

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

Postal
Customer

THE EXPRESS

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

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

Thieves Steal Bronze Vases from Anson Memorial Park Cemetery

Anson County Sheriff's deputies are investigating the theft of over 150 bronze flower vases from graves at Anson Memorial Park. Sheriff Tommy Allen said that over the past month thieves have struck three times. "It's very frustrating for us to see this kind of heartless thievery. It's very sad for the families to have these vases removed from their loved one's graves. These are the lowest class of thieves who steal from cemeteries and churches. I really can't tell you how bad we want to get our hands on these individuals," Allen said.

The bronze vases when purchased new cost over \$130 each. They can be melted down and sold as scrap to junk dealers for a few cents on the dollar. Allen said that there is also an international market where the bronze vases are actually ground into small pieces and shipped overseas, generally to China.

The Sheriff said that he had met with Harvey Leavitt of Leavitt Funeral Home and was told that the remaining vases were being removed by the Memorial Park staff until the situation settled down. "Mr. Leavitt said that he would be notifying the families of this and any future changes," Allen said.

Crime Stoppers is offering up to a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals involved in this crime. Call the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188 if you have any information.

Rockingham Man Wrecks, Florida Charges Against Him Discovered



On Wednesday morning, August 1 at 8:57 a.m. a call came in to the 911 center about an accident on Highway 74. A dump truck driven by Michael Odell Sibley, 33, of Rockingham turned over on Highway 74 West near the Anson and Union County line. During the investigation of the accident officers with the State Highway Patrol discovered that Sibley was wanted on charges in Florida, including Grand Theft, Dealing in Stolen Property and False Ownership of a Pawn Item. He was arrested at the scene.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said that traffic on Highway 74 was disrupted for almost four hours by the accident, until shortly before 1 p.m.

According to the Highway Patrol Sibley was traveling west on Highway 74 when he drove his dump truck into the grass median, pulled back onto the highway, went back into the median, returned to the westbound lane of the highway, then overturned. The truck stopped on its side in the westbound lanes of the highway.

Sibley is being held in the Anson County Jail under a \$20,000 bond, awaiting extradition to Florida.

Summer Safety Reminder - Look Before You Lock!

The Anson County Partnership for Children and Safe Kids Anson County are issuing a reminder for all parents and child care providers to "Look Before You Lock" this summer, to prevent unnecessary child deaths related to heat exposure inside vehicles. So far in 2012, there have been 15 child deaths due to heat stroke after being left in unattended vehicles.

A recent study conducted by the American Academy of Pediatrics showed that in just one hour, vehicle temperatures can reach up to 117 degrees Fahrenheit even though it's only 72 degrees outside. That same study reported that cars with cracked windows can still result in temperatures rising 19 degrees in just 10 minutes.

In an effort to raise awareness, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Safe Kids USA have issued the following guidelines for all parents, child care providers, Head Start programs, and the general public:

- Make it part of your everyday routine to account for all children in your care;
- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle—even if the windows are partially open or the engine is running and the air conditioning is on;
- Always make a habit of looking in the vehicle—front and back—before locking the door and walking away;
- Set up backup systems to double check that no child is left in the vehicle.
- Parents should ask their child care provider to call them if their child does not show up for care as expected;
- Do things that serve as a reminder a child is in the vehicle, such as placing a purse or briefcase in the back seat to ensure no child is accidentally left in the vehicle, writing a note or using a stuffed animal placed in the driver's view to indicate a child is in the car seat.
- Remember, leaving a child alone in a vehicle, even for just 10 minutes, can cause heatstroke and death.

Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership is responsible for developing collaborative strategies to meet the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on: Child Care Quality, Child Care Accessibility, Child Care Affordability, Health, Literacy and Family Support. For more information, contact 704-694-4036.

Art Contest Winners to be Announced

Winning entries for the 2012 Treasures of Anson Art contest will be announced on Sunday, August 12 at the 2nd Sunday Art Reception of the Anson County Arts Council. The reception will take place at the Art Gallery at 110 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Prize money will be presented to three of our local artists during the reception. Contest entries will be displayed along with work from other area artisans.

