

THE EXPRESS

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 149
Wadesboro, NC
28170

Postal
Customer

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.

Police on Lookout for Hometown Video Armed Robber

On Sunday, January 12 at approximately 7:58 p.m. the Wadesboro Police Department received a report of an armed robbery at Hometown Video, located at 118 West Wade Street. The suspect entered the store wearing a mask covering his face. He brandished a handgun and demanded money. The suspect got away with an undisclosed amount of money. He is described as a white male, approximately 5'7" tall. Anyone with information concerning this robbery is encouraged to contact the Wadesboro Police Department at 704-694-2167.

Johnathan Pierre Crawford and Felicia Ann Rue Busted for Drug Dealing



Crawford



Rue

On Thursday, January 9 officers with the Wadesboro Police Department's Narcotics Unit and SRT Team executed a narcotics search warrant at 1000 Maple Lane in Wadesboro. This search warrant was a culmination of a several month long investigation of illegal drug sales by individuals at this residence.

Officers seized a quantity of cocaine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and US Currency from inside the residence. The following individuals were charged:

- Felicia Ann Rue, 45, of 1000 Maple Lane, Wadesboro. Charged with Felony Possession Schedule II (Cocaine); Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell and Distribute Schedule II (Cocaine); Felony Maintain Dwelling for Controlled Substance;

and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$60,000, and her court date is set for January 28, 2014.

- Johnathan Pierre Crawford, 31, of 55 Moores Lake Road in Wadesboro. Charged with Felony Possession of Schedule II (Cocaine) and Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell and Distribute Schedule II (Cocaine). His bond was set at \$250,000, and his court date is set for January 28, 2014.

Wadesboro Seeking Public Input on Trash Service at Next Council Meeting

The Town of Wadesboro is seeking public input as it explores ways to improve trash service. A public hearing will be held during the Monday, February 3rd town council meeting. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. at the Wadesboro Town Hall, located at 124-126 East Wade Street.

Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell commented, "There are ways to significantly improve efficiency of trash collection and reduce costs. Before any changes are made, the Town hopes to learn what customers like about trash service, what they don't like, and what changes customers would like to see in the future. These comments will be used to help improve service."

Julian Suriba is Anson County Spelling Bee Champion

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School sixth grader Julian Suriba is the Anson County Spelling Bee Champion. Julian competed and won the school Spelling Bee back in December. Then Julian, along with winners from each of the elementary schools and winners from seventh and eighth grade at Anson Middle School, competed in the District Spelling Bee on Wednesday, January 15th. That competition took place in the Charles Riddle Development Center located at the Anson County Central Office.

Julian will represent Anson County in the Regional Spelling Bee located at the ImaginOn in Charlotte on February 24th.



Julian is pictured receiving his awards from Anson Schools Superintendent Michael Freeman.

CMH Space Flooring Sold to JJ Haines

On Friday, January 19 JJ Haines announced the acquisition of CMH Space Flooring in Wadesboro. Haines, based in Glen Burnie, Maryland, is the largest floor covering distributor in the United States. They operate in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast. CMH Space, the fourth largest floor covering distributor in the US, operates in the same geographic area. The two companies will operate as separate companies until integration is complete sometime in late 2014.

CMH, a major employer in Anson County, is a distributor of industry leading flooring products throughout the southeastern United States. They serve a network of flooring retailers, vendor partners, commercial and builder flooring contractors, installers, and architect and design professional clients. Their product offerings are vast and include the industry's top manufacturers in carpet cushion, resilient flooring, cork, hardwood flooring, ceramic tile, laminates, tools, supplies, and adhesives as well as residential and commercial specialty floors. They operate a fleet of over 75 trucks.

Bruce Zwicker, Haines President and CEO said, "The two companies will be better together, better for customers, suppliers, and employees."

Founded in 1874, Haines is among the oldest privately held companies in America.

The new company combining Haines and CMH Space will have sales over \$500 million, over 750 employees, and 38 locations.



North Wadesboro Baptist Church Donates School Items to WPS Students

North Wadesboro Baptist Church members provided each student at Wadesboro Primary School with pencil pouches recently. The pouches included pencils, erasers and a pencil sharpener. Being prepared for class daily is an expectation, and is part of the daily creed students recite every morning.

Students were beyond thrilled to receive their new school supplies and would like to send out a HUGE thank you to the caring members of North Wadesboro Baptist!

Statewide Effort Prevents 15,000 Foreclosures Funding Available for 6,000 More

Mortgage loan program helps displaced workers, veterans while they seek new jobs

A statewide foreclosure prevention effort has helped 15,000 North Carolinians who lost jobs start the New Year in their own homes. The N.C. Foreclosure Prevention Fund makes mortgage payments for qualified unemployed workers, including returning veterans, while they look for jobs or complete job training. Funding is still available to help another 6,000 homeowners.

The fund has helped 21 homeowners in Anson County, and saved property valued at \$2,004,700. This preserved surrounding equity of \$803,229 right here in Anson County.

The program is offered statewide by the N.C. Housing Finance Agency and funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Homeowners seeking new employment after divorce or other hardships may also qualify.

