

# THE EXPRESS

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #149  
Wadesboro, NC  
28170

Postal  
Customer

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • [TheExpressNews@gmail.com](mailto:TheExpressNews@gmail.com) • [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)

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

## 2 Killed in Monday Shootings

Two men, Jerry Thomas Rorie, 25, and Marcus Antonio Allen, 24, were killed on Monday, January 7 on Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. Wadesboro Police are continuing to investigate what they suggest may be a case of gang related violence.

At about 6 p.m. officers responded to a call to a convenience store on Salisbury Street concerning a gunshot victim who had collapsed there. Upon arrival the officers found the collapsed man, and he was taken to Anson Community Hospital where he died later from his wounds. During the investigation officers discovered a second man dead in the driveway of a nearby home on Salisbury Street. He was also shot.

Police said that members of two gangs apparently had a confrontation at a Salisbury Street house which resulted in gunfire. Each victim was from a rival gang. The victim found in the convenience store had run from the confrontation after being shot.

As of press time the investigation was ongoing and no arrests have been made.

## Morven Man Killed in Home Fire

The Anson County Sheriff's Office investigated a fatal house fire in Morven. Deputies and the Morven Fire Department responded to a house fire at 1:16 a.m. on the morning of December 31st. The house was fully engulfed in flames when responders arrived at the scene at 6425 Robinson Bridge Road. When the flames were extinguished firemen found the body of James McCray, age 72, near the back door of his residence. Mr. McCray lived alone and had limited mobility.

Investigators at the scene believe the fire started in Mr. McCray's bedroom where at least one space heater was located. Investigators will await the results of the autopsy and other analysis before making a final determination as to the cause of the fire.

## Michelle Herndon and Michael Lawhorn Busted for Meth Lab

The Lilesville Police Department and Anson County Sheriff's Office responded to Fifth Street in Lilesville on January 1st at 1:30 p.m. in reference to a fight. That led officers to 313 Fifth Street where officers discovered drug paraphernalia located inside the residence. A narcotic search warrant was obtained by the Lilesville Police Department for the residence. The resulting search uncovered a lab where methamphetamines were being produced.

Michelle Herndon, 49, and Michael Lawhorn, 33, were arrested and taken to the Anson County Jail. They are charged with Felony Possession of Precursor Chemicals to Produce Methamphetamines, and Manufacturing Methamphetamines. More charges could be pending due to the proximity of the residence to the Lilesville Elementary School.

Peachland Police Chief Bobby Gallimore said, "Special thanks to the Anson County Sheriff's Office, the Polkton Police Department, the Lilesville Fire Department and the NC State Bureau of Investigation for your help and support."

## Video Sweepstakes Ban Enforced

A state Supreme Court ruling went into effect last Thursday (January 3) that clears the way for law officers to enforce a ban on video sweepstakes. Despite a 2010 law banning the games, internet cafes that pay cash prizes turned into a multi-million dollar industry.

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen said that his office has begun enforcing the ban on video sweepstakes operations and machines beginning January 3rd. "The NC General Assembly passed new laws banning such operations in 2010, but the ban had been tied up in court rulings over the past two years. The NC Supreme Court recently unanimously overruled a lower court decision and upheld the ban on sweepstakes operations," Sheriff Allen said.

Sheriff Allen said that he and his officers had personally visited every known operation in the county and given the operators notice of the coming ban.

To assist the Sheriff, the Wadesboro Police Department, whose jurisdiction has the largest number of machines, and other police departments around the county have done the same notifications for those businesses operating inside city limits.

"I believe we've given these operations adequate notice and are working with them to comply. We're just enforcing the law that was passed by the General Assembly and recently upheld by the Supreme Court. We recently met with the District Attorney on the matter as well. We've notified every location we are aware of that has these operations or has stand-alone machines. Everyone we've spoken to has been cooperative. If we've missed any location or machine I hope someone will give us a call," Allen said.

State Attorney General Roy Cooper said there weren't widespread internet café raids across the state on Thursday. "Enforcement will likely vary across the state depending on the discretion of local officers and district attorneys," Cooper said.

## North Carolina's Oldest Breast Cancer Survivor Dies at 103

Mrs. Nannie Sue Neal, the woman known as the "Oldest Living Breast Cancer Survivor in North Carolina," has passed away at the age of 103 years-old. Mrs. Neal died Thursday morning at home in Waxhaw with her family. She was born on October 15, 1909.

Mrs. Neal was a 59-year survivor of breast cancer. Her granddaughter Bettylyn Krafft said that her recipe for such a long and healthy life was living a, "very healthy lifestyle by watching and cataloging her diet to eat the right foods. She always practiced portion control!"

Mrs. Neal's daughter, Betty Boyd, was a former resident of Anson County.

In 2011 Mrs. Neal, whose birthday was in October which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, was named the Honorary Race Director for the Dollar General 300 Miles of Courage NASCAR Nationwide Series race at Charlotte Motor Speedway. She went to CMS and was honored on her 102nd birthday with a ride around the track in a pink race car driven by NASCAR driver Kenny Wallace.

## Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have lost a child, will meet on Thursday, January 10 at 7 p.m. in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

For more information please call 704-694-2524 or 704-272-7449.

## Wadesboro Primary School Terrific Kids



Wadesboro Primary School recently recognized their Terrific Kids for Citizenship and Responsibility. They are pictured here.

