

68  
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](mailto:TheExpressNews@gmail.com) • [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)

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

## An Evening for the Arts is Saturday

An Evening for the Arts, the Anson County Arts Council's annual fundraiser and gala, returns this Saturday, October 3 at Twin Valley Country Club, from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. Dinner, dancing, and wonderful silent auction items will create an elegant evening as you support one of our county's hardest-working organizations.

Popular dance band the Mixx will provide both background and dance music. This year there will be plenty of time for dancing and for bidding on the treasures that you'll want to take home. Parking assistance will be provided for those who need it.

All ticket proceeds will help support the following Arts Council programs and events:

- Numerous arts-related programs for students
- Co-sponsorship of the story-telling event "Back Porch Stories" in conjunction with the Anson County Writers Club
- Six performances of the community play production *Driving Miss Daisy*
- Six performances of the community play production *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*
- Six performances of the community play production *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
- Six performances of the community play productions *Laundry and Bourbon and Lone Star*
- Sponsorship of the Anson High School Art Honor Society
- Co-sponsorship of an Ansonia performance by the Singing Americans of Stanly County
- Co-sponsorship of Tarradiddle Players' performances for children in conjunction with Anson County Partnership for Children
- Christmas in November Art and Crafts sale on November 14, where 100% of sales go directly to area artists and craftsmen and admission to the public is free
- Summer 2016 drama camps for children
- Artists Receptions • Bach's Lunches for Summer 2016
- Occasional movies at the Ansonia Theatre
- The beautiful ACAC gallery, where local and regional artists exhibit their work • A concert by the Tams

All Arts Council programs are funded by membership contributions, donations, fundraisers and occasional small grants. Enjoy a great night out at An Evening for the Arts as you help the Anson County Arts Council continue to enhance life in our beautiful county.

Tickets are \$40 each - \$50 after Friday, September 25 - and are available at the Arts Council (704-694-4950) and Lacy's and from any member of the Arts Council Board of Directors. Due to size restraints of this year's venue, a limited number of tickets will be sold. Get yours today!

## Town of Wadesboro Conducting Fire Hydrant Testing Next 2 Months

To protect the safety of the community and help keep your insurance costs down, the Town of Wadesboro will be conducting fire hydrant testing over the next 2 months. This may stir up some sediment and result in temporarily discolored water in areas related to testing. This water is safe to drink.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either Town Hall at (704) 694-5171 or the Fire Department at (704) 694-2167 ext. #6. The Town apologizes for any inconvenience, but wants to do everything in its power to protect your safety and keep insurance costs down.

## Partnership for Children Offers ReadyRosie to Anson County

The Anson County Partnership for Children is pleased to present ReadyRosie to the Anson County community. ReadyRosie is a free online resource that models daily activities for adults to do with children birth to six years old. The activities are simple and take only a few minutes a day. Each activity is modeled on a two minute video featuring real parents with real children.

All parents, grandparents, teachers, child care providers, caregivers and community members with an email address and/or smart phone are invited to register. Upon registration, you will begin receiving daily ReadyRosie emails and/or SMS text messages with videos of activities to do with the children in your life.

You can register for ReadyRosie at [readyrosie.com/signup](http://readyrosie.com/signup). Just enter your zip code and the other information as requested. The Anson County Partnership for Children has paid for registration of all zip codes in Anson County using revenues from the annual Partnership fundraiser, the Barn Blast. You can also register by calling us at 704-694-4036 or by coming to the Anson County Partnership for Children at 117 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

ReadyRosie is an online parent / caregiver engagement program with activities targeted for literacy, math, speech, and language acquisition. The program is based on daily videos sent through email or text. The messages provide short videos and coaching to enable parents and caregivers to enhance basic learning opportunities throughout their daily routines. For example, videos provide short activities parents or caregivers can do with their children while driving in the car, in the grocery store, outside or in the home. In addition to the daily messages, registration includes free access to all 300 ReadyRosie videos that teach vocabulary, language and numeracy.

The Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child." For more information about ReadyRosie in Anson County, please contact Megan Sellers at 704-694-4036 or [megan.sellers@ansonchildren.org](mailto:megan.sellers@ansonchildren.org) or visit Facebook or at [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org).



The Little family enjoys reading together.



## Woodmen of the World Donates \$3,000 to New Agri-Civic Center Project

Woodmen of the World, Chapter 4, recently pledged \$3,000 towards the new Anson Agri-Civic Center. Currently, \$609,500 has been given and pledged as part of a \$2.5M local fundraising campaign.

Pictured in photo from left are Peg Pinkston, Sylvia Turner, President, Janine Rywak and Lee Roy Lookabill, Resource Development Committee Chair.

