

# THE EXPRESS

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

## Four Arrested on Methamphetamine Charges

Sheriff's Deputies arrested four individuals at a residence in Peachland on various Methamphetamine charges. Dustin A. Simmons, 18, received the most serious charges, related to manufacturing and selling the dangerous drug.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said, "My deputies went to Simmons' residence on Cappadocia Church Road in Peachland on Sunday, January 22 to serve a warrant for arrest for Possession of Methamphetamine Precursor (items to make Methamphetamine). Once there, they discovered other drugs and paraphernalia." Simmons was arrested on additional charges of Possession and Possession with Intent to Manufacture Methamphetamine; Maintaining a Dwelling to Keep and Sell Methamphetamine; and an additional count of Possession of Methamphetamine Precursor. He was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$250,000 bond.

Also arrested at the residence were: Michael B. Williams, 23, of Marshville, Brandon W. Pope, 28, of Wadesboro, and Jessica Anne Bearden, 22, of Wadesboro. Williams, Pope and Bearden were all charged with Possession of Methamphetamine Precursor and Manufacturing Methamphetamine. Bearden and Pope were placed in the Anson County Jail under \$75,000 bond, Williams under a \$15,000 bond. Court dates for all the arrested were set for February 27.

The SBI Meth Lab team had to be called in to collect and dispose of the items and chemicals found in the residence. "People need to know, these are very dangerous chemicals. Our officers run a substantial risk walking into these environments. My officers were very lucky this time, as were the individuals in this house. The fumes from meth, when it is being made, can be lethal," stressed Sheriff Allen.

## Edgeworth Brought in to Richmond County Jail

Edgeworth and Ronnie Burr awaiting trial on murder charges

Jerry Edgeworth was delivered to the Richmond County Jail on Wednesday, January 18, after serving a twenty-eight month sentence for Possession and Federal Interstate Transportation of Stolen Goods. Edgeworth was relinquished from Clarke County Texas upon the end of his incarceration there.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said, "Edgeworth is in the Richmond county Jail under no bond. He is currently awaiting trial for the murder of Mr. Risden Lyon."

Edgeworth and Ronnie Burr of Wadesboro are both charged in that 1991 murder.

Edgeworth is also facing multiple charges in Anson County. Those charges are: Statutory Rape, Sex Offense with Over Six Year Old, Indecent Liberties with a Child, Crime Against Nature, First Degree Kidnapping, Attempted Second Degree Sex Offense and Assault on a Female.

## Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center Receives \$12,708.01 Grant

Share Our Strength and Parade Magazine announced that a grant in the amount of \$12,708.01 would be made to the BRLC as part of the Great American Bake Sale, a national campaign to end childhood hunger.

Burnsville R&LC is committed to serving those in need. They take great pride in serving others. In the after school program nutritious meals are provided to all of the participating children. Workshops are given once a month to teach children about nutrition, physical fitness and how to prepare a nutritious, light snack. Students are matched with adults as well as their peers, as homework helpers. There is a food pantry that is available to qualifying families. They provided meals for more than 2,415 family members from July to December of 2005 and more than 818 meals for the children in the after school program. BRLC works with children ages four to eighteen in the summer and four to fifteen in the after school program.

Burnsville R&LC is one of 65 nonprofit groups to receive funds from the nation's leading anti-hunger organization, Share Our Strength, as part of the American Bake Sale, which kicked off it's second year in Parade Magazine on April 4, 2005. Each year during the program dates, citizens from all over the country hold bake sales in their communities and then send proceeds to Share Our Strength, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger in America.

## Magic Show is Fun and Educational for WPS Students



Midyette Magic, from Shelby, NC, presented a Character Education program called "The Road to Character" at Wadesboro Primary School.

The magic show reminded students about having good character traits such as responsibility and kindness.

## A Christmas Feast to Remember at Feed My Lambs!



A wonderful time was had by all who attended the Senior Citizen's Christmas Party at Feed My Lambs on December 14. Everyone enjoyed a delicious assortment of refreshments provided by the ladies of First Presbyterian Church of Wadesboro. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this party possible.

## "My Hope is That Others Will be Inspired to Pursue Adoption"

Deana and Mitchell Lawhon, originally from Lilesville, have a story to share with a wonderful message. The story involves patience, persistence, courage, wisdom, faith, and love. The greatest, of course, is love. But without even one of these qualities, the story would have a considerably different ending. And now, with you, it is my honor to share the story of their struggles, strengths and their final triumph.

Once upon a time, the Lawhons, who were married for eighteen years before becoming parents, traveled a winding, rocky road to arrive at their final destination, which ended with the miracle of their long awaited child.



Mitchell, Deana and daughter Ruby Lu Lawhon enjoyed a miraculous holiday season. Since June every day has been more joyful. "I hope our story will inspire others to pursue adoption," Deana shares.

