

1502
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 149
Wadesboro, NC
28170

Postal
Customer

THE EXPRESS

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.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet May 1

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1. The Commissioners meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

Anson County Board of Education Regular Meeting is Monday, April 30

Board of Education meetings now begin at 4:30 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular meeting on Monday, April 30 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Open session to the public should begin around 5:30 p.m.



Smoke on the Mountain Play Opens at Ansonia Theatre May 11

The hit comedy musical *Smoke on the Mountain* is coming to the Ansonia Theatre for two weekends, May 11-20. This crowd favorite takes place at a Saturday night gospel sing at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in 1938. The Sanders Family Singers are back on the gospel circuit after a 5 year hiatus, and on their way to the church their bus turns over making them late. But, this sweet and quirky family are eager to spread the gospel through song and celebration.

Through storytelling of their own personal struggles and lessons, which are often hilarious, we get to really know the Sanders family. Their approach seems a little too progressive for some of the long time members of Mount Pleasant and feathers begin to get ruffled.

This heart warming show is a mix between the Andy Griffith Show and a good old fashioned North Carolina revival, and includes several of your favorite gospel hymns as well as several new songs written for the show.

The cast includes Tommy Wooten, Carolyn Munn, Steve Clyburn, Karlie Russell and Mark Traywick of Union County and Teri Brown, Paige Mercer, Maggie Gibson and Felicia Xavier of Anson County. The show is directed by Gina Clarke and Tommy Wooten.

Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased at www.ansoniatheatre.com or at 704-694-4950.

Columbus McKinnon to Expand Wadesboro Operations, Investing \$5.4 Million and Creating 19 Jobs

The Anson Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP) is pleased to announce that Columbus McKinnon Corporation (NASDAQ:CMCO), a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of material handling products, technologies and services, will expand operations in Wadesboro, creating 19 jobs. The company plans to invest \$5.4 million in its Anson County facilities, enabling the introduction of its STAHL line of crane products into the North American market. The average wage of the new positions will be \$49,897, which is above the Anson County average wage of \$32,584.

Columbus McKinnon, with headquarters in Getzville, New York, enjoys a rich 140-year tradition of excellence providing products and services such as hoists, actuators, cranes, and lifting and rigging tools. Last year, the company completed its acquisition of STAHL CraneSystems, a well-known brand of hoists and crane components based in Germany. The Anson County expansion will position the company to manufacturer STAHL products in North Carolina, introducing the line directly into the North American market.

Anson County and the Town of Wadesboro provided Industrial Tax Grants of \$135,000 and \$92,000, respectively, in support of the project. The Industrial tax Grant program offers new and expanding industries the opportunity to receive back a portion of its paid property taxes on new investment in the form of a grant. Additionally, a performance-based grant of \$60,000 from the One North Carolina Fund and a \$60,000 Rural Division Building Reuse Grant will help facilitate the expansion.

"AnsonEDP was pleased to work with Columbus McKinnon on this expansion, and to facilitate the support of the County Commissioners and Town Council to make it happen here in Wadesboro," said AnsonEDP's Executive Director, John B. Marek. "This was a very competitive project and the company's confidence in our workforce, resources and business environment is further proof that Anson County can successfully compete and win on a global scale."

AnsonEDP wants to thank N.C. Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C., who were instrumental in supporting the company's expansion decision. Other key partners in the project include the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Community College System, Anson County, the Town of Wadesboro and READY 2020.



Peachland-Polkton Elementary School's Terrific Kids

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School held its Terrific Kids Celebration for the third 9 weeks on Tuesday, April 17. Pictured are the students who were recognized for this honor. We are proud of these students for showing good character! From left, front row: Honesty Miller, Brianna Furr, CleAndra Robinson, Noah Spencer, Shahd Abbas, Madie Heafner, Raylen Hildreth, Madison Atkinson, Jamarius Bennett, Daniel Whinsant, Jase Ratliff, Ashley Marsh and Amalachoi Polk. Second row: Jamera Howard, Kaydance Barber, Nakia Thomas, Gavin Johnson, Cordarius Bivens, Kyrstyn Reed, Rodrigo Venegas Lopez, Jacob Wilson, Paysleigh Feagin and Phoenix Poulter. Third row: Destiny Lindsey, Truth Rorie, Quazireun Burns, Michael Smith, Hannah Griffin, Nicole Horne, Dequan McKeever, Justin Morton, Mya Logel, Nadia Vargas and Dock Hyatt. Fourth row: Willie McLendon, Emanuel Gomez-Lopez, Faith Fincher, Hannah Castro, Morgan Manis, Jasmine Bailey, Jackson Harrington, Eva Hyatt, Aaliya Phillips-Murdock and Jaylin Osborne. Not pictured: Braxton Hasty, Frederick Holmes, Maranda Redfearn, Rashad Moore, Tori Petrill and Brittany Phifer.

Cordero Little Busted for Armed Robbery in Burnsville

On Sunday, April 8 at 3:40 a.m. deputies with the Anson County Sheriff's Office were called to the Fast Shop on Highway 742 in Burnsville in reference to an armed robbery that had just occurred. At the scene deputies were advised by an employee that when he arrived to work and parked his car a subject wearing a hoody approached him pulled a firearm on him. The employee stated the hoodlum ordered him inside the store, and then the hoodlum took an undisclosed amount of cash. The employee the stated the man left, walking towards the Fire Department. After the hoodlum's departure from the store the employee called 911.



