

# THE EXPRESS

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

## Man Shot During Sunday Altercation

On Sunday, November 13 at approximately 12:30 a.m. officers with the Wadesboro Police Department responded to Mr. D's Sports Bar and Grill in reference to a call about gunshots being fired. Officers arrived on scene and found 21-year-old Fortune Jaquan Spencer of Lilesville suffering from a gunshot wound. Upon investigation officers were able to determine that a fight broke out between customers and this led to the shots being fired. Officers are working to determine all parties involved in the altercation and shooting.

At last check by the Wadesboro Police Department, Spencer was in stable condition.

Anyone who was at Mr. D's Sports Bar and Grill during the time of this incident is asked to contact Detective Ricketts at (704) 694-2167 ext. 312.

## Wadesboro Town Council to Meet About New Fire Station November 28

A special meeting of the Town of Wadesboro Town Council has been set for Monday, November 28 at 5:00 p.m. for the discussion, updates, and/or possible approval of the following items:

- Fire station design-build contract
- Demolition of the Tollison Building
- Approve minutes from September 27 Town Council meeting
- Approve resolution for Christmas Parade road closure

The meeting will be held in the Town of Wadesboro Conference Room.

## Unemployment Rate Dropped from August's 5.9% to 5.4% in September

Anson County's unemployment rate for August was 5.9 percent, and for September was 5.4%. Statewide the unemployment rate also dropped, from August's 5% to September's 4.8%.

Anson's total labor force in September was 10,747. Of that number 10,162 were employed and 585 were unemployed. In August the total labor force was 10,528, with 9,909 employed and 619 unemployed.

In August, unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 68 of North Carolina's counties, decreased in 14, and remained unchanged in 18. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.8 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.9 percent. Twelve of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases, one experienced a decrease, and two remained unchanged. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 7.4 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 4.1 percent. When compared to August last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

In September, unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 95 of North Carolina's counties in September, increased in two, and remained unchanged in three. Scotland County again had the highest unemployment rate at 8.5 percent, while Buncombe County continued with the lowest at 3.6 percent. All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 7.0 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.8 percent. When compared to the September last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in September by 60,287 to 4,623,326, while those unemployed decreased 9,771 to 231,744. Since September 2015, the number of workers employed statewide increased 124,718, while those unemployed decreased 24,872.

## SPCC Announces Finalists in Search for Next President

The South Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees has announced an impressive list of five finalists in its search for the college's new president:

- Dr. Maria Pharr, Executive Director of BioNetwork and Life Science Initiatives, North Carolina Community College System, Raleigh, N.C.
- Dr. Laura Letherwood, Vice President for Student Services and Workforce Development, Haywood Community College, Clyde, N.C.
- Dr. Robert Lowdermilk, Vice President for Student Development, Rockingham Community College, Wentworth, N.C.
- Dr. Matthew Meyer, Associate Vice President for STEM Innovations, North Carolina Community College System, Raleigh, N.C.
- Dr. John Hauser, Vice President for Industrial and Workforce Development, Wilkes Community College, Wilkesboro, N.C.

Interviews by the Trustees have been scheduled with the finalists in the coming weeks as well as opportunities for SPCC employees and members of the community to meet the candidates:

The Board of Trustees plans to name a successor next month to Dr. Jerry McGee, who has served as Interim President of the college since March. Dr. Stan Sidor, who served as President beginning in 2011, accepted the same position at Lake-Sumter State College (Florida) in January. The new President is expected to begin in January.

The hiring of a new President is only one of many exciting developments recently for South Piedmont Community College. In August, the SPCC Foundation announced the largest gift in the school's history from the Carlton Tyson family and the subsequent renaming of the technology center in recognition of the generous donation. That was followed by seven percent growth in enrollment for the Fall Semester at the college—bucking a negative enrollment trend at other community colleges throughout the state. To top off the good news, just last week the voters of Union County approved a \$40.2 million bond measure that will allow the college to greatly expand its instructional space, including a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Building on its Old Charlotte Highway campus as well as a new classroom facility in the rapidly growing western part of Union County.



## Undefeated Anson Middle School Bearcats Win Conference Championship

The Anson Middle School Bearcats finished up their historic season last Wednesday by defeating Spring Hill Middle School and winning the Conference Championship. The Bearcats finished up the season 7-0, and won the first title since 1998.

The Bearcats were led by a strong group of eighth graders, along with a promising class of seventh graders who stepped in and contributed at pivotal moments in the games. The Bearcats ended the year averaging 33.4 points per game offensively, while only giving up 2.4 points per game defensively, including five shut-outs!

