

# THE EXPRESS

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

## Domino's Robbers Nabbed

On Wednesday, July 2 four warrants were obtained on two suspects in the armed robbery of Domino's Pizza on June 12. The arrests were made possible because of the joint efforts of combined agencies.

The two suspects had been on a robbery spree that included three counties and two states. On June 19 five agencies met in Pageland, SC with information that they were dealing with the same suspects in five robberies. Wadesboro Police Department Detectives, in a joint effort with the Pageland, Waxhaw and Locust Police Departments, as well as the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, were able to clear the case.

A robbery in Waxhaw produced a video of one of the suspects. After running the video on local news programs, the suspect was identified. Follow up with this suspect led to the second arrest. Arrested were Kristi Lyn Hurd, 18, and Amanda Ashley Martin, 23, both from Monroe. They are being held in the Union County Jail under a combined \$30,500 bond.

Wadesboro Police Chief Vance Johnson said, "It is the working together and diligent efforts of the combined agencies and public involvement that brought this crime spree to a safe end."

## Fire Ranger Warns of Possible Dangers in County



The North Carolina Forest Service is reporting fifty-one wildfires in Anson County and at least twenty fires during the past month alone. "Our area is experiencing some pretty bad fire weather and our residents need to know the dangers involved in such dry conditions," said Ranger, Robbie Perry.

Most fires stem from the burning of debris which gets out of hand. Another culprit is farming equipment according to the Forestry Service. Experiencing hot temperatures and relatively low humidity makes fires easier to start, especially from brush piles.

Please be sure to take the conditions seriously and avoid outside burning. Otherwise, possible dangers could affect not only you but your neighbors as well.

## New Info Kiosk on the Square in Wadesboro

A new information kiosk has been installed at the Town Square, at the northwest corner of Greene and Wade Streets in uptown Wadesboro. A joint project by Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. (UWI) and the Town of Wadesboro, this new kiosk will be a permanent replacement for the assortment of wood boxes that used to sit in the intersection or at the corners. For many years, those wood boxes displayed announcements of fund-raising BBQ's and luncheons by local non-profit groups and churches. Announcements will now be posted on the new kiosk. Landscaping and lighting will be installed by this fall.

UWI developed this project at the invitation of the town manager, John Witherspoon, and received permission to use the corner from Allen Lyon, owner of the property. Funding for this project was provided by the Town of Wadesboro. David Rice of the town public works department constructed the sign working from a design by Merrie Datin.

Guidelines for use of the new kiosk are as follows and were provided by Witherspoon. Any questions regarding the use of the kiosk should be directed to the town offices.

### Policy regarding the kiosk on the square

1. No one may place any advertising notice of any kind on the message board (kiosk) at the northwest corner of Greene and Wade Sts. without permission from the Town of Wadesboro.
2. The use of the kiosk is limited to public and non-profit groups. No information may be posted on the kiosk that involves a profit making activity or is of a personal nature.
3. Permitted signs and notices are limited to 24" wide and 36" high and duplicates may be placed on each of the three faces of the kiosk.
4. Permission to use the space will be granted by the town manager.
5. The manager will approve the information to be posted as to its appropriateness and his determination will be final.
6. The manager may limit the number of days that the kiosk may be used by any group or event.
7. The manager may require a deposit of up to \$25 for use of the kiosk. The deposit will be returned providing all rules of use of the space are observed and the posted notice is appropriately and timely removed by the user.

This Town Square Project is another community project by Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. If you'd like to volunteer or contribute to any of UWI's community projects, please contact Don Altieri at 704-695-1644. For more information on Uptown Wadesboro, Inc., please visit UWI's website at [www.uptownwadesboro.com](http://www.uptownwadesboro.com).

## Summertime is Fun Time For Free Time



Four young girls find a spot on the sidewalk for some summertime fun time while outside in the fresh air and beneath the shade of an old water oak tree. The foursome are sisters and cousins - either way, kin folk with lots of common interests like drawing, painting and coloring.

Shown here while working on their artistic impressions, the girls are pictured from left: Star Hart, MikAala Bair, Heather McLendon and Cheyenne Hart. These girly girls also enjoy swimming during their summertime free time. Photo and story by Melanie Morse

## June Rollins' Watercolor "Letting Go" Wins 1st Place

Wadesboro artist June Rollins won first place during the Stanly Arts Guild's Summer Art Explosion. Rollins' award winning watercolor, "Letting Go," is on display at the Summer Art Explosion which runs through August 2 at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center in Albemarle.

To see or purchase art by Rollins, visit her website, [www.artbyjune.net](http://www.artbyjune.net). She is also available for commissions if you would like something painted for you.



## Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge to Host Butterfly Count Saturday

If you are interested in the beautiful butterflies that flutter about during our carolina summers then you may want to attend a butterfly count to inventory the numbers of species seen at the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. This is an annual event conducted in mid-summer to survey the abundance of butterfly species around the country. The information will be submitted to the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). Prior counts have found seven species not previously recorded in Anson County.

