

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 • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

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

Catfish Stew Cookoff in Lilesville

The town of Lilesville will be holding a catfish stew cookoff, on Saturday, March 10 at Hatcher Park, commencing at noon and running until 4 p.m. Judging will take place between 2 and 4 p.m. as individual stews are ready.

You've often seen those pictures of people holding up large trophy-sized catfish. Have you ever wondered what they do with those fish after all the picture taking. Well some are given away and some are released to allow another angler a chance to have a trophy picture taken...and some will end up in catfish stew and that leads us to the catfish stew cookoff. There is a need to find who does the best stew!

Catfish stew is a little like barbeque, everybody's got a favorite. The major ingredients vary little from cook to cook - catfish, potatoes, onions, and tomato or milk base. The seasoning is the major difference, with cooks closely guarding their 'special' herbs and spices. It's been said that you don't make catfish stew for two or four, you make it for 25 or 30 and invite your friends to feast on your masterpiece.

Both 'white' (milk based) and 'red' (tomato based) stew will vie for the title of Anson County's Champion. This event will be judged by veteran catfish stew chef, Lilesville Mayor Richard Harrington and a select panel of judges. One overall champion will be named and will receive a trophy, certificate and a cash prize of \$250.

The rules (necessary for any competition) are simple. Competitors will be required to cook their stew in its entirety at the cook-off location. Judging will be based on flavor, authenticity and appearance. Each cookoff team will be responsible for its own supplies and means of cooking. Any number of people may be on a team. All entries will be required to include a recipe, with the winning recipe to be published after the cookoff. Cookoff entry fee is \$25 per team, and entry forms are available at Scotty's Bait and Tackle, Lilesville Town Hall, all three Lilesville location of Whit's, Knott's Exxon, The Old Store and www.townoflilesville.org.

If you're not competing, you can still participate by rooting for your favorite team. Bring your appetite and for \$5 pick up a bowl and spoon and get a taste of each of the entries and be your own judge.

Lilesville Elementary School Terrific Kids in Caring and Fairness



Lilesville Elementary School recognized the following students, as Terrific Kids, for showing good character in the areas of Caring and Fairness. Students received a certificate, good character bookmarks, stickers and a coupon for a free Papa Joe's pizza.

The Terrific Kid Program at Lilesville Elementary School is the joint effort of the Kiwanis Club, the school and Lilesville Elementary PTO. Mrs. Mary Ratliff is the Principal at Lilesville Elementary School.

CARING Aiden Smith, Jamiya Ingram, MaKayla Davis,

Javone Bennett, Savannah Lowery, Rikki Little, Precious Ledbetter, Keara Tillman, Jessica Williams, Austin Williams, Erin McIntyre, Christian Copeland, Hailey Boone, Alaina McCormick, Destinie Bergman, Morgan Sturdivant, Jayden Lindsey
FAIRNESS ZaQuon Little, Prentice Martin, Caleb Little, Mykajziya Bennett, Ethan Lockler, Jamie Brayboy, Claire Johnson, Alonys Reyes-Garcia, Chandler West, Jason Helms, Alvin Bennett, JaKira Brown, John Ingram, Zamehonor Melton, Allyssa McCracken, Mary Bowers.

Anson County 4-H Holds Achievement and Recognition Banquet

Fifty-three proud relatives, friends and supporters were in attendance at the annual 4-H Achievement Night, held Tuesday, February 21st at the Cooperative Extension Center. The event was held to honor Anson County 4-H'ers, 4-H Volunteers Leaders for their accomplishments over the last year, and Volunteer Leaders who have given of their time to help with programs in 4-H. Youth and adults were recognized and awarded ribbons, certificates and medals.



Na'La Brown, Jr. Outstanding 4-H'er, and Jessica Johnson, Senior Outstanding 4-H'er.

Deserving young 4-H'ers earned scholarships for club project work. These scholarships, provided through program fundraising efforts, will be used toward 4-H trips and camps.

- This year's Cloverbud (5-8) project winners were Quenton Cromartie and Malyajah Smith.
- Junior Division (9-10) winners were Katherine Brown.
- Junior Division (11-12) project winners were Na'La Brown and Katie Edwards.
- Senior Division (13-15) project winner was Morgan McCoy.
- Senior Division (16-18) winners were Aaliyah Escalera and LeNathan Wilson.
- This year's Jr. Outstanding 4-H'er was Na'La Brown. Na'La has been in 4-H for 7 years. She participated in Fashion Revue and Talent show, Favorite Food Show, and National 4-H Week activities. She has also competed in presentations on the county, district and state level and has placed at all levels.