Deana and Mitchell wanted to become parents soon after their marriage. But it would not be as they hoped. Their inability to have a child led them on many journeys. Those journeys included traditional, fertility, and finally adoptive measures. During the course of their many trials, they found themselves without the one thing they wanted more desperately than anything else in the world, a child. Promises of adoption filled their dreams on several occasions, only to find those dreams eventually shattered. It was heartbreaking to watch the

agony both Deana and Mitchell would endure. Who could have been better parents their friends asked? Conclusively coming up with no names. The couple had everything to offer a child. They had a home, they were devoted to the idea of becoming parents, they had steadfast faith, and they had more love to offer than an army of mothers and fathers. So why were they continually running into the proverbial brick wall? No one understood. But the Lawhons had something special that kept them on track and moving forward. Their faith continued to guide their many directions, which would one day provide the greatest gift known to man, the love of a child.

In June of 2005 Deana and Mitchell traveled to Nanchang, China to receive their daughter. She was the answer to years of continual prayers. There they took their ten-pound bundle of joy from an orphanage where she had been left alongside a gate. The child's Chinese name was Zhaung Lu Dian (which means a dot or speck on the road).

"The orphanage, located in the countryside of Jiangxi, was like going back in time one thousand years," said Deana. "There were rice paddies, huts made of mud and straw and shocking levels of poverty. We learned that there are over one million orphans in China - and we hope to give another one a home within a few years. On June 12 a nine-month old, ten pound baby girl was placed in my arms and I knew God had finally blessed our lives. She could barely hold her head up," Deana informed. Six months later she is 18 pounds and 30 inches tall. Mitchell boasts that "Soon she will be walking, and is already crawling, speaking words, and using some sign language."

Deana explained, "We are members of a group called China Dolls made up of families who have adopted little girls from China and we plan to remain very involved with Ruby Lu's heritage."

The little girl, once orphaned, now has the life many children dream of having and Deana and Mitchell have their long-awaited child. It was seemingly at times, an endless voyage through the roughest imaginable terrain, made worthy by the rewarding of their perfect little "gem," Ruby Lu. What a storybook ending to a fairytale-like yarn. It so pleases me to surmise that this family shall reap the blessings they deserve and live happily ever after.

By Melanie Morse

## Blood Drive is Today!

The Wadesboro Rotary Club is sponsoring a blood drive with the American Red Cross at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro on Wednesday, January 25, from 1:00 until 6:00 p.m.

They have set a goal for fifty-six pints of blood.

It is estimated that 95% of the population will need blood during a lifetime. More than 1,500 units of blood are needed daily for patients in local hospitals.

The community is strongly urged to come out and support this blood drive.

## Ladies Auxiliary to Hold Spaghetti Dinner Feb. 3

The Ladies Auxiliary VFW will hold a Spaghetti dinner fund-raiser on February 3, at 5:00 p.m. at the James D. Henderson VFW Post #10403 located at 214 North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The menu includes spaghetti, beverages, and desserts.

The funds raised will be used for club expenses throughout the year. Dinners can be purchased for a donation of \$5.

For more information about the dinner, please call Janie Harris at 704-848-8106.

## Be an "Anson Idol"

Have you ever watched the hit show American Idol and secretly wished that you could be a hit wonder? Well, now is your chance. On Saturday, February 4, Anson County will be holding its first ever Anson Idol competition.

All contestants must be 13 years old or older. The event will be held at the Anson High School Gym, and will begin at 5:00 p.m. The person who is named the "Anson Idol" will win a \$500 cash prize.

To register call 704-475-0742 or send an email to

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## Wadesboro Has a New Radio Station

First United Methodist Church is broadcasting WEHB-LP, 98.3 FM 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The format is family-friendly music from the 40s to the present, with no commercial interruptions. The station also broadcasts the church service at FUMC every Sunday morning from 10:55 a.m. until noon. WEHB-LP officially signed on in September 2004 as a low-power, limited coverage area radio station.

Lonnie Baucom, chief operator, said that WEHB-LP is not just a church station, but a church station serving the community. As such, it plans to broadcast public service announcements such as school closings, severe weather warnings and other news of interest to the community.

WEHB-LP is the result of over three years of preparation. In December 2002, the late Bill Billingsley, with the help of Dr. Al Joyner, then pastor of FUMC, applied for a construction permit for a low-power FM radio station with the generous help of engineer Jeff Watts of Mocksville, NC. Permission was granted in April 2003. Licensing was obtained from ASCAP, BMI and SESAC in order to

legally play copyrighted music. Equipment was put together from many sources, including broadcasting friends of Billingsley, whose dream was to see the radio station come into being. A fully-automated, computer-run station was set up in an office in the education wing of the church, and an antenna was installed on the H. W. Little and Company hardware building.

While waiting for the necessary permits, Baucom, Jim Bruney and Andrew Puryear added over 3,000 items to the musical library. Music includes not only religious selections from favorite hymns to Christian rock, but golden oldies, big band, country and western, bluegrass, easy listening, and more. Special programming is provided during the Christmas season.

WEHB-LP will be seeking funding in order to meet operating expenses. Individuals and businesses may sponsor "spots" identifying them or their business. The radio station, like public radio, is a non-profit educational station and cannot accept advertising.

For more information e-mail the station at [wehblpfm@alltel.net](mailto:wehblpfm@alltel.net) or call 704-694-5981.