

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](mailto:TheExpressNews@gmail.com) • [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)

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

## Two Shot, One Fatally, December 30

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a shooting shortly after 3 a.m. the morning of Monday, December 30 on Branch Road, which is off Highway 74, approximately eight miles east of Wadesboro. Deputies found two people shot inside a house. One subject was deceased and identified as Dorian Miles, a black female, age 32, who lived in Polkton. The second subject shot was identified as Hasson Mohammad Pressley, a black male, age 33, who lived at the residence. Pressley was sent to CMC in Charlotte in critical condition. The Sheriff's Office has taken a subject into custody for questioning, but had made no charges or arrests as of press time. This person's name had not been released, only identified as a person of interest. The person of interest and victims knew each other and were together before the shooting at a party, according to authorities. Investigators are still trying to figure out what led to the shooting.

## Infant Killed in Christmas Day Crash

On Christmas day, Wednesday, December 25 at 4:01 p.m., officers with the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a report of a motor vehicle collision on US 74 near Morven Freight Line Road. Upon arriving on the scene officers found two vehicles, a Volkswagen Jetta and a Dodge Intrepid, involved in a head-on collision. Both were on fire. The fires were restricted to the engine compartments of both vehicles, and were extinguished by the Wadesboro Fire Department prior to it reaching the passenger compartments. A female was entrapped in the front passenger seat of the Dodge. She was extricated by Anson Rescue, and airlifted from the scene to CMC-Main in Charlotte by Med Center Air. That passenger was Sandra Davis, the wife of the driver. Her husband, Clay Davis, was transported to Anson Community Hospital where he was later released. The Davis' were visiting family in Anson County for the holidays. They are both from Richfield, NC in Stanly County. There were four passengers in the Volkswagen, all of whom were related. Alexander Hooper, who was operating the vehicle, his wife Kelsey Hooper, his little brother Caleb Hooper, and his 13 month old daughter were returning home to Gaston County from a family get together for the holidays in Hamlet. Upon entering the city limits of Wadesboro, the vehicle Hooper was operating gradually drifted over into oncoming traffic in the eastbound lanes of US 74. The Davis vehicle was then struck in a head-on collision with the Hooper family's vehicle. Kelsey Hooper, who was the front-seat passenger, exited the vehicle following the crash. Witnesses who stopped to help the two families assisted her to the side of the road. These same good samaritans also helped remove the rest of the Hooper family and Clay Davis from the vehicles prior to the arrival of first responders. The 13 month old juvenile was transported by Med Center Air to CMC-Main where she was later pronounced deceased. The investigative team has been able to determine that the juvenile was properly fastened in an approved child passenger safety (CPS) seat, and that CPS seat appears to have been correctly installed in the vehicle. Alexander Hooper, Caleb Hooper and Kelsey Hooper were all transported to Anson Community Hospital, and later transferred to CMC-Main. "After a careful examination of the evidence, the investigative team has been able to definitively determine that no type of alcohol, narcotic or pharmaceutical impairment was involved in this collision. Both drivers of each vehicle all tested negative for any type of an impairing substance," said Chief Thedis Spencer of the Wadesboro Police Department. "We have reason to believe that both vehicles were traveling at or around the posted speed limits of 55 mph for the Hooper vehicle and 45 Mpmph for the Davis vehicle. We also do not have any reason to believe that fatigue was involved. Our investigative team has met with the District Attorney's Office and presented our evidence and findings to them. We are awaiting a decision from them as to whether or not any charges will be filed against any driver involved in the crash." Chief Spencer added, "This tragedy is one felt by all of us. It's a terrible thing to lose a family member, especially on a day that is centered around being together with family. I want to let the families of all of those involved know that the officers of the Wadesboro Police Department send our condolences and prayers to you. I also want to thank all of the good samaritans who stopped to help, as well as all of the officers and first-responders who, when faced with a devastating tragedy, worked professionally and diligently to help these two families in their time of need."

