

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.

Robbery Suspects Arrested, Also Busted for Pot Dealing

Officers from the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a strong-armed robbery on Graham Street at 11 a.m. in the morning on Tuesday, July 30th. Officers were advised by 911 dispatch that the caller had been attacked by three subjects who attempted to rob him. When officers arrived on Graham Street they observed three subjects matching the description given to them by dispatch. The three were hastily walking towards Crawford's Curve. The officers immediately stopped the three subjects and detained them while they conducted an investigation. The victim in the case was located shortly after detaining the three suspects, and he identified them as being the ones who attacked and robbed him. While conducting the investigation officers located a small money bag on one of the subjects which contained nearly two ounces of marijuana, digital scales and baggies. An ounce of the marijuana had already been pre-packaged into smaller baggies for sale.

The suspects were identified as Albert Willoughby, Daqwon Wright and Malcolm Cohen, a 17 year old juvenile. Willoughby was charged with Common Law Robbery, Simple Assault, Felony Conspiracy, Possession with the Intent to Sell and Deliver Marijuana (PWISDM), Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Felony Possession of Marijuana. He received a \$35,000 secured bond. Willoughby is also currently on probation with a six month suspended prison sentence for a previous Breaking and Entering conviction.

Daqwon Wright was charged with Common Law Robbery, Simple Assault, and Accessory after the fact (PWISDM). Wright received a \$20,000 secured bond.

Malcolm Cohen was charged as an adult with Accessory after the fact to Common Law Robbery, Accessory after the fact to (PWISDM), and Felony Conspiracy. He received a \$5,000 secured bond. In North Carolina juveniles are automatically charged as adults starting at the age of 16.

"Drugs continue to be a significant contributor to crime on the streets of our neighborhoods, as was the case with this robbery, said Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer. "The Wadesboro Police Department continues to work hard at combating the illegal sale of controlled substances in our community so that victimizations like this are prevented. I encourage all of our citizens to report any illegal drug activity to our department by calling 704-694-2167. Reports can be made anonymously."

Chief Spencer continued, "Since becoming Chief I have made it a priority to build positive relationships between the police department and the community it serves, which is the core of our community policing philosophy. I believe this is fundamental in providing professional and quality police services. As a community working together for the common good, our inevitable success is never impossible."



Willoughby



Wright



Cohen



4-H Delegation Attends Annual Electric Congress

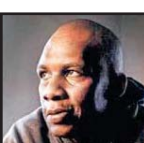
A delegation from Anson County attended the 66th annual 4-H Electric Congress July 22-24 at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. 225 4H'ers, adult leaders and Cooperative Extension agents from 60 counties attended the three day event.

Since 1947 Duke Energy and Dominion North Carolina Power have sponsored the annual congress to emphasize energy conservation and safe electricity use. The 4-H electric energy program is one of the most popular activities among Tar Heel 4-H'ers.

The 4-H program is the youth education program of North Carolina Cooperative Extension, based at North Carolina State and North Carolina A&T State universities. More than 237,500 young people between the ages of 5 and 19 participate in North Carolina 4-H activities each year with the help of 20,780 adult and youth volunteers.

Pictured above, from left are Sharon Edwards, 4-H volunteer leader and parent, Katie Edwards, Morgan McCoy, Aaliyah Escalera and Wayne Huddleston from Duke Energy.

Floyd Brown Receives \$7.85 Million Settlement in Lawsuit



Floyd Brown

North Carolina's State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and its insurers have agreed to pay \$7.85 million to Floyd Brown, 49, a mentally retarded man from Anson County who was locked up for 14 years at Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Hospital for murder. Brown was held because he was determined to be incompetent to stand trial. After Brown was released in 2007 he brought a civil lawsuit against the state and against Anson County for his imprisonment, which his attorney characterized as being based on a false confession created by an State Bureau of Investigation agent. Brown's attorney also reached a settlement with Anson County, but information about that settlement was sealed by a judge. Brown's lawsuit involved over two years of litigation.

North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper characterized the Brown settlement as an opportunity to move on, but did not admit any wrongdoing by the SBI, an agency he supervises. "The SBI and other law enforcement agencies now have better interrogation methods and lab reporting practices than were used in the 1990's when the incident at issue in this lawsuit occurred," Cooper said in a statement. "It was in the best interest of the state to settle this case."

Brown was charged with killing retired school teacher and civil rights activist Katherine Lynch in her home in 1993. Even though none of the evidence tested at the SBI crime lab linked Brown to the crime scene, detectives and SBI agents focused on Brown as a suspect soon after Lynch's death. Later much of the evidence in the case was lost, which precluded any chance for DNA testing, a method that became highly accurate during the time Brown was imprisoned. The main piece of remaining evidence was a 6 page confession that SBI agent Mark Isley says he wrote down verbatim during an interrogation of Brown in 1993. Attorneys and doctors for Brown have disputed the confession, pointing out that the elaborate details it contained were too advanced for Brown, who has an IQ of 50 to 57 and the mental capacity of a six or seven year old. Isley denied wrongdoing, stating that he did not know that Brown was retarded at the time he took the confession.

