

# THE EXPRESS

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

## 2017 Toys for Tots Gratitude Banquet Set for Saturday

**Event features silent auction for UNC Tarheels championship basketball signed by Coach Roy Williams!**

The Anson County Toys for Tots 2017 Gratitude Banquet will be held this Saturday, January 20 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center beginning at 6 p.m. Guest speaker for the evening will be Rev. Broce Sowell, Pastor at Barringer Chapel in Norwood. Lawrence Gatewood will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The theme for the 2017 Toys for Tots campaign was "The Joy of Giving." Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant stated, "Who else could we ask to be the speaker. Rev. Sowell is employed with Lanesboro Correctional Institution, our largest contributor for the Toys for Tots campaign."

During the Gratitude Banquet there will be a silent auction for the 2017 championship basketball from the UNC-Chapel Hill Tarheels. It is signed by Coach Roy Williams and includes names of both teams from the championship game and the final score. Everyone is welcome to bid, and you do not have to be present to win this one of a kind collectible item.

Special recognition will be given to all the contributors, especially the school system, sponsors and volunteers, because without each of them the campaign would have never been such a success.

With Toys for Tots being a major project supplying toys to the less fortunate in Anson County each year, the need was great. During the 2017 campaign the Toys for Tots Motorcycle ride successfully raised funds and awareness. And, they would like to thank Walmart for all the support given during the campaign. Also, the Charlotte Panthers donated a football signed by all the players which was won by Antonio "Stunna" Little.

Sturdivant concluded, "It truly brings joy to our hearts to be able to supply toys for so many less fortunate kids. We have already begin strategizing for the 2018 campaign. With the support of our Executive Board and the great leaders and citizens of this fine county, we will have a successful campaign."



Pictured from left on the front row are Elizabeth Kersey (President, Las Amigas), Isaiah Hatcher, Johnntasia Harrison, Johnta Harrison II and Johnie M. Pettiford (Las Amigas member). On the back row are Ambria Nivens, Makhia Burch, Dionnya Pratt (Principal) and Ta'Myza Simons.

## Morven Students Compete in MLK, Jr Essay Challenge

Fourth and fifth grade students at Morven Elementary School competed in an essay challenge in recognition of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The essay challenge was sponsored by the Morven Chapter of Las Amigas, Incorporated and HOLLA. The theme of the essay challenge was "How I'm Living the Dream."

Las Amigas members and HOLLA staff provided a Writing Workshop for the fourth and fifth grade students where they were provided writing techniques in coordination with skills they were already being taught in their classes. Films and information about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shared with students as well.

The Essay Challenge concluded on December 14 and the winners were announced on Tuesday, January 9. The First Place winner in the essay challenge was Johnntasia Harrison. The First Runner-Up was Johnta Harrison II; and the Second Runner-Up was Isaiah Hatcher.

Honorable Mentions were Makhia Burch, Ambria Nivens and Ta'myza Simons.

As first place winner, Johnntasia Harrison was selected to share her essay at the county-wide celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on Monday, January 15.

## SPCC Receives \$170,549 Workforce Training Grant to Improve Fire & Rescue Training

South Piedmont Community College recently received an investment in Short Term Workforce Training Grant from the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS). The grant award of \$170,549 will be used for the SPCC Fire/Rescue Training Program.

SPCC, in conjunction with fire/rescue partners Monroe Fire Department and Union County, will use the funds to build a live fire training structure and purchase needed equipment to enhance firefighter education and certification.

Thirty-six North Carolina community colleges submitted grant applications for the Short-Term Workforce Training Funds. The North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges approved an allocation of \$2 million to invest in workforce training and provide an opportunity for the colleges to demonstrate the potential impact of these funds on short-term workforce training for the employers and citizens of the state. The proposed programs will allow students to gain access to training leading to industry credentials aligned with employer demand and community needs across North Carolina.

## Keeping Families Safe When Traveling in Wintry Weather

With the recent snowfall coupled with bone chilling temperatures, Safe Kids NC wants to remind parents of the best ways to stay safe when traveling. Winter weather can bring a combination of potentially life threatening conditions, including sleet, snow and ice that can cause road conditions to quickly deteriorate.

It is always best to wait until roads improve before driving on them, but Safe Kids NC and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers these driving tips to keep you and your family safe if you must head out on the slick roads.

