

South Piedmont Receives Dollar General Foundation Grant to Offer High School Equivalency Exams at No Cost to Students

For the second consecutive year, South Piedmont Community College has received a grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to offer the High School Equivalency Test (HiSet) and General Education Development Test (GED) at no cost to students. This year’s grant award is \$10,000. Combined with last year’s award, that brings Dollar General’s total support of South Piedmont’s high school equivalency program to \$18,000. “This grant allows us to offer meaningful support to our students, while also sending a strong and affirming message: They are not alone. They have champions who believe in their potential and are committed to walking with them on their educational journey. We are deeply thankful to the Dollar General Foundation for making this possible,” said Vice President of Institutional Excellence & Chief Development Officer Cyndie Gates Truax.

South Piedmont will use the funding to provide vouchers that will allow students to take the HiSet and GED exams at no cost. Without the vouchers, the cost to complete the HiSet exam is \$77.50, while the cost to complete the GED is \$104.

To receive a voucher, students must be enrolled in the High School Equivalency program at the College, attend orientation, have a valid placement test score, attend a minimum of 12 hours, and show readiness to pass the HiSet or GED exam.

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation has previously supported South Piedmont through funding provided to the College’s Literacy Services program.

For more information on High School Equivalency programs at South Piedmont, email ccr@spcc.edu.

Kea’yon Richardson Charged in May 28 Murder of Shaneeka Smith

At approximately 8:38 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28 Wadesboro Police officers responded to a call for service at Oak Hill Apartments, located at 1355 North Greene Street in Wadesboro. The Police Department, along with the Anson County Sheriff’s Office deputies arrived on scene and located a female victim, later identified as Shaneeka Michelle Smith, suffering from an apparent gunshot wound in the breezeway of a building. She was pronounced deceased at the scene by Anson County EMS.

The Wadesboro Police Department, along with the Sheriff’s Office and the NC State Bureau of Investigation, identified a suspect while at the scene. On the next morning of Thursday, May 29, an arrest warrant for Murder was issued for 20 year old Kea’yon Dorrell Richardson, originally from Wadesboro. Richardson was taken into custody at approximately 12:00 noon that same day by the Chesterfield County Sheriff’s Office. He was found in an unoccupied residence located at 2988 West Market Street in Cheraw.

Richardson is currently in the custody of the Anson County Jail under no bond. He is charged with Felony Breaking and Entering with Intent to Terrorize; Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill; Possession of a Firearm by a Felon; Possession of a Stolen Firearm; and Murder. Richardson is also charged with Attempted Murder, which pertains to a second victim.

The Wadesboro Police Department issued this statement about the charges: For clarification, Richardson has been charged with Murder. Additional charges listed in this release pertain to a second victim and are related to the initial Domestic Violence incident.

Detective Sergeant T. Nolen of the Wadesboro Police Department said, “The Wadesboro Police Department would like to thank the following agencies for their assistance: Anson County Sheriff’s Office, Anson County Emergency Communications, Anson County Emergency Medical Services, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations, and the Chesterfield County Sheriff’s Office.”



Kea’yon Richardson’s photo on wanted poster.



Richardson arrested May 29 in Cheraw,

Jonathan Hinson Arrested in Shooting Incident on June 2

On Monday, June 2 Anson County Emergency Communications received a report at 5:37 p.m. from Atrium Anson regarding a female with a gunshot wound. The female was transported to the hospital in a private vehicle. Wadesboro Police officers and Anson County Sheriff’s deputies responded.

Detectives from both agencies assumed responsibility for the investigation, resulting in the arrest of Jonathan Hinson for Possession of Firearm by Felon and Possession of a Stolen Firearm. The initial shooting, which occurred while the vehicle was traveling on Lee Avenue towards US Highway 74, was deemed accidental. The female was transported to CMC Main in Charlotte, where she is receiving treatment and is expected to recover. There is no ongoing public safety threat at this time.

Hinson is currently being held at the Anson County Jail on a \$25,000 bond.



Jonathan Hinson



Harold C. Smith is seated next to a replica sign designating a section of Salisbury Street named in his honor.

Section of Salisbury Street in Wadesboro Named After Harold C. Smith

Hope. Inspiration. Legacy.

These words were repeated throughout last week’s ceremony to honor Harold C. Smith, a former Anson County commissioner, civic leader and businessman. Motorists can now see “Harold C. Smith Highway” signs along 2.5 miles of U.S. 52 / Salisbury Street. A replica sign was unveiled at the ceremony by members of the Smith family surrounded by loved ones, friends and former colleagues.

The 81-year-old is well known for establishing Smith’s Funeral Home, formerly Hailey & Hargett Funeral Home, in 1967. He operated the funeral home with his late wife while teaching their only child, Evadne Kay Smith, about the aspects of the business. The original facility burned down in 1980, but the family remained resolute and rebuilt. Now, Evadne continues the family legacy of serving the community with grace and compassion while training her own children to operate the funeral home in the future.

The Wadesboro mayor thanked Smith for “the love and generosity you have given us for over fifty years.” Other speakers and guests echoed those words throughout the ceremony.

Smith also served more than two decades on the Anson County Board of Commissioners. Anson County Board of Elections chair Ross Streater also reflected, “I’ve been knowing Harold for fifty years. We served on the Board of Commissioners for over thirty years. I cannot think of another person more deserving of this honor.”

Though he was in a wheelchair, Smith rose from it several times to shake hands, hug, and thank people who attended today’s event. Smith’s daughter, Evadne Kay Smith, never saw something like this happening.