"This has been a huge effort that is benefitting the whole state," said A. Robert Kucab, executive director of the N.C. Housing Finance Agency. "Since the end of 2010, the N.C. Foreclosure Prevention Fund has saved more than \$2.1 billion in property, stabilizing property values and strengthening local economies. All 100 counties have benefited."

"The retention rate has been much higher than we could have hoped," Kucab said. "Of the 15,000 homeowners who received loans, 8,850 have completed the assistance period and are responsible for their own mortgage payments again. So far, fewer than 2 percent of those have ended in foreclosure."

There is no cost to homeowners for assistance, which is offered in two forms:

- 1) A zero-interest, deferred loan of up to \$36,000 paying mortgage and related costs for up to 36 months while the unemployed homeowner seeks or retrains for a job.
- 2) A zero-interest loan to pay off a second mortgage. This can reduce the homeowner's total monthly payment to an affordable level, and can help a homeowner who finds a new job, but at reduced income.

Homeowners do not need to be behind on their mortgage payments to apply. Eligible homeowners can apply through 40 participating HUD-approved counseling agencies or online at www.NCForeclosurePrevention.gov. For more information homeowners should call 1-888-623-8631 or go to www.NCForeclosurePrevention.gov.

Agencies serving Anson County are: Community Link, 601 E 5th Street, Suite 220, Charlotte, NC 28202-3093 (866-230-0956, www.communitylink-nc.org) and Alliance Credit Counseling, 15720 John J Delaney Drive, Charlotte, NC 28277-3430 (866-303-3328, www.knowdebt.org)

The N.C. Housing Finance Agency, a self-supporting public agency, has financed more than 221,000 affordable homes and apartments statewide since its creation in 1973.

Sponsor A Child for Morgan

Barn Blast 2014 to celebrate the life of Morgan Lastowski

Each year guests at the Anson County Partnership for Children's annual Barn Blast fundraiser are invited to "Sponsor a Child" to receive Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books for a year at a cost of \$25 per child. The generosity of the Anson County community always shines through during "Sponsor a Child" when Barn Blast guests give from their hearts to support this program.

Barn Blast 2014 will celebrate the life of Morgan Lastowski during the "Sponsor a Child for Morgan" portion of the Barn Blast. In July 2013 Anson County Partnership for Children staff member Bonnie Morgan and her husband Ronnie lost their precious 2 1/2 year old granddaughter Morgan due to numerous health-related problems. Morgan's parents, Kevin and Emily Morgan Lastowski of Dade City, Florida, will attend Barn Blast 2014. Morgan was born during the week of Barn Blast 2011.

Morgan was a very special child who communicated primarily by sign language. Morgan's infectious smile brought joy to everyone including her doctors, nurses, friends and family. Morgan loved to blow kisses, and no matter how sick she ever was she always had a smile and a kiss to share.

This special angel was loved by all who knew her and many are keeping her memory alive in various ways. The fire department in her Florida community added a sticker to their helmets with an "M" on it in memory of Morgan. They also created a fire helmet with personal messages which they presented to the family at her Memorial Service in July. First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro is renovating and renaming their children's library "The Morgan Lastowski Children's Library."

Morgan loved her books. Reading and looking at them was one of her favorite activities. "Sponsor A Child for Morgan" at Barn Blast 2014 will celebrate her life and enable children birth to age 5 in Anson County to have books in their homes. Morgan's parents and grandparents hope that you will find it in your heart to support "Sponsor a Child for Morgan."

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's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child." All profits from the Barn Blast will be used for Partnership programs which address 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.

4-H Split the Pot Raffle Tickets Available

The Anson County 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association are selling Split the Pot Tickets for \$1 each. They can be purchased from any 4-H volunteer leader or by contacting Yolanda Mitchell at 704-694-2915 or Betty Garris at 704-694-4161.

The drawing will be held Tuesday, February 18 and you do not have to be present to win.

School Board Meets January 27

The Anson County Board of Education will meet in regular session on Monday, January 27. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center, located on 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

BBQ Benefit for Steven & Meghan Chewing Child

On Friday, January 24 Deep Creek Baptist Church will hold a BBQ to benefit Steven and Meghan Chewing. Plates are \$5 for lunch (delivered) and \$8 for dinner (dine-in).

Steven and Meghan are expecting their first child, Trey, who has been diagnosed with Tricuspid Atresia. He will be born with half his heart, as the other half did not develop. His heart is also flipped, the right side is on the left and the left side is on the right. He will undergo at least 3 open heart surgeries. All monies raised will be used to help offset medical bills.

Gaslands II Presentation Sun.

Pee Dee WALL (Water, Air, Land and Lives) is showing *Gaslands II* on Sunday, January 26 at Hampton B. Allen Library at 3 p.m. Hope Taylor from Clean Water for NC will be there to answer questions. The public is invited.

For more information call Denise Lee at 704-826-6324.

Free Movie is Last Ounce of Courage

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing the movie *Last Ounce of Courage* on Sunday, January 26 at 10 a.m. in the Little Theatre. The movie stars Marshall Teague, Fred Williamson and Nikki Novak. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend. The movie is free and has good ratings.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

BCSWCD Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28 at 10 a.m. at the BCSWCD office located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

