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

Wadesboro Extends Water/Sewer Bill Payment Deadline

The Town of Wadesboro is extending the deadline for water/sewer bill payment because the Town Hall has been unexpectedly closed due to inclement weather. While customers are normally assessed a late fee after the 15th of each month, the late fee will only occur for payment after February 21st.

Financial Aid Assistance for High School Seniors - FAFSA Day

Saturday, February 22 is Financial Aid Assistance for High School Seniors Day (FAFSA). The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the State Employees Credit Union and at South Piedmont Community Colleges Union County location.

Colleges and universities use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine financial aid a student may qualify for. If you are a high school senior and your family needs assistance with completing the online application, contact our local State Employees Credit Union or South Piedmont Community College for information on how to set up an appointment and what information you will need to bring with you. Visit www.fafsa.gov to apply or for more information.

- Participants should bring student's and parents' federal 1040 tax forms for 2013 to the FAFSA Day program.
- Each student and one parent should obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN) prior to FAFSA Day from the Department of Education.
- It will be helpful (though not required) for you to complete as much of the FAFSA on the web worksheet as possible and bring it with you on FAFSA Day. Don't worry if you don't know all the answers, the experienced financial aid officers will help you. The FAFSA on the web Worksheet for 2014-15 is available online now.

FAFSA Day is a free service provided by College Foundation of North Carolina, the North Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and the State Employees' Credit Union.

First Annual Economic Development Summit Rescheduled

The Anson Economic Development Summit has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 26. It will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. A light lunch will be provided.

Co-sponsored by the Anson Economic Development Corporation and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, this event is designed to highlight the unique perspectives and challenges posed to the business community of Anson County. The summit will be moderated by Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell. Scott Collier from SPCC will be gathering your questions, comments and concerns during the event to create a report for additional dialogue.

"Members of our county government, agricultural, business, and legislative delegation will be speaking in addition to the local workforce developers and Duke Energy," said Chamber Director Lynn Edwards. "Please plan to attend and participate in an event that we hope will be a continuing contribution to our county's economic health."

For more information contact the Chamber at 704-694-4181 or ansonchamber@windstream.net.

Sam K. Turner, Jr. CPA Firm Announces New Name



The practice of Sam K. Turner, Jr. CPA has a new name, Turner & Tyson, PLLC. Sam Turner, CPA, Wesley Tyson, CPA and Jennifer Tarlton established the partnership in December 2013. They also have announced the purchase of a second location in Locust, NC.

The firm offers audits, reviews, compilations, corporate, nonprofit and

individual tax preparation, monthly bookkeeping, financial statements, full payroll services, QuickBooks services and more.

Their Wadesboro office location remains at 111 East Wade Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5699. The Locust office is located at 302 South Central Avenue, and the telephone number is 704-888-1272.

Pictured from left are Jennifer Tarlton, Sam Turner and Wesley Tyson.

Sheriff Still Taking Applications for Citizens Law Enforcement Academy

Because of the winter weather and all the closing last week, Sheriff Tommy Allen said that the deadline for applications to the next Anson County Sheriff's Citizens Academy will be extended to this Friday, February 21st. The next class will start on schedule, beginning Thursday, February 27th at 6 p.m. unless there are any further weather delays.

The Sheriff said that the class still had room for 5 or 6 more students. For more information or to register go by the Sheriff's Office or call 704-694-4188.

Writer's Club Awards Ceremony Rescheduled

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Anson County Writers' Club will not hold its Contest Awards Ceremony on February 23 as previously announced. The Awards Ceremony will be held Sunday, March 23. All winners will be notified by mail.

In January Karen MacMurray led a workshop on "Structuring Your Novel." She will continue on February 23 with a follow-up workshop on how to create subplots and interweave them into the novel. The public is invited.

Chamber of Commerce Elects New Officers

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce elected officers for the 2014 year at their December 10 board meeting.



They are pictured here, from left, Derek James (South Piedmont Community College) - Vice Chair, Brandis Chewing (Uwharrie Bank) - Treasurer, and Lewis Evans (retired) - Chairman.

Girl Scouts Learn Importance of Community Service

Faith Based Center of Hope along with Girl Scout Troop #767 donated coats and blankets to the homeless, elderly, sick and shut-in recently. Troop #767, Kina Simon, and her assistants work with girls ages 5 to 15.

Assistant Troop Leader Shaneta Little stated, "The purpose of this project is to teach young ladies the value of helping others and community service."

Vancine Sturdivant, Faith Base Center of Hope CEO, stated, "It was delightful to see those young ladies eager to help others in the community."

If anyone is in need of coats and blankets, please contact Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Garletha Pratt at 704-848-4619.

Leadership Anson Begins 18th Session

The Leadership Anson Oversight Committee has selected 13 participants for the Class of 2014. The 18th developmental program began the weekend of January 10 and 11 with a Lake Tillery overnight retreat at the Uwharrie Lodge and Retreat Center. An orientation to prepare participants for the weekend retreat and the upcoming sessions was held on January 6.

