

THE EXPRESS

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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

Board of Commissioners Approves 2016-2017 Budget

This release is from the office of Anson County Manager Megan Garner: In unanimous vote, the Anson County Board of Commissioners approved the Fiscal Year 2016- 2017 budget. The budget makes critical investments in the key areas of employee retention, economic development and fiscal responsibility. It also reflects the Commissioners' desire to avoid burdening the citizens of Anson County while providing maximum services.

- The adopted budget:
- Maintains the current County tax rate of \$0.801 per \$100 valuation
 - Increases the Wadesboro Fire District Tax Rate by \$0.02 per their request
 - Provides employees a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment
 - Provides health insurance to full-time employees without any employee contribution
 - Offers no reduction in the level of services to the Citizens of Anson County

Additionally, two new positions have been approved: a courthouse security deputy and a Human Resources Manager.

Pursuant to State legislation, a new sales tax on labor will increase the funding to Anson County Schools and South Piedmont Community College. According to State estimates, the County could receive as much as \$600,000 in new sales tax that must be spent on k-12 education, community colleges, and economic development. The total amount received will be split among the three purposes.

Anson County Schools is funded at \$3,694,598 for current expense, approximately \$200,000 in new sales tax revenue, \$375,000 in quarter cent sales tax revenues, and \$90,000 in capital outlay. Additionally, there is \$209,000 held in reserve that can be spent on teacher supplements South Piedmont Community College is funded at \$929,879, which equates to \$560,629 for current expenses, \$200,000 in new sales tax revenue and \$233,250 for capital outlay.

- The capital items listed below are also funded:
- Board of Elections - new voting equipment (\$80,610)
 - Sheriffs Office/Jail - continuation of jail improvements (\$24,000)
 - Administration - new roof at Government Center (\$33,000)
 - Library- new roof (\$33,000)
 - Sheriffs Office - new walkway from Courthouse to Sheriffs Office (\$31,000)
 - Emergency Services- fiber optic from Administration to ES Center (\$125,000)
 - Health - Electronic Medical Records System (\$48,800)
 - Technology I Public Safety- hardware backup to provide redundancy (\$67,766)
 - Water- equipment purchase (\$148,000)
 - Water/Filtration - SCADA upgrades (\$634,470)
 - Wastewater- various upgrades (\$152,100)
 - Social Services- various equipment needs (\$25,000)

The 2016-2017 budget was developed in accordance with all statutory provisions and provides a framework for the upcoming budget year that mirrors objectives set forth by our Governing Body. It is a fiscally sound and financially responsible budget that reflects the organizational goals of the Anson County Board of Commissioners.

For more information, contact Megan M. Garner, County Manager at 704-994-3200 or mgarner@co.anson.nc.us.

Dates Set for Anson Ag Expo & Fair

Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 23-24, the dates for this year's Anson Ag Expo & Fair. The event's planning committee has started meeting to prepare for the annual fall festivities.

The annual 4-H Youth Livestock Show will be held again this year at Circle G Arena on Friday and Saturday, and the Ag Fair will be held at the Extension Center in Wadesboro on Saturday.

The 4-H Youth Livestock Show will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday and again at 9:45 am on Saturday in Lilesville. The Ag Fair will be open to the public on Saturday from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm in Wadesboro.

Make plans to participate in this year's fair, by saving a jar of canned goods, or preparing a favorite house plant. In addition, a new category has been added this year for dried foods. There is something for everyone.

Be on the lookout for more information to come, including time schedules, fair book release, and much more. Come out and join the fun, and help us celebrate agriculture in Anson.

Stride for Pride Tennis Shoe Drive Begins Another Season

Stride with Pride has begun their 6th annual season of collecting donations of new tennis shoes and/or money used to purchase tennis shoes that will be provided to underprivileged youth of all diversities in Anson County. These shoes are given to youth ranging in age from kindergarten to 12th grade, and all sizes are needed.

Stride with Pride is a joint effort of Sheriff Landric Reid and Patti Poulcott of Judy's Tax Service. Through the generous contributions of our community, last year Stride with Pride was able to give over 350 pairs of tennis shoes out. For 2016 the goal is to put a smile on at least 450 faces. Collections for the upcoming school year will be going on through August 14, but you can contribute at any time during the year.

Sheriff Reid said, "Patti Poulcott and I will be working to collect new shoes and monetary donations from area supporters. We hope that you will consider joining us in this important effort to help a child walk the halls of success this new school year."

Patti Poulcott said, "Through your generosity we can help our youth 'Stride with Pride' this coming school year. Collections are going on now. We hope that you will consider joining us to help our local children."

If you would like to donate you can contact Sheriff Reid at 704-695-7771 or lreid@co.anson.nc.us, or you can contact Patti Poulcott at 704-694-8386 or ppoulcott@carolina.rr.com.



Lindsey Chapel Church Vacation Bible School Ends with Fellowship and Fun

Lindsey Chapel Church celebrated their last day of Vacation Bible School on Thursday, June 30 with a cookout, a program and lots of activities at Little Park. The theme of the program was 'Incrediworld Amusement Park, Ride through God's Creation,' and it was presented by Overseer Pastor Sylvia McLendon along with teachers Sarah Crawford, Saliyah Crawford, James Thomas, Evangelist Leola Allison, Mary Gamble-Burch and VBS Superintendent Brenda Spencer.

