

17
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.



Wadesboro, NC
Taste of the Pee Dee Festival
Arts | Crafts | Outdoor Living
October 11, 2014

TASTE OF THE PEE DEE
Festival is Saturday
in Uptown Wadesboro
9am to 9pm

New Community Festival in Wadesboro Saturday

Taste of the Pee Dee - Arts, Crafts, Outdoor Living
In Uptown Wadesboro this Saturday, October 11 • 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Looking for a ton of fun this fall? Look no further than the Taste of the Pee Dee Festival! This all-new festival will take place in uptown Wadesboro this Saturday, October 11, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Events and activities will include live music, a timber sport competition, a climbing wall, the Discover Anson Bike Ride, a Zombie 5K walk/run course, a beer garden and offerings from Southern Medley Wine Cellar, local arts and crafts, delicious barbeque by the Anson Rescue Squad and other food vendors, face painting...and lots more! The NC Cooperative Extension will present a kiddie tractor pull, an adult food bake-off and a kids' creative squash contest. Other food and refreshments will be available.

At 6 p.m. the main concert will begin, with the stage located at the intersection of Wade and Washington Streets. The day will end with a spectacular fireworks show uptown.

General admission to the event is free, and there is plenty of free parking. Pre-registration is required for the DiscoverAnson Bike Ride and Zombie 5K Walk/Run Course. This new festival, Taste of the Pee Dee, replaces the local festival known as People Fest which had been held for decades in Wadesboro. Taste of the Pee Dee has added new events and more outdoor activities.

Taste of the Pee Dee is being presented by the Town of Wadesboro. Questions should be directed to Cindi Pope, Wadesboro Town Clerk, 704-694-5171 or wadesboroclerk@windstream.net. For more details and to see a list of events, check out the website at www.TasteofthePeeDee.com.

Ag Expo Activities at Taste of the Pee Dee

The upcoming Taste of the Pee Dee Festival will feature some new opportunities for young and old alike. Three events from the annual Anson Ag Expo & Fair will be offered as part of this year's event. Scheduled for this Saturday, October 11, plan to participate in something fun for everyone.

The Creative Squash Challenge will be offered for youth ages 2 through 16, the Kiddie Tractor Pull for ages 3 through 8, and then the Local Foods Bake-Off is available for adults. Registration for all events will be in the Cooperative Extension tent on that Saturday.

The Creative Squash Challenge is a youth competition comprised of decorating and crafting a unique creation from any type squash, from zucchini to pumpkins. Squash must be entered between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.

Entries will be judged on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. and judging is open to the public. Three age groups will each receive prize money for placing first \$15, second \$10 and third \$5. Ribbons will also be awarded.

The Local Foods Bake-Off will feature entries of baked items made from local foods. At least one local food ingredient must be used. Local food items may be purchased, but must still be locally produced. Local in this event is defined as within 30 miles of Wadesboro.

Baked items must be entered on Saturday, from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. A recipe must be submitted with the entry designating the local food ingredient. Judging will take place at 10:30 a.m. and is open to the public.

Premium money will be awarded for first \$40, second \$25 and third, \$15, and ribbons will also be provided. Don't forget that all items in the decorated squash and baked local foods competitions are to be picked up at 4:00 p.m.

The Kiddie Tractor Pull is open to ages 3 to 8, with registration starting at 9:30 a.m. Racing begins at 11:00 a.m. in front of the courthouse. Youth will be divided into weight classes, and prizes include ribbons and John Deere toy tractors, courtesy of Quality John Deere.

Guidelines for all categories are available on the Anson County Cooperative Extension website at anson.ces.ncsu.edu and the 2014 Anson Ag Expo & Fair Facebook page.

So find a local ingredient, help your young friends locate the perfect squash to decorate, and gear up for the Kiddie Tractor Pull! Come out and enjoy the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!



Operation Medicine Drop Collects 28,920 Doses of Medicines

The Anson County Sheriff's Office, along with Anson County Partnership for Children conducted its ninth Operation Medicine Drop on Saturday, September 27, next to Food Lion. 28,920 dosage units of medicines were collected. This brings to a total of almost 130,000 various doses of medicines collected since the beginning of this program.

"This is a win-win project all the way around," said Corporal JR Horne, who coordinated the project. "This makes homes safer by removing unused medicines; and eliminates the chances of these medicines from being stolen and sold on the street. And, it removes the possibilities of these medicines polluting the environment by being flushed into sewer systems or put into landfills."

Sheriff Tommy Allen commended his officers who have worked on this project along with other agencies over the years, and in particular Anson County Partnership for Children, who have been a partner with the project since its inception in 2010. "Deaths across North Carolina from overdoses of prescription medicines now surpass deaths from all the illegal drugs combined. These thousands of doses of medicines can now do no harm," Sheriff Allen said.

The Sheriff said that he has been advised that beginning later this year new Federal guidelines may allow local pharmacies to accept the no longer needed prescription medicines and the pharmacy will see that they are properly disposed. Check with your local pharmacy on the status of these new guidelines.

NC Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin asked North Carolina residents to clean out their medicine cabinets, and people answered the call! On Sept. 27, more than 100 Operation Medicine Drop events held in 48 counties across North Carolina safely collected and destroyed nearly 8 million expired and unneeded prescription and over-the-counter medications.

"Every time we collect and destroy a dosage of excess medication, it's a success," said Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. "I commend all of our partner agencies, and the community members who supported them, for safely disposing of medications so they don't end up in our waterways or in the wrong hands."

Operation Medicine Drop is held in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's 9th Annual National Take Back Initiative. It is a coordinated effort by the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Safe Kids North Carolina, DEA, the State Bureau of Investigation, Riverkeepers of NC, and state, county and local law enforcement groups to prevent accidental poisonings, substance abuse and protect our waters.

