



**RECORD & LANDMARK**  
Mooreville Tribune  
**BEST OF IREDELL**  
2026

# COMING SOON!

BEST OF IREDELL  
is almost back, starting  
Wednesday, April 8

NOMINATE FROM  
April 8 - April 29



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# STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK

Thursday, April 2, 2026
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## ‘THIS CAN’T CONTINUE’



A septic company tanker truck sits at the end of a driveway. Septage haulers near Catawba County say they are having trouble finding places to take waste from septic systems. CNN

### Independent septic companies left with few options as cities restrict haulers

**BILLY CHAPMAN**  
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Sewage haulers in the Catawba County region are having trouble finding places to dump waste from septic tanks.

Recently, wastewater treatment providers, like the city of Hickory, have stopped allowing septic haulers to dump untreated waste. According to the haulers, this is forcing them to drive farther, driving up prices for customers and causing longer waits for service.

Spencer Stevenson, owner of Atlas Septic Service in Statesville, said he thinks part of the problem is the capacity limits of sewer infrastructure combined with population growth in the area.

“What’s happening in our area is a good and a bad thing,” Stevenson said. “We are experiencing growth at a rate that is just astronomical right now. And it’s not anything new, but the infrastructure often lags behind.”

Stevenson said he did not fault any

cities or counties for not accepting haulers. He said wastewater operating staff he spoke with at different facilities were polite. Stevenson said some of the problems are related to wastewater operators expanding their systems. As construction is underway at some facilities, septic waste haulers are being turned away, Stevenson said.

The city of Newton’s wastewater treatment plant is undergoing work and is not taking sewage from haulers, Newton Communications & Marketing Director Alex Frick said.

“Newton’s wastewater treatment facility is undergoing construction to replace the influent pump station and lime grit system building. During construction, which is expected to be completed in the summer of 2027, the facility will accept no waste from septage haulers. The facility will likely resume accepting septage from haulers after construction is complete,” Frick wrote

by email on March 26.

**‘A snowball everywhere that’s open’**

Stevenson said closures due to construction in Newton and at other facilities are leaving haulers with fewer options. Sites that accept septic waste are visited by more haulers.

“As a place would close, the next place would receive more trucks,” Stevenson said. “Well, then that place would get overloaded. Next thing you know, those 20, 30 haulers are now trying to go to another place and it’s just been a snowball everywhere that’s open.”

Michael Killian, owner of First Call Septic & Environmental Services in Hickory, said he is having trouble finding a place within 40 miles that will accept septage haulers.

Please see **HAULERS**, Page A7

### OUT OF OUR PAST

## April in Iredell County over the decades

**AMANDA OVERCASH**  
Special to the Record and Landmark

**100 YEARS**  
**April 1, 1926**

A fire started in a fertilizer warehouse owned by C.D. Moore & Sons located

in Dimond Hills, south of the railroad. The fire was spurred on by high winds from the south and spread to Hutton & Bourbonnais Company’s lumberyard. Firefighters quickly saw they could not put the fire out, and focused their efforts on

removing lumber to keep the fire from spreading. Five hours later the fire was under control and the damage was estimated at \$20,000.

Police responded to the home of Mrs. Lyons at 2 a.m. where they found she had been shot

through the arm by an intruder. Mrs. Lyons fought him off in the kitchen before sustaining the injury. Davis hospital treated her injury and she was expected to make a full recovery.

Please see **IREDELL**, Page A7

Is this the year to make a move? Expert tips for buyers and sellers.  
**LIVELY, PAGE D1**

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**Weather**  
Partly sunny  
**High 83**  
**Low 58**  
Forecast • A8

