

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #149
Wadesboro, NC
28170

THE EXPRESS

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • TheExpressNews@aol.com • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

Postal
Customer

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

10 Things that Could Get You Into Trouble on the Water

This is the busiest boating time of the year, and harbors, lakes and rivers are brimming with vacationing boaters. Vessels are out in full force, and busy marinas and launch ramps all contribute to recreational boating's own form of waterway rush hour.

Here are ten tips on how to avoid mishaps:

- It's a long day: A full day in the sun will increase alcohol's effects on the body, so it's better to wait until you're safely back at the dock or home before breaking out the libations. Also bring lots of water, a VHF radio, and check the weather reports to avoid storms.
- It's a long day, for the boat, too: Don't put yourself in position to need a jump start. Running electronics all day such as sound systems, fans, or other appliances and failing to monitor battery usage could leave your boat dead in the water when it's time to go home.
- Running the engine to charge the batteries: Raft-ups, or groups of boats tied together in a protected anchorage, is a great way to spend the holiday with fellow boating friends. But you should never run an engine with swimmers in the water or near exhaust ports. Even though the boat's transmission may not be in gear, propellers can still rotate, and odorless, colorless carbon monoxide can quickly overcome swimmers.
- Trailer problems: Flat tires and burnt bearings are the two biggest causes for boat trailer breakdowns. What shape are yours in?
- Don't overload your boat: Capsizing and falls overboard account for over half of all boating fatalities. Resist the urge to invite more friends or family to the fireworks show than what your boat was designed to carry. Heavily loaded small boats, and those with little freeboard such as bass boats, are more susceptible to swamping from weather or wake action associated with heavy boating traffic.
- Wear life jackets: 70% of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those, 87% were not wearing a life jacket. Accidents can happen very quickly, sometimes leaving no time to don a life jacket.
- Follow the rules of the road: If a boat is approaching your vessel from your starboard (right) side, do you know what to do? What happens when a light on another vessel "changes" from red to green? These answers can be found in the rules of the road section at www.BoatUS.com/foundation/toolbox. Brush up now before you head out.
- Patience: The lines at boat launch ramps - in the parking lot or the water - can resemble a Southern California freeway at rush hour. Be patient, ready to go when it's your turn, and follow good boating etiquette.
- Take your time to get home: The most reported type of boating accident is a collision with another vessel so it's a good idea to keep your speed down, post an extra lookout, and ensure all your navigation lights work. A spotlight is a must, and ensure all safety gear is readily available. Be extra vigilant about not running over anchor lines in crowded areas, and don't take shortcuts in the dark.
- Have Fun: Hey, it's a beautiful day and you're on the water! Be safe, be prepared and have fun!

Holla 100 Reasons to Achieve is a Real Success!

The Holla 100 Reasons to Achieve initiative closed out the 2006-07 school year by awarding over forty five \$100 savings bonds and one \$1,000 savings bond to students throughout the school system.

Each child in each school had the opportunity to qualify to win a \$100 savings bond simply by not having any office referrals for the entire school year. Students who qualified in the middle school, high school, Challenge Academy and Early College also had the opportunity to compete to win the \$1,000 savings bond by writing an essay, short story, poem, rap, etc. entitled "100 Reasons to Achieve."

The winner of the essay contest was Courtney Morton, a student at the Early College. All students who qualified in the lower grades had the opportunity to attend a Holla Motivational Event at their schools where free snow cones, moon bounces and a DJ were provided.

Holla is offering the same program again for the upcoming school year. Officials of the group say that many children are looking forward to the opportunity for the next school year and credited the school system's cooperation and participation for the success of the program.

