

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 49
Wadesboro, NC
28170

Postal
Customer

THE EXPRESS

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • TheExpressNews@gmail.com • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

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

SBI Released Findings in Death During October Probation Arrest

The State Bureau of Investigation has released the autopsy of an Anson County man who died while being taken into custody by a Probation and Parole Officer on October 27, 2016. According to the report Lamont Darryl Perry, who collapsed while being placed under arrest by Officer William Torrence, died from a combination of cocaine use, sickle cell disease and physical exertion. At the time, Torrence was arresting Perry for a probation violation related to an assault on a female charge. Several Wadesboro Police officers were on the scene and witnessed the encounter.

The incident took place at Perry's girlfriend's residence in Wadesboro. Perry fled from the officers and was located in a wooded area near the residence within minutes. After Perry was arrested and handcuffed officers noticed that he had an injury to his leg, and summoned medical assistance. Officers stated that Perry was talking during that time, but he became unresponsive and died. No gun or taser was used during the encounter.

The SBI submitted their findings to the Anson County District Attorney, and no charges have been filed against Probation Officer Torrence.

Unemployment Rate 5.6% in December

Anson County's unemployment rate for December was 5.6%, basically unchanged from November's 5.5%. Statewide the unemployment rate in December was 4.9%.

Anson's total labor force in December was 10,868. Of that number 10,259 were employed and 609 were unemployed. In November the total labor force was 10,892, with 10,296 employed and 596 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 71 of North Carolina's counties in December, decreased in 9, and remained unchanged in 20. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 11.6 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.7 percent.

Eleven of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases and four remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 7.0 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 4.0 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.9 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 97 counties, increased in one, and remained unchanged in two. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and one remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in December by 290 to 4,661,550, while those unemployed increased 5,538 to 239,491. Since December 2015, the number of workers employed statewide increased 153,223, while those unemployed decreased 10,780.

Mrs. Gladys Jones Wright

Turned 102 Years Old on February 3



Mrs. Gladys Jones Wright turned 102 years old on Friday, February 3. A birthday celebration was held on Saturday, February 4 at Deep Springs Baptist Church in Peachland.

Mrs. Wright has lived her entire life as a resident of Peachland. She has been a member of Deep Springs Baptist Church, where she continues to attend. Mrs. Wright was married to the late Frank Wright.

She has two daughters, Rebecca Nance and Sybil Ferree, and two sons, Bobby and Sheppard. Mrs. Wright also has 13 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, with another on the way, and one great-great-grandchild, with another on the way.

And, Mrs. Wright, we apologize for telling your age!

Board of Elections to Hold Special Meeting Wednesday, February 8

Steve Adams, Elections Director at the Anson County Board of Elections, has announced a special meeting for Wednesday, February 8 at 5 p.m. at the Board of Elections office. The meeting will discuss Wadesboro 3 Precinct (Wadesboro Primary School).

For more information call 704-994-3223. The Board of Elections is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The website is www.co.anson.nc.us/County-Services/BoardofElections.

Board of Education and County Commissions to Hold Joint Meeting

The Anson County Board of Education and the Anson County Board of County Commissioners will hold a joint meeting to discuss the current status of public school facilities in Anson County. This meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 11, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Anson County Board of Education Staff Development Center, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Fruiting Plant Pruning Class

Learn how to properly train and prune muscadines, brambles, and fruiting trees at Anson Cooperative Extension's hands-on pruning workshop. It will be held on Friday, February 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. This class is free and will be held at a residential address in the Burnsville community. The address will be provided upon registration.

For information and to register email Aimee Colf at aimee_colf@ncsu.edu or call 704-694-2415.



Ansonville Book Club Celebrated 100 Years

The Ansonville Book Club, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) since 1917, celebrated its 100th anniversary on Tuesday, October 4 at the home of treasurer Lynne Edwards near Ansonville. President Phyllis Dunlap welcomed members and guests, remembering the sixteen Ansonville women who first met on September 30, 1916, in the old Masonic Hall to organize the group whose purpose was as a social outlet to promote the reading of good books. Those founding members bought and shared books and then donated them to the local school.

The club motto remains, "Truth is power and power is service." Dunlap presented members with handmade corsages of white daisies and gold ribbon, the club's flower and colors. Several members wore hats and gloves as a tribute to the founding ladies.

Allison Martin, vice-president and chairman of the centennial committee, created an impressive trifold display of club pictures and memorabilia collected through the years. Martin explained that when she became a member in 1993 her first grade teacher, the late Florence Ballard, was president. Martin stated, "It was as if she and I had come full circle. She was a great mentor to me and a faithful club member." Each member contributed her recollection of what the club has meant to her. Agnes Shankle, the oldest member present, cited all the changes she has seen over the years. Other members present were Cecile Beasley, Betty Russell and Fran Thomas. Members Nancy Funderburke and Carla Hill were not in attendance.

Special guest, Peggy Crowell of Charlotte, daughter of the late Frances Edwards, reminisced about coming down to help her mother polish the silver and get ready for the club meetings at her house and how much her mother loved attending meetings. Other guests included Ellen Patterson, GFWC-NC first vice-president of Charlotte, Jennifer Smith, District 3 membership chairman of Concord, Teresa Johnson, and Mandy Dunlap. A very special guest was two year old Macy Dunlap, whose grandmother, great grandmother, and great-great grandmother were all members of the Ansonville Book Club.