Citizens who missed the event can still participate in this important effort by visiting a permanent medication drop box near their home. They can find the location of a permanent drop box by going to www.ncsafekids.org.

With unintentional poisoning deaths on the rise in the state, Operation Medicine Drop also reminds parents and caregivers to:

- Keep medicines locked up and out of reach of children.
- Always read labels, follow directions and give medicines to children based on their weights and ages. Only use the dispensers packaged with children's medications.
- Avoid taking medicine or vitamins in front of kids, and don't call them candy.
- If you suspect poisoning and a child is choking, collapses, can't breathe or is having a seizure, call 911. Otherwise, take the product to the phone and call the national Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222.



Anson County's Unemployment Rate Up to 8.7% in August

Anson County's unemployment rate for August was 8.7 percent. In July the rate was 8 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate for August was 7%,

In August 2013 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 9.9%. In August 2012 it was 13.1%, in August 2011 it was 12.5%.

Anson's total labor force in August was 10,587. Of that number 9,670 were employed and 917 were unemployed. In July the total labor force was 10,632, with 9,785 employed and 847 unemployed.

Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 13.4 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 4.0 percent. Nine of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases and five remained unchanged. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 10.2 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville at 5.3 percent had the lowest. The August not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 7.0 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 96 counties, increased in three, and remained the same in one. All 14 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in August by 68,930 to 4,327,564, while those unemployed increased 188 to 324,599. Since August 2013, the number of workers employed statewide increased 8,700, while those unemployed decreased 46,311.

From the Sheriff's Desk

From Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen: On August 4th I begun meeting on a regular basis with new Sheriff-elect Landric Reid to help orientate him into his new job he will begin on December 1st. A transition plan has been put together by myself and my staff to help give Sheriff Reid both an overall view and detailed outlines as to what he will be walking into.

Changing Sheriffs is much more complicated than the old Sheriff leaving and the new Sheriff walking in. The transition plan that we've established includes a list of over 200 tasks or actions that must be reviewed, discussed and/or acted upon, by whom and when.

Some issues are complex like staffing and personnel, budgets, records, financial, evidence and jail issues. There are some things that I will have to do now that will affect the new Sheriff sometime next year. In those areas I am asking for Sheriff Reid's input and making sure what actions I take now will be in line with what he needs next year. Then there are some minor things like signage - the new Sheriff's name on doors, letterhead, and jury notices, parking place assignments and such. These things may seem minor but nonetheless, important in their own merit, plus they have to be done.

In addition to meeting with me and my staff, I have recommended Sheriff Reid set up meetings with key department heads before he takes office to become familiar with their operations and exchange expectations they will have of each other. This will include the Superintendent of our County School System, the Director of DSS and Health Department, the Clerk of Superior Court, the Emergency Management Director, Child Support Services, Domestic Violence Coalition, the County Tax Collector, the District Attorney, Chiefs of Police of local towns, Fire Chiefs, Superintendents of our local prisons, State Probation Office and the District Supervisor for the SBI to mention just a few agencies we deal with on almost a daily basis.

Our meetings are now weekly and will be more often when necessary. The next two months will go by quickly. When Sheriff Reid takes that Oath of Office on the morning of December 1st he will instantly become responsible and have to deal with all the above issues plus many, many more issues I have not mentioned here, such as criminal investigations, hiring and training, and then the general politics of just being Sheriff and what the public expects.

I will continue to work with Sheriff Reid to have a smooth and successful transition. I ask you, our citizens, to give him the support, respect and confidence you have given me and this office over these many years.

Peachland Fire Department BBQ is Saturday

Everyone is invited to visit the Peachland Fire Department for some of the best BBQ this side of the Grand Canyon on Saturday, October 11. They will be offering both chicken and pork bbq, and you can eat in or carry it home. The plates cost \$9, and will be served from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. But, be sure to go before it gets too late because they just might sell out!

Free Flu Shots for Vets Friday

The Salisbury VAMC Rural Health Team has joined with the Anson County Veteran Services to provide free flu shots for veterans on Friday, October 10. They will be given at the Veteran Services office from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

These shots are available to all veterans currently using VA Health Care, and to veterans possessing a DD-214 and a valid photo ID. For more information contact Ted Ward at 704-694-4418. The Veteran Services Office is located at 111 North Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro (the former Belk Building).

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

New 911 Operations Center Opened September 30

Anson County's new 911 Operations Center took its first official call around 3 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30th. This was the culmination of almost four years of planning, selecting, building and then putting together a complex system of computers, software, hardware, vendors, miles of cables, and then pulling it all together to make it work.

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen, who oversees the 911 Operations, said that the past few months have been hectic, the past few weeks demanding and often frustrating, but in the end he praised his 911 staff headed up by Hollis Lambert and the county's IT staff headed up by Randy Gullede for literally working 24/7 those last few days to make it happen.

"It is impossible in a short news release to begin to explain how complicated this was. Dozens of vendors had to be coordinated to have their parts ready and completed at specific times. We were dealing with not just our local phone company but multiple carriers, particular cell carriers. Everyone worked very hard and long hours; everyone wanted it to work. And it did!!!" Sheriff Allen said.

The Sheriff said that he hoped there would be an "Open House" in the next few weeks for the public to come in and see the new center before he leaves office.

The old 911 Center will be disassembled and relocated to the Government Building as a backup system, as will be required by law in 2015.

Toys for Tots Kickoff for 2014 is October 14

Toys for Tots will host their Kick Off on Tuesday, October 14 at 302 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro, beginning at 6 p.m. All sponsors, businesses, churches and organizations are invited. All proceeds collected stay right here in Anson County. For more information or to donate, please call Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.