

THE EXPRESS

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Anson Officers Bust Multiple Drug Dealers

Sheriff's Deputies arrested a number of drug suspects following the execution of a search warrant on Rosehaven Road in Morven on Friday, July 11. The Sheriff's Deputies were assisted by the Wadesboro Police Department Special Response Team during the search. Sheriff Tommy Allen said that his department had received information on drugs and guns at this site and they were familiar with the suspects and took all precautions going into the house. Deputies seized drugs, including marijuana and cocaine, along with two handguns, a rifle, a shotgun and money used in the drug operation.

Deputies arrested

- Chad Weston Gatewood, age 22, of 309 Rosehaven Road in Morven. He was charged with Possession and Possession with Intent to Sell and Deliver both Marijuana and Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Maintaining a Dwelling to Sell Drugs. His bond was set at \$50,000.

- Jonathan Hudson, age 20, address given as 416 Ballard Springs Road in Morven. He was charged with Possession and Possession to Sell and Deliver both Marijuana and Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Maintaining a Dwelling to Sell and deliver Drugs. His bond was set at \$50,000.

- Donald Baker, age 16, address given as 210 Second Street, Morven. He was charged with Possession and Possession with Intent to Sell and Deliver both Marijuana and Cocaine, and Resisting Arrest. His bond was set at \$30,000.

Court date for all three suspects was set for August 25. Gatewood posted bond, Hudson and Baker remain in jail.

On Friday, July 18 officers arrested to suspects following the execution of a search warrant on Dora Street in Wadesboro. Arrested were Prince Albert Hall, age 51, of 103 Dora Street and Shonda Forte Hall, age 25, also of 103 Dora Street. Both were charged with Felony Possession and Possession to Sell and Deliver Cocaine, Maintaining a Dwelling to Sell Cocaine, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Shonda Hall was also charged with Possession of Marijuana. Bond for both suspects was set at \$5,000 and a court date set for August 19. Both suspects have since made bond.

Both these operations were coordinated through the City-County Drug Taskforce, made up of officers from the Wadesboro Police Department and the Anson County Sheriff's Office.

7 Juvenile Delinquents Vandalize Little Park



Sheriff's Deputies were called to Little Park early on Monday, July 21 after park operators discovered significant vandalism and damage when they opened the park that morning. It is estimated that over \$10,000 in damage was done to the park facility that included breaking into buildings, destruction of property, and graffiti spray painted on vehicles, buildings, playground equipment, walkways and bathrooms. Much of the graffiti appeared to be "gang" related, but officers would discover later that it was done to try to throw blame to a group of "want-a-be" gangs in another area of the county.

Following an investigation by Sheriff's Deputies, officers arrested one 16 year old and obtained juvenile summons on six other individuals ranging in age from 13 to 15 years old.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said, "It was disgusting to see this flagrant destruction of public property and think about the hard work that has gone into this park, which was designed for kids. Young people say they have nothing to do, but this park provides a lot of positive things, and you have kids like this who want to destroy it so no one can use it."

Allen said that his thoughts also are that it was not only a juvenile problem. "In talking with these kids we found out that this happened around 2 to 3 o'clock in the morning. Why are these kids out on the streets at this time of the night? Where are the parents?"

The Sheriff identified the sixteen year old as Sherod Hill, age 16, of White Store Road in Wadesboro. Hill was charged with two counts of Breaking and Entering and Larceny, Damage to Real Property, and Damage to Personal Property. His bond was set at \$3,000 and a court date was set for August 11. Hill has since made bond.

ESC Warns of Unemployment Fraud

North Carolina's Employment Security Commission has been alerted to fraud schemes active here and in other states which offer to assist those people who possibly qualify for the new emergency unemployment insurance extended benefits after the payment of a fee. There is no fee required to apply for benefits in any state, and no fee is required to receive funds by those who qualify.

"This is an unfortunate situation where citizens are being taken advantage of when their financial prospects are bleak," said ESC Chairman Harry Payne. "Our agency does not require a fee to apply for services and will seek to prosecute those who try to defraud the public in such a manner with respect to unemployment insurance."

Those in North Carolina who feel they qualify for the emergency unemployment benefits should contact the agency locally at 116 West Wade Street in Wadesboro or call 704-694-6551. You can also apply for the extended benefits online at www.ncesc.com.

Enjoy the Resources of the Pee Dee River



Mr. Walter Rorie takes advantage of the Pee Dee's Blewett Falls Lake area for some fine fishing. This photo was snapped around this time last year. The glassy waters are still serene and supportive of fun sport fishing.

One of the greatest natural resources in our county would have to be the Pee Dee River. And, since August has been pinned National Catfish Month, what better way to salute the event than with a fishing trip down to Blewett Falls Lake.

At the lake you will find several species of fish indigenous to the area waters, and of them the catfish has a definite and prominent place to thrive.

