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Citizens Law Enforcement Academy Now Taking Applications

Sheriff Tommy Allen has announced the dates of the next Citizens Law Enforcement Academy. This 12th Academy will be held from February 27th to April 18th, on Thursday nights, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Anson County Sheriff's Office. The past Academies have graduated over 250 people. Participants will be exposed to many different aspects of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. They will hear presentations from the Sheriff, the District Attorney, Sheriff's Detectives, US Secret Service, the SBI, FBI, and other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. They will tour the Sheriff's Office, the County Jail, the Magistrate's Office, and the new 911 Communication Center. They will see demonstrations of the Sheriff's K-9 teams, go to the firing range, see a SWAT Team demonstration, and see the Sheriff's Patrol and Emergency Equipment. They will also participate in the Sheriff's "Ride-Along" Program.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have no serious criminal record and be in reasonably good health to take the walking tours (tours are optional). Interested individuals may now pick up applications at the Anson County Sheriff's Office during regular business hours. Applications must be completed and returned by February 17th. The class can accommodate twenty-five students.

Sheriff Allen said, "Applicants will be selected on a first come, first serve bases. If you are interested in what we really do in law enforcement in Anson County this will be something you will enjoy immensely. The most frequent comment we get from previous students is 'I wish it wasn't over.' Everyone who has taken this class seemed to enjoy it and really appreciate what law enforcement does in Anson County."

Anson County 4-H Clover Crawl Social is Back! To be Held March 14



Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth

Promise is pleased to announce that the Clover Crawl is back. The event will be held Friday, March 14 at the Twin Valley Country Club in Wadesboro, from 7 p.m. until midnight. The Clover Crawl, an adult event, 21 and over, will be sure to bring an evening of fun, food, dancing and great socializing. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. This year's DJ/Entertainer is 4-H alumnus Ryan Short of Ryan Short Entertainment (www.ryanshort.net). Funds raised will be used to support ongoing 4-H youth programs in Anson County. Advanced tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased at the Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro, Lacy's, or from committee members and staff. Ticket price at the door will be \$40.

New to the Clover Crawl is the dance competition. Individuals and groups can take their talent to the dance floor to vie for the title of "2014 Clover Crawl Dance Competition Winner." Registration will be available at the ticket table at the event. This fundraiser helps make up dollars lost due to shortfalls and cutbacks in funds that have traditionally provided 4-H programming and operating budgets. The money raised from the Clover Crawl will support programs that address the well being of youth, families and communities in Anson County.

4-H programs annually reach over 1,300 young people in the community. Youth participate in activities and programs such as school enrichment, summer camps, after school programming, community service and other year round educational programs.

Anson 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise also works with adults, volunteer leaders and youth to provide community projects, parenting skills and enhanced leadership abilities. All 4-H programming is available to any youth between ages 5-19. "Our Clover Crawl has been a success in previous years. We are optimistic that we will have an even better response this year," said Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent. "4-H programs have had much impact on the youth in this county through the years. With the public's help and support, programs can continue to make significant contributions to their future, and the future of our county."

If you would like to learn more information about this event please contact Roshunda Blount or Erin Dempsey at 704-694-2915.

Ansonian Adventures Board Game Now Available at Chamber of Commerce

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce has designed and developed a game based on life right here in Anson County. Ansonian Adventures is a fun and exciting game, but with a twist...gameplay involving people and businesses you know! "I have heard really good things about the game and I'm so glad that people are playing and enjoying them with their family and friends," said Chamber Director Lynn Edwards. "To all our participating sponsors, thank you for participating in our 50th Anniversary Limited Edition board game, Ansonian Adventures! I hope you are all proud of the game and seeing your space or card gives you a great sense of ownership of this unique novelty."

These limited edition games cost \$50. If you are an employee or person working with one of the businesses or organizations featured in the game, then you can purchase it for \$35.

Remember, there are only a limited number of games available, so go by the Chamber office and pick yours up soon. It's located at 107 East Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-4181.

VFW Rainbow Tea is March 15

The Ladies Auxiliary to the James D. Henderson VFW Post 10403 will host their Annual Rainbow Tea on Saturday, March 15. This event will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro, beginning at 6 p.m.

