

1555  
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](mailto:TheExpressNews@gmail.com) • [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://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 7

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7 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.

## Wadesboro Council Special Meeting

The Town of Wadesboro Town Council will hold a special meeting this Thursday, May 2 at 5:00 p.m. at the Wadesboro Fire Department's training room to discuss the following:

- 2019-2020 Budget.
- Any other business to come before the council

## Have Diabetes? Pre-Diabetes?

**Free Living Healthy with Diabetes class can change your life.**

You don't have to stop doing the things you love to do. The key to getting the most out of life is learning to manage your symptoms before they manage you! Together we will create a "tool box" to help understand emotions, healthy eating, problem solving, the role of physical activity and more!

This is a course focused on your personal choice-you work on what you want to work on. It's an exciting course that is very interactive.

Living with or caring for someone with Diabetes can affect your quality of life. This six-week, no cost Living Healthy with Diabetes workshop is designed to help you better manage your Diabetes and live a happier, healthier life!

Whether you have been recently diagnosed with diabetes, pre-diabetes or have had diabetes for years this workshop will give the tools and techniques you need to find practical ways to deal with your stress, discover better nutrition and exercise choices that will work for you.

This has been a really popular program throughout the country-the research issues out of Stanford University and people who have taken part in this program have improvements in: Exercise, symptom management, communication with doctors, general health improvements and fatigue.

The no cost, Living Healthy with Diabetes classes are held at the Grace Senior Center, located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA. This is a six week class that is scheduled for every Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. starting May 16 through June 20.

Class size is limited and registration is required. Call Rita Short at 704-694-6217 or 704-994-3494 and start living healthier and happier!

## Wadesboro Lions Club and Captain D's Spirit Night

On this Thursday, May 2 the Wadesboro Lions Club will participate in Captain D's Spirit Night. You can support your Wadesboro Lions Club and their many charitable works by dining with Captain D's. (Drive-through or dine-in)

If you use the drive-through, tell the order taker you want to support the Lions Club. This will not add anything to your meal cost, but will allow the Lions to receive a donation from Captain D's.

If you dine-in you will have an opportunity, for a small donation, to win a free meal or fries or fish sandwich and several other items.

All proceeds benefit the blind and visually impaired in Wadesboro and Anson County.

For information about the different projects of the Wadesboro Lions Club please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

## American Red Cross Lifeguarding Course Offered

Anson County Parks & Recreation is offering American Red Cross Lifeguarding courses. Beginner classes will be held May 3, 4 and 5 for a cost of \$175. Renewal classes will be held May 10 and 11 for a cost of \$100.

To be eligible for the Lifeguarding course the participant must be 15 years of age on or before the final scheduled session of this course. The participant must successfully complete the following:

- 1) Swim 300 yards continuously, using these strokes in the following order:
  - 100 yards of front crawl using rhythmic breathing and a stabilizing, propellant kick. Rhythmic breathing can be performed either by breathing to the side or the front.
  - 100 yards of breaststroke using a pull, breathe, kick or glide sequence.
  - 100 yards of either the front crawl or breaststroke. The 100 yards may be a combination of front crawl and breaststroke.
- 2) Starting in the water, swim 20 yards using front crawl or breaststroke, surface, dive 7-10 feet, retrieve a 10-pound object, return to the surface, swim 20 yards back to the starting point with the object and exit the water without using a ladder or steps, within 1 minute 40 seconds.
- 3) Tread water for 2 minutes without the use of hands.

For information or to enroll call the instructor Wendell Small at 704-695-2782.

## Harvest Ministries Offers Free Clothing and Free Groceries

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center in Wadesboro operates two programs to benefit those people in need in Anson County. The Community Clothes Closet LightHouse offers free clothing and the Helping Hands Community Food Pantry offers free groceries.

The hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. No documentation is required.

Harvest Ministries is located at 1134 East Caswell Street (Highway 74) in Wadesboro, behind McDonalds. The telephone number is 704-695-2879.



## Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Terrific Kids

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School held its Terrific Kids Celebration for the first nine weeks on Tuesday, February 16. Pictured are the students who were recognized for this honor.

We are proud of these students for showing good character!

From left, front row: Matthew Vann, Bryant Barnhill, Paisley Martin, Nolan Granados, Brantley Horne, Jiya Shah, Amalachi Polk, Maliyah McNeil, Jackson Bricker, Eli Bennett and Jaycee Carpenter. Second row: Ella Watson, Brodie Lear, Daquan Jenkins, Tyler Eddins, Tabatha Pierre, Zariya Tyson, Carlee Brown, Victor Walker, Nema Taylor, Chloe Treadaway and Honesti Spencer. Third row: Caroline Drake, Daniel Whisnant, Ana Lugo, Zaniyah Hough, Lincoln Rivera, Honesty Mungo, Gabe Lear, Gracilee Bricker, Jared Horne, Eli Williams, Christopher Harrington and Jadis Burns. Fourth row: Slade Winfield, Nykidra Clyburn, Paisley Steele, Jacob Harrington, Matthew Johnson, Elijah Britt, Jordan Hanson, Joshua Romero Castro, Charlie Jarrell, Elijah Wilks, Jadaisha Smith, Dixie Fincher and Lyndee McCollum. Not pictured: Malaysia Lotharp.

