

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #149
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.

Marquis Alexander Little Arrested for Courthouse Shooting on May 17th

Sheriff's Deputies arrested a fourth suspect in the May 17th Courthouse shooting incident. Marquis Alexander Little, 21, turned himself in to Deputies on Monday afternoon, May 30. Little is suspected to be the shooter in the incident. He is being held in the Anson County Jail under no bond at this time.



In the shooting that took place at about 12:14 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17th Brandon Wall was fired upon as he stood outside the back of the Judicial Center in Wadesboro. Witnesses saw as five or six shots

came from a SUV. No one was hit or injured. Besides Wall, two other men have been arrested in association with this incident: Shantez Rickey Craig of Albemarle and Robbie Rakim Harris of Marshville.

Little and the other suspects were characterized as "wannabe thugs" by Sheriff Tommy Allen. The Sheriff also said, "This drive by shooting was on the back side of our building and the victim, Wall, had come outside of the building from court. We believe this was a continuing feud from the previous weekend between this victim and those who fired the shots. Fortunately no one was injured, but that's a heavily traveled area going and coming from court. Obviously the shooter, who we believe to be Little, had total disregard for the safety of innocent people. We are seeing more and more of that out there with these 'wannabe gang thugs' who have no respect for themselves or anyone else."

Anson County Special Olympics Spring Games Held May 19th



After a stretch of rainy days, sunny skies greeted the athletes who anxiously awaited the 2011 Special Olympics Anson County Spring Games. The Games were held on Thursday, May 19 at Anson High School. Approximately fifty athletes represented each Anson County School. Also, in attendance for the first time were young athletes, ages 4-7, from the Anson Children Center and Wadesboro Primary School.

Mrs. Glendora Hagins, Exceptional Children Director, opened the 2011 Spring Games. Morgan Sturdivant, an athlete from Lilesville Elementary School, led the Athlete's Oath. Athletes representing their respective school passed the Special Olympics Torch along the track, which represents the "Flame of Hope." After the competition, all athletes received ribbons and the Special Olympics medal to recognize their accomplishments.

Special thanks are extended to the Wadesboro Civitan Club, the Hub, the Anson Women's League, Anson County Schools Superintendent and Central Office Staff, Anson High School staff, principals, teachers, coaches, athletes, student buddy coordinators and student buddies (Anson High and Anson New Tech), parents and community volunteers, school nurses and area physicians, those who provided meals, Parks and Recreation for field preparation, JROTC, the AHS Band and cheerleaders, bus drivers, occupational and physical therapy assistants, Anson Rescue Squad, media, and other businesses and auxiliaries.

David Tamura, an athlete from Anson High School, will represent Anson County at the State Summer Games in Raleigh on June 3-5 in Track and Field events. Good Luck David!

Unemployment Rate Below 12% for April

For the first time since October of 2010, Anson County's Unemployment dropped below 12% during April, to 11.9%. The unemployment rate for March was 12.3%.

Anson's total labor force in April was 9,670. Of that number 8,523 were employed and 1,147 were unemployed. In March the total labor force was 9,700, with 8,507 employed and 1,193 unemployed.

Unemployment rates decreased in 73 of North Carolina's 100 counties in April. Rates increased in 10 counties and remained the same in 17.

"Rates continue to decline across North Carolina as nearly half of North Carolina's 100 counties are back below 10 percent," said ESC Chairman Lynn R. Holmes. "Growing jobs and getting people back to work continues to be a collaborative effort of Gov. Perdue and our economic and workforce development partners. Our offices remain committed to serving those needing assistance in finding work or filing for benefits."

North Carolina had 36 counties that were at or below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 9.5 percent. Rates decreased in 10 of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas and remained the same in four.

Statewide the number of workers employed (not-seasonally adjusted) increased in April by 6,751 to 4,046,255. The number of people unemployed decreased by 10,036. The number of unemployed people in April was 424,502 workers, compared with 434,538 in March.

Currituck County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in April, at 5.6 percent. Meanwhile, Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate, at 15.8 percent.

Safe Kids Anson Bicycle Rodeo & Child Safety Event Friday

In a release from Safe Kids Anson: Safe Kids Anson will host a free Bicycle Rodeo and Child Safety event on June 3rd from 6-8pm in the parking lot of Anson County Department of Social Services, located on 118 N. Washington Street. Children should bring their bicycles, skateboards, or razor scooters to test their skills on an obstacle course. Free bike/multi sport helmets will be available, while supplies last. Parents will be provided child safety tips and educational materials including the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles.

