

THE EXPRESS

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.

Veterans Memorial Progressing

This is a release from the Anson County Veterans Council: The Anson County Veterans Council is pleased to announce we are moving forward with the new Veterans Memorial to be located inside the Wadesboro City Park. The Veterans Council wants to show our appreciation to all our veterans for their service to our country.

The memorial will be concreted, with a granite marker with the emblems of the five branches of services and flags along with the American flag on a 30 foot pole. The Memorial will also have the North Carolina flag and the Anson County flag on each side at 25 feet. The memorial will have a box for used American flags. Flags that are placed inside the box will be collected and disposed of properly.

To make a contribution, please make checks payable to the Anson County Veterans Council, PO Box 791, Wadesboro, NC 28170. For more information on this project please contact Ed Parker at (704) 694-6770.

The Veterans Council would like to acknowledge the Wadesboro City Council, Project Manager Max Kendall and Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell for their continued support.

March 15 Primary Election Early Voting Begins Thursday, March 3

The Board of Elections has released the dates and times for Early Voting in the upcoming March Primary Election. The election date is March 15. All Early Voting will take place at the Board of Elections office located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For a state and county-wide primary election every registered voter is eligible to vote early.

For more information you can reach the Anson County Board of Elections at 704-994-3223.

- Thursday & Friday, March 3 & 4...6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 5...8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Monday-Friday, March 7-11...6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 12...6:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Play The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee Opens at Ansonia Friday

The Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro is proud to present the Tony Award winning Broadway musical *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, running March 4-13. This hilarious tale chronicles six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. This show celebrates the unlikely of heroes, a quirky yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can fit in and stand out at the same time. This show is a roller coaster of fun!

The cast includes Emily Litaker Privette, Matthew Bailey, Jodi Davis, Gage Tarlton, Tommy Wooten, Connie Thomas, Gina Clarke, Steve Lear and Mike Railton. The show is directed by Tommy Wooten and Gail Litaker.

Tickets are only \$15 and can be purchased at the Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or at ansoniatheatre.com.

Anson County 4-H Holds Achievement/Recognition Banquet

This is a release from Anson County 4-H: Forty one proud relatives, friends and supporters were in attendance at the annual 4-H Achievement Night, held Tuesday, February 16th at the Cooperative Extension Center. The event was held to honor Anson County 4-H'ers, 4-H Volunteer Leaders for their accomplishments over the last year, and Volunteer Leaders who have given of their time to help with programs in 4-H. Youth and adults were recognized and awarded ribbons, certificates, and medals.

Deserving young 4-H'ers earned scholarships for club project work. These scholarships, provided through program fundraising efforts, will be used toward 4-H trips, camps and 4-H project area supplies.

This year's Cloverbud (5-8) project winners were Levi Greene, Andrew Martin, Maddie Carpenter, Brayden Howell and Melanie Jones. Junior Division (9-10) winners were Kendall Duncan, Cameron Tillman, Kirsten Greene and Aalysa Liles. Junior Division (11-12) project winners were Keyshawn Tillman, Hayden Allen, Olivia Allen, Emily Sutphin, Gracie McSwain and Quenton Cromartie. Senior Division (13-15) project winner was Na'La Brown, Justin Duncan, Katherine Brown and Katie Edwards.

Our Sr. Outstanding 4-H'er was Na'La Brown. Na'La has been in 4-H for 11 years. She has participated in District Teen Retreat, NC 4-H Electric Congress, and teen led for her 4-H club. Some of her community service activities is volunteering with the soup 'n' sandwich dinners for seniors, spring and fall paper clover campaign, donating supplies to Backpack Buddies, doing crafts with residents at Meadowview Terrace and donating personal care items to the high school. In her statement she wrote: "4-H is basically my life. I have become more involved with 4-H when I became a teenager at 4-H age. I love being around people especially 4-H kids. 4-H has helped me figure out what I want to do the rest of my life. 4-H means the world to me and it is a great way to make friends and to be a good leader in the future."

Our 4-H Volunteer Leaders were recognized with years of devoted service to the 4-H program. They were: Natasha Duncan 6 years, Carissima Martin 5 years, Yolanda Mitchell 8 years, Debra Ratliff 9 years, Addie Richardson 10 years, Janice Bennett 11 years, Dave Edwards 12 years, Hannah Dunlap 14 years, Kim Bennett 24 years, Betty Garris 31 years, and Pearl Blount 32 years. Each Leader was given a certificate and a token of appreciation. Two community clubs were recognized for renewing all of their paperwork to receive emerald charter seals in the county. Those clubs receiving charter seals were Eager Beavers 4-H Club and Busy Bees 4-H Club.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to volunteers that gave their time during the past year to 4-H in the capacities of teaching a program, judging or helping structure programs. Those individuals were Janine Rywak, Janet Gilreath and Wadesboro Tractor Supply Store #1278.

The evening was capped off with the recognition of the 2015 4-H Leaders Association Officers: Kim Bennett- President, Sharon Edwards- Vice President, Pearl Blount Secretary and Yolanda Mitchell- Treasurer. Installation of our new officers were held and they are: President- Sharon Edwards, Vice President - Carissima Martin, Secretary-Betty Garris, Treasurer-Hannah Dunlap and Treasurer- Elect - Debra Ratliff.