• The Senior Outstanding 4-H'er was 18 year old Jessica Johnson. Jessica has been in 4-H for 13 years. While she has done many things on the local, district and state levels, she has enjoyed representing the county 4-H program at the North Carolina's Association of County Commissioners Meeting. She is the current County Council President and has served in the capacity of teen leader for summer camp, Jr. 4-H Camp and Holiday Craft.

The 4-H Volunteer Leaders were recognized with years of devoted service to the 4-H program. They were William Terry, 1 year; Natasha Duncan, 1 year; Carrissima Garris, 2 years; Yolanda Wilson, 5 years; Debra Ratliff and Deborah Garris, 6 years; Addie Richardson, 7 years; Janice Bennett, 8 years; Hannah Dunlap, 11 years; Kim Bennett, 20 years; Ada Moore, 24 years; Betty Garris, 28 years; and Pearl Blount, 29 years. Each Leader was given a certificate and a token of appreciation.

Community Clubs and the new in-school club was recognized for doing all of their paperwork to become chartered clubs in the county. Those clubs receiving charter certificates and seals are the Eager Beavers 4-H Club, Busy Bees 4-H Club and RoboWolves 4-H Club.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to volunteers who gave their time during the past year to 4-H in the capacities of teaching a program, judging or helping structure programs. Those individuals were Joanne Clark, Janine Rywak, Peg Pinkston, Bessie Wilson, Katrina Martin, Gayla Martin, Pam Layfield, Eloise Harrington, Ruth Ann Pope, Janine Rywak, Larry Oakes and Tina Rowe.

This year's Outstanding Volunteer Award went to Yolanda Wilson. She has been involved in various programs and community service projects including Relay for Life, Day of Caring, Toys for Tots, letters to the military, Backpack Buddies, and school supplies to the Caraway Foundation, just to name a few. Yolanda is currently the secretary of the county Volunteer Leader's Association and is the incoming District Treasurer for the South Central District Leader's Association. Her dedication, support and participation in Anson County 4-H and the Volunteer Leaders Association are immeasurable.

The evening was capped off with the recognition of the 2011 County 4-H Council and Leader's Association Officers. They are: President, Jessica Johnson; Vice President, Curtis Crump; Secretary, Aaliyah Escalera; and Reporter, Rasheed Leak. 4-H Leaders Association Officers are: Addie Richardson, President; Janice Bennett, Vice President; Yolanda Wilson, Secretary; Carrissima Martin, Parliamentarian; and Hannah Dunlap, Treasurer.

For more information on the 4-H program in Anson County, contact Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent with the Cooperative Extension Service, at 704-694-2915.



Yolanda Wilson

UWI Laser Engraved Brick Pavers Available

Is there someone or a particular organization you'd like to honor or recognize with a commemorative brick paver in uptown Wadesboro? If so, now is the time to order your laser-engraved bricks from Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. You can honor an organization, a business, an individual, your high school graduating class, a special event or it can be in memory of someone special.

Please stop by the UWI office to pick up an order form. They are located at the Anson County Chamber of Commerce in the Scarborough Building at 107 East Wade Street.

The pavers may be placed anywhere in the uptown area where unmarked bricks are located. You may wish to create a cluster of bricks related to your family members or group. Since the beginning of the brick paver program, a total of 570 bricks have been placed in the uptown Wadesboro area.

The bricks are available in two sizes. The four inch brick accommodates three lines of print and costs \$50. The eight inch brick allows for six lines of print and costs \$100. For an additional \$100 you may add a company logo.

For more information please call the Uptown Wadesboro office at 704-695-1644.

Scholarship Available Through Veteran's Office

The North Carolina Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) offers a one-time scholarship in the amount of \$500 in memory of deceased veteran service officers. Deadline is March 1, 2012 for submitting application. The applicant must be a high school senior and a child of an honorably discharged veteran residing in the state of North Carolina.

If you need more information or would like to apply, please stop by Veteran Services Office at 111 South Greene Street in Wadesboro or contact Mr. Ted Ward at (704) 694-4418 or tuward@co.anson.nc.us.

Legislative Update

From Rep. Frank McGuirt: The General Assembly returned to Raleigh last week for a scheduled three-day session where no votes were taken and no business was conducted other than to call us to order and to adjourn. I attended the session in case any unscheduled business came to the floor and was joined by many of my colleagues. We wanted to be careful following a surprise vote in the House of Representatives last month that resulted in a veto override attacking the North Carolina Association of Educators.

The Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate said they scheduled the session in case we needed to address redistricting matters. The total number of days spent in special sessions since the General Assembly adjourned now stands at 20, and at an estimated \$50,000 day, the state has spent \$1 million on six separate interim sessions that have produced little, if anything, that is good for the people of our state. North Carolina is not intended to have a full-time legislature such as the one this leadership seems to be establishing. I know that you expect us to complete our work in a timely, efficient way and then return home so that we can learn from you about the needs of our community.

A seventh special session is scheduled in April before legislators are scheduled to begin for their normal even-numbered year short session in May.

Gov. Bev Perdue announced Wednesday that she has identified \$9.3 million in state funds to expand North Carolina's pre-kindergarten program by 2,000 slots. The children will start school in mid-March and attend through mid-August. Local administrators have a process in place to determine which children will be placed in pre-K programs. In July, Superior Court Judge Howard Manning issued an order in which he said that "the State of North Carolina shall not deny any eligible at-risk four year old admission to the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program (NCPK)." Gov. Perdue had previously suggested a solution that would have served 6,300 children without raising taxes or making further cuts to education. The General Assembly has not acted on the governor's recommendations. Each year, about 67,000 at-risk four year olds in NC are eligible for the program. Current funding provides service for about 24,700 children.

The Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly has recommended closing a state museum, a state historic site and cutting operating hours at seven other locations to help save money. The division also made other recommendations that together with closing the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City and the Richard Caswell Memorial in Kinston would save an estimated \$1.9 million. The amount would more than double if the state closed its 39 parks and recreation areas during winter months. The study has been sent to a subcommittee for additional review. Recommendations could come before the session in May. If you would like to read the full report, visit the Program Evaluation Division website at www.ncleg.net/PED and choose the tab "Recent Reports."

The N.C. Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform has asked legislative leaders to issue public agendas for legislative sessions at least five business days before they convene. The coalition also asked that the presiding officers in each chamber make available copies of all bills for consideration ahead of the sessions and committee meetings and hold sessions at regular times. The request is a response to a hastily called midnight session in December to override a veto of a bill that prevents teachers from paying dues to the North Carolina Association of Educators through payroll deduction. Dozens of other groups are allowed to collect dues and payments through payroll deduction. The override is now the subject of a lawsuit filed by NCAE.

As always thank you for your interest, please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance. 919-715-3007, Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net

Parks and Rec Registrations

Registration runs through March 28 for Parks and Recreation Micro Soccer (3 & 4 years old), Youth Soccer (K to 12th grade), Tee Ball (4 to 6 years old), and Coach Pitch (7 to 10 years old). The cost is \$25 for each program.

You may come to Little Park to register Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. or come to area schools on these dates:

- Monday, March 26, 3 to 5 p.m. at Wadesboro Elementary School Gym and Wadesboro Primary School
- Tuesday, March 27, 3 to 5 p.m. at Peachland and Ansonville Elementary Schools
- Wednesday, March 28, 3 to 5 p.m. at Lilesville Elementary School Baseball Field and Morven Elementary School

The deadline to register is Wednesday, March 28. For information contact Wanda Chappell at 704-694-5868 or Wendell Small at 704 694-5751.

Toys for Tots County-Wide Yard Sale is Saturday

Toys For Tots will host a County-wide Yard Sale on the Square in Wadesboro on Saturday, March 3rd, beginning at 5:30 a.m. All proceeds go to the 2012 Toys For Tots campaign.

To donate items or money to the yard sale please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704 848-4412, Bernice Bennett at 704 694-6616, Jennifer Tarlton at 704 694-3115 or Ester Lindsey at 704 848-8452.

BRLC GED Classes

Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center will offer GED classes if there is enough interest. If you would like information or want to take the classes please call BRLC at 704-826-8182.

Artists and Crafters Meeting Every Tuesday

The Anson County Arts Council holds an arts and crafts workshop each Tuesday, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Olde Mill Gallery at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Bring your own supplies. The workshop is free, but donations are welcomed.

Call 704-694-4950 for more information.

The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program

Are you an adult age 55 or older with any type of diagnosed Arthritis? Grace Senior Center will be offering a free eight week exercise program to senior citizens in Anson County. This exercise program will be offered twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 1 to 2 p.m.

The program begins on Monday, March 5th and runs through Monday, April 23rd. To register please call AFEP Instructor Wanda Talbert at 704-694-6616 or email watalbert@email.co.anson.nc.us.

Visit The Express Website

Please visit us at TheExpressNewspaper.com and you will find the latest edition and archives!

Look inside for special inserts from IGA