If you have any questions about the art reception, please contact the Arts Council at 704-694-4950. If you have any questions about the art contest, please contact Merrie of Anson Art League at 704-695-1304.

Pianist and Violinist to Entertain at Next Wednesday's Bach's Lunch

The Anson County Arts Council's final Bach's Lunch of the summer on Wednesday, August 15 will feature entertainment by pianist Elaine Johnson and violinist Janet Wright. Come out and enjoy a delicious lunch with homemade dessert and tea at this hour-long event, from noon to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. This is an ideal way to break out of a boring lunch routine or treat your coworkers to lunch.

Takeouts are available. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Arts Council, Lacy's, the Chamber of Commerce, or from any Arts Council board member. Please purchase tickets in advance.

Town of Morven Gearing up for October Fest



The Town of Morven will celebrate their Octoberfest Saturday, October 6 with greetings from Mayor Houston Pratt, County Commissioners Ross Streater and Vancine Sturdivant, Town Council members and various elected officials during opening ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. across from the Town Hall in Morven. There will be vendors, information booths, and activities for the children and entertainment for everyone. The parade line up will start at 2 p.m. HOLLA! will sponsor a block party beginning at 6 p.m.

County Commissioner Ross Streater, Chair of committee, stated, "This is a time when all citizens can come together and enjoy each other. We plan on making the Octoberfest better and better each year."

To be a part of this great festival you may contact Commissioner Streater or Shemetra Melton, Morven Town Hall Clerk, at 704 851-9321.

Express Columnist Mr. Ed McBride Turns 90 on Friday!

Our very own, near and dear to our hearts, Mr. Ed McBride will turn 90 years young on Friday, August 10! I am sure that there will be many family members, friends and other loved ones surrounding Mr. McBride over the next few days for this notable birthday. We all enjoy his optimistic and funny sense of humor, his friendly and caring nature, and his willingness to offer a few jokes any time your paths cross.

Personally, I remember the name Ed McBride from years and years and years ago, when I was around age ten. I was to ride atop a convertible in the Wadesboro Christmas Parade while representing what was then Polkton School. Mrs. Lib Martin, who worked in uptown Wadesboro at Anson Supply, was in charge of fetching a sign for the car, and she headed straight for Mr. McBride's sign painting and small appliance repair shop. What I was presented with were two meticulously hand painted signs, one for each side of the car. The lettering was painted in a perfect Christmas red with beautiful green ribbons reaching out and around the letters, "Miss Melanie Lockhart." Bordering the sign were sprigs of holly and red berries. I couldn't believe my eyes they were so beautiful. I didn't know Mr. McBride at the time, but I've always remembered his name and those beautiful signs.

Since then Mr. McBride has become one of the many things about my employment at The Express that I have grown to love. There has never been a time that he didn't meet me with a warm smile and very pleasant, "Good morning!" Even if it was after lunch! I suppose for a man who looks at life the way he does, every moment in time is "morning," which is the absolute best time of every day.

So Happy Birthday Mr. McBride, and good morning to you too! Good morning to you all day every day! We love you.

By Melanie Lyon



Anson County Fifth in NC in Visitor Spending Increase Percentage

Gov. Bev Perdue announced that all of the state's 100 counties saw increases in visitor spending in 2011, including seven counties that had double-digit increases. Data from the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development showed that three counties (Mecklenburg, Wake and Guilford) had more than \$1 billion in visitor spending in 2011 while Dare, Buncombe, Forsyth and Durham all had more than half a billion in spending.

Domestic visitors to and within North Carolina spent a record \$18 billion in 2011, an increase of 8 percent from 2010. For the first time, state tax receipts as a result of visitor spending neared \$1 billion in 2011. Local tax revenues totaled nearly \$561 million. Visitor expenditures directly generated 187,900 jobs and more than \$4 billion in payroll income within North Carolina in 2011.