The Leadership Anson Class of 2014 participants are: Kari Eudy, Carolina Title Company, Inc.; Tammy Henry, Anson Community Hospital; Sarah Hutchinson, Anson County EMS; Steven Kelly, Wadesboro Police Department; Dawn McElroy, Anson Community Hospital; Ginger McLain, South Piedmont Community College; Jason Miller, South Piedmont Community College; Jennifer Ricketts, South Piedmont Community College; Burnelle Sturdivant, Anson County Jail; Megan Sellers, Anson County Partnership for Children; Jeremy Taylor, Plank Road Realty; Emily Trexler, South Piedmont Community College; and James Willoughby, Hornwood, Inc.

Classes began with "Art/History/Volunteerism" on January 28. Other topics for the program were "Local Government Day" on February 11; "Health Care Day" on February 25; "Education Day" on March 11; "Local Leaders Panel Day" on March 25; "Chamber Golf Tournament" on April 11, "Agri-Business Day" on April 22; "Water Resources Day" on April 30; "Industry Day" on May 6; "Water Resources" on May 20 and "Legislative Day" on June 3. Graduation has been set for June 17.

The Leadership Anson program was implemented in 1997 by the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, and in 17 years has graduated 266 participants. The program, with assistance from South Piedmont Community College and Hornwood, is designed to develop a commitment to community through leadership.



Famous Blues Singer Blind Boy Fuller from Ansonville

This is one of a series of articles The Express is presenting during February in honor of Black History Month. Written by historian and genealogist Steve Bailey:

Blind Boy Fuller was born Fulton Allen in Ansonville in July of 1905. He was one of 16 children born to Calvin and Mary Jane Hyatt Allen. He probably grew up around Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on the Ansonville-Polkton Road where some of his relatives are buried.

Fuller was always surrounded by music, and he learned to play the guitar with the help of an older brother or sister. His grandparents were Sidney and Elizabeth Allen, and Washington and Annie Hyatt. The family was still living in Ansonville in 1910, but had moved to Rockingham by 1917. Two of his brothers were married in February and March of 1917 at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.



Blind Boy Fuller married Cora Martin on September 10, 1927, in Marlboro County, SC when he was 22 years old and Cora was 14 years old. The marriage license stated they were residents of Rockingham. During this time his eyesight started to fail him, caused by a congenital disease. Because of the blindness he became dependant upon his guitar playing to make a living, realizing that performing was one of the few alternatives that was available to the working class blind in the 1920's. By the time he and his wife had moved to Durham in 1929 he was entirely dependent on his guitar playing that helped to supplement the meager wages his wife earned as a domestic servant. Durham had an abundance of African American middle class with African American owned banks, insurance companies, funeral homes and a host of other businesses. This contributed to a vibrant African American urban life.

Recognizing the unique opportunities that Durham had to offer to musicians who were forced to rely on the public for support, he set out to improve the mastery of the guitar. As his playing improved he became a favorite at local house parties. In 1935 his musical talents caught the ear of James Long, the white manager of Durham's United Dollar Store who was an informal agent of the American Record Corporation (ARC). Sensing that Fulton's versatile guitar playing, witty lyrics and robust singing could lead to a successful recording career, Long arranged for Fulton to travel to ARC's New York studios for a recording session. ARC released all twelve songs recorded at that session and soon called him back into the studio.

Over the next five years Fulton, who appeared on record as "Blind Boy Fuller," recorded more than 125 titles, all of which were released. Those recordings made him one of the most popular blues artists of all time. His guitar style came to define the blues sound of the southeastern states. Blind Boy Fuller died from a severe bladder infection on February 13, 1941 at his home in Durham, and he was buried at Durham's Grove Hill Cemetery. You can contact Steve Bailey for genealogy services at 704-475-3877 or genealogy1959@yahoo.com

Got Talent? Open Mic Event in Cheraw

The Cheraw Arts Commission presents Got Talent? This is an open mic event on Thursday, February 20 at the Theatre on the Green. This is an opportunity for singers, dancers, musicians, actors, magicians, comedians and more to perform. This will be a family friendly event with each act limited to five minutes or less. Participants will be received on a first come, first served basis and should provide preview of performance material. Technical support will be provided at the Theatre.

Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843-537-8420 x 12 for additional information and to register to participate.

Free Movie is Home Run

Hampton B. Allen Library will present a free movie on Monday, February 24 at 10 a.m. Home Run stars Scott Ellrod, Vivica Fox, Dorian Brown and Drew Waters. It is rated PG-13 and is suitable for all ages. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

Monthly Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25, at 10 a.m. at the BCSWCD office located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-3516.

Democratic Precinct Meeting is February 27

The Anson County Democratic Party will hold their Precinct Meeting on Thursday, February 27. This meeting is for all Anson County precincts. It will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library.

For information call 704-848-4412.