Legislative Update

From Rep. Frank McGuirt: The General Assembly adjourned its 2012 session last Tuesday, but not before it overrode the three latest vetoes issued by the governor. The decisions to reject the governor's vetoes without attempting any compromise cleared the way for implementation of a mostly bad state budget; continued racial bias in our courts; and fast-tracked drilling for natural gas, despite environmental uncertainty and the objections of many people who own the deposits. The governor has a month to consider the remaining bills sent to her by the legislature. She can choose to sign them, let them go into law without her signature or veto them.

North Carolina House Minority Leader Joe Hackney issued the following statement on behalf of our caucus. I share his disappointment about what we have seen over the past two years.

"Republicans came into office with a promise to create jobs and make North Carolina a better place to live. We end this two-year session instead farther behind than when they started. Their unemployment rate is now the fourth-worst in the nation. They fired more than 6,000 educators last year. Speaker Tillis admits at least 3,000 more will lose their jobs this year as additional cuts go into place. They chose to hand out millions in tax breaks for the wealthy while cutting school budgets even deeper. North Carolina continues to regress under this legislature. The people of North Carolina will hold them accountable for their irresponsible choices."

A budget opposed by most Democrats in the General Assembly went into place last week despite the governor objections after the legislature overturned the governor's veto of the budget bill (House Bill 950). The decision increases the total cut to K-12 schools over the past two years to \$620 million – about the same as the annual budget for Guilford County Schools, the third-largest school system in the state with 73,000 students and 10,000 employees. Those deep cuts, along with the removal of money to compensate the living victims of the state's now-defunct forced sterilization program, persuaded most Democrats to oppose the budget. Most hoped that upholding the veto would allow the governor to negotiate with the legislature to return more money for public schools and universities. The budget also included a 1.2 percent raise for teachers and state employees, which I strongly support. I wanted the governor and the budget writers to negotiate a deal that would have meant more money for raises or fewer layoffs.

A legislative supermajority voted this week to override a veto of a bill that allows racial bias in death penalty cases to continue with no remedy. The new law (Senate Bill 416) repeals a three-year old law in North Carolina that allowed death row defendants to have their sentences changed to life without the possibility of parole if they could prove racism played a part in their trial or sentencing. A Cumberland County judge recently found evidence of racism throughout the state's courts, reinforcing the findings of an academic study that looked at jury selection, sentencing, the race of victims and other factors. The judge changed a death penalty sentence to life in prison without parole for an inmate whose lawyers proved his case had been infected by racism. I argued on the floor of the House that while we need the death penalty, which I support, we must make certain that no bias nor prejudice factor into the application of it. We must insure that even latent discrimination does not affect a judgment of the court.

Fast-tracked natural gas exploration can now start in North Carolina without significant study. The legislature rejected a veto by the governor to put the bill in place. Accessing the relatively small deposit of gas would require the use of technologies – hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," and horizontal drilling – that had been illegal in North Carolina. A state report mandated by the legislature recommended significant additional study before allowing drilling to go forward, but proponents of the industry want to speed up the process. Opponents argue that fracking can contaminate water supplies, pollute the air and create other wastes that are difficult to dispose of safely. The new legislation (Senate Bill 820) allows gas companies to extract some landowners' gas without their permission and to use eminent domain to take people's private property for pipelines and facilities. Several proposed amendments intended to forbid trespassing by the companies were rejected. This could affect property owners in Anson County. While I support the exploration of energy sources in our state I contend it must be safely and under NO circumstances should private companies be permitted to take YOUR land here in our district.

I am excited about the opportunity to spend more time at home in Anson and Union Counties and to be more able to readily assist you and others. I hope you will call on me if you have an issue with state government or need information. Thank you for your interest and support. I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in Raleigh. 919-715-3007, Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net

ACCESS 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

The ACCESS 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament will be held this Saturday, July 14 at Wadesboro

Elementary School on Camden Road. It begins at 9 a.m. You are urged to come out and participate for the chance to win prizes such as money, trophies, t-shirts and Nike apparel.

The registration fee is \$20 per team. The admission fee is \$2. The final registration deadline is Friday, July 13 at Food Lion in Wadesboro, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. For more information contact Priscilla Nunn at 866-472-2212 or nunnp2003@yahoo.com.

CD **"BE BLESSED"** By Evangelist **BRENDA "BJ" PRATT** *Is available at* Nu Expression Salon Nu Creations Salon Adorable Hair Salon The Hair Keepers Salon

Or Call 704-475-5199

THE EXPRESS • July 11, 2012 • Page 5 Uptown Wadesboro, Inc.'s Farmers Market on the Square

Every Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. farmers and other local vendors gather on the Square in uptown Wadesboro to offer fresh produce, eggs, meats and homemade goodies. This past Thursday nine vendors were selling their goods, which also included local honey and blueberries. Every Wednesday and Saturday, from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. the Anson County Farmers

Market, located on Highway 52 South beside Cobb-Vantress, is open.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and support local producers, and enjoy the freshest produce at great prices. Between Wadesboro's top notch grocery stores, IGA and Food Lion, and the two farmers markets, our food needs are very well taken care of.

UWI Tshirts are being sold as a fundraiser and are available at Buff Monkey Fitness Co, Wadesboro Town Hall and The Anson County Chamber of Commerce for \$15.

Free Yoga Classes

Certified personal fitness trainer Leslie Snow offers a free Introduction to Yoga-Based Fitness class each month, on the last Saturday. The classes are held at First Methodist Church in uptown Wadesboro, from 9 to 10 a.m. You can learn the principals of yoga, breathing and poses.

For information contact Leslie at 704-272-9254 or *leslie@lesliesnow.com*.

Town of Wadesboro JOB OPENING

The Town of Wadesboro has a job opening for one Water Plant operator. This position is full-time with benefits.

The successful candidate shall be a certified operator by the State of North Carolina or must be able to become certified. This position requires extensive training in chemical feed dosages and operation. This position, which is very much analytical, also requires someone who is also very hands-on with equipment operation and maintenance. Applicant shall have a valid NC drivers license.

The Town will accept applications until 5 p.m. on July 27, 2012. Applications may be obtained from the Wadesboro Town Hall, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Starting salary for someone who is not certified will be \$26,500.

The Town of Wadesboro is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ANSON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN Community Outreach / Literacy Coordinator

Anson County Partnership for Children is currently seeking a full-time Community Outreach / Literacy Coordinator. This individual will be responsible for public relations, communications, marketing, website reporting, newsletter production, fundraising and other community outreach activities. In addition this individual will be responsible for all Partnership literacy initiatives.

A minimum of a bachelor's degree in communications, human services, education, social work, psychology or other related field is required. Salary range is \$27,300 to \$35,000 based on qualifications and experience.

Funding for position is provided through Smart Start funding.

If interested, please call 704-694-4036 for more information and to pick up an application.

Send resume, application and cover letter to:

Anson County Partnership for Children Attention: Elaine Scarborough, Executive Director



117 South Greene Street Wadesboro, NC 28170



Deadline for receiving required materials is Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Anson County Partnership for Children is an Equal Opportunity Employer