According to a study conducted by Progress Energy, "Blewett Falls supports healthy water fisheries where largemouth bass, black crappie, smallmouth buffalo and blue catfish dominate in the shallow lake; therefore, it maintains some good sport fishing."

So take off and enjoy some good fishing one of

these great afternoons we're so accustomed to. While there you can take in the beauty of the lake, the shoreline and the big beautiful blue sky ahead. You may catch a "mess of fish" and then again, you may not. But it's sure to be a day worth investing some pleasurable time into.

Take your family or friends to share with you some of the simple pleasures Anson County offers up on a silvery, watery platter. After which, you may have something special in your fishing basket for a great backyard neighborhood fish fry.

Again, get out there and enjoy one of our great resources. Do it and I'm certain you'll be glad you did. If not for the fishing, at least for the scenic beauty of the river.

Photo and story by Melanie Morse

Ag Expo & Fair Set for September 26-27

Mark your calendars for this year's Anson Ag Expo & Fair, and plan to enjoy a new format. Scheduled for two days this year, the event will move the band and some of the livestock show to Friday evening, and the fair to the Cooperative Extension Center. This year's festivities will be held Friday and Saturday, September 26-27 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center of SPCC and the Extension Center on McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The event promises an array of activities, food, fun and down-home entertainment.

Friday's offerings will begin at 6 p.m. in the Lockhart-Taylor Center with the annual Youth Livestock Show, meat goats at 7 p.m. The featured band, Hillbilly Deluxe, will play from 8 until 10 p.m. Music and entertainment will also be provided before the band and during intermission by local talent groups. All events are free to the public.

This year's band combines classic rock with southern rock, a splash of bluegrass and country. Some of their past bookings include Childress Vineyards, Stanly County Relay for Life and the Bud Shoot Out. Back again on Saturday will be Nashville Bound, the youth bluegrass group from Stanly County.

Saturday's activities will run from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., with the rest of the Youth Livestock Show, more local entertainment, the Expo in the parking area and Ingram Room, and the County Fair at the Cooperative Extension Center.

County fair books are in print and will soon be available. The books contain categories, guidelines and entry forms, and will be mailed to past participants and vendors. For 2008, crafts, canned goods, ag products, art and handicrafts will be welcomed for competition. Fair books will be available at the Extension Center, and they will also be accessed on the county Extension website at: <http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu/>.

For agencies and businesses that wish to participate, outside and indoor vendor space is available throughout both days. Additional food vendors are needed for both Friday night and Saturday. Vendor registration forms are available by contacting Janine Rywak, County Extension Director, at 704-694-2915.

Be on the lookout for more information to come, including entertainment news, children's activities, the youth livestock show and much more. Come out and join the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson. *By Janine Rywak, County Extension Director*

Arts Council Bach Luncheon

The second in a series of three scheduled Bach's Lunches hosted by the Anson County Arts Council will be held on Wednesday, August 20, from 12 noon until 1 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro. This fundraising event is \$10 per person and will feature music by Emily Likater, vocal artist. A scrumptious dessert will be provided by Peaches n' Cream, located on Highway 74 East.

For questions or further details, please call 704-694-4950. Tickets are required for entrance, but carry out service will be available.

Hornwood Employees Make Generous Contribution to United Way



Hornwood, Inc. employees presented the United Way with a most generous donation of \$11,000 for their 2008 campaign.

Some Hornwood employees are pictured here with Brook Crider as they present the check. They are, from left, front: John Marshall, Mary Liles, Sandra Harris, Brook Crider and Darrell Goodson. Second row: Athan Tillman, Lowery Spencer, Christie Dutton, Tracy Baynard and Georgenia Brown.

Mobile Health Screening Clinic August Schedule

Free health screenings, which include blood pressure, heart rate, cholesterol and blood sugar for anyone over the age of 18, will be offered by the Healthy Ansonians Mobile Health Screening Clinic. The schedule for August is as follows:

- Wednesday, August 6, Pleasant Hill UMC McFarlan, 9:30 until 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 6, First Baptist Church, Lee Avenue, 9:30 until 11:30 a.m.
- Thursday, August 7, Ansonville VFD, 9 a.m. until noon
- Tuesday, August 12, IGA, 9 a.m. until noon
- Wednesday, August 13, Morven Senior Meal Site, 9:30 a.m. until noon
- Wednesday, August 13, Morven UMC, 3 until 6 p.m.
- Thursday, August 14, Wal-Mart, noon until 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 19, Burnsville VFD, 1 until 4 p.m.
- Thursday, August 21, Peachland Center, 9 a.m. until noon
- Wednesday, July 16, Anson Station (Old Wal-Mart), 9 a.m. until noon
- Saturday, August 23, Anson County Farmer's Market, 8:30 until 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 27, Anson Station (Old Wal-Mart) 9 a.m. until noon

The Mobile Clinic does not operate on days that Anson County Schools are delayed or closed due to inclement weather. For more information, contact Linda Griffin, RN, BSN at 704-695-3488 or 704-694-5131.

Look inside for these special inserts
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