Brown was known to employees of the Anson County Courthouse prior to his arrest for Lynch's murder. He spent time hanging out there, often running errands for court clerks. He also had a multiple public-drunkenness charges and convictions for shoplifting and trespassing. Brown was never tried for the murder as he was declared mentally incompetent to stand trial. In 2007 he was released after Durham County Superior Court Judge Orlando Hudson ruled that he had been unlawfully held because the confession did not prove he had murdered Lynch. Brown's lawyer, David Rudolf, claims that agents involved with Brown's case ignored policies because they, "had the mentality that the ends justified the means." Rudolf said, "Agents decided who was guilty and filled in the blanks to get a conviction." Brown now lives with a caretaker.

Tdap Vaccination Clinic to be Held August 20

The Anson County Health Department will hold a Tdap vaccination clinic on Tuesday, August 20, from 5 until 7 p.m. It will be held at the Health Department, located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The Tdap vaccine gives protection against Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis. More information is available by calling 704-694-5188.

Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis can be very serious diseases, even for adolescents and adults. Tdap vaccine can protect us from these diseases. Tetanus (lockjaw) causes painful muscle tightening and stiffness, usually all over the body; it can lead to tightening of muscles in the head and neck so that you can't open your mouth, swallow or sometimes even breathe; tetanus kills about one out of five people who are infected.

Diphtheria can cause a thick coating to form in the back of the throat; it can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure and death. Pertussis (whooping cough) causes severe coughing spells, which can cause difficulty breathing, vomiting and disturbed sleep; it can also lead to weight loss, incontinence and rib fractures; up to two in 100 adolescents and five in 100 adults with pertussis are hospitalized or have complications, which could include pneumonia or death.

These diseases are caused by bacteria. Diphtheria and pertussis are spread from person to person through coughing or sneezing. Tetanus enters the body through cuts, scratches or wounds. Before vaccines, the United States saw as many as 200,000 cases a year of diphtheria and pertussis, and hundreds of cases of tetanus. Since vaccination began, tetanus and diphtheria have dropped by about 99% and pertussis by about 80%.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that adolescents should preferably receive the Tdap vaccine at 11-12 years of age (before entering 6th grade). They also recommend adults (e.g., grandparents, child-care providers, and health-care practitioners) who have or who anticipate having close contact with an infant less than 12 months of age and who previously have not received Tdap should receive a single dose of Tdap to protect against pertussis and to reduce the likelihood of transmission. For other adults aged 65 years and older, a single dose of Tdap vaccine may be given instead of Td vaccine in persons who have not previously received Tdap. Tdap can be administered regardless of the interval since the last tetanus or diphtheria toxoid containing vaccine. After receipt of Tdap, persons should continue to receive Td for routine booster immunization against tetanus and diphtheria.

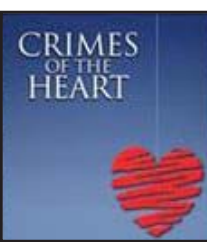
Auditions Scheduled for Ansonia Theatre's Next Play Production, *Crimes of the Heart*

Crimes Of The Heart, the Ansonia Theatre's next community play, is scheduled for performance on November 1-3 and November 8-10. Auditions for the cast, to include four women (ages 20-40) and two men (ages 20-40), will be held at the theatre on Thursday, September 5, from 6:30 p.m. until. If you cannot make that date, please call the

Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950 as soon as possible.

Crimes Of The Heart, written by Beth Henley, is a comedy about serious topics. It was the winner of the 1981 Pulitzer Prize and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, and was later made into a movie, which was filmed in North Carolina.

You may stop by the Arts Council office, located at 112 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro, for sample scripts. Please bring your calendars with any conflicting dates to your audition. The theatre would also like to encourage volunteers for set construction, backstage, costuming, makeup, marketing, ticket sales, etc. Please contact the Anson County Arts Council or email ansonart@windstream.net.



Back To School with Pride Event is this Weekend

The "Back to School with Pride" outing will be held this Saturday, August 17 and Sunday, August 18. The event will be at Hatcher Park in Lilesville on Saturday beginning at 2 p.m. and on Sunday at 11 a.m. at Centenary A.M.E. Zion Church. The theme again this year is "Back to School with Pride."

Various county officials, legal and medical advisers and special guests are invited. There will be games and music for all provided by HOLLA/Leon Gatewood and M&L Fun-Fun located in Morven. School age youth from 4 to 18 years old are cordially invited to attend. The kids will be given bags with school supplies at the end of the evening.