The GFWC, founded in 1916 during the progressive movement, is a federation of over 3,000 clubs and 100,000 members which promote civic improvement through volunteer service in areas including conservation, the arts, home life, and international affairs.

Peggy Hildreth, secretary, stated, "Although we love to read, most of our time is devoted to GFWC projects. The club has purchased American flags and Christmas decorations for the streets of Ansonville and planted roses and bulbs at Dunlap Park. This year the club has contributed to the backpack program for Ansonville School, provided survival bags for the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition, and sponsored impoverished children at Christmas."

Following the program guests were invited into the dining room for an elaborate reception.

Pictured above from left are Lynne Edwards, Phyllis Dunlap with Macy Dunlap in front, Allison Martin, Peggy Hildreth, Betty Russell, Cecile Beasley, Agnes Shankle and Fran Thomas.

More than 136,000 Kids Visit ER from Fire & Burn Injuries

McLeod Safe Kids Pee Dee/Coastal provides top 4 tips to help parents keep kids safe from burns and scalds during National Burn Awareness Week.

In recognition of National Burn Awareness Week (February 6-10), led by the American Burn Association, McLeod Health Safe Kids offers parents four simple tips for keeping their children safe from burns and scalds.

The smell of cookies baking in the oven or delicious sauces simmering on the stovetop is hard to resist for kids but too many are suffering from burns and scalds that could be prevented.

National Burn Awareness Week, led by the American Burn Association, is an annual observance during the first full week in February.

"Among young children, scalds caused by hot liquids or steam are the most common types of burn-related injuries," said Marla Blaker, McLeod Safe Kids Pee Dee/Coastal Coordinator. "During National Burn Awareness Week (February 6-10), McLeod Safe Kids Pee Dee/Coastal wants to remind parents about a few simple tips to help avoid harmful burns and scalds."

McLeod Safe Kids Pee Dee/Coastal recommends the following 4 tips to prevent scalds:

- 1) Adjust your water heater.** With everything going on, we know the water heater is the last thing on your mind. But a small adjustment can give you one less thing to worry about. To prevent accidental scalding, set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or the manufacturer's recommended setting.
- 2) Don't carry or hold a child while cooking.** Instead, move a high chair in the kitchen within reach or sight before you start. Then, talk to your children so they know what's going on. It's a great way to spend time together.
- 3) Use the back burners.** Kids love to reach, so to prevent hot food or liquid spills in the kitchen, simply use the back burner of your stove and turn pot handles away from the stove edge. Keep hot foods away from the edge of your counters.
- 4) Place matches, gasoline, and lighters in a safe place, out of children's reach.** Avoid novelty lighters or lighters that look like toys.

About McLeod Safe Kids Pee Dee/Coastal - McLeod Safe Kids Pee Dee/Coastal works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the number one cause of death for children in the United States. McLeod Safe Kids is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing unintentional injury. McLeod Safe Kids, led by McLeod Health, was founded in 1994 and is funded in part by the McLeod Health Foundation. If you would like more information about safety topics, please call 843-777-5021 or visit McLeodSafeKids.org.

NC Auto Insurance Companies Ask for 13.8% Rate Hike

Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey announced on February 3 that the Department of Insurance has received the annual auto insurance rate filing from the North Carolina Rate Bureau. The Bureau, which represents the auto insurance companies in the state, requested an overall statewide average increase of 13.8 percent for 2017.

This rate filing is the first auto rate filing the Department of Insurance has received from the Rate Bureau since 2009. The last auto rate increases occurred in 2001 and 2002 but were wiped out by the rate decrease that occurred in 2003.

The filing will be reviewed by Department officials in the coming months. If officials do not agree with the requested rates, they will be negotiated with the North Carolina Rate Bureau. If a settlement cannot be reached within 60 days, a hearing will be called.

Settlements have been reached on rate filings in the past but if the case goes to a hearing, the hearing officer will rule on rates and any appeal would go through the court system. The rates set in these cases represent the highest amount allowable for all companies to charge. Companies can and regularly do offer discounts to their policyholders.

Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They have distributed coats to several of the churches and schools in Anson County.

Blankets for the elderly are also available.

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church is the pick up site, or you can deliver donated items there too. Just call to schedule it.

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Ester Lindsey at 704-848-8452.

Veterans Meeting this Friday

There will be a Veterans Council meeting on Friday, February 10 at 6 p.m. at the Woodmen of the World Lodge on Highway 74 West in Wadesboro. All veterans and their spouses are invited to attend.

For more information call 704-694-6770.

Bowman High School Class of 1974 Reunion

The Class of 1974 at Bowman High School will hold a class reunion on Saturday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. If you would like to attend, please register and pay by February 20. The cost is \$60 per person, \$100 per couple.

For information email 74bearcats@gmail.com.

'Taste of Soul' Event Promises Delicious Treats

The East Polkton School Alumni celebrates Black History Month with their annual 'Taste of Soul' on Saturday, February 25 at 4 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center.

For more information contact 704-690-0528.

Forum to Help with High School Selection Process

Anson County Schools will host a forum for high school selection process on Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Anson Middle School. This forum will provide information to help parents and students choose which high school to attend.