

1737
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 49
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.

Partnership for Children Collaborates with PBS to Offer Resources for Youth Children



Caroline Goins

PBS North Carolina, an educational media network, has appointed Anson County Partnership for Children's Executive Director Caroline Goins to serve as Anson County's first PBS Rootle Ambassador.

"I have many fond memories of watching PBS as a child and remember the lessons learned from characters such as Daniel Tiger and Big Bird from Sesame Street," said Goins. "I am excited to connect families with free, award-winning early educational programming and online activities Rootle offers."

The PBS Rootle Ambassador program takes locally based community members who strongly support families with young children and trains them to use and share the suite of PBS early education resources with families in their communities.

Goins is part of the second cohort of Rootle Ambassadors. The goal is to have a Rootle Ambassador in every county of North Carolina in the next 5 years.

"Our state is diverse, and each community is unique," Dr. Melissa Rihm Thibault, PBS NC Chief Education and Innovation Officer, said at the time of the program's launch. "The Rootle Ambassador is, in each of these communities, bringing their knowledge, connections and deeply held understanding to the role, ensuring that each child is made aware of the assets and opportunities inherent in their home community."

Rootle is PBS NC's locally branded 24/7 PBS KIDS Channel aimed at children ages 2 - 8 years old. The programming takes a "whole child" curricular approach proven to strengthen learning outcomes. The PBS Rootle Ambassador program was announced in 2021. It was developed from the knowledge that local family members, educators, and community leaders have a tremendous impact within the early childhood education space, as well as a need to reach children across the state equitably. Primary funding is provided by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust grant.

"Collaborating with Rootle was a natural fit for the Anson County Partnership for Children to reach more children," said Goins. "More than 50% of young children in Anson are not in a regulated childcare facility. The high-quality programs on PBS offer valuable learning opportunities at home and on the go that directly align with the foundations of early learning."

In 1996, the Anson County Partnership for Children was founded to help make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child. The Partnership is responsible for developing collaborative strategies to meet the needs of children and families in Anson County. The Partnership provides services focused on raising the quality of early care and education, supporting families, advancing child health, and expanding literacy.

Halloween Booze It & Lose It Campaign

There's nothing scarier than the consequences of driving while impaired. To discourage drivers from getting behind the wheel after drinking this Halloween, law enforcement will be stepping up patrols and using checkpoints and saturation patrols as part of the statewide Booze It & Lose It campaign Oct. 24-31.

"Many families will be hitting the streets this Halloween season to enjoy trick-or-treating and we want everyone to have a good time," said Mark Ezzell, director of the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program. "People who drink and drive can turn a good time into a tragedy. If you're going to drink, never get behind the wheel."

Instead, people who decide to drink should find a sober ride home by phoning a friend or calling a taxi or a ride service, Ezzell said.

More than 250 people have been killed this year in alcohol-related crashes in North Carolina. In 2021, 423 people died on North Carolina roads due to alcohol-related crashes. Twenty-eight of those deaths occurred during the Halloween Booze It & Lose It enforcement campaign period.

Driving while impaired can also be expensive. People charged with DWI can lose their license and pay thousands of dollars in court fees.

"With large numbers of people out and about, and days getting shorter - it's more imperative than ever to make good decisions when you get behind the wheel, so we can keep everyone safe this Halloween season," Ezzell said.

Veterans Day Celebration November 11

The Veteran Services Office for Anson County invites the community to the Veterans Day Celebration on Friday, November 11. The event will take place from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Wadesboro City Park, located at 1000 Gatewood Street, just off Morven Road, in Wadesboro.

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy lunch and live music performed by Quantelya Johnson and Jeanie Hampton. Food and drinks will be served.

Early Voting Schedule

MONDAY OCTOBER 24 – FRIDAY OCTOBER 28
8:00 AM – 7:30 PM
SATURDAY OCTOBER 29
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
SUNDAY OCTOBER 30
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM
MONDAY OCTOBER 31 – FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4
8:00 AM – 7:30 PM
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Early Voting will be held at the Anson County Board of Elections Office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

See detailed election information on page 5



Ansonia Theatre Marquee Undergoing Restoration

The Ansonia Theatre's iconic marquee is undergoing a facelift! Cadillac Sign Company has carefully removed the neon from the marquee and is storing it as Larry Little works on the restoration. He has scraped and painted and now the Ansonia awaits the neon to return!