- Drive slowly. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on an ice or snow-covered roadway.
- Increase your following distance so that you'll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.
- Know whether your vehicle has an antilock brake system. Antilock brake systems prevent your wheels from locking up during braking. If you have antilock brakes, apply firm, continuous pressure to the brake pedal. If you don't have antilock brakes, you may need to pump the brakes if your wheels start to lock up.
- Always wear your seat belt and ensure that everyone else in your vehicle is buckled up.
- All children under the age of 13 should always ride in the back seat properly restrained.
- Make sure car seats and booster seats are properly installed and that any child riding with you is in the right car seat, booster seat or seat belt for their age and size.
- Thick coats can interfere with the way the car seat fits your child. Put the coat or blanket around your child once they are seated in the car seat.
- Never leave your child unattended in or around your vehicle.
- Always remember to lock your vehicle and to keep your keys out of reach when exiting so children do not play or get trapped inside.
- Do not text or engage in any activities that may distract you while driving.
- Obey the posted speed limits, but drive slower for wintry weather conditions.

## Learn to Make Kitchen Towel Angels

Learn what a kitchen towel angel is, and how to make one at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, January 31 at 2 p.m. Call Mary Jones, Activity Director at Grace Senior Center, to register at 704-694-6616.

## CHS Has New Mobile Medical Unit for Anson County

Carolinas HealthCare System has a new Mobile Medical Unit to serve Anson County. The CHS Mobile Medical Unit makes regularly scheduled visits to community centers, shopping centers and other general community settings to offer community residents diagnostics, screenings and education.

The new unit is equipped for patient care with two exam rooms, a work space for patient navigation and data entry, scales, and a wheelchair lift. The Anson Mobile Unit has the capacity to perform blood pressure, glucose, weight, BMI measurements and provides referrals to appropriate resources at Carolinas HealthCare System and other county health resources.

Plans are being made to increase the screening services currently provided to treating residents by a provider.

### Here is the schedule:

- 1st Tuesday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wadesboro IGA
- 1st Friday of each month, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Walmart, Wadesboro
- 2nd Monday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lilesville Town Hall
- 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ansonville Fire Department
- 2nd Friday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Peachland Community Center
- 3rd Monday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Glennie Bennett Community Center, Morven
- 3rd Friday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dollar General, Polkton
- 4th Monday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Burnsville Community
- 4th Friday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Grace Senior Citizen Center, Wadesboro

## HOLLA!/Youth Career Connect Partnership Brings Out the Stars

*This is a release from*

**HOLLA!**: Just like the past three years, HOLLA! and the Youth Career Connect (YCC) program have been in a partnership - a partnership to build strong children. "They bring us the students and we give them the freedom and motivation to discover themselves. Each year has been amazing, but his one has been especially so," said Leon Gatewood, CEO at HOLLA! "We have witnessed these youth develop socially, right before our eyes," he added.

The Youth Career Connect grant program, funded through the US Department of Labor, is designed to encourage America's school districts, institutions of higher education, the workforce investment system, and their partners to scale up evidence-based high school models that will transform the high school experience for America's youth. Anson County Schools is one of only 24 systems across the country to receive funding for the program. Deborah Davis is the local program coordinator.

HOLLA!'s role in the success of the YCC program has been to host days packed with good food, motivation, prizes and mentoring from a group of dedicated volunteers. Signature features of each day are the impromptu talent searches and the balloon release. During the balloon release, students are asked to attach bullies and other situations that keep them from reaching their full potential to the balloons and release them. The impromptu talent shows really bring the stars out. Many of the students offer their talent to entertain and motivate their classmates.

A standout in the impromptu talent search was Savannah Bennett. "I had such a great day at HOLLA!, their encouraging words and videos had a positive impact on my day," she said. Savannah reciprocated with a soul-stirring rendition of "Rise Up" by Andra Day that set the tone for the day. "And I'll rise up, I'll rise like the day, I'll rise up, I'll rise up, I'll rise up, I'll rise up, I'll do it a thousand times again..." For you - (Andra Day)

Gatewood said that HOLLA! dedicates those lyrics to the volunteers who dedicate their time to this project and to Ms. Deborah Davis and her staff who constantly find ways to bring the best out of our children.

HOLLA! Community Development Corporation is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization operating at 229 East Main Street in Morven. Want to donate? Make donations to HOLLA! P.O. Box 88 Wadesboro, NC 28170 or visit [www.HOLLA.us](http://www.HOLLA.us).



## Free Movie is Come Away Home

Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie for Monday, January 22 at 10:00 a.m. in the Little Theatre, *Come Away Home*. The movie is an American family drama film directed by Doug McKeon and written by Stephen Zalkman, and later the inspiration for the novel of the same name by Robert D. Slane. The film stars Jordan Clair Greene as Annie Lamm, Lea Thompson and Thomas Gibson as her parents and Paul Dooley as her grandfather. *Come Away Home* has won awards as Best Feature Film-Drama and Best Motion Picture.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

## Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District Board Meets

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23 at 10:00 a.m. at the BC-SWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-3516.

## Movie & Popcorn at Grace Senior Center January 24

Seniors are invited to enjoy a good movie and popcorn with friends at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, January 24 at 1 p.m. Call Mary Jones, Activity Director at Grace Senior Center, to register at 704-694-6616.