Safe Kids Anson County was established in January 2011. The coalition is comprised of various community agencies and organizations and provides intentional and unintentional injury prevention for children ages birth to 14. The coalition focuses on five injury prevention risk areas: child passenger safety, poison prevention, fire safety, firearm safety, and bike/helmet safety. Also, the coalition is a part of the Safe Kids North Carolina and Safe Kids USA network. Find us on Facebook to stay updated on the coalition's events and child safety information. Come join us on June 3rd!

Uptown Wadesboro 5K is this Saturday

On Saturday, June 4th at 8 a.m., runners will fill the streets of uptown Wadesboro for the 2nd annual Summer Jam 5K Run/Walk. The event has two purposes: 1) to bring people into uptown Wadesboro; and 2) to expose people to running.

A 5K is 3.1 miles. Even if you are not a running pro, you can still participate in the event. Last year's 5K was a huge success. With over 100 people registered for the event, experienced runners from as far away as Fayetteville all the way to local energetic walkers all can enjoy a sunny summer morning in uptown Wadesboro.

Race registration fee is \$20, however if you wait until the day of the race the registration fee increases to \$25. To register for the 5K you can pick up a race brochure at H.W. Little Hardware in uptown Wadesboro, download a registration form from www.uptownwadesboro.com, or register online at www.active.com.

The Uptown Wadesboro Summer Jam 5K Race/Walk is sponsored by Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. (UWI). UWI is a non-profit organization, currently an all-volunteer group, dedicated to improving the business climate and appearance of the uptown Wadesboro business district.

Anson JROTC Dining Out

There were over 400 in attendance at the 2011 Anson High School JROTC Dining Out which was held at the Wadesboro Primary School. The guest speaker was Ms Ashley Little, a 2004 AHS graduate and the former Cadet Command Sergeant Major of the Anson JROTC program. Ms Little received her Masters Degree in Psychology in 2010 and recently joined the U.S. Army Reserves to attend Law School and serve as a JAG Officer. Ashley resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She provided an outstanding presentation to cadets and guests about striving for excellence in all that they do and receiving a standing ovation.

The Bearcat Battalion turns 30 this year and for the seventeenth consecutive year has been named an Honor Unit with Distinction which ranks it as one of the best units in the nation. Ms. Frances Wiliamson presented the graduating senior academic excellence award to Cadet Mariah Grade and Mr. Charles Murphy presented the rising senior academic excellence award to Cadet Austin Herms. Lydia Williamson, graduating Cadet Battalion Command Sergeant Major, was presented the Sgt Al Bennett Scholarship by Mrs Marilyn Bennett. The Following cadets received awards from service organizations: Daquan Kelly-US Army Recruiting Command, Tia Turner-Reserve Officers Association, Mandisa Harrington-National Sojourners, Jamie Richardson-Daughters of the American Revolution, Rasheed Leak-Sons of the American Revolution, Krystal Tillman-Scholastic Excellence from the American Legion, Chris Dawkins-Military Excellence from the American Legion, Ricky Newton-Military Order of World Wars, Shandi Mundo-American Veterans, Adam Cranford-Retired Enlisted Association, Kadajah Clark-Association of the United States Army, Martin Alonso-Military Officer Association of America, Christopher Dominguez, Tia Turner, and Javonte McBride- certificates from MOAA, Jessie Carpenter-Noncommissioned Officers Association, and Makeya Clark-Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Cadets Kadajah Clark, Lydia Williamson, Tierra Adams, Keyanne McCray, Telisha Johnson, Alex Wanko, Arthur Capel, Sean Callahan, Troy Kelly, Seth Templeton, Joely Sears, Mariah Grade and Joshua Willoughby were recognized as the top scorers on the Presidential Physical Fitness Test with Mariah Grade being the high scoring female and Cadet Joshua Willoughby being the high scoring male. Cadets Jackie Turner and Adam Cranford were recognized as the high female/male marksman for the year. James Roberts won the Earl J Cable Drill Award and Cadet Kayla Scarborough won the Enoch Sturgill Citizenship Award. The Superior Cadets Awards for each leadership level were won by: Faith Lambert, Seth Templeton, Sean Callahan, and Dantony Christian. This is the top award for each leadership level.



Ashley Little, a 2004 Anson High School graduate, speaks to JROTC recently.

