

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.

Multiple Checkpoints on Friday Lead to 172 Charges

On Friday, June 28th the Wadesboro Police Department hosted a WolfPack Saturation Patrol, which was conducted on Highway 74, immediately followed by three simultaneous checkpoints on Highway 52 South, Highway 742 South, and Country Club Road. At midnight all three checkpoints combined into a large-scale checkpoint on Highway 74 at Wade Mill. Officer Scott Gulledege, a senior member of the department's Highway Interdiction Team (HIT), headed up the operation.

The event was made possible by the assistance of mutual-aid agencies. Law enforcement officers from the Anson and Scotland County Sheriff's Office's, the Pinehurst, Polkton, Lilesville, Waxhaw, Stallings, Norwood, and Laurinburg Police Departments, and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol assisted with the events.

Wadesboro is a member of the Governor's Highway Safety Program's (GHSP) Sandhills Task Force which is comprised of agencies from Moore, Richmond, Hoke, Scotland, Montgomery, Stanly and Anson Counties. The police department also holds mutual aid agreements with agencies in Union and Mecklenburg County.

The WolfPack Saturation Patrol began at 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon and targeted speeding motorists traveling eastbound on Highway 74 in the Boggan Cut Road area, and westbound in the Wade Mill area. That event concluded at 7 p.m. with a total of 97 traffic violations, 77 of which were for speeding at 12 or more mph over the speed limit.



"Speed is one of the leading causes of crashes in North Carolina which makes it a top enforcement priority for the police department," said Chief Theodis L. Spencer.

"Wolfpack Saturation Patrols involve placing several law enforcement units, in this case 11, in one particular area and literally saturating it with enforcement," said Officer Josh Leviner, who is also the Anson County Law Enforcement Coordinator for the GHSP.

At 9 p.m. the checkpoints began in pre-designated areas around the city. There were a total of four drivers charged with DWI, and an additional 71 traffic citations issued for various violations. One wanted fugitive was also apprehended. The Anson County Partnership for Children was on-scene during the checkpoints to inspect and properly install or correct child restraint violations, with a combined total of 13 child restraint violations located. The grand total of charges issued for all of the events was 172.

"I would like to thank all the officers from my department, as well as the other departments, who came out to help this event be successful," said Chief Spencer. "I would also like to thank their administrations for lending us their officers, because we could not have had the measure of success we did without their assistance. It was a job well done, and the officers braved the rain, thunder and lightning, all in the name of promoting traffic safety on our streets and highways."

Anson County's May Unemployment Rate at 10.4%

Anson County's unemployment rate for May was 10.4%. In April the rate was 10.2%. The state of North Carolina's unemployment rate for May was 8.9%, up slightly from April's 8.5%. In May 2012 Anson County's unemployment rate was 11.8%. Anson's total labor force in May was 10,997. Of that number 9,852 were employed and 1,145 were unemployed. In April the total labor force was 10,884, with 9,774 employed and 1,110 unemployed. Anson County gained 78 jobs in May.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 87 of North Carolina's 100 counties in May, decreased in 12 and remained the same in one. All 14 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases.

Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 16.2 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 5.7 percent. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 12.8 percent experienced the highest rate and Durham-Chapel Hill at 6.8 percent had the lowest. The May not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 8.9 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 23 counties, fell in 71 and remained unchanged in six. Two metro areas experienced rate increases, while 11 experienced rate decreases and one remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in May by 29,957 to 4,320,014, while those unemployed increased 27,105 to 424,551. Since May 2012, the number of workers employed statewide increased 26,455, while those unemployed decreased 17,758.

July 4th Celebration at Ray Shelton Field

A Fourth of July Celebration Summer Jam band concert and fireworks display are planned for this Friday, July 5 in Wadesboro at the Ray Shelton Ball Field. Music will be provided by the Location Band, from 7 to 10 p.m., with the fireworks display beginning at 10 p.m. Admission is free and parking is free, so bring the family out for a great night of fun. There will also be children's activities and food.

Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Uptown Wadesboro is sponsoring the event with support from the Town of Wadesboro and local sponsors. For more information call 704-695-1644. UWI's website is www.uptownwadesboro.com.

Free Summer Camp Offered

Pathway to Peace Ministries and HOLLA! have partnered together this summer to provide a two week Bible and Health Youth Force summer camp in Wadesboro at the ACCESS Center, located two doors down from the Anson County government Center at 114 East Wade Street. The camp will run from July 15 through July 26 to address childhood lifestyle health issues such as diabetes and obesity, to build character, and to prepare children academically in math and reading for next school year.

The time is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. Healthy and delicious food will be served for breakfast and lunch. There is limited space so register as soon as possible. Registration is available at the HOLLA! Center in Morven. The camp is free, and donations are appreciated. Call 704-581-3144 or 704-465-8504 for more information.



Leadership Anson Graduation Held June 11

The Leadership Anson (LA) program enjoyed its 17th graduation ceremony held June 11th at Welika Lake Fish House. Leadership Anson was created to develop a commitment to community through leadership. This graduating class totals 266 participants that have completed the program. A number of family, friends, and sponsors of the program attended this special event.

The speaker for the evening was Leon Gatewood of Anson County Waste Water Treatment Facility. He gave a brief history of his family, his education and how his life has brought him to where he is today. He also talked about one of his great passions, which is the children of Anson County, and because of his passion and that of a few others, HOLLA (Helping Our Love ones Learn and Achieve) was born. This organization has a center in downtown Morven where it offers many programs, not only for children but adults as well. Gatewood also mentioned that Leadership Anson has truly been one of his more meaningful and memorable experiences.

Testimonials were given from a couple of class members that touched all in attendance. Chamber Director Lynn Edwards stated that they have all learned so much more about their county, their community and themselves. The goal of this program is for those who participate to take what they have learned and use it in a way that will not only better themselves but the community as well.

Edwards recognized three businesses that gave their support this year by way of funding a scholarship for three class members. By the contributions of these three businesses, Anson Bank & Trust, Hornwood, Inc. and Wadesboro Rotary Club, three individuals were able to participate in the program this year. The scholarship recipients were Catherine Crandell, Truman Teal and Wes Stegall. Edwards went on to say that this program is a unique one and that is due to the help of many special people and organizations in Anson County.

Each Class member earned a Continuing Education certificate from South Piedmont Community College and received a Leadership Plaque from the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. These were presented to them by Lynn Edwards, Chamber Director and Scott Collier, SPCC. Jilla Gathings, LA Oversight Committee Chair, (class of 2006) assisted throughout the year and with the organization of the graduation ceremony for the evening.

The graduates are pictured here, from left, front: Rosezetta McCray, Anson County Partnership for Children; Sharon Dawkins, Carolinas Primary Care; Lindsay Wallace, CMH Space Flooring Products; Catherine Crandell, Anson County Arts Council; Cindi Pope, Town of Wadesboro; and Jennifer Tice, Anson Community Hospital. Back row: Brian Nance, Anson County EMS; Truman Teal, API Security; Alex Sewell, Town of Wadesboro; Damer Chapman, Anson County Sheriff's Office; Wes Stegall, Anson County EMS; Holly Mullis, Anson County Sheriff's Office; and Ashley Steele, Anson Community Hospital. Jermaine Alston is not pictured.

A Good Dose of Vitamin "Sea"

After a much needed two-week retreat by the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful sea, I am rested and rejuvenated. A seaside vacation and two-week dose of vitamin "Sea" may not seem out of the ordinary for you, but for me, it is a triumph. I haven't had such an extended stay in many years. As a teacher you do have summertime opportunities while on your two-month hiatus from school. But oftentimes we find supplemental work to fill our off time rather than enjoying anything over the typical one-week summer vacation.



After a very grueling work schedule for both Allen and me, we definitely needed the time off from our daily grind. Operating a newspaper doesn't afford Allen any opportunities to bring his workload to a complete halt. And, just as "the show must GO ON," so too must the newspaper GO OUT, to you, our compatriots.

