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German Adhesives and Finishes Company Heading To Wadesboro

Loba-Wakol, LLC will operate at the former JJ Haines facility on Highway 74

Loba-Wakol, LLC, a supplier of adhesives and finishes to the wood and resilient flooring industry, announced today it would be relocating and expanding its North American headquarters from Charlotte to Wadesboro, creating 24 new jobs and investing \$6.6 million.

Loba-Wakol, LLC is the North American subsidiary of German market leaders Loba and Wakol who have partners and subsidiaries in over 40 countries around the world.

The company will be relocating to an existing 160,000 square foot building in Wadesboro. Initially, the new facility will house administrative, technical, sales and warehousing functions, with plans to add manufacturing capability within 3-5 years.

Loba-Wakol looked at more than 65 buildings in the Carolinas before choosing Wadesboro, according to company COO Ashley Carter. Primary selection criteria were a skilled and ready workforce, an existing facility with highway/interstate access and high visibility, and proximity to a major metro area with an international airport.

"Wadesboro was at the top of our list on all counts." "We have been working with the EDPNC and the company on this project since late last year," indicated Anson Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP) executive director John Marek. "We felt we had an available building that was a good fit, but knew it was very competitive across two states. We absolutely needed Anson County and the Town of Wadesboro to step up and help us close the deal and they did."

Known for several months and through various public hearings as Project Compounder, Loba-Wakol was awarded a \$143,000 industrial tax grant by the Anson County Commissioners and a \$110,000 industrial tax grant by the Town of Wadesboro. AnsonEDP also offered a \$20,000 grant to assist the company with necessary upgrades to the building, which was formerly a JJ Haines distribution facility.

"When Haines moved their warehousing operations from Anson County in 2018, there was concern the building, which is located on a highly visible stretch of US Highway 74, would remain vacant for a long time, but quality buildings in outstanding locations don't stay on the market, and here we are just a year later with this great announcement," said Marek who further remarked on an interesting subplot involving the JJ Haines back office staff who continued to work from part of the facility after the warehouse was closed. "We are also pleased to announce that a co-location deal has been struck between Haines and Loba-Wakol that will allow all 40 Haines employees currently onsite to continue to work from the facility for the foreseeable future." The average annual wage of the new jobs will be \$43,750, compared to the countywide average wage of \$33,358. "These are good jobs that will improve the standard of living for two dozen families in our community," noted Ross Streater, chairman of the Anson County Commissioners, "and along with the Borgstena announcement last week and the other announcements our economic development organization has made since the first of the year, show that Anson County is moving in the right direction and gaining momentum." *Story and photo courtesy of AnsonEDP*



Sheriff's Law Enforcement Academy Graduates

The Anson County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Academy held its graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 9 following a seven week course. During the course students attended presentations from federal, state and local law enforcement, the Domestic Violence Coalition, K9, Special Operations, emergency communications, and forensics.

The group was presented graduation certificates by Sheriff Landric Reid.

Sheriff Reid said, "I want to thank all of the guest speakers as well as the students who participated in the Law Enforcement Academy. The next class is scheduled for the spring of 2020."

Graduates include Candice Allen, Dustin Allen (not pictured), Omar Benitez, Diane Capel, Diane Goodwin, Tracy Harrington, Wesley Hatcher, Sam Mullin, Jessica Pavia, Omar Pavia (not pictured), Cassandra Reid, Mae Simon, Dylan Thuleen, Shane Thuleen, Susan Thuleen and Amelia Wereski.

Wadesboro Police Department Hosted a Saturation that Resulted in 44 Charges

On Monday evening, May 6 the Wadesboro Police Department held a Multi-Agency Saturation in Wadesboro. According to Anson County Governor Highway Safety Coordinator Sergeant Chad Haywood, the Saturation was a joint effort to reduce traffic violations to help ensure safe travel through Anson County.



Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer stated, "This high visibility enforcement is used as a deterrent to crime. Also, targeting specific traffic issues can promote safe driving behaviors."

Assisting the Wadesboro Police Department were the Anson County Sheriff's Office, the Polkton Police Department, the Hoke County Sheriff's Office, the Norwood Police Department, and the NC BAT Mobile.

The charges from May 6 included: speed violations, seat belt violations, no operator licenses, driving while revoked, registration violations, driving without insurance, drug charges and weapon charges.

Democratic Party Monthly Meeting is Thursday

The Anson County Democratic Party will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 16 at 6 p.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library. All Democrats are invited and encouraged to attend.