"Five Shades of Red, White and Blue" is the theme this year. Attendees are asked to honor our veterans by dressing in semi-formal attire with the colors of red, white and blue.

This will be an event filled with good food, entertainment and information regarding the VFW Post. Tickets are \$20, with portions of the proceeds used to send a veterans children to Camp Purple for a week. Also portions of the proceeds will be given to the Cancer Aid and Research Program assisting with "Washing Away Cancer."

For more information please contact Dara Kelly-Campbell at 704-851-3374 or Joyce Little at 704-694-6223.

4-H Split the Pot Raffle Tickets Available

The Anson County 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association are selling Split the Pot Tickets for \$1 each. They can be purchased from any 4-H volunteer leader or by contacting Yolanda Mitchell at 704-694-2915 or Betty Garris at 704-694-4161.

The drawing will be held Tuesday, February 18 and you do not have to be present to win.



Special Olympics Raffle Quilt Stays Busy!

The Self-Contained teachers wanted to raise money to support Anson County Special Olympics and decided to design a quilt with their students. Each classroom was given a fourth of the quilt top for their creativity. The school names were incorporated into the quilt top to identify the classroom designs. After the tops were finished and sewn together, the quilt was taken to each school where the students (and staff) helped in quilting. Every student enjoyed quilting.

Wadesboro Primary School students used their hand prints. Students at Wadesboro Elementary drew pictures about favorite books they had read and traced their hands. An Anson Middle School student with great artistic abilities drew pictures that represented personalities of each student and staff in the classroom. Students at Anson High decided to show their school pride by making bearcat paws and adding their initials.

After the quilt was completed, the Self-Contained teachers met at the Central Office and donated it to Special Olympics Anson County Coordinator (Sylvia Tillman). Mrs. Pam Ratliff, Fundraiser Chairperson, distributed tickets for donations. Donations brought in \$783 for Special Olympics Anson County! The winner of the quilt, Mrs. Chrissy Ratliff, was announced at the Special Olympics Spring Games on May 17. Chrissy graciously donated the quilt back for display to Anson County Schools after showing it off to family and friends.

The teachers decided to enter the quilt into the Anson County's Agri-Civic Fair where it won second place. It was then taken to the North Carolina Exceptional Children's Conference where it was displayed at a poster session.

Anson County's Rich African American History

This is the first of a series of articles The Express will present during February in honor of Black History Month. Written by historian and genealogist Steve Bailey:

I have access to Anson County slave records which date back to the 1750's and have searched through these transactions many times over the years and have been successful many times in locating the slave ancestor of my African American clients.

One of my former clients, Ken Tillman, who was born in Anson County in 1956 but now lives in Oklahoma, commissioned me about 10 years ago. I discovered that one of his ancestors, Freeman Marshall, was a hotel owner/manager in Wadesboro in the 1870's and 1880's. This tidbit of info was discovered when I located Freeman Marshall's death notice in the old newspapers. I think he died in the mid 1890's. I recently discovered that Ken Tillman's great great grandfather was David Mumford who was a free black man who lived in Anson County in the mid 1800's.

I also discovered Ken's earliest Tillman slave ancestor named "Bill" who was 100 years old in the 1860 slave census. This would mean "Bill" was born about 1760.

Ken Tillman is "somehow" a descendant of Elder Ralf Freeman, who was born a slave in the 1780's. Freeman's freedom was purchased about 1806 by the members of Rocky River Baptist Church, which was an all white church that was established in northern Anson County in 1776. Elder Ralf was associate pastor of this church as early as 1806 through the 1830's.

The material above is just a brief mention of the "good luck" I've had in working for my African American clients. There were a large number of free black families living here in Anson County in the 1700's and 1800's by the last names of Jones, Robinson, Abshire, Skipper, Clark, May, Merriman, Conrad, Chavis and Freeman just to name a few.

After the Civil War, African American men in Anson County bought and sold land, voted in every election (until the 1890's when the Jim Crow laws were established), performed jury duty, worked as mailmen, owned and operated newspapers and hotels, established Barrett's College (1860's through 1927) for former slaves, and received pensions for their service in the Civil War.