For me, a retired school teacher, I didn't simply retire only to take a seat with a cup of coffee and a good read. Work has been an integral part of my life since I began my career at age 21, and I find myself as busy as ever, now wondering how I managed a full time career in addition. But, summertime has also been a key element to my yearly philosophy - work hard for ten months and rejuvenate for two. And of late, I haven't been teaching - I've been beaching!

Over the years I've found that a little vitamin "Sea" can lift your spirits and soothe your body, mind and soul. Experts say vitamin C, like vitamin "Sea" is one of the safest, most effective nutrients, and even though it may not be the cure for the common cold, its benefits are powerful. Vitamin "Sea," coupled with vitamin D from the sun can improve bone health and your eyesight, perfect for summer activities like building sand castles, taking long walks on the beach, reading a book, dolphin watching, star gazing, seashell collecting, boogie boarding, body surfing, paddle boarding, sunset searching, digging a hole, casting a line, jogging on the shore or protecting turtles as they venture from the safety of the dunes.

Vitamin "Sea" provides the perfect lullaby for falling asleep and maintaining that sleep throughout the night. Vitamin "Sea" encourages you to wake in time to see the sun at one of its most glorious moments, sunrise. A time of morning you probably wouldn't witness without a good dose of vitamin "Sea" to entice you out of your comfy bed. With a front row seat on your porch, deck or on the shore alongside the surf, vitamin "Sea" and a cup of coffee is a near perfect awakening. With a cool ocean breeze rustling through your hair, opting for less coif and more tussled, wind-blown tresses is yet another freedom vitamin "Sea" offers.

Vitamin "Sea," is like a have-to-have multivitamin, stimulating all five senses from the sound of ocean waves as they roll onto the shore, the smell of sea air, the touch of sand between your toes, the taste of salt on your tongue, and to the sight of the majestic, shining sea in its overwhelming splendor. This week is possibly the busiest of the year for beach goers so be sure you too find time to relax and unwind. Celebrate July 4, America's Independence Day, while remembering to give thanks for all of our freedoms, including an indulgence in as large a dose of vitamin "Sea" as your schedules allow and your hearts desire. Happy birthday America, to all of you, from sea to shining sea!



Photo and story by Melanie Lyon

Wadesboro Fire Department Improves Public Fire Extinguisher Training for Students, Adults and Groups

Following approval by the Town Council, the Wadesboro Fire Department announced that it is adding \$14,000 in essential fire extinguisher training equipment without spending taxpayer money. Previously the Fire Department used a live-fire training system that came with a cost for community groups and businesses. The new Bulex Training System eliminates the direct cost to community groups and businesses while increasing the number of individuals who can be trained.

Wadesboro Fire Chief Jimmy Burns commented, "This system will allow us to train our citizens with little cost and no mess to clean up after the training."

The Fire Department's goal is to have all local 8th through 12th grade students trained, in addition to all students at South Piedmont Community College. The system meets OSHA requirements for businesses and is approved by leading insurance companies.

For more information, please contact the Wadesboro Fire Department at (704) 694-2167.

Town of Lilesville Holiday Schedule

The Town of Lilesville will pick up garbage on Wednesday, July 3 instead of Thursday, July 4 due to the holiday.

Town of Wadesboro Holiday Schedule

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, July 4 due to the July 4th Holiday. There will be no garbage pickup that day. The normal garbage collection schedule will resume on Friday, July 5.

50+ Club Features Bluegrass Music

The Hampton B. Allen Library's 50+ Club will meet on Monday, July 8 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Robert Williams, Angel Riley and Ronnie Jarman will be presenting a musical program of bluegrass gospel. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend. For any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Parks and Recreation Offers Adult Swim Lessons

Anson County Parks and Recreation is offering adult swim lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting July 9th. The cost is \$18 per person. Lessons will be taught at Parks and Recreation Pool at 5:30pm each afternoon. There is a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 per class. For more information, call Wendell T. Small, CPRP, Aquatics Program Supervisor at 704-694-5751.

Brown Creek SWCD Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9 at 11 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.