Be sure to get a closeup look when you come to the theater, it's beautiful and the staff are so proud of it!

Toys for Tots 2022 Kick-Off

All toys will be distributed through the churches and Homes of Hope

This is a release from Toys for Tots: The Toys for Tots 2022 Christmas campaign Kick-off is in process at Loba-Wakol Adhesive Compounds on Highway 74 West in Wadesboro. We are asking every church, local business, schools for support. Our theme for the 2022 is "Together We can Still Bring the Joy and Hope of Christmas to OUR less fortunate children."

We need your support. We, the Anson County Toys for Tots Executive Board and Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant, are truly grateful to Loba- Wakol for opening their doors and providing warehouse space for the toys. Due to security at the building, the applicants will not be allowed to come pick up toys from this facility. The toys will be distributed to ALL churches in Anson County. Whatever church all the applicants belong to will have their toys. A representative from each church is asked to please contact Vancine Sturdivant.

We are blessed, grateful and with great anticipation looking for another awesome year of serving Anson County and making Christmas beautiful for hundreds of our children.

The Toys for Tots Foundation is the largest nonprofit organization in the world. It all began in 1947 with a hand crafted doll Raggedy Ann and a Marine who heard a mother's prayer that her kids would not get anything for Christmas. Marine Reserve Major Bill Hendrick and his wife shared with this less fortunate family. Thus the beginning of Toys for Tots. Major Hendrick and members of his Marine Reserve Unit collected and distributed 5,000 toys the first year. The seed was planted and Toys for Tots was born. The following year, 1948, the Marine Corps Reserve adopted the program and collected and distributed toys in 74 communities nationwide. The Toys for Tots program has grown tremehted District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

In 2011 Toys for Tots came to Anson County. During our first campaign we were blessed to collect and distribute toys to over 1,500 children. Since then the number has grown to over 3,000 children. Each year the needs get greater. Now more than ever we need the assistance of our community, businesses, churches, school and citizens to make this program a continued success.

During the Toys for Tots conference held this year at the National Conference Center in Washington, Wykeria Little was chosen Regional Tots for Tots Volunteer.

Businesses, churches, schools, citizens, and our elected officials are very important to us. It's a way you can give back to your community and to our less fortunate children and families. You can support Toys for Tots through a monetary donation or by purchasing toys.

For families in need, applications are available at the following sites: Homes of Hope, Department of Social Services, Anson County Health Department, Child Support Agency, all schools, and Faith-Based Center of Hope. Each applicant will be required to go online at the following website and fill out the application. The website is: lilesville-nc.toysfortots.org.

The following dates are VERY IMPORTANT!

- Application Open Date: 10/10/2022 - Date campaign began accepting toy applications.
- Application Close Date: 12/01/2022 - Date campaign stops accepting toy applications.
- Application Response Start Date: 12/01/2022 - Date when campaign will begin reviewing and responding to applications.
- Application Response End Date: 12/01/2022 - Date when campaign will complete reviewing and responding to applications.

Distribution dates:

- Distribution Start Date: 12/05/2022 - First date of toy distribution. Approved applicants will be notified of specific distribution dates and locations. Check website for additional distribution details (lilesville-nc.toysfortots.org).
- Distribution End Date: 12/21/2022 - Date when all toy distributions are expected to be completed.

Vancine Sturdivant, Toys for Tots Coordinator, stated, "Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, goodwill and love for our fellow man. It is a time of giving and helping others, especially those who are less fortunate. I challenge each one of you to give. Bless someone."

All donations are to be written out to: Toys for Tots / Anson. Mailing address: 10140 US Highway 74, Lilesville, NC 28091

Working together as a team, we can make this year's campaign one of the best.

For further information please contact: MeLinda Allen 704 465-7894, Vancine Sturdivant 704 848-4412, Patricia Robinson 704 848-4995, or Amanda Thompson 704 475-8128.