In the early 1900's in Anson County the newspapers of that era stated that the largest land owners in Anson County were men and women of the African American race. Rembert Beverly owned the most land. By 1919 he owned over 10,000 acres. He was a secret agent for the IRS in the early 1900's. In the 1890's he was running for political office but decided to drop out because he stated that politics was a dirty business.

In 2001 a genealogist was commissioned to conduct family history research on the four ladies who hosted "The View" which can be seen on WSOC Channel 9. The genealogist used some of my research. Star Jones was one of the co-hosts at the time. Jones' ancestors came from Anson County. Some of the data included her ancestor George Baucom who was one of eight African American men along with four white men who served on a jury in 1879. Baucom lived in the Madison Grove Church Community off Highway 742 South on Jarman Road.

You can contact Steve Bailey for genealogy services at 704-475-3877 or genealogy1959@yahoo.com

NC Poet Laureate Joseph Bathanti Program on February 18

The public is invited to meet or renew acquaintance with Joseph Bathanti, North Carolina's Poet Laureate, at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18. This promises to be an entertaining afternoon of author readings and a discussion of the creative process.

The free program will be presented at Southern Medley Wine Cellar, located at 118 North Rutherford Stret in Wadesboro. Light refreshments will be served and wine will be available for purchase. The author's appearance is sponsored by the Anson County Writers' Club.

Bathanti, an award-winning author of poetry, short stories and novels, was a visiting artist in Anson and other NC counties from 1985 to 1989, during which time he wrote an anthology of poems entitled *Anson County*. Midwest Book Review described the author as an "imaginative master of the prose poem who draws his inspiration from what most of us see without noticing, note without reflection, and accept without further inquiry."

Bathanti also wrote *The Feast of All Saints and This Metal*, both poetry anthologies, and the novels *East Liberty and Coentry*. *The High Heart* is a collection of short stories.

Among his numerous awards are the Sam Ragan Fine Arts Award, the Sherwood Anderson Award and the Novello Literary Award.

Financial Aid Assistance for High School Seniors - FAFSA Day

Saturday, February 22 is Financial Aid Assistance for High School Seniors Day (FAFSA). The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the State Employees Credit Union and at South Piedmont Community Colleges Union County location.

Colleges and universities use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine financial aid a student may qualify for. If you are a high school senior and your family needs assistance with completing the online application, contact our local State Employees Credit Union or South Piedmont Community College for information on how to set up an appointment and what information you will need to bring with you. Visit www.fafsa.gov to apply or for more information.

• Participants should bring student's and parents' federal 1040 tax forms for 2013 to the FAFSA Day program.
• Each student and one parent should obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN) prior to FAFSA Day from the Department of Education.
• It will be helpful (though not required) for you to complete as much of the FAFSA on the web worksheet as possible and bring it with you on FAFSA Day. Don't worry if you don't know all the answers, the experienced financial aid officers will help you. The FAFSA on the web Worksheet for 2014-15 is available online now.

FAFSA Day is a free service provided by College Foundation of North Carolina, the NC Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and the State Employees' Credit Union.

Secondary Schools Dismiss Early on Thursday

On Thursday, February 6 secondary schools in Anson County will dismiss early for Parent/Teacher Conferences. All other schools will operate on a normal schedule.

Dismissal Anson Middle, Anson High, Anson New Tech, Anson Early College and Anson Academy dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

Conferences Held from 2 to 7 p.m.

Meet Amanda McCoy, Miss Black USA at Southern Medley Wine Cellar

Everyone is invited to come to Southern Medley Wine Cellar this Thursday, February 6 to enjoy their delicious wines and meet Miss Black USA 2013 Amanda McCoy. McCoy will be there from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For more information contact Elizabeth Schafer at Southern Medley 704-994-2389.

50+ Club Meeting Features the Hidden Talents

The Hampton B. Allen Library 50+ Club will meet on Monday, February 10 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. The Hidden Talents will be performing. Band members are Richard Harrington, Kenny Harrington, Jean Harrington, Marti Cupples, Dr. Whit Davis, Aaron Hinson, Wilbur Moore, David Napier and Dr. Leon Smith. This program is free and everyone is invited to come and bring a friend.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Compassionate Friends Meet February 13

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have lost a child of any age, meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 13. You are invited to attend. The meeting will take place in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

For information call 704-694-8774 or 704-475-5005.