Here is a partial list of winners of the Holla 100 Reasons to Achieve Savings Bonds: Kou Vue, Destiny McFadden, Kristopher Phillips, Daniel Burch, Naly Lor, Elexia McKinney, Allana Jackson, Dominique Alexander, Zedric Burns, Christopher Cunningham, Areeba Liles, Jasmine Little, Kiedia Roberts, Makayla Kirkley, Alayjah Dumas, Yesenia Hernandez, Allison Willoughby, Mitzi Bustos, Christopher McDaniel, Cordarius Hamilton, Jason Morris, Timothy Kelly, Elizabeth Tarlton, Jonathan Tillman, Victoria Tillman, Earl Sturdivant, Elizabeth Goins, Bethany Vaughn, Laura Reza, Gwendolyn Mims, Courtney Morton - \$1000, Jamesia Keayris Covington, Mai See Lor, Cruz Honeycutt, Brenna Little, Aalyiah Gainey, Lenora Chambers, Ashley Williams, Jordan Wright, Carman Covington, Kellista Simons and Amber Freeman.

Holla congratulates these students and their parents. The group insists that a well-disciplined student has a good chance at achieving and is willing to give his fellow classmates an equal opportunity to achieve.

For information on this and other Holla activities, please call 704.694.3552 and leave a message, or visit www.wadesboro.com.

Benefit Breakfast for Jennifer M. Sikes

There will be a benefit breakfast held on Saturday, July 28 for Jennifer M. Sikes. The event will be held at Hopewell United Methodist Church, located at 1715 Hopewell Church Road in Peachland, from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. Donations will be accepted.

Everyone is urged to come out and enjoy a delicious breakfast, visit with friends or meet new ones and help raise funds for this very worthy cause.

Summer Basketball Camp is Fundamentally Fun!



The seventh annual Anson County Summer Basketball Camp, sponsored by the department of Parks and Recreation and Anson County Schools, was another success this year. "We have averaged around 35 kids per year and would like to see that increase substantially," said Jeff Waisner, head of Parks and Rec.

Girls and boys from age 8 through 18 were taught the fundamentals of basketball during the four-day camp. On the

final day the activities included fun and games events such as free throw contests, hot shots and one-on-one competitions.

Dennis Rorie and Terrell Huntley were on hand to represent the high school level. They are both starters for the Anson Bearcats and enjoy upping their game any chance they get.

All of the participants are pictured here during their final day of the summer camp. Photo and story by Mel Morse

Michael Bowman Heads North, Not South

As I pen these words I want you to know up front that I'm mad as a fighting cock and I have University of South Carolina head football coach Steve Spurrier in my sites.

You've probably already heard that former Anson three-sport standout Michael Bowman will not be playing football for the USC Gamecocks this fall as he planned, but rather, he will be carrying the ball for the East Carolina University Pirates, due to a devastating blow delivered to Bowman just three days prior to his planned arrival in Columbia. After graduating from Anson High School in June with an illustrious career in athletics under his belt, Michael's next level of play was to be with the Gamecocks football team. Bowman received a full scholarship when he signed his letter of intent with Coach Steve Spurrier early last fall only to be denied entrance to the school just last week. No clear reason was released explaining his denial.

You may even be saying to yourselves, "Well this type of thing happens all the time, kids fail to qualify, thus leaving little to no room to play anywhere." But I would like to take this opportunity today to set the record straight.



Number 2, Michael Bowman, breaks away from Albemarle in just one of his many maneuvers toward the end zone. Bowman is to be released from USC in order to play for the ECU Pirates instead. Best of luck Michael and we'll keep our eye on you as you transition to university play.

"Michael Bowman is fully qualified to play football at USC under NCAA guidelines," said former Anson Head Coach Jody Grooms in a recent interview. However, the Cocks, under Spurrier's leadership, "signed five too many scholarship players under NCAA rules," according to The State Newspaper of Columbia, and had to do something at the last minute - something ugly - which was to tell Bowman he would not be admitted. In addition, Bowman's eventual play at ECU will be determined only after his release by USC, which is pending.

