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

Public Hearing Concerning the Lease or Sale of Lillie Bennet Nursing Center is this Friday

Recently a notice was published announcing a meeting to discuss the future of the Lillie Bennett Nursing Center. It stated: "Notice is hereby given to all interested parties, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 131E-13(d)(1) that the Carolinas-Anson Healthcare, Inc. d/b/a Anson Community Hospital Board of Directors (the "Board") intends to adopt a resolution declaring its intent to evaluate the lease, sale or conveyance of all or part of the operating rights and other related tangible and intangible assets, including related real estate, utilized in connection with the operation of its 95 bed long term care facility known as Lillie Bennett Nursing Center (collectively "Assets"), and subsequently negotiate the terms of any such lease or sale. The Board's resolution will direct that requests for proposals for the lease/purchase of all or part of the Assets be solicited from at least five prospective lessees/buyers. There are no known potential lessees/buyers. Interested lessees/buyers are encouraged to attend the Board meeting on the date and the time set forth below.

Please take notice that the Board will consider this matter at a meeting in the Private Dining Room at Carolinas-Anson Healthcare, Inc. d/b/a Anson Community Hospital located at 500 Morven Road, Wadesboro, North Carolina, at 10:00 AM on January 7, 2014. Further information about the meeting may be obtained from Fred Thompson, PhD at (704) 605-3400."

The meeting was held, and a public notice was published stating this: "Notice is hereby given to all interested persons pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 131E-13(d)(3) that the Carolinas-Anson Healthcare, Inc. d/b/a Anson Community Hospital Board of Directors (the "Board") will hold a public hearing on its resolution adopted January 7, 2014 declaring its intent to evaluate the lease, sale or conveyance of all or part of the operating rights and other related tangible and intangible assets, including related real estate, utilized in connection with the operation of its 95 bed long term care facility known as Lillie Bennett Nursing Center (collectively "Assets"), and subsequently negotiate the terms of any such lease or sale. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing and be heard on the date and at the time set forth below.

Please take notice that the Board will hold the public hearing in the Private Dining Room at Carolinas-Anson Healthcare, Inc. d/b/a Anson Community Hospital located at 500 Morven Road, Wadesboro, North Carolina, at 10:00 AM on January 31, 2014. Further information about the hearing may be obtained from Fred Thompson, PhD at (704) 695-3400."

\$5,000 Reward Offered for Information in Whisnant Death

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen announced on Tuesday that Governor Pat McCrory's office has approved and issued up to a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the November 13, 2013, murder of Keith Jerome Whisnant.

Whisnant's body was found around 8:30 that evening lying beside his car off US Highway 742 North. Whisnant had been shot. He was on his way from Ocean Isle Beach, traveling through Wadesboro. Investigators know that he stopped at the local Burger King around 8 p.m. that night and may have picked up someone between there and Highway 742.

Anyone having information concerning this unsolved murder should contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188 or the SBI at 919-662-4500.

New Emergency Center Dedication and Open House is Sunday



Anson County cordially invites you to the Dedication Ceremony and Open House for the new Anson County Emergency Services Center this Sunday, February 2 beginning at 2 p.m. There will be a brief dedication ceremony, then tours will be given until 4 p.m.

"Please publish the announcement in The Express. We want all citizens to come and see their new building," said Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood who spearheaded this project.

The Emergency Services Center, located at 2230 Country Club Road in Wadesboro (on the site of the old armory building), is 24,000 square feet in size. The anticipated useful life of the facility is 100+ years. It will house the following operations: Anson EMS, Anson Emergency Management, Anson Fire Marshall, Anson 911 Emergency Call Center, Anson Systems and IT Support Services, Anson Road Naming, Anson's Dedicated Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

The North Carolina 911 Board voted unanimously to award Anson County \$949,000 for the Emergency Services Center Project at its June 28, 2013 meeting. The Dedication and Open House Ceremony will take place exactly one year and a day from the groundbreaking.

