt. The annual toll rate increase for the Triangle Expressway and Monroe Expressway will take effect Thursday, January 1, 2026, gently nudging drivers to dig a little deeper into their cup holders.

NC Quick Pass account holders driving a traditional two-axle vehicle can expect modest increases depending on their route. Traveling the full 18 miles of the original Triangle Expressway from N.C. 55 to I-40 in Durham will now cost \$4.17, up from \$4.05 — an increase of 12 cents, or roughly the price of a few deep breaths.

Drivers using the 18-mile extension of the Triangle Expressway from N.C. 55 to I-40 in Garner will see a 14-cent increase, with the toll rising from \$4.19 to \$4.33. Meanwhile, a full-length trip on the Monroe Expressway will increase by four cents, from \$2.92 to \$2.96, proving that not all New Year surprises are dramatic.

Motorists curious about exactly how much their daily commute will now cost can calculate their tolls for both facilities by visiting www.ncquickpass.com/toll-calculator, where math meets reality.

Officials say toll revenue is used to pay off bonds sold to fund construction and to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of each toll facility, including keeping the road smooth enough that drivers only complain about the price.

The N.C. Turnpike Authority and NC Quick Pass remind drivers there are ways to soften the blow. Signing up for an NC Quick Pass account can save customers 50 percent on tolls in North Carolina and allows toll payments in 19 states. A NC Only Account also offers a 50 percent discount within North Carolina without the need for a transponder.

For those who prefer hardware, Transponders on the Go are available for \$3 at Harris Teeter, Amazon, and select 7-Eleven, Speedway, and License Plate Agency locations. A list of nearby locations can be found at www.ncquickpass.com/find-on-the-go.

To learn more or to open an NC Quick Pass account, drivers can visit www.ncquickpass.com or download the NC Quick Pass app - because while tolls may rise, convenience is still free.



Galilee A.M.E. Zion Church Honors Children And Youth Ministry

Holiday Celebration Recognizes Service, Faith and Commitment

During the holiday season, Galilee A.M.E. Zion Church of Morven celebrated its Children and Youth Ministry with a joyful event recognizing the faithfulness, commitment, and service of its young members. The celebration was held at Lady Bug Restaurant, providing a festive setting for fellowship and fun.

The children and youth enjoyed games, prizes, and words of encouragement as church leaders expressed appreciation for their dedication throughout the year. Laughter and smiles filled the room as the young participants celebrated together, marking the holiday season with fellowship and gratitude.

Throughout the year the children and youth of Galilee A.M.E. Zion Church have remained actively involved in church life, serving through choir participation, ushering, skits and productions, Youth Bible Study, and other ministry activities. Their commitment has been evident not only during special programs, but week after week as they faithfully contribute to worship and service.

The holiday celebration served as a meaningful reminder of the importance of nurturing young leaders and providing opportunities for spiritual growth. Pastor Derinzer Johnson, Children and Youth Director Lanese McBride, and Christian Education Director Alecia Powe continue to invest in the church's children and youth, recognizing them as vital contributors to both the present and future of the ministry.

Arrests Made in Christmas Day Homicide

On Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025, at approximately 1:09 p.m., officers with the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a residence located at 806 Montgomery Street in Wadesboro in reference to a reported gunshot victim.

Upon arrival, officers located one male victim, identified as Robert Edward Pratt Jr., suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Despite lifesaving efforts, Pratt was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A homicide investigation was immediately initiated by the Wadesboro Police Department. Investigators determined the incident stemmed from a prior altercation involving the victim that occurred during the early morning hours of Christmas Day at the Oak Hill Apartments.

During the course of the investigation, Quantarius Tre'von Little (DOB March 13, 1998) was identified as a primary suspect. A second suspect, Keeylan Semaj White (DOB June 25, 2002) was also identified.

White was taken into custody on Monday, December 29, and charged with First Degree Murder and Felony Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Murder. Makayla Javon White (DOB February 15, 1999) was also taken into custody on December 29 and charged with Felony Conspiracy and Felony Obstructing Justice. Both individuals received no bond on these charges.

On the night of December 26, Quantarius Tre'von Little was arrested and placed into custody at the Anson County Jail under no bond. Prior to his arrest, the Wadesboro Police Department issued a notice identifying Little as a wanted subject for First Degree Murder and Felony Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Murder, advising the public not to approach him as he was considered armed and dangerous.

Police described the incident as another tragic and unacceptable act of gun violence in the community, emphasizing that violence of this nature will not be normalized or tolerated. Officials noted that the effects of gun violence extend beyond a single incident, leaving families grieving and impacting entire neighborhoods.

Wadesboro Police Chief Michael Childers expressed condolences to the victim's family and friends, stating that no family should have to endure a loss like this, particularly on a day meant for reflection and togetherness.

The Wadesboro Police Department remains committed to holding those responsible accountable and to continuing efforts to address violent crime in the community. The investigation remains active and ongoing, and additional information will be released as it becomes available.

Anyone with information related to this incident is encouraged to contact the Wadesboro Police Department or call 911.

The Wadesboro Police Department also thanked the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and the Anson County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in the case.



Q. Little



K. White



M. White

MBM Twirly
Girls Spread
Christmas Cheer

On Tuesday, December 16, the MBM Twirly Girls "twirled" their way through uptown Wadesboro, while spreading lots of Christmas spirit and cheer along their way. With city sidewalks and street lights aglow, the girls had a magical backdrop for their very well attended performances.

The annual MBM Christmas Show is one of our area's favorite events to help get your holiday groove on!

And the students would like to say, "Thank you so much for coming!"



INSIDE THIS EDITION...THE SAVE COUPON BOOK

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