"Tourism means jobs - nearly 200,000 of them across North Carolina," said Gov. Bev Perdue. "The depth of the state's appeal is reflected in the fact that every corner of North Carolina benefited from tourism. More than 37 million people experienced what makes this state such a desirable destination, from our wondrous coast and breathtaking mountains to our lively cities and fascinating towns."

The visitor spending figures come from an annual study commissioned by the Division of Tourism and conducted by the U.S. Travel Association. The study uses sales and tax revenue data plus employment figures to determine the overall impact of visitor spending in North Carolina. Highlights include:

- Mecklenburg County received more than \$4.1 billion in domestic travelers' expenditures to lead all of North Carolina's 100 counties. Wake County ranked second with \$1.7 billion, followed by Guilford County with nearly \$1.1 billion.
- Chatham and Davidson counties had the largest percent increases in visitor spending from 2010 with increases of 10.8 percent each. Forsyth and Mecklenburg counties each saw visitor spending increase 10.5 percent, followed by Anson (10.3 percent), Alamance (10.3 percent) and Wake (10.2 percent).
- Mecklenburg County directly employs the most tourism employees with more than 43,000 and has the largest total payroll (\$1.4 billion). Wake (19,180), Guilford (11,790) and Dare (11,260) each have more than 10,000 direct tourism employees.

Rescheduled Battle of the Bands Set for August 17

South Piedmont Community College's fifth annual Battle of the Bands, postponed by weather in April, is set for August 17, from 5 to 9 p.m. in the refurbished Helen Goodman Amphitheater on the L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton. Admission is free.

Artists scheduled to perform include Fire Fire, 21st Century Goliath, Clear Water Band, Something Clever, Sons of Saron, Michael Tracy, Brandon Kirkley and the Firecrackers, Eleanora Fagan, All Era, Craving Jane, Absolute Conviction and Carson Hill. As usual, the previous year's winner - Fire for Effect, in this case - is not eligible to compete.

Prize money has been increased dramatically for this year's event. The first-place band will receive \$1,500 - three times last year's prize. The second-place band will receive \$750 and the third-place band will get \$500. The individual performer will receive \$500, five times last year's prize.

The stage in the amphitheater was completely refurbished over the summer and has a new paint job. The way the stage is constructed now will allow one band to set up while another is playing. "New deck, backdrop, paint - it's basically brand new," Student Activities Director Mike Maffucci said. "It also has had new power run to the stage, with an area in the back to load instruments and equipment."

Various SPCC clubs will have food for sale during the event and Community Blood Center of the Carolinas will have a bloodmobile on hand.

The Battle of the Bands is sponsored by SPCC's Student Government Association.

Free School Supplies

Students from pre-kindergarten all the way to college are invited to come join in the event called Getting Fit for School this Saturday, August 11. There will be free school supplies, given away until all items are gone! This event will take place at the Ansonville Fire Department beginning at 9 a.m.

Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have a lost a child of any age or cause, meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 9 in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-8744.

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Musical Program

The Hampton B. Allen Library invites you to join them for the 50+ Club meeting that will be held on Monday, August 13 at 10:30 a.m. The program will be music presented by the band, Olde Country & Gospel. The band features Jim Hinson, Wilbur Moore, Sandy Drye, David Napier and Aaron Hinson.

For more information call the library at 704-694-5177.

Democratic Party Monthly Meeting

The Democratic Party will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, August 16 at the Hampton B. Allen Library at 6 p.m. They ask for representatives from area churches be present, along with any concerned citizens.

For more information contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

Brown Bag Book Club Meets

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, August 20 at noon in the Pritchett Room of the Hampton B. Allen Library. There will be a pot-luck lunch (bring a dish), and a talk by author Felicia Flemming-McCall.

If you have questions or need additional information please call the library at 704-694-5177.

Diabetic Support Group Meets

The Diabetic Support Group will meet at Calvary Episcopal Church on August 23 at 10:30 a.m. The speaker is Melissa Johnson from Second to Nature, and her topic is Medicare and Medical Equipment.

For more information contact Ruth Hildreth at 704-694-3979.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA Family Dollar Captain D's