## New Winery and Event Venue Breaks Ground In Anson County

As a child, one of Dorrie Evans favorite places was her grandparents' farm in the southwest corner of Anson County. Known to three generations of her family as "The Old Place," it was a gathering spot for holidays and special occasions; a place where memories were made and familial bonds strengthened. Dorrie and her husband Rodney hope to rekindle that spirit and share it with others at their new venture, Vineyard at The Old Place.

AnsonEDP and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce were on hand on Tuesday, April 23 as the earth movers started work on what will eventually become a premier entertainment venue for the entire southeast Charlotte region. Featuring a new 2,400 square foot tasting room and event center along with several renovated historic buildings and a working vineyard already located on the 50 acre property, the Evanses plan to open to the public in the fall of this year.

"The builders say 5-6 months to complete the site work and finish the construction, so we are targeting September or October for the grand opening, and expect to book Christmas and New Years parties, as well as a fall festival," said Rodney Evans.

"With hay rides," added Dorrie. "My grandfather would always hitch up the mule and take us kids for rides through the woods to see the leaves changing colors. We'll have to substitute a tractor for the mule, but that's a tradition I'm looking forward to starting back up."

Like many families with agricultural roots, Dorrie's moved away from farming the land themselves and began leasing it to larger, more efficient operations as new generations found jobs in towns and cities. When she inherited 227 acres of The Old Place, though, the wheels were set in motion to return a portion of it to hands-on growing, combining her's and Rodney's interest in wine with their desire to reinvigorate the homestead.

The facility, which AnsonEDP had dubbed "Project Muscadine," has been in the works for more than two years, according to AnsonEDP executive director John Marek. "The Evanses first contacted me in the spring of 2017 and told me of their plans for a vineyard/winery/event venue. I was very enthusiastic because I had helped launch a similar project in Troutman, Daveste Vineyards, a few years back and it has been very successful. I had seen first-hand how a business like the one they were proposing could transform a rural community. On my first visit to the site I was absolutely blown away by the natural beauty of the rolling hills and verdant fields, and immediately thought this will work."

Working with the couple to navigate the various permitting, financing and site development hurdles, AnsonEDP was close to announcing the project in November of 2018 when an unexpected twist nearly derailed it. Although wineries are specifically protected by state law and allowed to operate even in "dry" counties, the Evanses were still attuned to the results of a fall ballot initiative which would have made the sale of alcoholic beverages legal in all corners of Anson County. A positive vote on alcohol would have allowed the venue to serve a greater array of beverages and potentially paved the way for an onsite brewery; it was not key to the immediate business plan, but would have been a catalyst for future growth. However, the extent to which the initiative failed - by nearly a two-to-one margin - greatly concerned the couple and caused them to wonder whether their business would truly be welcome in the community. To counter the negativity of the vote, Marek facilitated meetings with the Evanses and key elected officials and community leaders who convinced the couple that they were not only welcome, but wanted, and the project moved forward.

In addition to capital investment of over half a million dollars, Vineyard at the Old Place will create up to 10 new jobs, including positions in hospitality and production. "We currently have two acres of Carlos and Noble muscadine vines and will eventually expand that to five acres, which will require some hired assistance. And, of course we will need staff to help us with events," Rodney said.

The site is near the intersection of Long Pine Church and Austin Roads, roughly a half hour from Monroe, Lancaster and Wadesboro and about an hour from Uptown Charlotte. Its rural character is an important part of its allure, or as the Evans put it, "close enough for an easy drive, but far enough to feel like you're getting away from it all." In addition to renting the event space out for weddings, class reunions, bridal showers and other private parties, the couple plan to hold regular public events such as concerts, festivals and dinners.



Rodney and Dorrie Evans



Article courtesy of AnsonEDP

## NAACP Reorganization Meeting May 9

On Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m. there will be a NAACP reorganization meeting held at Atrium Health on Highway 74 W, Wadesboro in the Community Room. The meeting will be hosted by NAACP State Secretary Sylvia Barnes.

A \$30 membership due must be paid at the meeting. There must be 30 members to organize. Officers will be nominated and elected.

For more information contact Jesse Campbell at 704-695-1286 or Dannie Montgomery at 704-694-8326.

All interested citizens are welcome.

## Grace Senior Center Health Fair has been Cancelled

Grace Senior Center's Senior Information & Health Fair scheduled for Thursday, May 9 has been cancelled.

For more information call Mary Jones at 704-694-6616 or [mjones@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:mjones@co.anson.nc.us).

## Foster Parent and Caregiver Support Group

The Foster Parent and Caregiver Support Group meeting will be held at the Anson County Department of Social Services, located at 118 North Washington Street in Wadesboro, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Resources and refreshments will be provided free.

Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995 or you can email her at [connectionsfsp@gmail.com](mailto:connectionsfsp@gmail.com) to register.

## Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo games are held every second Tuesday of the month at Grace Senior Center at 11 a.m. All seniors are invited to attend for fun and fellowship. There is no cost, but you must be 55 or older to play.

For more information or to register to play call the center at 704-694-6616.

## DSS Yard Sale this Saturday

The of Social Services (DSS), located at 118 North Washington Street in Wadesboro, will hold a yard sale this Saturday, May 4, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon. Everyone is invited to come for great deals on clothing for ladies, men and children, and many other items. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to Relay for Life.