The staff for the 11-12 school year are: S-1 Officer-Jamie Richardson, S-1 NCO-Faith Lambert, S-3 Officer-Jacob Poteat, S-3 NCO-Krystal Tillman, S-4 Officer-David Callahan, S-4 NCO's-Kadajah Clark and John Davis, S-5 Officer-Lela Little, and S-5 NCO Jackie Turner. Company First Sergeants will be: Issac Waring, Jarvis McNeil, and Kayla Scarborough. Company Commanders are: Austin Herms, Ricky Newton, and Rasheed Leak. The Battalion Chaplain will be Markeda Gaddy. The Command Sergeant Major is Martin Alonso, the Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion Commander positions for the 11-12 school year will be alternated each semester among Cadets Daquan Kelly and Sean Callahan.

Uptown Farmers Market Opens Thursday

The Uptown Wadesboro Farmer's Market will open this Thursday. Just like last year, the Uptown Farmer's Market will be open every Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m., June through September on the square. There will be locally grown fruits, vegetables, meat, honey, jams, baked goodies and lots more. Come out and support our local farmers!

BandAnna Featured in UWI's Summer Jam Series Opener

Versatile BandAnna will kick off the Summer Jam series this Friday, June 3. They will perform from 7 to 10 p.m. on East Wade Street in historic uptown Wadesboro. The concert is free. Attendees are asked to bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating.

For information call 704-695-1644; email uptownwadesboro@windstream.net; or visit www.uptownwadesboro.com.

BRLC John Brewer Day Extravaganza is Saturday!

Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center will hold their annual John Brewer Day this Saturday, June 4. This annual fundraiser event provides funding for the John & Rosa Brewer Scholarship and the BRLC programs. It is also a time for our community to come together as one big family.

This event will feature a huge yard sale, running from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There will be a fish fry at 11 a.m. and at 6 p.m. Also, hot dogs, sodas, snow cones and other goodies will be available. There will be door prizes awarded throughout the day! Join in this once a year event, and make this a day of safety first, yard sales, food, fun and music for the entire family. Bring lawn chairs and enjoy the outside! Info 704-826-8182.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA Food Lion H W Little

Report from Wadesboro Community Watch Email Network

In a release from the Wadesboro Community Watch Email Network: Chief Schutz, in responding to a citizen's email about break-ins on the lower end of Salisbury Street, says, "We combat the criminal element every day. I have been pushing publicly that the best way to fight the break-in's is to first get the community involved. People need to feel comfortable with calling in and telling the police about suspicious activity.

Many times neighbors might see something but don't call in because they don't want to get involved. Police and the community need to partnership together, and people need to be the "Heros" in the areas where they live. Bad guys won't win if all the good people get together and tell the police what they know. Many times we can keep their names out of things, but the community has just as much responsibility as the police do when it comes to fighting crime. As far as the officers at the department, they really are doing their best when patrolling. Sometimes there just aren't enough officers to be everywhere the bad guys are."

Chief Schutz is planning some community-wide meetings where citizens can ask questions, but also where she can get more people to understand the importance of everyone becoming involved in the safety of their community through the use of their eyes and their ears.

Thanks to all our new "members" for joining the Wadesboro Community Watch Email Network. Please let others know about our Email Network. You can get information about joining in by emailing WadesboroWatch@yahoo.com.

Art Walkabout & Cheraw Alive is Thursday

On Thursday evening, June 2, there will be arts and jazz in downtown Cheraw, SC with the third annual Arts Walkabout & Cheraw Alive!! Summer Series featuring Jazz in June! The Cheraw Arts Commission and Greater Cheraw Merchants Association will be showcasing the creativity of local and regional artists in unique spaces during the annual Art Walkabout from 5:30-8:00pm. This free event will feature visual arts, photography, basket weaving, painting/drawing demonstrations and more at local venues.

Attendees can enjoy an evening in downtown Cheraw as businesses open their doors for the third Walkabout. Participating businesses will be marked with a sidewalk sign, and maps will be available at the Market Hall area located at the corner of Market and Second Streets. This fun-filled evening promises a unique art experience as participants visit each destination. Attendees can also enjoy Cheraw's dining offerings at local restaurants.

The Cheraw Alive!! Summer Series kicks off with Jazz in June with Cheraw musician Patrick Davis from 5:30-6:30pm and the Ocie Davis group of Charlotte at Centennial Park from 6:30-8:30pm. Blankets & chairs are welcomed! The series is sponsored by the Town of Cheraw and the Cheraw Parks Recreation Leisure Services Department. The summer series continues with Reflections at the Lake featuring the Reflections Band on June 16 at the Cheraw State Park from 6-8pm.

For additional information contact the Cheraw Arts Commission and Cheraw Parks Recreation Leisure Services Department at 843-537-8420 or www.visitcheraw.com. The Cheraw Arts Commission is supported by the SC Arts Commission which receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the United Way of Chesterfield County.