Students Urged to See Value of Voting in Off-Year Elections

There isn't a presidential race on the ballot this year, but this might just be the best time for Wingate University students to let their voices be heard.

Early voting got underway late last week, and Dr. Chelsea Kaufman says the midterms enable students to play an even greater role in shaping their future. "The state and local races usually have low turnouts," says Kaufman, assistant professor of political science at Wingate. "Keep in mind that the fewer voters there are, the more your vote matters."

There are plenty of important races on the ballot that will be of interest to Wingate University students. The biggest race for North Carolinians is between Democrat Cheri Beasley and Republican Ted Budd, who are competing for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Richard Burr. Control of the Senate is expected to be a toss-up, and the North Carolina race is one of the tightest.

Other significant races in the state include U.S. House seats, two seats on the N.C. Supreme Court, four seats on the N.C. Court of Appeals, seats in the N.C. General Assembly, and many judicial and local seats across the state. Students registered in Union County can vote for County Commission, Board of Education, clerk of superior court and sheriff. (Check out a sample ballot.)

Dr. Joseph Ellis, professor of political science, echoes Kaufman's words regarding the value of voting in the midterms. "It's important for students to be aware that some of the most important and weighty things that happen - power changing hands - can happen in these off-year elections," he says. "How certain committees are appointed, whether a particular political appointment occurs - these things can be impacted by midterm elections."

Issues of particular importance to students these days include immigration, student-loan debt forgiveness and the "double the Pell Grant" movement. To find out how candidates feel about all the issues, Ellis and Kaufman suggest visiting candidates' own websites, national and local newspapers (especially political columnists), political-news sites such as Politico and The Hill, and the website Ballotpedia.org.

Until election day, Wingate students who are registered to vote in Union County can cast their ballot at any early-voting location in the county. The closest ones to the Wingate campus are the Lois Morgan Edwards Memorial Public Library in Marshville and the Union County Public Library in Monroe, each a little over five miles away.

Students who have not registered to vote or who want to change their registration to their college address can register and vote on the same day during the early-voting period. To register, students will need to provide proof of address - Ellis suggests they take their student ID card - and use the address 315 E. Wilson St., Wingate, NC, 28174. There is no same-day registration on election day, Nov. 8.

Students who want to vote in their home district but can't make it home on Nov. 8 should request an absentee ballot as soon as possible. In North Carolina, absentee-ballot requests must be received by the state Board of Elections by Nov. 1, and absentee ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 8. "That's a tight turnaround," says Kaufman, who urges students to request a ballot as soon as possible.

Commissioners Meet November 1

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Toys for Tots Yard Sale

Toys for Tots will have a Dollar Day Yard Sale in the parking lot of Burger King in Wadesboro on Saturday, October 29. Everyone is invited to come take advantage of the great deals beginning at 8 a.m. All funds raised go to Toys for Tots to make Christmas a happier time for less fortunate children in Anson County.

If you would like to donate items or money to the cause, or if you need information, please call Toys for Tots Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant at 704-294-0480 or Patricia Robinson, Assistant Coordinator, at 704-465-8942.

Paint Buddies with Mike Philips

Beginning Tuesday, Nov. 1, there will be an open forum painting session in the Drake Gallery Studios. Painters will be asked to bring their own materials and can work on whatever project they may have in progress. This will be a time to exchange ideas and collaborate with other artists, and is at no charge. The time will be from 10 a.m. until 12 noon and will be every Tuesday beginning Nov. 1st.

The Drake Gallery is located at the Anson County Arts Council, 110 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. For any questions call 704-819-2487.

Trick or Treat in Uptown Wadesboro Sat.

Kids can Trick or Treat at more than a dozen uptown Wadesboro locations, including new businesses, from 5 to 7 p.m. this Sat., October 29. Locations include: Tite Cutz, Treasure Corner, Indie Studios, Anson County Sheriff's Office, Awesome Touch, HW Little, Wadesboro Fire/Anson Rescue Squad, Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition, Triad Barber School, Studio 256, Anson County Partnership for Children, Wadesboro Police Station, Willow & Vine, Parson's Drug Company, Kat & Liz, Turner & Tarlton and West Wade Originals.