**• Citizenship (left)** Pictured from left, front: Derrick Tanner, Kendrick Maye, Janiyah Williams, Kaylee Burris and Delane Smith. Second row: Michael Christian, Jaylyn Lilly, Nakira McLendon, Timothy Smith, Zoha Ali and Chloe Scarborough. Back row: Stephanie Brown, Evan Parsons, Mikhia Polk, Jak Kendall and Zykias Marsh.

## • Responsibility (right)

Pictured from left, front: Dream Sturdivant, Ziare Rorie, Adrian Hogan, Makylee Hoover, Cameron Hankerson, Timmie Spencer, Marcus Sturdivant, Lauren Hines and Tevalin Rorie. Second row: Kristina Latchman, Micah Chambers, D'Asia Lindsey, Destinie Baldwin, Jamez Boggan, Nevaeh Barnes and Casper McCracken. Back row: Cindey Campbell, Erin Lookabill, Brissa Figueroa, Taylor Huntley and Dexter Jones.



## Anson Schools Superintendent Dr. Greg Firn Resigns

Superintendent of Anson County Schools Dr. Greg Firn announced on Friday that he would resign his position effective February 2, 2013. Firn said, "It's the right time. We have built enough infrastructures in the capacity of those who will remain, and I just didn't want to prolong my decision with an extended wait, nor did I want to be disingenuous. I have total confidence in our leadership."

In a special meeting of the Anson County School Board on January 2, current Deputy Superintendent Michael Freeman was named Interim Superintendent. "I am very excited and honored to have been appointed to serve the children in Anson County as I transition to the position of Interim Superintendent, Freeman said. "Anson County, Anson County Schools and our children are dear to my heart. I have intentionally studied and worked for many years preparing myself for this opportunity. Our dedicated team of teachers, principals and support staff will continue providing great learning opportunities for each child in Anson County."

Firn's plans are to remain in public education. "I have eleven years as a school superintendent and am ready for different work," he continued. Firn made no further disclosure regarding his future plans.

Dr. Firn came to Anson County Schools in July of 2007. During that time the entire county, both students and teachers, witnessed a massive transition toward the latest technological advances, one of the most prominent being the use of individual laptops by all students and educators.

Firn said, "I believe we have demonstrated that every child could be successful and we were motivated by that. Some were locked into believing that all students could not perform to high standards, but each year we improved. Our people, our teachers, many who were here before I arrived, accomplished the work, and with a clear focus and direction, have proven they can do this."

Firn concluded, "In the future, when we think back, Anson County will always bring a smile because of just how special this place is. There are still challenges left and everyone is dealing with similar issues. Bottom line, my career choice is based on the fact that this is the right time for my family."

By Melanie Lyon

## Relay for Life Kickoff is Next Tuesday

Relay for Life will hold their Kickoff for this year's event on Tuesday, January 15. Everyone is invited to join in this very important event. The Kickoff will take place at the Lockhart-Taylor Center at 6 p.m.

For more information call Carrie Bunn at 704-294-0071.

## Bowling for the Arts Event is January 30

The weather is cold, but the chili and cornbread will be warm. Join the fun on Wednesday, January 30th, when Anson County Arts Council patrons gather at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. First you will select a beautiful hand-thrown bowl to add to your pottery collection, and then you will enjoy a delicious meal of homemade chili, cornbread, slaw, tea, and dessert for \$25.

Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce, Lacy's, and the Anson County Arts Council. Please call 704-694-4950 for more information.

## Anson Singers Invite New Members

The Anson Singers, a community choir made up of singers from Anson and surrounding counties, have begun rehearsals for the spring season. Emily Privette, director of the Singers, invites current, new and former members to come and be a part of this community choral group. New members are especially encouraged to join.

The group rehearses each Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 118 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro.

## Toys for Tots Gratitude Banquet is Friday

The Toys For Tots Gratitude Banquet will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro on Friday, January 11th at 6 p.m. Guest speaker for the event will be Lilesville Mayor Pro-Tem Rev. Dr. Bernice Bennett. Bennett is Grace Senior Center Director and the Toys For Tots Assistant Coordinator.

"The banquet is to bring all the parents and sponsors together to thank them for helping make some unfortunate child's Christmas better," Toys for Tots Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant said. "Because of the outpouring of generosity of the citizens of Anson County and local and state leaders we were able to bless over 3,000 children this year."

The proceeds from the Gratitude Banquet will begin the 2013 Toys for Tots Campaign. The goal is to become better and help more children each year. Tickets for the banquet are \$10, and you pay at the door. For more information please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Jennifer Tarlton at 704-694-3115.

## Tourism Meeting is Today

The Anson County Tourism Development Authority will hold its regular meeting at noon today, Wednesday, January 9 at the Lady Bug restaurant.

For information contact David Smith, Director, at 704-681-5087.

## 50+ Club Meeting to Feature Carson Hill

The Hampton B. Allen Library's 50+ Club will meet on Monday, January 14 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Carson Hill will be singing many of her original songs. Carson now has a CD available for purchase. Everyone is invited to this event.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

## ACCESS to Hold Information Session January 14

In a release from ACCESS: Become part of something that will help you grow personally, professional and spiritual. With ACCESS you will learn how to:

- find employment, even if you have a criminal record,
- start a business, or
- enroll in school.

An Information Session will be held on January 14 at 11 a.m. Classes start January 28 at 9 a.m. At Workforce Solutions - Anson County Job Links. For more information call 1-866-472-2212 or email [info@sharingaccess.org](mailto:info@sharingaccess.org).

## Board Meeting is January 22

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22 at 10 a.m. at the BC-SWCD office located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

Look inside for special inserts from  
**IGA**  
**Gospel Lighthouse**  
**Captain D's**