## Toys For Tots Free Gratitude Banquet

Anson County will host the Toys For Tots Free Gratitude Banquet on Friday, January 10 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. with the get acquainted session, the banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free for all donors, sponsors and drop-off locations. Each participant will receive banquet admissions tickets. The guest speaker for the hour will be County Manager Lawrence Gatewood. Greetings will come from Senator Gene McLaurin, Attorney Fred D. Poisson, Christopher Rhue and elected officials. Vancine Sturdivant, Coordinator for Anson County, stated, "One of the requirements of Toys For Tots is that citizens of Anson County prove they are willing to come together and help the less fortunate of their county. We truly did this during the 2013 Christmas Holiday. We were able to bless over 3,000 kids with toys. Each child was given 3 to 4 toys and stocking stuffers. Due to the generosity of Clerk Mark Hammonds, New Home Baptist Church, Dieffenbach and Judy's Tax Service each elementary school was presented a bicycle to give to a deserving student, and we still had over 12 bikes to pass out to kids. We also want to thank Partnership For Children and Elaine Scarborough for the books each child from 0 - 5 years old received." Sturdivant concluded, "Now we invite all the citizens who helped make this possible to come let us, the Executive Board of Anson County Toys For Tots, say 'Thank You.' All tickets are free." For further information, tickets or to reserve seating, please contact the Executive Committee: Vancine Sturdivant, (704) 848-4412; Dr. Bernice Bennett (704) 694-6616; Jennifer Tarlton (704) 694-3115; Winnie Brown (704) 475-0755.

## Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope has begun their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They have distributed coats to several of the churches and schools in Anson County. Blankets for the elderly are also available. To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please call 704-848-4412 or 704-848-8452.



## Shop with a Cop Spreads a Lot of Happiness

The Wadesboro Police Department hosted their annual Shop with a Cop event on Friday, December 20. Eleven children from 7 families participated. After a meal, each child was given \$200 to spend at a local store. Sgt. Kris Ray said, "All of the money used was donated by individuals in the community, businesses, raised by a motorcycle ride sponsored by the Police Department, the Polar Bear Run sponsored by the police department and an entertainment event sponsored by Steve Northcutt and Danny Jordan, who graciously donated all of the proceeds to the Shop with a Cop program." Chief Thedis Spencer said, "We could not have done this without the tremendous support we received from the community of Wadesboro and Anson County as a whole. This year was very successful and we look forward to next year." Police officers above are, from left Chief Spencer, Ptl. Leviner, Sgt. Det. Mclendon, Lt. Kelly, Ptl. Owens, Det. Davidson, Sgt. Ray.

## Influenza, a Call to Action

Anson Count Health Director Wayne Raynor announced this week that influenza, commonly called the flu, is expected to be on the rise in the coming weeks and encouraged everyone over 6 months and older to get vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta recommends annual influenza vaccination for everyone 6 months and older. From November through December 2013, CDC has received a number of reports of severe respiratory illness among young and middle-aged adults, many of whom were infected with influenza A (H1N1) virus. Multiple hospitalizations, including many requiring intensive care unit (ICU) admission, and some fatalities have been reported nationally. Seasonal flu contributes to substantial morbidity and mortality each year in the United States. During the 2012-2013 influenza season, CDC estimates that there were approximately 380,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations. Although influenza activity nationally is currently at low levels, some areas of the United States are already experiencing high activity, and influenza activity is expected to increase during the next few weeks. "Anyone who has not yet been vaccinated this season should get a flu shot right away," Raynor said. The risk of severe disease and complications from influenza is higher among children younger than 5 years of age, adults aged 65 years and older, pregnant women, and those with underlying medical conditions. In most flu seasons the majority of influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths are among adults aged 65 years and older. Raynor emphasized the importance of vaccination for these high-risk individuals and stated that CDC recommends annual vaccination as the best tool for prevention. If you have not yet received your influenza vaccination or flu shot, please contact your doctor, local pharmacy, or contact the Anson County Health Department at (704) 694-5188. Now is the time to protect yourself and those around you.

## NAACP Jubilee Day Celebration is January 1

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Anson County Branch, extends an invitation to the community to attend the 2014 Jubilee Day Celebration to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. There will be an inspirational message from Pastor Michael McLeod of Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist and Elizabeth Baptist Churches in Morven. The event will be held Wednesday, January 1 at 12 noon.

