

THE EXPRESS

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

Postal
Customer

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.

Rockingham Man Drowns at the Pee Dee River Boat Landing on Memorial Day

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies investigated a drowning at the Pee Dee River, below Lilesville, late Monday afternoon (Memorial Day). Deputies were called to an area near the NC Wildlife public boat landing around 7 p.m. on Monday, May 27th. Witnesses told officers that Matthew Callahan, age 26, was swimming across the cove when he appeared to be in some distress. One person attempted to swim out to him, but Callahan went under before the rescuer could get to him. Callahan never surfaced again. Rescue Squads from Anson and Richmond Counties responded to the situation. The body was recovered around 11 p.m. Monday night. Sheriff Tommy Allen said that this appears to be a tragic accident. "These things start happening this time of the year. This is kind of a remote area, but is a place often used for swimming, partying, drinking and such," Allen said. "People come from both counties, even though it's on the Anson County side. The water is still pretty cold. We're not sure what contributed to his distress."

The Sheriff said he would not know if alcohol or hypothermia was involved until after the medical examiner finished their investigation.

Callahan's address was listed as Rockingham.

Safe Kids Anson Urges Parents to Teach Children Bicycle Safety



Safe Kids Anson coalition members visited Anson Children's Center last week to distribute helmets for children to use while enjoying the new concrete trike paths recently added to their outdoor learning environment. "The new trike paths allow these children to experience the joy of riding bikes," said Kim Wilson, Safe Kids Anson Coordinator. "It's important they are protected properly so they are free to learn and test their capabilities."

Wilson continued, "There are so many great reasons to ride bikes: It offers fun, freedom and exercise. We encourage kids and families to ride their bikes as much as possible, however safety should be a priority. More children ages 5 to 14 are seen in emergency rooms for injuries related to biking than any other sport. Helmets can reduce the risk of severe brain injuries by 88 percent - yet only 45 percent of children 14 and under usually wear a bike helmet."

Wilson concluded, "We have a simple saying: 'Use your head, wear a helmet.' It is the single most effective safety device available to reduce head injury and death from bicycle crashes."

Kids learn from watching you, so it's extra important for parents to model proper behavior. Wear a helmet, even if you didn't when you were a kid. Your children's helmet should meet the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's standards. When it's time to purchase a new helmet, let your children pick out their own. They'll be more likely to wear it for every ride.

Safe Kids Anson is a local coalition dedicated to providing programs that educate the community and helping families, caregivers and educators prevent childhood injuries. For additional resources on bicycle safety, visit www.safekids.org.



Wadesboro Police Officers Meet with Governor McCrory

On Monday, May 20th North Carolina launched its Memorial Day Click it or Ticket campaign, orchestrated by the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP), marking the program's 20th anniversary. In 1993, North Carolina launched the Click it or Ticket safety initiative and it was the first of its kind. Now, nearly every State in the nation has implemented the initiative that has drastically increased seatbelt use nationwide, and has grossly reduced traffic fatalities.

In recognition of the anniversary and launch of the Click it or Ticket campaign, under the direction of Chief Thedis L. Spencer, the Wadesboro Police Department conducted a nighttime seatbelt enforcement safety initiative on Monday, May 20. Enforcement was focused on Westbound US 74 traffic in the Wade Mill area of Wadesboro. At the end of the two hour operation nearly 20 enforcement actions were taken on restraint violations, along with a DWI charge and a texting while driving enforcement action. Officer Joshua Leviner with the department's Highway Interdiction Team (HIT) stated that he was "shocked" by how many safety belt violations were observed during the operation. Patrol Lieutenant Steven Kelly headed up the operation.

Josh Leviner (right) with Governor McCrory.



Scott Gullede (right) with Governor McCrory.



Brandon Smith (left) with Governor McCrory.

On Tuesday, May 21 Leviner along with officers Scott Gullede and Brandon Smith, in recognition for the department's continued efforts in enforcing and promoting traffic safety, attended an invitation only luncheon in Raleigh hosted by Governor Pat McCrory and the GHSP. The luncheon was a celebration marking the 20th anniversary of Click it or Ticket. Following the luncheon officers from Wadesboro got the opportunity to meet and speak with Governor McCrory and also with North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall and Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs La Nica T. Allison. Deputy Secretary Allison oversees the GHSP.