Cordero Little

Once on the scene deputies began an investigation into the robbery. Surveillance footage of the incident was viewed by deputies and a possible suspect was identified. Deputies attempted to locate the suspect but were unable to make contact.

On Monday, April 9 deputies executed a search warrant at the residence of the suspect. Multiple items of evidence connecting the suspect to the scene were found and recovered. Suspect Cordero Levonne Little, 23, was arrested and warrants were served for Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, Second Degree Kidnapping, Possession of Firearm by Felon, Possession with Intent Sell and Deliver Marijuana, and Possession of Cocaine. Little was placed in the Anson County Jail on a \$560,000 secured bond with a court date of April 23.

Sheriff Landric Reid stated that due to an accurate description of the suspect and video footage obtained from the store, his officers were able to develop a suspect and make an arrest. Sheriff Reid said, "I would like to thank my officers for their professionalism and dedication in the quick response in apprehending the suspect."

Randi Rivers, Jaylan Smith and Imisa Smith Arrested

Randi Rivers and Jaylan Smith charged in armed robbery in Hamlet

On Tuesday, April 17 an armed robbery occurred at a convenience store in Hamlet, NC. An attempt to locate the robber was issued to the Anson County Sheriff's Office describing the vehicle and suspect that had committed the robbery. Deputies with the Anson County Sheriff's Office located and stopped the vehicle on Highway 74 West near Fire Tower Road in Lilesville. Two suspects were in the vehicle, along with a weapon matching the description of the one that had been used in the robbery.

Contact was made with Hamlet Police Department and they responded to the scene to assist Anson deputies. The suspects were then turned over to officers from Hamlet Police and transported back to Hamlet.

Randi Sa'mone Rivers, 20, and Jaylan Deshawn Smith, 17, both of Wadesboro, were each charged with one count of Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon and Conspiracy to Commit Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon. Both suspects were placed in the Richmond County Jail. Smith was placed under a \$50,000 secured bond. Rivers was also served with an indictment on felony charges in Anson County. Court records show she is facing four counts of felony conspiracy, one felony count each of breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering, attempted first-degree burglary and a misdemeanor count of filing a false report at a police station. She was jailed under a total \$85,000 secured bond.

On Monday, April 16 a breaking and entering and larceny was reported on Highway 218 in Polkton. When a description of the vehicle involved was given to deputies, that vehicle was known to the deputies from previous incidents in Anson County. Arrest warrants had already been issued on Rivers for the breaking and entering in Anson County prior to the robbery in Hamlet. After the April 17 arrest of Rivers and Smith, deputies went to the Hamlet Police Department and interviewed the suspects involved in Hamlet robbery. Rivers and Smith were also charged with Felony Breaking and Entering and Larceny after Breaking and Entering by Anson County Deputies. Imisa Smith of Wadesboro was also charged with Felony Breaking and Entering, Felony Larceny after Breaking and Entering and Possession of Stolen Goods.

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "I would like to thank the Richmond County Sheriff's Office and Hamlet Police Department for their accurate and detailed description of the suspects and their vehicle. I also commend our Anson County officers for their professionalism demonstrated in the quick apprehension of the suspects."

Charlotte Man Busted with 3 Pounds of Pot at Polkton Checkpoint

On Friday, April 20 deputies from the Anson County Sheriff's Office were assisting the Polkton Police Department with a multi-agency traffic checkpoint in the city limits of Polkton. A newer model Chevy Silverado truck approached deputies at the intersection of Highway 218 and Williams Street, and when a deputy asked the driver for his license he noticed that the driver was very nervous. The deputy also noticed a smell of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. The deputy had the driver pull off the main road to a safe location and requested a K-9 to conduct a sniff of the truck. After the K-9 gave a positive indication to the presence of drugs the driver admitted that there was marijuana in the vehicle. A search was conducted and over 3 pounds of marijuana was found, along with a large amount of U.S. Currency and a firearm in the passenger area.

The suspect, Demetrius Adrian Ross, 34, from Charlotte, was arrested and charged with Possession With intent to Sell and Deliver Marijuana, Felony Possession Of Marijuana, Possession Of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, and Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia. Ross was placed in the Anson County Jail under a secured bond.

The investigation was conducted by the Anson County Sheriff's Office and Polkton Police Department. Sheriff Reid would also like to thank the K-9 officer and his partner from the Norwood Police Department for their assistance in this case.

SHIIP 'Welcome to Medicare' Seminar

Are you going to be eligible for Medicare in the near future? Have you been on Medicare for a while and want to better understand what it offers? Do you have a family member you help with Medicare issues?

'Welcome to Medicare' is for you. The free 'Welcome to Medicare' seminar will be held on Thursday, April 26 at 12:00 noon at the Grace Senior Center, and conducted by trained Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) volunteer counselors. The seminar will cover Medicare Part A and Part B benefits, the prescription drug benefit (Part D), Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare supplement insurance.

SHIIP is a service of the State of North Carolina. SHIIP counselors are trained by the state and do not sell or promote any insurance companies, policies or agents.

If you are interested please call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register and for additional information. The seminar is free.

BCSWCD Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 26 at the BCSWCD office located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-3516.

Artist Reception at HOLLA on Sunday

The community is invited to join the Anson County Arts Council for an Artist Reception on Sunday, April 29, from 3 to 5 p.m. The event will feature the work of Shakeeka Watts, Denny Maloney, Michael Phillips, James Price and other local artists. Light refreshments will be served.

The event will take place at the HOLLA Center, located at 229 Main Street in Morven. It is sponsored by the Drake Gallery in conjunction with HOLLA.