

THE EXPRESS

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

Statewide Burning Ban Lifted this Past Saturday

The Statewide burning ban was called off this past Saturday, March 1, at noon. Burning permits will again be issued.

During the ban period only one violation was recorded in the state.

Spring Forward for Daylight Savings Time this Saturday Night

You may want to include plans to go to bed a little earlier this Saturday night because as of 2:00 a.m. Sunday, March 9, you will officially turn your clocks ahead and thus lose an hour of sleep. Now don't be disappointed in a measly hour's sleep. Just think of all the wonderfully fun things you can do with an extra hour of daylight, which is, of course, the reason we change from EST to DST.

You could wash your car, wash your spouse's car, wash your dog and your cat, trim the hedge, mow the lawn, plant your garden, tend your flowers, till the land, clip the dandelions, pull the weeds, or attend to anything that needs attention around your personal space.

On the other hand, you could sleep an hour later (if you feel that strongly about the loss of one), take a leisurely walk, go to the park with your kids, walk the dog, sit in the shade of an old oak tree, sit in the sun and soak in vitamin D, take a nap in your hammock or outside easy chair, go on a picnic, sail on the lake, go fishing, have a cookout or whatever your heart desires.

After all, we're springing forward into a new season. Spring is upon us and it's time to get out there and drink in the beauty of Anson County while grabbing the bull by the horns so to speak. Hey! There's another thought, be brave, be daring, maybe you're the sort to ride that bull instead! Whatever floats your boat you now have an extra hour of daytime to get it done. My advice, get out there and do it!

By Melanie Morse

Tim Rodgers Announces Bid for District Court Judgeship



Tim Rodgers, Chief Assistant District Attorney for Prosecutorial District 20A, recently filed for District Court Judge for Anson, Richmond and Stanly Counties.

"In my decade of service both as an Assistant District Attorney and as Chief Assistant District Attorney, I have demonstrated the ability and skills necessary to be an effective District Court Judge. The public expects their judges to fairly uphold the laws of North Carolina and be respectful to the parties appearing before them. I have both the character and integrity the citizens of Anson, Stanly and Richmond Counties expect of their judges."

Rodgers is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, summa cum laude, and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. Rodgers says, "After graduating from law school, I chose to move to this District. Anson, Richmond and Stanly counties have some of the finest people I have ever met, and I am proud to call this District home, and proud to have my children grow up here. I believe that, as District Court Judge, I will have the opportunity to make this community an even better place in which to live."

Rodgers has served as an instructor at trainings sponsored by the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program, the Arkansas Prosecuting Attorney's Association, the University of North Carolina Institute of Government's "New Prosecutor's School," and Stanly Community College's "Legal Update for Law Enforcement." Tim has also served as an officer in the Stanly County Bar Association, and has been active in multiple civic and community service organizations including the State Employee's Credit Union Advisory Board, the Board of Trustees for the Albemarle District of the United Methodist Church, O.A.S.I.S. (Older Adult Services in Stanly), as well as a volunteer youth worker, mission trip participant. In addition, he has helped in local hurricane relief efforts as well as in Hurricane Katrina relief work.

On his qualifications for Judge, Rodgers said, "I have tried cases ranging from traffic violations to murder cases, and I understand how the courtroom can be intimidating and overwhelming to those who come before the court seeking a resolution to their problems. I understand the value of hard work and preparation, and my pledge is to apply the law fairly, impartially and respectfully to the parties who appear before me."

Rodgers is a member of Central United Methodist Church in Albemarle, where his wife, Laura, is the Director of Youth Ministries. Tim and Laura have two sons, Wesley and Jacob.

New Information for Anson Humane Society

Homeward Bound Humane Society has a new address and website. Please contact them if you need help with an animal in distress or if you would like to help the organization in their efforts to rescue and relieve suffering with area animals.

The new address is: Homeward Bound Humane Society, PO Box 291, Marshville NC 28103. The telephone number is 704-695-3116. The website is www.homewardboundhumane.org.

Don't Tell the Daffodils



In agreement with William Wordsworth, daffodils align rock barriers, edge beautiful gardens and spring up in extraordinary places amid the Anson County landscape. These breathtaking beauties are tended by Mrs. Evelyn Huntley. Breathe it in and drink it up, the beauty of the Buttercup! Photo and story by Melanie Morse

We're all familiar with the saying, "April showers bring May flowers," but don't tell the daffodils! Just look around and you will probably be affected by the beauty and abundance of this month's daffodils, too impatient to wait any longer to unfold her petals and seek the sunshine.

Buttercups, as they are often referred to in the Southern United States, have yellow blooms with petals surrounding a center cup, trumpet or bowl. The stems are typically long, narrow and poised and its leaves slender, sleek and extended.

So enjoy your pre-spring daffodil gazing for as long as these hearty flowers are in bloom. If they aren't gilding your

own garden then take a look around. There are plenty in local neighborhoods and around area buildings of interest. Seek them out; enjoy the beauty and fragrance of this wonderful flower indigenous to Anson County.