"The Wadesboro Police Department has always been committed to ensuring the safe travel of all motorists on the streets and highways of our city, and we will continue to do so by remaining vigilant in our enforcement efforts," said Chief Spencer. "Under my direction, the officers of the Wadesboro Police Department will be strictly enforcing safety belt violations to ensure the safety of our citizens and visitors. This is your warning - click it or ticket."

The current cost of an adult safety belt violation is \$161. The 2013 Memorial Day Click it or Ticket campaign will last until Sunday, June 2.

Vancine Sturdivant Appointed to Martin Luther King Jr. Commission



Vancine Sturdivant has been appointed to serve on the NC Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission.

Vancine Sturdivant was recognized at the opening of the Sandhills Behavioral Center in Wadesboro for being appointed by Speaker of the House Thom Tillis to serve on the North Carolina Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. The purpose of the NC Martin Luther King Jr. Commission is to encourage activities and ceremonies across the state that honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to promote an awareness and appreciation of his life.

Sturdivant was recommended to Speaker Tillis for all her dedication and service in Anson County and for her leadership roles within the African American community. She was also required to submit an application, resume and biography to be reviewed by the Speaker. After a rigorous application process and careful consideration, the Speaker appointed Vancine to this very prestigious position.

During the presentation it was stated, "I am confident Mrs. Sturdivant will represent Anson County well on the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission and will work hard to honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s name and reputation throughout the state. Congratulations Mrs. Sturdivant!"

Free Kids' Fishing Events Scheduled for National Fishing and Boating Week 2013

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission, in partnership with Neuse Sport Shop, Trout Unlimited and the US Forest Service, is supporting more than 35 free fishing events for kids from late May through early June. The events, which are held throughout the state each year in celebration of National Fishing and Boating Week, are listed on the Commission's website www.ncwildlife.org alphabetically by county.

- In Richmond County the event will be held at McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery on June 8, from 8 a.m. to noon. Register there at the event. Information rick.bradford@ncwildlife.org or 910-895-5330.
- In Stanly County the event will be held at City Lake Park in Albemarle on June 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register by calling 704-984-9567.
- In Montgomery County the event will be held at Kings Mountain Point Recreation Area at Badin Lake on June 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. Register there at the event for kids 13 and younger. Information deborahwalker@fs.fed.us or 910-576-6391.

Young anglers registered at any fishing event can enter a statewide drawing for a chance to win one of more than 150 fishing-related prizes. The grand prize is a lifetime sportsman license, which includes freshwater and saltwater fishing privileges, as well as hunting privileges, donated by Neuse Sport Shop, located in Kinston. The first prize is a lifetime freshwater fishing license, donated by the N.C. State Council of Trout Unlimited. Neuse Sport Shop also is donating tackle boxes, rod-and-reel combos and fishing line, while the Wildlife Commission is donating prizes, such as fishing towels, playing cards and mini-tackle boxes. Local sponsors for many events will provide prizes and gifts to registered participants as well.

The Wildlife Commission will conduct the drawing for prizes at the end of June and will publish a list of winners on its website, www.ncwildlife.org, in early July.

To give kids a better chance of catching fish, the Wildlife Commission is stocking fish at many of these sites before the events - from trout in the mountains to channel catfish and bluegill in Piedmont and coastal public waters.

For more information about National Fishing and Boating Week 2103, visit the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's website, www.takemefishing.org. For more information on fishing in public, inland waters, visit www.ncwildlife.org/fishing.

Blood Drive is Today!

The Wadesboro Community Blood Drive will be held at First Baptist Church, Lee Avenue in Wadesboro today, Wednesday, May 29, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. It is sponsored by the Wadesboro Rotary Club. To schedule a lifesaving appointment visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code "Wadesboro Community."

Benefit Yard Sale Saturday for Skip Bergman

This Saturday, June 1 there will be a benefit yard sale held in the parking area of the old Mini Mart on Highway 74 East in Wadesboro. The sale will be from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. All proceeds will go towards the medical bills of Skip Bergman. If you have items you wish to donate please contact Heidi Zell at 704-465-8624.