Here is the project timeline: Planning/Needs analysis began July, 2011 • Demolition of the old armory building was completed on August 29, 2011 • Groundbreaking Ceremony was held February 1, 2013 • Construction completed on January 17, 2013 • Dedication and Open House on February 2, 2014 • Opening of the 911 Call Center will be April, 2014.

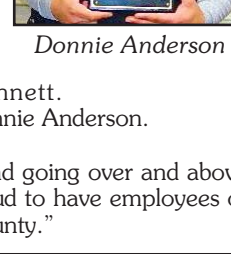
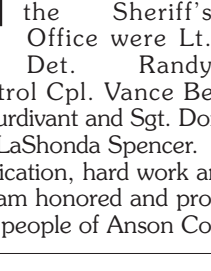
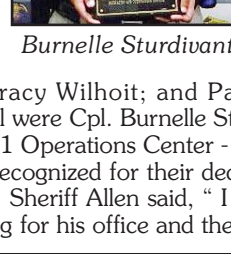
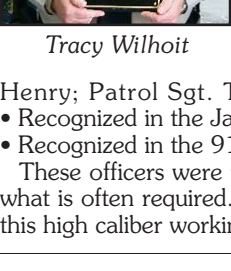
Moseley Architects provided design, engineering and construction oversight. Messer Construction Company served as the General Contractor. D.H. Griffin Wrecking Company handled the demolition of the old armory building. Uwharrie Bank and Trust provided financing for the project.



Officers of the Year Honored at Sheriff's Office

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen announced the names of the 2013 Sheriff's Office, Jail and 911 Officers of the Year. The awards were made back in December during a departmental function.

- Recognized in the Sheriff's Office were Lt. Det. Randy



Henry; Patrol Sgt. Tracy Wilhoit; and Patrol Cpl. Vance Bennett.

- Recognized in the Jail were Cpl. Burnelle Sturdivant and Sgt. Donnie Anderson.
- Recognized in the 911 Operations Center - LaShonda Spencer.

These officers were recognized for their dedication, hard work and going over and above what is often required. Sheriff Allen said, "I am honored and proud to have employees of this high caliber working for his office and the people of Anson County."

Polkton Fire Department BBQ is Saturday

You are invited to come out to the Polkton Fire Department Barbecue this Saturday, February 1. They will begin serving at 10 a.m. You had better not come too late, because their barbecue is sooooo good that it just might sell out!

They will be serving barbecue pork and chicken plates that include beans, cole slaw, bread and dessert, all for only \$8. Of course you can donate any amount you wish because it is for a great cause - the Polkton Fire Department!

All the money raised is used to help cover expenses at the fire department.

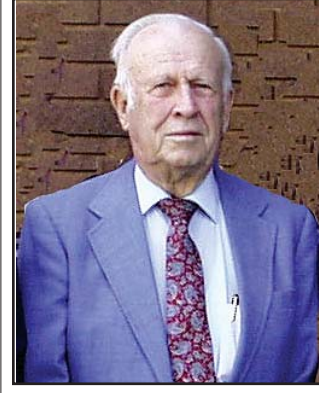
To place a large order please call 704-272-7933. See you there!



Volunteers Help Out at Anson Crisis Ministry Saturday

These women generously donated their time this past Saturday to helping Anson Crisis Ministry. They are, from left, standing: Debbie Cash and Kathy Altman. Seated are Jan Taylor and Kathy Winfree. Sharon and Katie Edwards are not pictured.

Preston Burns to be Honored for 100th Birthday & 74 Year Membership in Rotary Club



In 1939 FDR was in his second of four terms in the White House, Hitler triggered World War II with his invasion of Poland, and 26-year-old Preston Burns joined the Wadesboro Rotary Club.

On Thursday, February 27 the Wadesboro Rotary Club will honor Mr. Burns for his 74 years as a Rotarian, and help celebrate his 100th birthday which falls on February 16.

"Preston's 74 years as a member of this club is astounding in itself," said Wesley Horne, President of the Wadesboro Rotary Club. "But even more importantly, we want to celebrate his commitment to Rotary and this community. Nobody epitomizes the Rotary motto 'Service Above Self' like Preston."

