

THE EXPRESS

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

Wadesboro Police Seize Over 50 Pounds of Marijuana

The Wadesboro Police Department found almost fifty-five pounds of marijuana while conducting a routine traffic stop on Wednesday, March 26.

At approximately 8:35 a.m. Patrol Officer Tom Luckey noticed two vehicles traveling east on Highway 74 exceeding the posted speed limit. A Ford Crown Victoria and a Ford F-150 pickup truck appeared to be following closely together. Having probable cause, Officer Luckey made a traffic stop on the F-150. He noticed that the Crown Victoria left the scene, so he notified police dispatch. Sgt. Gordon Jackson immediately responded, stopping the Crown Victoria. After an initial investigation it was determined that the driver of the truck was also the owner of the automobile. Upon further investigation and a search of both vehicles, 54.8 pounds of marijuana was seized from the trunk of the Crown Victoria.

Three people were arrested. They are Ismael Zapata Ocana, 35, of Charlotte, Juan Carlos Wong Tadeo, 27, of Huntersville, NC, and Victor Perez Corneio, 24, of Rock Hill, SC. They were charged with Conspiracy to Traffic Marijuana, Trafficking Marijuana, Possession with Intent to Sell and Deliver Marijuana, and Felony Possession of Marijuana.

Wadesboro Town Council Adopts Fire Codes

During the March 3 meeting of the Wadesboro Town Council they readopted the International Fire Codes with North Carolina Amendments (NCFC). The NCFC provides for and requires different types of permits for businesses to operate in North Carolina. These permit classifications are broken down into the following three basic groups:

- 1) General Use Permit, a basic permit which is renewable in the following categories: One Year - includes assembly, high rise, instructional, educational and residential home care; Two Years - includes manufacturing; Three Years - includes most business types.
- 2) Special Operations Permit, includes such special operations as blasting, trade show/exhibitions, fire-work sales, etc.
- 3) Construction Permit, issued for the installation or modification of certain equipment such as fire alarms, sprinkler systems, hood ventilation systems, underground fuel storage tanks, etc.

The Wadesboro Fire Department will commence charging fees for inspections and permits for all current and new businesses beginning April 15, 2008. Payment will be required prior to a new business inspection being conducted and prior to the issuance of a new permit for current businesses.

The Wadesboro Fire Department would also like to remind businesses that it is a violation of the Fire Code and Town Ordinance to operate a business without the proper permit being obtained prior to operations. For more information concerning this or any other fire safety matters, please contact the Wadesboro Fire Department at 704-694-2167.

Wadesboro IGA Among Stores Honored as Outstanding Retailer

Grocery industry trade publication Progressive Grocer has announced that Wadesboro IGA, along with IGA's US retailers, has been awarded the 2008 Outstanding Community Based Independent Retailer Award. According to the magazine this award recognizes IGA's work to excel in today's competitive market, their successes as food purveyors, their relationship and approach to service with customers, and IGA's status as a great place to work and shop.

According to Chris Sanford, owner of Wadesboro IGA, the award brings with it a continued responsibility to his customers. "We strive to bring our customers the preferred shopping experience in Anson County each and every day," Sanford said. "We are able to compete with larger stores because we know our customers and our community, and we care about the needs of both. That's the IGA way, and we're proud to be a part of an alliance of independent retailers who are recognized for quality and caring. We'll continue to meet the needs of our customers and stand up to the responsibility this award brings."

IGA USA CEO Mark Batenic said, "This award is a testament to the fact that IGA retailers such as the Wadesboro store are offering their customers convenient shopping with the assurance of quality products, providing a friendly and helpful staff, and demonstrating true support for their communities. On behalf of IGA USA, I'd like to congratulate Wadesboro IGA for working to create an environment where customers are recognized and appreciated."

Enjoy Great Food, Support Community Charity April 12

The three United Methodist Churches of New Hope, Bethel and Long Pine are holding their annual Spring Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, April 12, from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. (or until the food runs out!). The delicious menu will consist of chicken, roll, slaw, baked beans, drink and a dessert...and plenty of smiles. The cost is only \$6, with all proceeds going to help others.

The three churches are committed to helping those in need. Since they began these fundraising efforts in 2002, they have helped needy families by paying electric bills, rent, car payments, food, medical costs, home repairs and in many other ways. To date they have raised and given out over \$20,000.

Each year the three churches have spring and fall fundraisers. They urge everyone to come out and support their efforts, enjoy good food and fellowship and help them continue their ministry to those in need.

The event will take place at Bethel Community Building, which is located on Highway 742 South, across from Bethel Church.

Quiz Bowl Team Scores Well in Competitions



The Anson High School Public Library Quiz Bowl Team has just competed in two competitions. They took a third place in Stanly County, and fourth place in the Western District competition in Lexington.

Quiz Bowl gives high school students a chance to participate in academic competition and receive a share of the spotlight normally reserved for high school athletes. At a time of criticism of our educational system and accounts of lower test scores among students, let's join together in encouraging learning by praising our Public Library/School Quiz Bowl success. We are proud of our Anson Quiz Bowl Team.

Pictured here are Phoebe Medlin, Director of Hampton B. Allen Library; team members Beau Johnson, Anna Tucker, Megan Rogers (captain) and Alex Trice; Young Adult Librarian Kit Brewer; and Anson High School coach Stephen Green.