## Farm-City Week Dinner Held at Lockhart-Taylor Center Last Week

Ag producers, business representatives and community leaders from across the county attended the annual Farm-City Week dinner, held Tuesday, September 22 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center of South Piedmont Community College in Wadesboro. The event was held to emphasize the collaborations between the farming industry and the business community, with 180 in attendance. Outstanding individuals were also recognized and awarded plaques for their dedication to agriculture and business.

Farm-City Week observances take place around the nation each year to strengthen the understanding of farm-city connections that provide our food, fiber and shelter. Anson County is fortunate to have strong ties that appreciate our agricultural base and its importance to the local economy.

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce and Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District joined the Anson County Cooperative Extension staff to host the evening. The event combined the annual Farm-City Week observances with Brown Creek's annual awards dinner.

Sponsored by Pee Dee Electric, guests were treated to a reception before the event, then a beef roast dinner catered by the Anson County Cattlemen's Association. The evening program highlighted agriculture, award recipients and entertainment.

Plaques given during the evening included Outstanding Farmer of the Year, awarded by Anson County Cooperative Extension, to Gary Sikes of Bountiful Harvest Farm. Outstanding Agribusiness was awarded to Tractor Supply Company, received by Dan Ward, and presented by the Anson County Chamber of Commerce.

Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District recognized Dr. Danny Wright and Brown Creek Animal Hospital with their District Sponsorship Recognition. Brown Creek also recognized John G. McCormick of Lilesville as the Anson County Conservation Farm Family.

Resource Conservation Workshop Participant Hunter Taylor was recognized for his participation in the named program sponsored at NC State this summer. Not present, but also mentioned as attending was Curtis Napier.

The evening's entertainment was juggler, magician and comedian Paul Miller. Miller entertained the group after dinner with a show of jokes, pranks and fun, interacting with the audience and leaving them in laughter.

This year's event kicked off a week of observing and celebrating agriculture in Anson County. The week ended with the annual Ag Fair at the Extension Center and 4-H Youth Livestock Show at Circle G Arena in Lilesville.



Gary Sikes and Aimee Colf



John McCormick and Jake Barbee



Nicole Carpenter and Hunter Taylor



Paul Miller and John Springer

## Parent/Teacher Conferences are Thursday

District-wide Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, October 1. That is also an early release day for students. The schedules are below:

- Elementary Schools will release at 12:30 p.m. Elementary Conferences are 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Middle and High Schools will release at 1:30 p.m. Middle and High School Conferences are 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

## Town of Morven Octoberfest is Saturday

The Town of Morven will hold their annual Octoberfest this Saturday, October 3, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be food, fun and gospel singing. Everyone is invited to come out for the day.

Anyone interested in having a booth please contact Morven Councilwoman Marjorie Cole for information at 704-465-0863.

## Auditions for Play The Best Christmas Pageant Ever to be Held on October 5

Auditions for the play *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* will be held on Monday, October 5 at the Ansonia Theatre, starting at 6 p.m. Readers will read from the script. Children who are nonreaders should be prepared to share in their own words about their favorite Christmas gift ever.

The show dates are December 11 through 20. There will be a special school program during a school day, so you or your child would need to miss a half-day of school. Please bring your calendars to auditions so that you can share any conflicts with play Director Tommy Wooten.

Call 704-694-4950 for further information. The Ansonia is looking for a huge cast of all ages and types so please come out and give it a try.

By Melanie Lyon

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)

## DES Improves Online Claims Filing Experience for Customers

The Division of Employment Security (DES) has improved the online experience for those customers filing unemployment claims via the internet. DES has made sweeping changes to the internet initial claims application. The changes are being made to provide DES with a better mechanism for facilitating system upgrades and addressing any future updates that require immediate attention.

"What we like most about the new application is its simplicity," said Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary of Employment Security Dale Folwell. "Our customers will find it easier to file a claim now that we have clearer instructions and wording throughout the application. We've also added fraud prevention pieces, security measures and given it a mobile-friendly view."

"I appreciate the Division's endorsement of this idea," said Lopez. "The DES Information Technology and Adjudication Departments and our Customer Call Center, along with the Division of Workforce Solutions staff made it possible by breaking down silos in state government to better serve customers."

The new design allows the customer to file a claim much more quickly, and the new platform provides for a more sustainable program that allows for implementation of any law changes, quickly and efficiently. The new design also captures more data for the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) reporting.

To file a claim for unemployment benefits, or to get more information about the unemployment insurance program, individuals can go to [www.ncesc.com](http://www.ncesc.com).