In his defense, Spurrier told The State Newspaper, "Had all of the Gamecocks' recruits qualified, five of the players would have been asked to grayshirt, or delay their enrollment until January. But we might not have to grayshirt anyone. We didn't think all would make it, so it's sort of working itself out," he said. But the Gamecocks are indeed over the NCAA max of 85 scholarships. The addition of 27 new players would put USC

four players over the limit. As he did in 2005, Spurrier told The State, "I sent out letters to a few players advising them their scholarships might not be renewed." This is apparently a common practice by the USC coach and has brought some criticism from high school coaches.

Bowman and his family are rightfully devastated. The position of over recruiting and then asking student athletes to place their lives on hold until January is an unacceptable practice. One should not play such dubious roles in a young person's life. It has far too much potential for damage beyond repair. Spurrier's comment, "It's sort of working itself out," is a salacious comment. Are there no reprimands for idiocy?

Caught up in the ugliness I mentioned before, Michael Bowman's dream could have very easily gone up in Coach Steve Spurrier's smoke. But this disappointing story does conclude happily. With the help of Grooms and assistant coach Jarrett Troxler, Michael's vision and dreams could possibly live on. All of his hard work may not be in vain. The only difference is this - he will play in North Carolina instead of South Carolina if things go according to plan. So, once again, the war between the states is won by the North. I say that because I know Michael and have witnessed his multi-faceted talents on the playing field, as well as his transformation in the classroom. He will be an asset and is sure to make commendable contributions to the game of football, no matter where the field.

Bowman is to be recognized for turning chicken scratch into chicken pie. When you're faced with such devastation it would be easy to say, "That's it, I give up." But I know Mike too well to think he would handle the four-deuce hand he was dealt by Spurrier with such recklessness. Instead he became a force as he refused to give up, refused to take no for an answer and refused to stay home this fall. He sought other opportunities and found a field here in his home state. He turned those deuces into aces and now is on his way to ride a Pirate ship instead of a chicken's back. Well done Michael.

I've often said it is sometimes through adversity that we find our strengths, and move forward from the newly found wisdom. You, Michael Bowman, have epitomized that sentiment with your handling of the shot in the back you received from Steve Spurrier's revolver. How dare he think you would just fall face down? He recruited you with prior knowledge of your spirit, tenacity and commitment. He recruited you on your abilities and your talent. You handed USC your letter of intent, while forgoing other scholarship offers you could have received from schools like ECU, Hawaii, Tennessee and Colorado. So how does Spurrier sleep at night? Apparently he has no conscience or so it would seem with his dysfunctional recruiting tactics.

No matter, Michael. I challenge you to work hard, play hard and continue living your dream at ECU. Oh and when the time comes for the two teams to go head to head, I want you play a significant part in plucking the Gamecocks, which would really tar and feather their brainless head coach, figuratively speaking, of course.

Photo and story by Mel Morse

Community Get (IT) Together this Saturday

Holla (Helping Our Loved ones Learn & Achieve), Solo (Saving Our Little Ones) and Growing Youth Christian Ministries are having a Community Get (IT) Together on Saturday, July 21 from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm at the Masonic Lodge and parking lot behind Smith's Funeral Home in Wadesboro.

This event is designed to bring the community together to share fun, excitement, motivation and information on how to Get (IT) Together and begin building stronger children.

Features of the day will include; an Old School/New School car show, a 3-point shooting contest, a bike show, motivational speakers, entertainment, food, moon bouncers and much more! For more information, call 704-694-3552 and leave a message or visit wadesboro.com.

Poker Run for David Jackson Family Sat.

A motorcycle poker run will be held on Saturday, July 21 to benefit David Jackson and his family. David, known to his friends as "DJ," was diagnosed with cancer in the early spring and is undergoing treatments now.

Poker run participants are asked to gather in the parking lot of the former Wal-Mart at noon. Troy Deese and Susan Poe will be on hand to collect registrations and to hand out the first card. Riders will pick up their other cards on a circuit that covers Monroe, Pageland, Cheraw and Rockingham. A hot air balloon ride, a motorcycle jacket and more great items will be auctioned off, with all proceeds going to benefit DJ.

For more information, please call Susan Poe at 704-694-3701.

Look inside for these special inserts
• IGA