As National Arbor Day Approaches Why Not Plant a Tree or Two?

While serving as the Secretary of Agriculture during Grover Cleveland's Presidency, Julius Sterling Morton worked to have one day set aside in dedication of tree planting and increasing awareness of the importance of trees. Morton, a journalist and politician, can proudly proclaim his most important legacy, Arbor Day, first taking place on April 10, 1872.



In 1970, National Arbor Day was proclaimed by President Richard Nixon as the last Friday in April, which is April 26 this year, and if you are a homeowner Arbor Day is a wonderful time to look over your land. Take note of anything requiring attention and have it tended to and make a mental or physical map of how new plantings could improve your property both in looks and in value. Visit local businesses and make your purchases to honor Arbor Day and, of course, at the same time beautify your little patch of soil.

Take time to notice how your neighborhood fares by way of tree plantings? Are the trees in your area well main-

tained and in good physical condition? Make sure, especially when dealing with very mature trees, that they are both respected and protected. Replacing a very old tree, for most of us, would take longer than a lifetime to see to fruition. So don't just start chopping those old beauties, save them, preserve them, herald them the kings and queens of all trees, while at the same time adding new ones to adorn the walkways, sidewalks, byways, greenways, pathways and highways in our lives.

Speak with your neighbors. Maybe they too would like to see preservation and conservation. They may be attuned to your idea for new plantings. You have a few weeks to oversee this effort so make it one that really matters in your neck of the woods. Trees are not only beautiful; they can help with heat and wind control as well. So why not use Arbor Day as a time for the beginning of your beautification efforts around your home, yard and neighborhood. You might even think of planting trees at local schools, parks, libraries, or throughout your community. But be sure and get permission before taking this any further than your own backyard.

Some trees easily grown in North Carolina include the Royal Empress, Tulip Poplar, Red Maple, Autumn Maple, American Holly, Dogwood, Pear, Cherry and Crepe Myrtle to name a very few. Why not try these, or thousands of other varieties that may better suit you and your needs? What matters most is not the type, but rather the trees you actually get planted into the soil. What better way to make this world a prettier place to live, thrive and grow? *By Melanie Morse*

Mobile Health Screening Clinic April Schedule

Free health screenings, which include blood pressure, heart rate, cholesterol and blood sugar for anyone over the age of 18, will be offered by the Healthy Ansonians Mobile Health Screening Clinic. The schedule for April is as follows:

- Wednesday, April 2, Mt. Pleasant UMC, McFarlan, 9:30 until 11:30 a.m.
- Thursday, April 3, Ansonville VFD, 9:00 a.m. until noon
- Friday, April 4, Lilesville Town Hall, 9 until 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 8, IGA, 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon
- Wednesday, April 9, Morven Senior Meal Site, 9:30 a.m. until noon
- Wednesday, April 9, Morven UMC, 3 until 6 p.m.
- Thursday, April 10, Wal-Mart, noon until 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 15, Burnsville VFD, 1 to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 16, Anson Station (Old Wal-Mart), 9 a.m. until noon
- Thursday, April 17, Peachland Center, 9 a.m. until noon
- Friday, April 18, Twin Valley Country Club, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- Friday, April 18, South Piedmont Community College, 4:30 until 8:30 p.m.

The Mobile Clinic does not operate on days that Anson County Schools are delayed or closed due to inclement weather. For more information contact Linda Griffin, RN, BSN at 704-695-3488 or 704-694-5131.

Writer's Club Meets

The Anson County Writers' Club will meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, at the Anson County Chamber of Commerce offices, located at 107-A East Wade Street in Wadesboro. The program will feature the down-home, humorous works by Barry Bunn. The public is welcome.

Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge BBQ is Friday

The Friends of the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge will hold their Annual BBQ and Membership Drive on Friday, April 4. There will be an Open House at 5:30 p.m., then dinner will be at 6 p.m.

The event will take place at the refuge which is located on Highway 52 North. When you turn into the refuge, go to the Maintenance Building. The cost is \$7 per person, \$4 for children 12 and under.

Everyone is invited to come out to see and hear about what is happening on the Refuge. Different levels of membership are available. Membership fees go to support the programs at the refuge. Come enjoy great food, fellowship and door prizes. For more information contact the Refuge office at 704-694-4424.

Grace Annual Health Fair is April 8

Grace Senior Center's Annual Health Fair will be held on Tuesday, April 8 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Various vendors will participate, and a free lunch will be served.

If you are interested, call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register and for more information.

Free Groceries for those in Need April 29

The Mobile Food Pantry is coming to Bethel United Methodist Church in Wadesboro on Tuesday, April 29 at 11 a.m. This is a chance for those who need help to receive free groceries.

Here is information about participation: Please bring bags or carts with you to carry your food. Do not arrive before 9:30 a.m. If it is raining the day of or the day before the delivery, it will be cancelled. If you have not done so, your household proof of your income. You can pick up food for yourself and one other household.

The Mobile Food Pantry is sponsored by W.A.C.O.M. and local United Methodist Churches. For further information, contact Reverend Robert Herron at 704-694-3654.

Look inside for these special inserts

- IGA
- H.W. Little & Co.
- Pizza Hut
- Save A Lot