In the weeks leading up to the final win the Bearcats defeated West Hoke, Ellerbe, Hamlet, Rohanen, Rockingham and Sandy Grove Middle Schools.

The team celebrated their championship win with over 500 teachers, staff, family and community members who attended the game, hosted at Anson High School's Bearcat Stadium.

The coaches are JF Harward, AJ Bowden, Zach Scoggins, James "Pop" Buchanon, Tyquan Little and Elliott Johnson.

## Think You May be Eligible for WIC?

WIC is a nutritional supplemental program for pregnant, postpartum, or breastfeeding women, infants and children under 5 years of age. To be eligible for WIC you must live in North Carolina.

If you receive Medicaid, Work First Families Assistance, or SNAP you automatically meet the income eligibility requirements.

A family may be eligible for WIC based on your household income, even if you do NOT receive Medicaid, Work First Families Assistance, or SNAP. The following list are income guideline that went into effect June 1, 2016.

- Family of 1 - monthly income \$1,832 - weekly income \$423
- Family of 2 - monthly income \$2,470 - weekly income \$570
- Family of 3 - monthly income \$3,108 - weekly income \$718
- Family of 4 - monthly income \$3,747 - weekly income \$865
- Family of 5 - monthly income \$4,385 - weekly income \$1,012
- Family of 6 - monthly income \$5,023 - weekly income \$1,160
- Family of 7 - monthly income \$5,663 - weekly income \$1,307
- Family of 8 - monthly income \$6,304 - weekly income \$1,455

For a family size greater than 8 please call the office for income information. For income based on annual, bi-weekly or twice a month please call the office. The WIC office is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The office phone number is 704-694-9844, and office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

The Anson County Health Department is an equal opportunity provider.

## Location Change for Visit with Santa after Christmas Parade

Visit with Santa, sponsored by Anson County Partnership for Children (ACPC), will be held immediately following the Christmas Parade on Thursday, December 1, at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, located at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. This is near the end of the parade route, across the street from Uwharrie Bank.

Please note that this event will NOT be held in the Early Childhood Resource Center at ACPC. This location will give a warm, dry place for children and parents to wait to see Santa Claus.

Children will be able to choose a Christmas/winter-themed book from Mrs. Claus's basket of books before they leave. In addition, each child will receive a personalized letter from Santa at his/her home address within a few days of the visit.

Parents are welcome to make photos of their children as they share their Christmas wish list with Santa. Santa and Mrs. Claus look forward to this special time in Wadesboro away from the snow at the North Pole.



## William Sturdivant Celebrated His 103rd Birthday

Mr. William Sturdivant celebrated his 103rd birthday on Tuesday, November 15. Mr. Sturdivant, a resident at Anson Health & Rehab in Wadesboro, enjoyed a surprise birthday party thrown by his wife Henrietta with help from the Anson Health & Rehab Activities Department. A group of family members, including his two children, Carl and Willie Bell, were in attendance to honor their patriarch on the momentous occasion.

Mr. Sturdivant has been a resident at Anson Health & Rehab for almost two years, and is very well known in the building and community. He has been ordained as a Reverend for "about sixty years." He likes to participate in many activities, including church services, bingo and crafts. He can often be found in the dining room area looking out the window at the courtyard area spending time with his wife.

When asked if he has any advice for living a long, good life, Mr. Sturdivant replied, "Be honest and truthful in how you deal with people...and love them."

Anson Health & Rehab is located at 405 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. For more information about their in-patient and out-patient services, including short term and post acute rehab, and long term care, call Joanne Kupsick at 704-695-3301.



## Next Free Movie at Library is November 28

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie for Monday, November 28 at 10 a.m. in the Pritchett Room. The small town of Pacashau, Georgia has fallen on hard times, but the people are counting on the Divinity Church Choir to lift their spirits by winning the National Joyful Noise Competition. The discord between its two leading ladies threatens to tear them apart. Their newly appointed director Vi Rose Hill, (Queen Latiifah) stubbornly wants to stick with their tried-and-true traditional style, while G. G. Sparrow (Dolly Parton) thinks tried-and-true translates to tired-and-old. Everyone is invited to come, bring a friend and enjoy the movie.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

## Wadesboro Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at the Papa Joe's Restaurant the second and fourth Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information about these meetings or becoming a member, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

## Connections Family Support Group Meets Monthly

For those serving children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges

On the third Tuesday of each month the Connections Family Support Program holds a group meeting for parents, grandparents and foster parents serving children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges. These meetings are free and include brunch.

The meetings take place at the Hampton B. Allen Library, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For more information contact Suzanne Maness, Family Advocate, (toll free) or email [connectionsfsp@gmail.com](mailto:connectionsfsp@gmail.com).