Landrick Reid will also be in attendance representing his Stride with Pride tennis shoe project for Anson kids.

If you or your youth would like to attend you are invited. Or, if you would like to help make this a success, you may donate school supplies, new/slightly used uniforms or monetary gifts. For more information, registration cards, or to donate please contact Vaccine Sturdivant at 704 848-4412 or Ester Lindsey at 704 848-8452.

Wadesboro Selects New Town Attorney

After an extensive search the Wadesboro Town Council selected Jeff Carpenter as Wadesboro's next Town Attorney. Carpenter is a partner at the Wadesboro firm of Carpenter & Flake which also features Anson County Board of Education Attorney Mike Flake. Carpenter replaces longtime Town Attorney and former Mayor Bobby Little, who passed away earlier this year.

"We are exceptionally glad to appoint Mr. Jeff Carpenter as Town Attorney," stated Wadesboro Mayor Bill Thacker. "He exhibits the characteristics that are essential in a Town Attorney - experience, knowledge, expertise and integrity."

Carpenter is licensed to practice law by the North Carolina State Bar and is a member of the Anson County and North Carolina Bar Associations; and the North Carolina Advocates for Justice. He received his law degree from Campbell University and his bachelor's degree from UNC-Charlotte. Prior to his legal career, Carpenter served as a North Carolina State Trooper from 1994 to 2000.

Carpenter commented, "I'm excited about the opportunity to serve as the new Wadesboro Town Attorney."

Sheriff's K-9 Benny Dies

From Sheriff Tommy Allen: It is with great sadness that I have to announce that we have lost one of our trusted and valued K-9s. Benny was a nine year old Belgian Malinois handled by K-9 Officer Sgt. Donald Jenks. Benny had been part of our organization since 2006. He was diagnosed with untreatable bone cancer just two weeks ago. His condition had gone down rapidly since then.



Benny actually worked Monday, August 12 because he "wanted to go" when Sgt. Jenks left home that morning. Though medicated and still in some discomfort, Benny wanted to go to work. Benny was put down Tuesday morning shortly after 8 a.m. at Brown Creek Animal Hospital.

Benny had a very successful K-9 career. He located illegal drugs and retrieved evidence on hundreds of occasions. He tracked down both bad guys and lost persons. He apprehended fleeing felons and protected his handler. No one ever out ran Benny. But, he was gentle with children and loved them and the family he lived with. Had he not gotten sick he was scheduled to retire next year. I am very proud to have had him as part of our organization. He will be deeply missed.

The Anson County flag will fly at half-mast throughout this week in honor of Benny.

Sheriff Allen said that he would immediately begin raising funds to help replace Benny. A K-9 trained at the level Benny was will cost between \$10,000 to \$12,000. Individuals or businesses interested in making donations to the K-9 fund should contact Sheriff Allen at 704-694-4188.

Board of Elections Meeting is August 20

The Anson County Board of Elections will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, August 20 at noon at the Board of Elections office.

Director of Elections Steven Adams said, "Please note that there is a time change for this meeting."

For more information call 704-994-3223.

Field of Dreams Fall Signups Scheduled

Field of Dreams fall ball signups have been scheduled for Saturday, August 17 and Saturday, August 24, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Sign up for the following sports:

- T-Ball for ages 4-6 with an entry fee of \$35
- Baseball for ages 7-12 with an entry fee of \$70
- Softball for ages 7-16 with an entry fee of \$70

More information is available by emailing melmorse@gmail.com or calling 704-695-2247.

Brown Bag Book Club Meets

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, August 19 in the Pritchett Room at Hampton B. Allen Library at 12:00 noon for a covered dish meal (bring a dish) and author talk. The author is Rev. Thomas Horne, Jr. He has a new book, *Are You the One*. He will talk about his new book and have some for sale also.

Please make plans to attend and bring a friend. If you have questions or need more information please call the library at 704-694-5177.

Summer's Final Bach's Lunch is a Great Mother-Daughter Outing

Teenage singer/songwriter Carson Hill of Ansonville will be the featured performer at the Anson County Arts Council's final Bach's Lunch of the summer on Wednesday, August 21. Lasting only one hour, the lunch offers the perfect opportunity for a mother/daughter outing before students go back to school on August 26 as well as a welcome change from the routine for local workers.

Carson, who has fans both young and old, writes songs that tell stories that capture the listener. She began singing publicly at age two, learned to play the piano at six, taught herself to play guitar and began writing songs at age eleven, and has now added playing the mandolin to her repertoire of talents.

The Bach's Lunch will be held at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 208 South Greene Street in Wadesboro, from noon until 1 p.m. A lunch of chicken salad and croissant, potato salad, tomato, lettuce, pickle, tea, and dessert will be served. Take-outs will be available.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at Lacy's and the Arts Council in Wadesboro and from Arts Council board members. Please purchase in advance if possible.