Anson County Brothers Earn Eagle Scout Awards

On June 18 brothers Richard Tyson, Jr. and LaTravius Tyson were recognized at a Court of Honor and awarded the Eagle Scout rank, which is the highest in Boy Scouting.

The rank of Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also in higher education, businesses and in the military. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained since Boy Scouting began in 1912. It includes performing leadership roles within the troop as well as earning a minimum of 21 merit badges in areas including first aid, citizenship, cooking, environmental science, camping and personal life skills. It also requires that the Scout develop, organize and execute a significant community service project before his 18th birthday. Only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts earn Eagle Scout. A 2012 Baylor University study reports that Eagle Scouts are more likely to stay physically fit, volunteer for church and civic organizations, maintain positive family relationships, be leaders in their work and community, donate money to charities, and work with neighbors to improve where they live.

Both Richard and LaTravius have been in Scouting since the first grade. As Cub Scouts, both earned the Arrow of Light, which is the highest award in Cub Scouting and continued their journeys through the Boy Scout ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life to Eagle. Both are members of Troop 170 at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, NC. Their Scoutmaster is Kenny Brower.

For his project, Richard completed a landscaping improvement project in front of the library of Anson High School. LaTravius also worked with the school administration and completed a beautification project on the side of the H Building of Anson New Tech.

Richard and LaTravius are the sons of Richard Tyson, Sr. and LaSonya Clark. Richard, a 2016 graduate of Anson High School, will attend King's College to major in Business Management and later earn his Culinary Arts degree. LaTravius is a rising Sophomore at Anson Senior High School.

When asked what Scouting had given to her sons, LaSonya replied, "Scouting to me as a parent has taught my boys so many things. They have gained more independence to be able to survive the outside world. They value respect more and self-discipline. They have learned to strive for things that they thought they were not able to achieve. They understand that when the going gets tough to continue to move forward strive until you meet your goals in life. Scouting has taught my boys teamwork and that by working together you can accomplish many of things in life. Scouting has helped my boys make positive decisions in life when negative things have come their way. They value friendship and trust from Troop 170 and others that have come in contact with them through their Scouting life. Even though they have earned their Eagle Scout, they remain active in Troop 170 under the leadership of Scoutmaster Kenny Brower, a very dedicated leader for all the young guys."

For information about how to become a Boy Scout in Anson/Richmond counties, contact Chris Ratliff at 919-441-7143 or christopher.ratliff@scouting.org.



Richard and LaTravius Tyson

McLeod Health Cheraw Welcomes Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Ron Benfield

McLeod Health proudly welcomes Dr. Ronald W. Benfield, Orthopedic Surgeon, to the Medical Staff of McLeod Health Cheraw and McLeod Physician Associates. Dr. Benfield cares for patients at the newly established practice, McLeod Orthopaedics Cheraw. The office is located at 710 Chesterfield Highway, within the same building as Cheraw Family Medicine, directly across from the McLeod Health Cheraw campus.

A native of New Bern, North Carolina, Dr. Benfield comes to McLeod Health Cheraw following more than 30 years of private practice. He is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, and received his Doctor of Medicine and completed Orthopedic Surgery Residency at the George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, DC.

Dr. Benfield treats all orthopedic concerns including joint replacement (shoulder, hip & knee), children's orthopedics, and hand & upper extremity.

As a full spectrum general orthopedist, Dr. Benfield enjoys the breadth of care that working in an intimate setting like Cheraw affords. "I enjoy creating relationships with my patients," said Dr. Benfield. "As physicians we are first called to 'do no harm,' but we are also called to 'cure sometimes,' and 'comfort always.' I look forward to making those connections and interactions with the people of my new community, and neighboring communities, who need orthopedic care," said Dr. Benfield.

Dr. Benfield and his wife have seven children, ages 18 to 38, two of whom are pursuing careers in medicine. He is accepting new patients, and same or next day appointments are available. To make an appointment please call (843) 537-0010.

McLeod Health Cheraw serves the residents of Chesterfield, Marlboro, Anson, Richmond and Scotland Counties. The 59-bed hospital joins six other McLeod Health not-for-profit hospitals providing advanced heart, vascular, orthopedic, surgical, cancer, women's and children's services from the midlands of South Carolina to the coast.

Toys for Tots Carnival Fundraiser is Saturday

A Toys for Tots Carnival will be held on Saturday, July 9 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Hatcher Park in Lilesville. This is a fundraiser to help generate donations for Christmas toys for Anson County youth in need. All proceeds will remain here in Anson County. The Carnival will feature adult bingo, a homemade cake raffle, super games, a dunking booth, snow cones, popcorn, delicious food, a fire truck for the kids, and lots of other things!

Everyone is invited to attend. Please come have some fun and food, and help Toys for Tots with a donation if you can. For more information contact Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Jennifer Tarlton at 704-694-8478.

Wadesboro Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at the Papa Joe's Restaurant the second and fourth Thursday of each month. For more information about these meetings or becoming a member, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

Arts Council and Ansonia Events in July

Here are some of the upcoming events at the Anson County Arts Council and Ansonia Theatre during July.

- July 18-22 - Youth Musical Theatre Camp where the focus is on singing and stage movement. There will be a performance open to the public on Friday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5. General seating. Info 704-694-4950.
- July 20 - Bach's Lunch at First Presbyterian Church, 208 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. Tickets are \$10. Includes live entertainment and a delicious meal.
- July 23 - Rising country star Lucas Gathings live at the Ansonia. The show is at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. General seating. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Arts Council at 704-694-4950.