Boy Scouts Event is Saturday

The Central NC Council National Eagle Scout Association Committee presents Service & Social Day this Saturday, June 1. This event will be held at Camp John J. Barnhardt, located at 44184 Cannon Road in New London, NC. There will also be a shotgun range open shoot for a small fee. Check in is at 8 a.m. and the event begins at 8:30 a.m., running until 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 and that includes lunch and dinner. For questions please contact Ryan Mills at ryanmills@carolina.rr.com.

Christmas In July Masquerade Ball

Everyone is invited to join in the fun during the Christmas in July Masquerade Ball. This event will be held to help raise funds for Toys for Tots, while providing a great time for all those in attendance. There will be a silent auction, a dance contest and best dressed awards. The Ball will be held on Friday, July 19 at 7 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Tickets are \$25 for couples and \$15 for singles. Best of all, all proceeds from the Ball stay right here in Anson County to benefit less fortunate children during Christmas with Toys for Tots. For tickets or more information call 704-848-4412.

Law Enforcement Officers Honored

In a release from Sheriff Tommy Allen: The week of May 13th was National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Week. All across the country cities, counties, states and national organizations recognized and remembered those law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. Anson County recognized its fallen law enforcement officers as well as those retired officers and those currently active duty officers who protect us daily in a memorial ceremony held on Wednesday, May 15th.

The event was held in the courthouse at twelve noon. Speakers included Sheriff Tommy Allen and Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer. Chief Spencer gave remarks that included the reason and purpose of the ceremony. Sheriff Allen spoke of the 127 officers who died in the line of duty in 2013, noting that over 19,000 officers have been killed since the first recorded officer died in 1791. Sheriff Allen also read the names of each of the eight officers in Anson County to die in the line of duty. Those officers were: James Marion Sings, 1910; Mattie George Faulkner, 1926; George I. Thompson, 1929; Selby Harney, Sr., 1973; Gilbert Dean, 1977; William Kress Horne, 1984; Jesse Lee Pratt, 2001 and Josh W. Oliver, 2004. (Note: you can go to the Sheriff's web page at www.ansonsheriff.com and read more details on how each officer died.)

A memorial video was then played that included the pictures of each officer, some statistics on officer's line of duty deaths, taps and closing with a moment of silence. Members of the Faulkner family and Sings family were present for the ceremony.

Fancy Crafts to Close July 1st

"All good things must come to an end." So stated Denise Beachum, owner and operator of Fancy Crafts in Wadesboro. Denise and her husband Danny have been in business with Fancy Crafts since 1982, and they have now decided to close the store. They also own Beachum Landscaping Materials, located just off Highway 74 at the intersection with Highway 52 North, and Granny Hollow Pottery, both of which will continue to operate.

Denise has released this statement about Fancy Crafts: Fancy Crafts opened in October 1982 and has been a wonderful and rewarding experience. After much consideration, Danny and I have decided it's time to start a new chapter in our lives. We will be closing Fancy Crafts on July 1st.

We want to express our sincerest gratitude to all of our faithful customers who have made our business a success throughout the years. It has been a privilege to come to know so many of you who we now call our friends. Over the past 31 years we have watched each other's children grow, celebrated the good times and supported each other through the challenging times. For this we are forever grateful.

We also want to express our appreciation for the dedication and hard work that Debbie Allen has contributed over the past 15 years. Her creativity and insight have been instrumental. I feel so blessed to have had her by my side.

As we make this transition, we have marked down our merchandise and will be selling out of all of our stock. As far as our custom framing, we will be finishing these orders as promised. Also, Granny Hollow Pottery will remain in business. We plan to relocate that business and continue to create decorative and useful art pieces for our customers.

After the doors of Fancy Crafts close, I plan to spend more time with my grandchildren and doing the things I love. I will also be helping Danny with his business, Beachum Landscaping Materials. Danny started this business 6 years ago and it has been very rewarding to watch it grow. We are excited to fully focus our attention in one direction as we start this new phase in life.

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." ~Dr. Seuss

Thanks for all of the good years! Denise Beachum