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

## Sheriff's Office Closing in on Church Vandals

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies have arrested one man and have warrants on two other individuals for the November 14th vandalism of Cedar Hill AME Zion Church, located in the northern part of Anson County.

On Monday, April 2nd deputies charged Bryan Matthew Balsler, age 21, of Albemarle with Breaking and Entering, Larceny, Damage to Property and Burning a Religious Building. Balsler is currently in the Rowan County Jail under similar charges and under a \$1,000,000 bond. A second suspect also is in the Rowan County Jail and warrants were expected to be served on him Tuesday, April 3rd. He is identified as Daniel Tyler Huneycutt, age 19. He will face similar charges as Balsler.

The Sheriff's Office also has warrants on a third suspect, but at this time are not releasing that name. These individuals are believed to have been involved in numerous church and business property vandalism in Anson, Stanly and Rowan Counties. Sheriff Tommy Allen said that his office has been working on this case constantly. "These individuals were our suspects early on in the investigation. We had interviewed them, but they denied any involvement and we just didn't have enough information to make arrests at the time," Allen said. Suspects will all be returned to Anson County to stand trial after their charges in Rowan County have been disposed. Damage to the church was in the tens of thousands of dollars. All repairs have been made and a re-dedication of the church was made last month.

## Ansonville Elementary School Science Fair Project Winners



Pictured here from left, front are (3rd Grade): Taylor Burr, Madison Dutton, Emily Edwards. Second row (4th Grade): Akela Martin, Madisen Kirby, A.J. Harrington, Daquarius Allen. Third row (5th Grade): Justin Lee, Marley Tarlton, Grace Morgan, Alex Walsh. Fourth row (6th Grade): Matthew Burns, Taylor Austin, Savannah Sommerville. Jacob Caruso and Marah Jacobs are not pictured.

Ansonville Elementary School recently held their annual Math/Science Project Night. Parents and students enjoyed math and science games in the classrooms with the teachers, and they were also able to view the students' Science Fair Projects that were on display in the gymnasium. AES would like to congratulate the following students who won ribbons and certificates for great projects.

**3RD GRADE WINNERS:**  
1st Place- Taylor Burr for "Which Chip Contains the Most Fat?"  
2nd Place- Jacob Caruso for "Do Fruit and Vegetables Produce Electricity?"  
3rd Place- Madison Dutton for "A Day in the Life of Your Heart"  
Honorable Mention: Emily Edwards for "Stain Out!"

**4TH GRADE WINNERS:**  
1st Place- Akela Martin for "Weeds Be Gone!"  
2nd Place- Madisen Kirby for "Wind Power"  
3rd Place- A.J. Harrington for "Organic vs. Inorganic"

Honorable Mention- Daquarius Allen for "Nucleation Goes Nuclear!"

**5TH GRADE WINNERS:**  
1st Place- Justin Lee for "How Fast do Worms Multiply?"  
2nd Place- Marley Tarlton for "Which Uses More Water, a Bath or a Shower?"  
3rd Place- Grace Morgan for "Can You Push an Egg Into a Bottle Without Using Your Hands?"  
Honorable Mention-Alex Walsh for "How Does Buoyancy Affect Dive and Surface?"

**6TH GRADE WINNERS:**  
1st Place- Matthew Burns for "Alcohol Rockets"  
2nd Place- Marah Jacobs for "The Science Behind Cheesecakes"  
3rd Place- Taylor Austin for "What Makes Your Muffins Rise?"  
Honorable Mention- Savannah Sommerville for "Poker Face"

## GrowGreen Power Says They are Still on Go for Anson County

GrowGreen Power, an integrator of renewable energy and greenhouse growing systems announced in the summer of 2011 that Anson County had been selected for their next site. Since then talks have seemingly gone silent and the development and building of the greenhouse is nowhere to be found.

The \$250 million GrowGreen Power Center boasted that over 300 permanent jobs would eventually be available here, a huge boost for our county, still struggling with high unemployment rates.

