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

## Major Police Presence on Highway 74 Nabs 52 Speeders in One Day

Officers with the Wadesboro Police Department, along with assistance from Lilesville Police, Mount Gilead Police, Norwood Police, Polkton Police, Pinehurst Police and Hamlet Police, showed a strong presence to combat speeders on US Highway 74 near US Highway 52 North on Wednesday, November 22 due to several recent complaints from business owners.

Officers used the newly acquired LIDAR equipment they obtained through the Governor's Highway Safety Program to ensure accurate enforcement on vehicles during high traffic times throughout the day. Officers recorded speeds as high as 58 mph in a 35 mph zone. One speeder was even written a citation for speed and running a red light during lunch time traffic.

"One local business owner stated it was a great event and she believes we should do it more often," said Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer. "She definitely believes it was long overdue. She said that watching people pull in and out of our business daily it is dangerous because no one does 35 in this area."

In a matter of four hours 52 citations were written for speed. Along with speed charges, other charges included: stop light violation, driving while license revoked no operator's license, seatbelt violation, and other infractions.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported in 2016 the top three causes of traffic crash fatalities were drunk driving (10,497), unrestrained occupants (10,428), and speeding (10,111). NHTSA also reported in 2010 that the leading cause of death ages 8-24 were traffic crashes.

## Julius J. Borden Charged with Seven Counts of Cruelty to Animals



Julius Borden

On Monday, November 27 officers of the Wadesboro Police Department responded to 3633 US Highway 74 West in Wadesboro in reference to an animal cruelty complaint. Officers located seven dogs on the property that appeared emaciated, with no available food or water. Some of the dogs were found being restrained by using unnecessarily large chains.

The Anson County Animal Shelter took possession of the animals and one individual was charged. Julius J. Borden, 40, was charged with 7 counts of Cruelty to Animals and 2 counts of Restraining Dogs in a Cruel Manner. Borden was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$9,500 secured bond, with a court date set for January 23, 2018.

## Town of Wadesboro and Manager Alex Sewell Honored with Award



Pictured above are Alex Sewell, left, Wadesboro Town Manager and Bill Thacker, Wadesboro Mayor.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) announced that the Town of Wadesboro has received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. The award represents a significant achievement by Wadesboro. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principals of government budgeting.

In order to receive the budget award the Town of Wadesboro had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document • a financial plan • an operations guide • a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated as being primarily responsible for having achieved the award. For the Town of Wadesboro this certificate was presented to Town Manager Alex Sewell.

There are over 1,600 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are being posted quarterly on GFOA's website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting, and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

## Lilesville's Christmas in the Park Event to be Held Tuesday, December 12

The Town of Lilesville invites everyone to come to Hatcher Park in Lilesville for the town's annual Christmas in the Park. The event will be held on Tuesday, December 12, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Among the activities will be a tree lighting, singing by the Community Children's Choir, train rides for the kids, face painting, free hot chocolate and cookies, and an opportunity to visit with Santa with pictures. New this year are a horse and buggy ride, a live nativity scene, and food vendors featuring hot dogs, hamburgers, collard sandwiches, hot wings and drinks.

There will be lots of fun for all ages, and a chance to visit with other members of the community.

The Town of Lilesville invites all kids to join their Community Children's Choir. Practice will be held on Thursday, December 7 at 6 p.m. at the Lilesville Community Center, which is located across the street from Hatcher Park. For more information about the choir or anything else call Lilesville Town Hall at 704-848-4711.



## Saturday Christmas Parade Was Fun, But Not As Well Attended

This year's Wadesboro Christmas Parade was held on Saturday, December 2, the first Christmas parade not held on a weekday in over 60 years. There were a fair number of people in attendance, but a smaller crowd than usual.

Perhaps not having schools let out early, which definitely adds to the 'specialness' of this annual event, coupled with some families having weekend plans that involved being out of town contributed to the lower attendance.

Despite that, parade participants and attendees all had fun...and spread Christmas cheer!

Be sure to check the December 27 edition of The Express for lots of pictures from the parade.



## SPCC, Town of Waxhaw and Wingate University Eye Partnership

A portion of a 34.5-acre site on Waxhaw-Marvin Road could become home to a community college, university bachelor's and graduate programs and a park, depending on the results of a feasibility study set to begin this month and wrap up by next May.