Poet William Wordsworth apparently had a fascination with the striking blossoms as well. I share a few words he once scribbled about the lovely daffodil, "I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high o'er vales and hills, when all at once I saw a crowd, a host of golden daffodils; beside the lake beneath the trees, fluttering and dancing in the breeze...And then my heart with pleasure fills and dances with the daffodils."

Parent/Teacher Conferences March 13

Anson County Schools will host parent/teacher conferences on Thursday, March 13. Schools will release early that day.

Here are the schedules:

DISMISSAL SCHEDULES

- Elementary schools dismiss at 1 p.m.
- Middle School, High School, Challenge Academy, Early College all dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE SCHEDULES

- All Elementary schools meet from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Middle School, High School, Challenge Academy, Early College meet from 2 to 7 p.m.

Anson Early College Open House is Monday

Anson County Early College will be holding an Open House for prospective students who are currently in the eighth grade and their parents. The Open House will be held on Monday, March 10, from 4 to

5 p.m.

The Early College is located on the campus of South Piedmont Community College in Polkton. For more information call Robby James at 704-272-5396.

Veterans Eligible for \$300 Stimulus Payment

Did you receive disability compensation, pension, or survivors' benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs last year? Even if you are not otherwise required to file a tax return, you may still be entitled to an economic stimulus payment from the federal government.

- What you could get: You could receive a payment of \$300 for individuals or \$600 if you are married and file a joint return with your spouse. Eligible taxpayers who qualify for a payment may receive an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. To qualify a child must be under age 17 as of December 31, 2007.
- What you need to do: All you have to do to get the stimulus payment is file a 2007 IRS Form 1040 or Form 1040A and report at least \$3,000 in qualifying income on the form. You can include the amount of your VA benefits to qualify for the stimulus payment.
- Qualifying income: Add the amount of your VA disability compensation, pension, or survivors' benefits to any other qualifying income you have to reach the \$3,000 requirement. Other qualifying income would include wage earnings or Social Security benefits.
- What you fill out: Enter your name, address, Social Security Number, and filing status on the form. Then just enter the

amount of VA and Social Security benefits you received on line 14a of the Form 1040A or line 20a of Form 1040. You can estimate the benefits you receive from the VA or the Social Security Administration by taking the monthly amount you received last year and multiplying it by the number of months you received payments. If you need to include wage earnings to reach the \$3,000 qualifying level, enter that amount on Line 7 of Form 1040A or 1040. In addition, you should write the words "Stimulus Payment" at the top of the 1040A or 1040.

- Is the stimulus payment taxable next year? No!
- Will this payment affect the amount of VA benefits you receive? No!
- When will I receive my payment? For those who file a 2007 tax return, IRS will begin mailing checks in May.

For more information, in late March 2008 the IRS will mail a packet of information to recipients of VA benefits who did not file a tax return last year. The packet will contain guidance to help you claim the stimulus payment. If you need information in the interim, you can visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

You may also contact Randy Davenport, Anson County Veteran Services Officer, at 704-694-4418

Could You be a Future Idol?

The red carpet will be rolled out once again for the third annual Anson Idol Singing Extravaganza on Saturday, March 22. This exciting competition will take place in the gym of Anson High School. The doors will open at 4 p.m., and contestants will take the stage beginning at 5 p.m. This event is open to all residents of Anson County, as well as surrounding counties who are 13 years of age or older. The person who is crowned "Anson Idol" will take home a \$500 cash prize.

To keep the audience entertained before the main event, a Future Idol Showcase

will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. This showcase is open to anyone who is 13 years old and younger and has talent that includes, but is not limited to, dancing, singing, playing a musical instrument, gymnasiums, baton, cheerleading, ect. All future idols must register onsite in the gym of Anson High School by 3:30 p.m. on the day of Anson Idol, and be ready to take the stage at 4 p.m.

For more information on the Anson Idol Singing Competition, or the Future Idol Showcase, please call the Holla hotline at 704-694-3552.

Parks and Recreation Easter Egg Hunt March 17

Anson County Parks and Recreation will hold an Easter egg hunt on Monday, March 17 at Little Park at 5:30 p.m. All kids from one year to ten years old are invited to come have fun. Prizes will be awarded!

Preregister with Parks and Recreation by Friday, March 14 at 5 p.m. by calling 704-694-5868 or coming by the office at Little Park. Remember to bring a basket or something to put your eggs in!

Volunteers to Feed Homeless and Needy on March 22

The Prayer Warriors along with the assistance of concerned citizens of Anson and Richmond Counties will feed the homeless, needy, sick and shut-in on Saturday, March 22 beginning at 11:30 a.m. This event will be held at the Wadesboro Homeless Shelter which is located on Salisbury Street.

Everyone is invited to participate. Come prepared to minister to their physical and spiritual needs. If your church or business would like to contribute to this needed cause you may contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412, Ester Lindsey at 704-848-8452 or Claude Spencer at 704-848-4119.

Look inside for these special inserts

- IGA
- Pizza Hut
- Save A Lot