Novices to this activity are welcome to join in and help spot butterflies and learn to identify the species. Please bring your binoculars if you have them as well as a bag lunch and insect and sun protection. Counters will be driving around the refuge as well as walking on the roads and fields.

Plan to meet at the parking lot near the refuge headquarters, located at 5770 Highway 52 North of Wadesboro, at 9:30 a.m. this Saturday, July 12. The count will end between 1 and 2 p.m. Jules Fraytet from the Carolina Butterfly Society will be leading the trip.

For more information, please call the refuge at 704-694-4424.

## Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for grieving parents, grandparents, siblings and others will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 10 in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

For more information, please call 704-694-8774.

## Animal Rescues Could Be Right For You Too

In all my life I have never been a pet owner. Guessing, but not quite sure, resentment of what seemed at the time to be hundreds of bird dogs we cared for as children is probably what I was feeling when deciding never to own a dog, and yes, I was much too young to make such a pact. But true to my word I have been until a few months ago.



Quite by accident I encountered an emaciated dog with a distinct limp from what appeared to be a broken leg. He was not the most magnificent mutt I've ever laid eyes on, he reeked with odor and his fur felt dirty and sticky. Obviously malnourished and injured I coaxed the dog into traveling to my home, all the while thinking, how ironic, he's a bird dog!

What he needed was food, water and a safe place to rest his weary, too tired to move body, almost lifeless from near starvation. The dog never resisted care or treatment, he never barked, nor displayed any aggression. What he did do was look at me with big brown sad eyes, seemingly puzzled by the

protective care he was obviously unaccustomed to, while at the same time thanking me with a look from those same eyes for making his life a little bit easier.

Over the next few days "doggy" was seen by Veterinarian Danny Wright who said, "Aside from his injured leg, he's healthy." He was bathed and received his meds and came back to my place to recuperate until a good home could be found. A few weeks later, the dog being the gentle giant he is, could have been placed in an adoptive situation, but alas, it was too late, for I had fallen in love with the possibly abused canine with no name and no apparent prior love heretofore.

Called everything from Astro to Zack, the most suitable tag would end with "Slim." His sleek body and long leggy appearance was now fifteen pounds heavier than the day he was found, but a more appropriate name couldn't be had of the tall slender savior now etching his way into my heart and my life.

Ironically I didn't see any possibility for pet-time in my full-up timetable, but things sometimes come at you out of nowhere, just around the bend and when you least expect them. You have to be quick on your feet and ready to react or you'll lose out on possible blessings sent by possible Angels. Slim was a gift, sent to me for a purpose. There are no accidents and believing all things happen for a reason, Slim needed a nurturer and I needed something to nurture, my nature by default and my reason for this rescue.

He wasn't the perfect in every way pup everyone would expect to bring home, but rather a gimpy hound; much too big to be carried around, and not ringing the bell on the cute-o-meter by some people's standards. But Slim is everything I could have, but never thought I would have wanted. He's gentle and sweet, loyal and loving, and seems to know that we're linked for the long haul.

"Dog, mans best friend," is a quote I've heard often but never fully understood until now. It's certainly clearer with the new addition to my little family. Our bond is now intact and we will go to the mats for each other come what may. Slim loves me whether I'm in a good mood or moody, whether I'm made up or without, whether I've combed my hair or brushed my teeth. It's the unconditional love you so often hear about that makes being a pet owner such a special experience, and the fact that my pet is a rescue makes it doubly important and life impacting, especially for him.

Knowing that if I hadn't made the decision to rescue Slim he probably would have suffered more than he already had, and that tidbit is enough for me to feel confident in my decision not to, one day, purchase a little ball of fluff. Feeling perfectly content in my pet-pick I am also aware of how important their rescues are. Yes, there are plenty of picture perfect pets for sale, ones you can purchase for plenty of cash. And if that is your choice then so be it. I wish you the best life possible for you and your pet. But don't be naive in thinking it's your only option. Pet adoption or rescues afford you the chance to save the life of an animal while at the same time lessening the burden of purchasing the proverbial pet of your dreams, coming with it a hefty price tag. But either way, cherish your animals, have them spayed or neutered, give them plenty of the essentials for a long and healthy life, most importantly love and attention. It will be returned to you tenfold.

The Humane Society can help you with your choice if deciding on the route I took. Don't wait for the optimal time to do it. Do it now. There are so many animals that won't see another birthday if you don't react with haste, so don't just sit there, do something!

If interested, contact the Anson County Humane and Rescue Society at 704-695-3116. This private, non-profit organization is based solely on the help of volunteers. There is no shelter and all transitory adoptive homes are full. So the need is there. Visit the website at [www.homewardboundhumane.org](http://www.homewardboundhumane.org) for additional information about adoption and rescues.

Each year, thousands of animals suffer abuse, neglect and ultimately, death. Please consider this when making your decision about owning a pet. Dive in and develop a divine relationship with a wonderfully dispositioned doggy or kitty. They will thank you and love you for it all the days of their lives. Story by Melanie Morse

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