Officials from South Piedmont Community College, the Town of Waxhaw and Wingate University announced plans to explore the joint venture following SPCC president Maria Pharr's presentation of the idea to the Waxhaw Board of Commissioners, which gave its approval to the study Tuesday night. Wingate University is considering whether to move programs it has currently located at Ballantyne to the proposed Waxhaw location.

Pharr said the idea would be to provide a continuum of higher education from the associate's level through the graduate level on a minimum of 10 acres near the intersection of Waxhaw-Marvin and Gray Byrum roads, a site owned by the Town of Waxhaw and located within 15 minutes of Cuthbertson, Marvin Ridge, and Weddington high schools.

She told Waxhaw leaders that the town had been very welcoming as she had explored potential sites, and that accessibility, utilities and the potential to offer quality-of-life amenities were important considerations for all three entities.

Discussion of the potential partnership comes in the wake of SPCC's being awarded a \$40.2 million general-obligation bond approved by voters in November 2016, \$6.3 million of which is earmarked for a new community college location.

Pharr shared data showing that 46 percent of the 4,216 Union County students who attend community college study at South Piedmont while 41 percent attend Central Piedmont. However, in the westernmost areas of the county, where growth is highest, 61 percent of students drive to CPCC. She said a more accessible campus and the potential for students to obtain seamless and progressive levels of education without leaving the site would increase reach.

Rhett Brown, president of Wingate University, cited a recent report showing that by 2020, 65 percent of jobs in the U.S. economy will require postsecondary education.

"Part of our strategic plan is to form sustainable collaborations that help meet needs in our community. And workforce development in fast-growing western Union County is certainly one of those needs," said Brown.

Potential benefits for Waxhaw would include preserving the surrounding land as a park amenity and offering more opportunities for quality-of-life activities.

SPCC, Wingate University and Waxhaw have agreed to name delegates to the feasibility study team by December 15, with the work to be underway by January 8, 2018.

## Veterans Christmas Dinner is Friday

The Anson County Veterans Council invites all veterans and spouses to their annual Christmas dinner on Friday, December 8 at 6 p.m. It will take place at the Woodmen of the World Lodge which is located on Highway 74 West in Wadesboro, near the hospital. The event will feature a delicious meal, fun and fellowship with friends and new friends.

There will be a drawing for the raffle, door prizes, a guest speaker, musical performances, and much more! The Veterans Council hopes to see you there.

For more information call 704-694-6770.

## Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candlelight Program is this Sunday

The annual Compassionate Friends World Wide Candlelight Program will be held on Sunday, December 10 at 7 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro. This is a special time as attendees join together with others around the world to remember our children who have died - that their light may always shine.

Groups of people and individuals from all over the world will be lighting candles at 7 p.m. their local time in memory of deceased children. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are lit in the next, creating a 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world. This is believed to be the largest mass candle lighting in the world.

You are invited to take part in this program. Please bring a photograph of your child, your family and friends. Attendees will enjoy party refreshments and fellowship following the candle lighting. For information call 704-694-8774.

## Medicare Open Enrollment Now Underway, Ends Thursday

The Medicare enrollment period is now open and runs for the next seven weeks. Each year during the Open Enrollment Period, Medicare beneficiaries have the opportunity to compare and evaluate their current plan and make changes as necessary. By comparing plans during the Open Enrollment Period, Medicare beneficiaries can save money and ensure their 2018 plan is best suited to meet their needs.

The Open Enrollment Period began October 15 and all changes must be made by December 7 to ensure coverage begins without interruption January 1.

"Comparing Part D plans annually is imperative to ensure the Medicare beneficiary has the best coverage for their prescription needs," said North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey. "The staff from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, are available to help over the phone or in-person in all 100 counties in North Carolina."

SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and offers free, unbiased information about Medicare, Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance issues. In addition to helping Medicare beneficiaries compare and enroll in plans during the Open Enrollment Period, SHIIP counselors can help people find out if they are eligible for Medicare cost savings programs.

Here are some of the ways to review and compare plans available for 2018:

- Get one-on-one help from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, by calling 1-855-408-1212, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beneficiaries can also request in-person assistance in their home county.
- Visit [www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan](http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan) to compare current coverage and enroll in a new plan if changes are needed.
- Review the Medicare & You handbook, which was mailed to beneficiaries in September.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For more information about SHIIP and the Medicare Open Enrollment Period, call 1-855-408-1212 or visit [www.ncshiip.com](http://www.ncshiip.com).