“Five-year-old Evadne would have never imagined this day. Ten-year-old Evadne would have never imagined today. Fifty-five-year-old Evadne is so grateful and thankful.”

Other speakers included Reverend Michael McLeod of the Pee Dee and Elizabeth Baptist Churches and Lindsay Reusser, Regional Director for U.S. Senator Ted Budd.

Community Baby Shower Event is Friday

Event for expecting moms & dads, and those with infants and children under 3. Diaper giveaway, prizes, raffle items, and free critical and essential items.

This is a release from Brian Ellerby, Health Director at the Health Department:
Dear Community Member:

This is just a kind reminder that our Community Baby Shower will take place this Friday, June 6, from 3 pm to 5 pm. The Baby Shower will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center located at 514 N. Washington St., Wadesboro, NC 28170. We look forward to your engagement. If you would like to obtain more information about the Baby Shower, please contact Noelia Chumpitaz, Health Educator at the Anson County Health Department at 704-694-5188.

Here is a list of the items we will provide for the parents who attend the event through the donations you make:

Nursery: Bassinet, crib, Mattress pad and cover, fitted sheets for crib, diaper and wipes storage, baby size hangers, nightlight, baby clothing, changing table.

Baby Hygiene: Baby bathtub, baby washcloths, towels, baby toys, baby shampoo and conditioner, baby wash, baby lotion.

Health and safety: Baby monitor, outlets cover, door stoppers/jammers, baby gate, humidifier, teething gel, baby grooming set, thermometer.

Clothing: Sleep suits, onesies, socks, any baby clothes, and children’s clothes

Feeding: Baby bottles, breast pump, nursing pads, bottle warmer, highchair, cups, plates, and utensils.

Toys: Soft toys, teething toys, car seat toys, books, baby walker.

Travel: Car seats, baby on board sign, baby mirror for car, diaper bag, shopping car cover, baby carrier.

Mom essentials: Maternity pads, nursery tops, nursing covers, water bottles, heating pad, ice pads, baby album.

Please let us know if you would like to donate any item and let us know what item on the list you will donate. Donated items can be delivered to the Health Department. If you prefer to make a monetary donation or gift card, we can accept that too and will let you know what we purchase with the monetary donation.

- Please make your check to: Anson County Health Department. Your donation checks can be mailed to: Anson County Health Department, Attn: Brian Ellerby, Health Director, 110 Ashe St., Wadesboro, NC 28170. Should you have questions, please contact Noelia Chumpitaz, Health Educator at 704-694-5188.

Grace Senior Center Has It Going On In June!

Grace Senior Center is an excellent resource for Anson County’s senior citizens. They provide programs, services, activities and fellowship that are beneficial... ALL FREE...AND ALL FUN & INFORMATIVE!

Be sure to check the Express Events Calendar for more activities at Grace Senior Center. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA. For information call 704-694-6616.

Claris Companion Tablet Classes on Mondays, June 9 & 23 at Grace Senior Center, 2:00 to 3:00pm. Once training is completed participants can check out the tablets for one or two weeks.

Free Computer for Participants! Free Computer Classes with TechAnson and the Caraway Foundation. Classes will be held Tuesdays, June 10 & 12 at Grace Senior Center, 9:00am to 1:30pm. Once the class is completed all participants will receive a free computer. Must be an Anson County resident 18 or older.

- **Tuesdays & Thursdays** Exercise Class 10-11am ****No classes June 10 & 12**
- **Thursday, June 5** Book Club 10am-12 noon
- **Monday, June 9** Claris Tablet Training, 2-3pm
- **Tuesday, June 10** TechAnson & Caraway Foundation Computer Class, 9am-1pm
- **Thursday, June 12** Caraway Foundation Computer Class, 9am-1pm
- **Monday, June 16** Cooking Class. Come enjoy making brownies! 2-4pm
- **Thursday, June 19** Free Movie Day “Despicable Me.” Enjoy popcorn & drinks!
- **Monday, June 23** Claris Tablet Training, 2-3pm
- **Tuesday, June 24** BINGO! 1-2pm. Win wonderful prizes, enjoy refreshments. *(We must have at least 5 players.)*
- **Wednesday, June 25** Lemonade Day 1-4pm. Come enjoy a glass of homemade lemonade! *(While supplies last.)*

Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes every Thursday in June. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library’s Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Harvard Street Band to Perform at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting a musical program on Monday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m in the library’s Little Theater. The featured artist will be the Harvard Street Band. Band members are Brady Greene, Robbie Griffin, Don Shell and Rick Hansen. Come join them for some beautiful country and gospel music.

For information call the Library at 704-694-5188.

Bluegrass Acoustic Music Jam at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam on Thursday, June 12, 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. Musicians, singers and spectators are welcome. Jam sessions are open to all age levels and skill levels. Children age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have any questions please contact the library at 704-694-5177.

Huge Yard Sale on June 14

Faith-Based Center of Hope will have a HUGE yard sale on Saturday, June 14 in the parking lot across from Papa Joe’s Pizzeria, at Plank Road Shopping Center, 911 East Caswell Street in Wadesboro. It begins at 8:30 a.m.

All proceeds will go to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Any contributions and donations are appreciated.

For more information, please contact Vancine Sturdivant, CEO at 704-294-0480, Linda Richardson at 704-465-0243; or Carol Leak at 704-441-5771.

The Express is on the web at
www.TheExpressNewspaper.com