Many skeptics feel that GrowGreen has moved on the "greener pastures," and are no longer interested in locating their mega million dollar facility here. "Not true said Mr. Sean Lehman, Director of Communications for GrowGreen. We are currently working our way through the administrative and bureaucratic concerns. Funding was halted during the holidays, and it is, admittedly, taking longer than we anticipated to get this site up and going."

Also, Lehman said, "We are not giving out the exact location of the land selected in Anson County. There are several requirements we are still sorting out."

According to Lehman, the plant, the jobs, the power, the products are all still on go, and an announcement as to their new target date is soon to follow. So do not dismiss the encouraging news of the initial announcement. GrowGreen may still be on go.

You may see the original article that was in The Express about GrowGreen's announcement by visiting our website, [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com). Click on "Past Editions" and look for the front page of the August 10, 2011 edition.  
By Melanie Lyon

## Writers Conference to Also Feature Friday Event at Ansonia

The fourth annual Carolinas Writers Conference will be held from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 14 at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Featured presenters are Margaret Maron, *Coming Home with the Bootleggers Daughter* and Anthony Abbott, *Poetry and Secrets of the Heart*. Cost is \$25.

In addition to the two main addresses, the conference attendees will have a choice of 13 sessions led by writing and publishing professionals. These will be repeated in the afternoon to give attendees a choice of three to four workshops or readings. The conference will conclude with a panel discussion on "How to Get Published."

A kick-off event on Friday, April 13, will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro. Four NC storytellers will entertain with folk tales, ghost stories and memoirs. Back Porch Stories is free to the public, but tickets must be obtained from the Anson County Arts Council (ACAC) by calling 704-694-4950.

The conference is sponsored by the Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC), South Piedmont Community College and the Hampton B. Allen Library. Back Porch Stories is sponsored by the ACWC, Anson County Tourism Development and the ACAC.

For details, go to [www.ansoncountywritersclub.org](http://www.ansoncountywritersclub.org).



## Anson High School Parent Teacher Organization Asks for Community's Participation

In a release from the Anson High School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO): We have a mission statement: Parents, teachers, and community working together to make a positive difference in the lives of ALL students.

We have a meeting planned: Thursday, April 19 at 5:30 p.m. in Anson High School Media Center. We have a plan...But we need you!! Calling all interested parents and community members to join us and catch the vision for making a difference at Anson High School! Please join us!! AHS PTO - Catch the Vision!!

## Civitan Scholarship Applications Accepted Until May 7

The Wadesboro Civitan Club, the oldest civic organization in Anson County, will be accepting applications for college scholarships from now through May 7th. The club will be awarding \$1,000 scholarships to four college-bound students from Anson County this year.

Applications will be judged on academic achievement and financial need. Because good citizenship and community involvement are important Civitan goals, applications will also be judged on the evidence of students' involvement and leadership in clubs, churches, extracurricular activities, and charitable service to the community.

Application forms will be available through school guidance counselors, by writing the Civitan Club at PO Box 751, Wadesboro, NC 28170, or by telephoning Sandra Pliescott, Chairman of the Civitan Scholarship Committee, at 704-694-7853 evenings and weekends or at 704-694-4106 during business hours.

## BB&T Names Holly Kiker Local Advisory Board Member



BB&T today announced that Dr. Holly Allison Kiker has been elected and installed to its Anson County local advisory board. Kiker is an Anson County native and the owner of Anson Family Optometric in Wadesboro. She is a graduate of North Carolina State University and the Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

Kiker is also a member of the Wadesboro Rotary Club, the Sandhills Optometric Society and the Anson County Board of Health.

## Sandra Harmon Clive Memorial Fund Spay Clinic

The first Spay and Neuter Clinic sponsored by the Sandra Harmon Clive Memorial Fund was held on March 8 at Brown Creek Animal Hospital. Local citizens and their furry friends came out to take advantage of the generosity offered by the fund in helping pay for the procedures.