Mr. Burns is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and a past president of the Wadesboro club. He was named the club's Distinguished Rotarian in 1994, the second year the award was presented.

He was founder and long-time owner/operator of Wadesboro Auto Supply, and worked diligently for decades as a volunteer with the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. The conference room at the Chamber is named in his honor. He was also instrumental in economic development in Anson County, assisting with the start up of such companies as Hornwood, Inc. and Wade Manufacturing Company. A member of the First United Methodist Church of Wadesboro, Mr. Burns served for nearly 50 years as a member of the Board of Directors of Anson Bank & Trust Company (now Uwharrie Bank), including terms as Chairman.

In honor of his then 70 years as a Rotarian, the Anson County Board of Commissioners declared July 22, 2010, as Preston Burns Day in Anson County.

Mr. Burns was married for 66 years to Mary Watkins Burns until her death in 2005. They have three children, Allen Burns, Julia B. Schnitker and Katherine B. Griffin.

Friends of Mr. Burns are invited to the Wadesboro Rotary Club's February 27 celebration at noon at Welika Lake Fish Camp in Lilesville. Non-Rotarians planning to attend are asked to contact President Wesley Horne (whorne@hornwoodinc.com) or Secretary Ashley Rivers (arivers@hornwoodinc.com) no later than February 26.

Juanita Williams Honored for Years of Service to the Community



The Lilesville Civic Builder's Club recognized Juanita Williams at their December meeting for her many years of dedicated service. Juanita has faithfully served as club president and held many other offices. She was also recognized for all the things invaluable things she has done for the people and Town of Lilesville.

Juanita is a people person, always willing to lend a helping hand to make life better for those in need. She works to help other communities as well.

At the meeting Juanita was first presented with a red rose corsage. A beautiful plaque was presented as an expression of appreciation. Later, club members and friends were given an opportunity to express how Juanita had impacted their life and what she means to them. Juanita's daughter Cathy Kelly was present to see her mother recognized.

Juanita is currently on the Lilesville Town Council, and has served for over 16 years. She worked for Lilesville as Town Clerk and Finance Director for 43 years alongside her late husband, Gene Williams. She continues to help in the office when needed, and she stays involved in many other activities to help others.

Class Reunion Meeting for 1968, '69, '70

The next class reunion planning committee meeting for the classes of 1968, 1969 and 1970 is scheduled for Saturday, February 15 at 2 p.m. at LadyBug Restaurant. Classmates are invited to attend.

Secondary Schools to Dismiss Early February 6 for Parent-Teacher Conferences

On Thursday, February 6 secondary schools in Anson County will dismiss early for Parent/Teacher Conferences. All other schools will operate on a normal schedule.

Dismissal Anson Middle, Anson High, Anson New Tech, Anson Early College and Anson Academy dismiss at 1:30 p.m. **Conferences** Held from 2 to 7 p.m.

Dixie Youth Little League Baseball, Girls Softball

Anson County Parks and Recreation is registering for Dixie Youth Little League Baseball. It is offered for ages 9 to 12. Your age is determined by May 1, 2014. There are two possible age divisions and the cost is \$25 per person.

Dixie Youth Girls Softball will be offered for ages 4 to 18. Your age is determined by January 1, 2014. There are six possible age divisions and the cost is \$25 per person.

Come by the Parks and Rec office to register, and the deadline is Monday, March 3. For more information contact Wendell T. Small, CPRP at 704-694-5868.

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program

Are you an adult age 55 or older with any type of diagnosed arthritis? The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program will help those who have joint and/or muscle problems. Achieve improved joint mobility, muscle strength and endurance in order to improve the performance of your daily activities. Join Grace Senior Center's free 1-hour Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, held twice a week for eight weeks.

- Learn basic arthritis self-management from a certified instructor.
- Learn basic principles of exercise and of joint protection.
- Learn tips for managing stress and pain, and how to make exercise a daily routine.
- Exercise and strengthen your body, educate yourself.
- Become more active and stress free.

Classes will begin February 3 and run through March 26. They are held Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. at Grace Senior Center. Please call Wanda Talbert at 704-694-6616 to register or for more information.