Brown Bag Book Club Meeting to Feature Author Phyllis F. McManus

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the Brown Bag Book Club meeting for Monday, May 20 in the Pritchett Room at 12:00 (Noon). Phyllis F. McManus will be the guest author. Phyllis, who was born in Monroe, started writing as a form of therapy when she lost her parents in a car accident in 2002. She loves to write from her heart and this shows in her characters. Phyllis has won numerous awards for her writing. She is currently doing public speaking about her journey of writing. She has written a total of nine books and is in the process of writing her tenth which is her third in The Southern Belle Breakfast Club series. Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish, come and enjoy Phyllis' story of her writing journey. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Storytime Every Tuesday

The Hampton B. Allen Library features Storytime for children every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This program is free and an enjoyable learning experience for children.

Anson Crisis Ministry Receives Grant

Pee Dee Electric recently awarded a \$15,000 grant to Anson Crisis Ministries. The grant was the result of a joint partnership between Pee Dee Electric and CoBank, a national cooperative bank that partners with industries across rural America.



Pictured from left are Richard Johnson, Pee Dee Electric Board President; Margot Barnes, Director of Anson Crisis Ministries; Larry Ohaes, Board Member for Anson Crisis Ministries.

The funds will be used to purchase a new walk-in freezer. The freezer will allow the organization to replace multiple chest freezers and provide more room for food. CoBank's Sharing Success program is a matching grant program that is designed to support individual communities across the country. "Thanks to CoBank and to Pee Dee Electric's Board of Directors, the Sharing Success grant program allows Pee Dee Electric to give back to the communities we serve," said Pee Dee Electric, CEO Donnie Spivey. "Anson Crisis Ministries provides an important service to many families in Anson County and we are pleased to be able to support them in this way."

Located in Anson County, Anson Crisis Ministries provides food, clothing, emergency housing, transportation assistance and seasonal projects for children. The organization serves around 700 families per month in the Anson area. "Having this freezer will allow us to keep food fresher longer and keep more on hand," said Board member Larry Ohaes. "It truly is a blessing that will allow us to better serve the residents of Anson County."

Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. For more information about Pee Dee Electric, please visit www.pdemc.com.

Ansonia's Theatre & Art Summer Camps

"We have had an amazing response to our previous camps and have campers already registered," said Ansonia Theater Director Tommy Wooten. "Be sure to secure a spot by going to ansoniateatre.com to register now. We have limited spaces, so don't wait! You can also call 704-694-4950."

THEATRE CAMPS

• **Session One June 10-21.** Session One is a two week camp for grades 2-12 (No exceptions). We will write our own spoof of Romeo and Juliet called JULIO and ROMIETTE. The dates for this camp are June 10-21. The cost for this camp is \$150 per student. We will have 2 performances on the final Friday of the camp. Tickets for the performances will be \$5. Camp hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Each participant should bring lunch.

• **Session Two July 15-26.** Session Two will be a Musical Theatre Camp for grades 2-12 (No exceptions). We will be performing a show with the music from *West Side Story*. Looking for campers with a genuine interest in singing and dancing. The dates for this camp are July 15-26. The cost for this camp is \$150 per student. We will have 2 performances on the final Friday of the camp. Tickets for the performances will be \$5. Camp hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Each participant should bring lunch.

ART CAMPS

• **Drake Gallery Summer Camp Session One June 24-28.** New this summer! One week art camp June 24-28 for rising ages 7 years through 12 years of age. We are excited to offer age appropriate lessons and projects each day. Camp hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Each participant needs to bring lunch. Cost for this camp is \$75.

• **Drake Gallery Summer Camp Session Two July 29-August 2.** New this summer! One week art camp July 29-August 2 for rising ages 13 years through 18 years of age. We are excited to offer age appropriate lessons and projects each day. Camp hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Each participant needs to bring lunch. Cost for this camp is \$75.

Board of Education Meeting Scheduled for May 20

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its next meeting on Monday, April 29 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. The meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. with Closed Session immediately following the opening of the meeting. Open Session should begin at 5:30 p.m.



Relay for Life a Total Success!

On Friday, May 10, the Anson County Relay For Life kicked off with a beautiful opening ceremony orchestrated by Mrs. Melody Stinson. School students from grades K-12 provided song, music, sign language, dance, cheer and twirling to music from The Greatest Showman. Afterward, the survivors (pictured above) proudly took their places in front of the stage and began the first lap of the evening in the streets of uptown Wadesboro. There were also many activities and booths on hand to help raise money which goes toward finding a CURE for Cancer!