There will be another clinic on April 26, as well as other future dates. Applications for the April 26th clinic are being accepted now, and are available at the Anson County Health Department, Brown Creek Animal Hospital, the Hampton B. Allen Library and the Bookmobile. Bring your completed application to the Health Department. Those people selected to participate in the clinic will be contacted one week prior to the event.



Brownie says, "Thanks Mrs. Clive!"

## Anson County Farmers Face Deadlines for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments, Other Programs

Anson County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Acting County Executive Director Amy Yaklin is reminding producers that the 2012 deadline to enroll in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) program is Friday, June 1.

"Anson County producers interested in DCP should visit the USDA Service Center where their farm is administered and sign up," said Yaklin. "Enrollments cannot be accepted after the deadline. Enrolling early means avoiding a missed deadline during this busy season."

DCP provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for any of the 2008 through 2012 crop years. The two types of DCP payments, direct payments and counter-cyclical payments, are calculated using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. DCP is authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill).

Other FSA programs having enrollment deadlines include:

- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (check with the Anson County FSA Service Center for dates)
- GRAZE-OUT - March 31 for calendar year 2011 crops;
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-up 43 - April 6;
- Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) - June 1;
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) - June 1, 2012 for crop year 2010;
- 2011 ACRE Production Evidence - July 15;
- Certification of Planted Acres - Various deadlines, but no later than June 30;
- Farm Reconstitutions (changes) - August 1, 2012 for the 2012 crop year;
- MILC - Sept. 30, 2012;
- Crop Insurance - Contact a crop insurance agent or the regional RMA office.

For information on how a late filed provision may apply, or for more information on FSA programs, producers and farmers should contact the Anson County FSA Service Center at 704-694-3516, extension 2. Or visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## SPCC Adds Multimedia, Web Design Certificates

South Piedmont Community College's Advertising and Graphic Design program will add two new certificates beginning in the fall.

The Multimedia Design certificate will require 18 total credit hours, spread over two semesters. The Web Design certificate will require 16 total credit hours, also spread over two semesters. All classes for both will be offered at night.

Classes needed for the Multimedia Design certificate will be "Web Development Tools," "Computer Design Basics," "Intro to Internet Multimedia," "Social Media," "Animation I," "Multimedia Design I" and "Multimedia Design II."

Classes taught for the Web Design certificate will be "Web Development Tools," "Computer Design Basics," "Internet/Web Fundamentals," "Animation I," "Web Design" and "Multimedia Design."

For more information about either certificate program, contact Linda Ward at 704-290-5279 or [lmward@spcc.edu](mailto:lmward@spcc.edu), Cheryl Hicks at 704-290-5815 or [chicks@spcc.edu](mailto:chicks@spcc.edu), or John Hill at [jhill@spcc.edu](mailto:jhill@spcc.edu).

## County-Wide Yard Sale for Toys for Tots Saturday

Toys For Tots will have a county-wide yard sale this Saturday, April 7th, beginning at 5:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Burger King. All items are \$1 or less. Everyone is urged to please come. All proceeds go for the 2012 Toys For Tots Christmas campaign.

For further information or to donate please contact Vancine Sturdivant (704) 848-4412, Dr. Bernice Bennett (704) 694-6616 or Jennifer Tarlton (704)694-3115.

## Democratic Party Convention is April 14

The Anson County Democratic Party will host their County Convention at the Hampton B. Allen Library, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with "meet & greet." The Convention will begin at 10 a.m. Senator William "Bill" Purcell will be the guest speaker.

For more information please contact Lonnie Baucom (704) 694-5981.

## Early Release for Students on Thurs.

Anson County Schools has announced early release information for Thursday, April 5.

- Wadesboro Primary and Wadesboro Elementary Schools dismiss at 12:30 p.m.
- Ansonville, Lilesville, Morven and Peachland-Polkton Elementary Schools dismiss at 1 p.m.
- All middle schools and high schools dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA HW Little