## Be a Partner with Dolly - Support the Barn Blast!

The Anson County Partnership for Children currently provides Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to 1,072 registered children ages birth to age 5 in Anson County. The partnership's goal is to register all 1,500 children in this age group in Anson County. All the funds raised at the 8th annual Barn Blast will be used for the Partnership's programs for young children, including Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and four other literacy programs for Anson County's children. You can help young children in Anson County to have books in their homes by supporting the 2014 Barn Blast, which will be held on Friday, January 31 in the Ingram Room at SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. This fundraising event features dinner, dancing, drinks, silent auctions, a live auction and lots of western themed fun. General admission tickets (6 to 11:30 p.m.) are \$40 each. Early admission tickets (5 to 11:30 p.m.) are \$50 each. Tickets increase in price by \$10 after January 17, so purchase your tickets now. Reserved tables for eight Barn Blast guests are also available for \$350 per table. Business sponsorships, donations in any amount and auction item donations are welcome and needed to make the 2014 Barn Blast a success. Help provide books for all the young children in Anson County by supporting the 2014 Barn Blast! Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership is responsible for developing collaborative strategies to meet the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on Child Care, Health, Literacy and Family Support. For more information contact Bonnie Morgan at 704-694-4036. [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org).



## Hampton B. Allen Library Closing

The Hampton B. Allen Library would like to announce a day long closing to the fine citizens of Anson County. All HBA staff will be attending a training session for our entire regional library system on Friday, January 10. The normal schedule will resume on January 11.

## Anson Women's League Meets January 14

The Anson Women's League will meet on Tuesday, January 14, from noon to 1 p.m. at Twin Valley Country Club. Robin Sanford will present a program with information about the Circles of Hope. All women are invited. Lunch will be available for \$8.50. If you would like a meal please RSVP by January 11 to Sandra Pliescott at 704-694-7853 or [woodsand@carolina.rr.com](mailto:woodsand@carolina.rr.com).

## Wadesboro Fire Hydrant Adoption

The Wadesboro Fire Department is seeking community partnerships to beautify uptown Wadesboro through its Fire Hydrant Adoption Program. Individuals or groups can use their creative skills to decorate uptown fire hydrants. Applications are available at Town Hall, Wadesboro Fire Department, or online at [www.cityofwadesboro.org](http://www.cityofwadesboro.org). "Residents can display community pride and creativity by painting the hydrant, but also can help the Fire Department save lives by keeping it free from debris," said Wadesboro Firefighter Marc Sessions.

## "Consumers' Power Rates Should Drop Due to Tax Changes"

### NC Attorney General Cooper urges Utilities Commission to pass tax savings on to customers

Changes to state taxes that affect utilities should result in lower power rates for consumers, Attorney General Cooper told the Utilities Commission in a filing on December 18. "Overall lower taxes paid by utilities ought to mean lower bills for their customers," Cooper said. "We're asking the Utilities Commission to make sure that's the case." Increases in certain taxes paid by utilities should be more than made up for by reductions in other taxes, and the savings should be passed along to utility customers, Cooper argued in comments filed by the Attorney General's Office. Legislative changes that take effect January 1, 2014 will: reduce the state income tax rate; repeal the gross receipt taxes paid by electric, water and sewer utilities; increase the effective tax rate paid on sales of electricity from 3 percent to 7 percent; and require electric, gas, water and sewer utility corporations to pay corporate franchise taxes. The changes mean that North Carolina consumers will see sales tax charges on their utility bills for the first time. State law directs the Commission to make changes in utility rates to reflect some, but not all, of the tax changes. Cooper wants the Commission to use its authority to make sure all tax changes are applied in a way that results in lower rates for consumers. "It would seem their equitable, for example, to increase customer rates for the corporate franchise tax that will apply to certain utilities given that this increase will be offset by the reduction in the income tax paid by those utilities," Cooper said in the filing. Cooper urged the Commission to utilize "any tax reductions as benefits to consumers in the form of rate decreases so that utility rates for consumers are set as low as possible." In separate matters before the Commission, Cooper is currently fighting utility rate increases by Duke Energy, Progress Energy, and Dominion Power, the three main providers of electricity to North Carolina homes and businesses.

## 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.