For more information on the 4-H program in Anson County, contact Roshunda Terry, 4-H Agent with the Cooperative Extension Service at 704-694-2915.



Grades 3-6 are pictured here, from left, front: Stetson Sessions, Sarah Lang, Princess Love and Kayle Latchman. Back row: Tyheem Carelock, Audrey Hyatt, Labdhi Shah, Dexter Jones, Lynlee Martin and Kiara Horne.

ACWC Writing Contest Winners

Winners of the 2015 Anson County Writer's Club annual contests in prose and poetry were awarded cash prizes and certificates at a ceremony held at the Little Theatre in the Hampton B. Allen Library on Sunday, February 28. The contests are sponsored by the Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC).

ACWC President Kaye Ratliff welcomed the winners, their friends and families. Beverley Getzen, Contest Chairman, called the winners to the podium to read a selection from their entry. Contest committee members Ruth Hickman and Randy Tarlton handed out the prizes.

Ruth Hickman won twice in the adult category, garnering first place for her essay, "Lasting Fragrance" and second place for her poem, "My Sole/Soul Bucket List."

Mario Kersey won first place for his poem, "Family Reunion" and Libby Allen won second place for her memoir, "Seining Trip at Brown Creek." Both Kersey and Allen have won awards in previous contests.

Airy Jones from Anson High School won first place for her short story, "You're Not Alone" in the grades 10-12 category. Poetry winners in grades 10-12 were Vontarya McBride, Anson County Early College, for "When a Poet Dreams," Savannah Sommerville, home schooled, for "Who Are You?" and Erin Kelley, ACEC, for "The Final Act."

Winners in the grades 3-6 prose category were Labdhi Shah, Peachland-Polkton Elementary School, for "The Boy Who Saw a Leprechaun," Stetson Sessions, Ansonville Elementary School, for "No Technology" and Sarah Lang, Wadesboro Primary School, for "The Story of Horse, Fish and Turtle." Winning Honorable Mentions were Adeline Cavanaugh for "The Enchanted Forest," Kiara Horne for "The Wonder Crew of Wonder" and Tyheem Carelock for "Deer." All attend Wadesboro Primary School.

Poetry awards in grades 3-6 went to Audrey Hyatt, PPES, for "Softball Life," Gregory Covington, AES, for "Football for Life" and Lynlee Martin, AES, for "My Dream." Awarded Honorable Mention were Kayle Latchman, WPS, for "Mothers Day," Dexter Jones, PPES, for "The Big Win" and Princess Love, WPS, for "Great Job."

Ratliff concluded the ceremony by urging the winners to keep on writing. A reception with finger foods and punch followed the awards presentation.

The annual contests have been held since 1989. Members of the Union County Writers' Club judged the 2015 entries. An anthology of the 2013, 2014, and 2015 winners, *Anson Pathways IX*, will be available later this year.

For more information about the ACWC, contests, upcoming programs and previous publications please visit www.ansoncountywritersclub.org.



Adults and grades 10-12 winners, from left, front: Savannah Sommerville, Libby Allen and Vontarya McBride. Back: Airyn Jones, Mario Kersey, Ruth Hickman and Erin Kelley.

Governor McCrory Urges Citizens to Voice Opinions at March Public Hearings on African American Monuments on State Capitol Grounds

Gov. Pat McCrory is encouraging citizen participation in four public hearings in March to offer feedback on a new monument on the State Capitol grounds to commemorate the achievements of African Americans. Gov. McCrory's recommendation to construct the monument was endorsed by the North Carolina Historical Commission and the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission. The sessions will take place over four Tuesdays in Greensboro, Charlotte, Raleigh and Fayetteville.

"I urge people to attend one of these four opportunities to voice their input on this important initiative," said Secretary Susan Klutz of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. "This is a first in the history of our state and I am proud of Gov. Pat McCrory for his support of an idea that is long overdue."

The public hearings will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the following locations:

- March 8 at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture, 551 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte
- March 22 at the Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N. Grace Street, Rocky Mount
- March 29 at the Shaw Auditorium, Fayetteville State University, 1200 Murchison Road, Fayetteville

Individuals or groups wishing to voice opinions or support the new monument are invited for the four public hearings or can contact Deputy Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources Kevin Cherry at (919) 807-7280 or mail to 4610 MSC, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4610.

Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo games are held every third Tuesday of the month at Grace Senior Center at 1 p.m. All seniors are invited to attend for fun and fellowship. For more information or to register to play call the center at 704-694-6616.

Dancercise Class

Dancercise, which is exercising while dancing, is being offered at Grace Senior Center. Dancercise is a blend of aerobics and dance moves, something that many people find to be lots of fun. Participants enjoy great music and learn actual dance moves. The class being offered is a beginners class. There is no registration and no charge for the class.

The class is ongoing. So, if you didn't make it to the first class there is still plenty of opportunity to join in later. Each month the schedules will be given out with class dates and times.

Beginning Thursday, March 3 the Dancercise class will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays. The Monday schedule will remain the same, with classes from 1 to 2 p.m.

This class is open to anyone who wants to exercise! For more information and to register call 704-694-6616.