

# THE EXPRESS

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

## Wife Charged with Murder in May 20 Incident

Sheriff's Deputies have arrested the wife of a murder victim and charged her in her husband's death. Sheriff Tommy Allen said that detectives from his office, along with the SBI, have been investigating the stabbing death of Ralph Eugene Blakney, age 54, since May 20. On that date Mr. Blakney was found in his wrecked pickup truck that had been involved in an accident on highway 742 South of Wadesboro, near Anson Memorial Park. It was determined that Blakney died from a single stab wound to the abdomen area. He had no injuries from the accident.

On Thursday, November 13, Sheriff's detectives arrested the victim's wife, Savino Jones Blakney, age 47, of 128 Shannon Drive in Rockingham. She was charged with Second Degree Murder in the death of her husband, and placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$250,000 bond.

Sheriff Allen would not comment as to what the motive of the crime was. "I believe that after being stabbed, Mr. Blakney was trying to drive himself to the Anson County Hospital when he apparently lost consciousness and wrecked his vehicle," the Sheriff said. "We have recovered the murder weapon; we have other physical evidence we just received back from the SBI lab; and we have a solid time frame of the incident. At that time, the Blakneys lived just a few minutes away from the accident scene. We charged Second Degree Murder based on our meeting with the DA."

Allen said that Mrs. Blakney had been reported missing by her daughter the week before the murder, but had returned home on her own.

## Angelo Campbell Arrested for Kidnapping and Assault on a Female

On Tuesday, November 11, at approximately 8:49 a.m. officers from the Wadesboro Police Department responded to 1404 Old Lilesville Road in response to reports of the kidnapping of a female. When officers arrived they determined that Angelo Campbell had broken into a residence on Myrtlewood Drive in Wadesboro and forcefully taken a woman out of the apartment against her will. The victim's name has not been released.

Through interviews with witnesses officers learned that Campbell had dragged the victim into a wooded area off Anson Apparel Shirt Road prior to their arrival, and was still at large. Through the combined efforts of the Wadesboro Police, the Sheriff's Office K9 Unit and the North Carolina Highway Patrol, they were able to track Campbell's path and locate the victim in the wooded area. She had been struck in the head with an unknown object. Campbell ran on foot through the woods, but was apprehended in that same area a short time later by officers from all the agencies without incident.

The victim was transported to Anson Community Hospital by Anson Rescue Squad where she was treated and released.

Campbell was arrested and charged with Felony Breaking and Entering, Second Degree Kidnapping, Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury with Intent to Kill, Communicating Threats, Habitual Misdemeanor Assault, and three counts of Resisting a Public Officer. Also, warrants held by the Police Department and Sheriff's Office were served on Campbell. He is being held in the Anson County Jail under no bond pending a December 9 court date.

## Free Child Care for Qualifying Families

Slots are still available for free child care for four year olds in Anson County this school year. The Anson County Partnership for Children is receiving applications for children who qualify for the More at Four Pre-K Program.

The More at Four Pre-K Program offers free high quality child care and early education in Four and Five Star child care centers. Children in the More at Four Pre-K Program have opportunities to learn and play by engaging in activities such as art, books, drama, dance, music, math and science. The Anson County Partnership for Children is currently able to serve 210 children in the More at Four Pre-K Program for the 2008-2009 school year.

Qualifying factors for enrolling children in the More at Four Pre-K Program include: income that is at or below 75% of the State Median Income level, limited English proficiency, identified disabilities, chronic health conditions, developmental or educational needs, and children of active duty military families.

More at Four classrooms are located at six sites throughout the county. These sites include Anson Children's Center, Ansonville Elementary, Central Center for Children and Families, Faison Center, Morven Elementary, and Open Doors (First United Methodist Church of Wadesboro).

If you would like more information regarding the More at Four Pre-K Program or to register your child, please contact Holly Hammonds at 704-694-4036.

## Hey Teacher...Order's Up!



Wadesboro Primary School took part in M c T e a c h e r ' s Night at McDonald's on Tuesday, October 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. Students and their families were invited to visit McDonald's and see their teachers take orders, wipe tables, cook french fries, and perform many other tasks. McDonald's is one of Wadesboro Primary School's community partners and will donate a portion of their sales during those hours to the school. Pictured here are teachers Tammy Gathings and Maresa Dutton Phillips working the drive-thru window.

## Ansonville Elementary School Terrific Kids



Ansonville Elementary School held their first Terrific Kids Breakfast for the current school year on Monday, November 17. Students were recognized for the character traits, Respect and Responsibility. The following students were honored at the assembly:

**RESPECT** Marcus Maness, Taylor Golden, Maci Walker, Dalton Hill, A.J. Harrington, Javon Little, Jessica Hall, Brooklyn Majors, Gerald Cannon, Morgan Thomas, Hanna Osborn, Travis Coleman, Marci Sessions, Arnesha Williams, Jasmine Allen and Luke Ratliff.

**RESPONSIBILITY** Madison Thomas, Datravon Davis, Zachery Hathcock, Amber Walsh, Garrett Maner, Jasmine Little, Kaitlyn Baucom, Grayson Preslar, My Vue, Shellie Hathcock, Samuel Short, Olbei Ganados, Tub Pos Thao, Malia Gaddy, Angel James and Amber Thomas.

## "Life is an Occasion, Rise to it!"

Dustin Hoffman, in the movie 'Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium' said, "Life is an occasion, rise to it!" The phrase has penetrated the folds and wrinkles of my brain like tealeaves steeped long inside a tea kettle. And, like the tea, its message is strong and vivid, while I repeat the phrase over and over as a reminder to do what's indicated.

Metaphorically speaking, take hold of your life like an orange and firmly dispense its juices, pulp, vitamins, and even the zest for added flavor and aroma, may your cup runneth over with its healthy liquid and may you enjoy each drop.

With no magic recipe for maneuvering your way through life and its topsy-turvy bends and curves, hills and swerves, each new situation presents some level of difficulty at which point you must find strength and discover new capacities for coping and meeting those challenges head on and head strong. So, rising to the occasion your life offers may seem difficult at best.

During these difficult times our economic state looks like a sallow sun on the horizon of sinking sales and stalemates. While prices soar wages seem to have hit the floor. Catch terms for our circumstances include takeovers, buyouts, layoffs, economic failure, ineffective stimulus, low minimum wage, unemployment, bankruptcy, foreclosure, war, credit card debt, and stock market dives to name a few. Ruptural strife is ranked high among sinking optimism as are work related issues. If things aren't going well with your family, friends or job, then all may seem lost. But it isn't. Find yourself and see your way clear of anyone or anything raining on your parade. Cope, meet the challenge, and know whether to jump ship or keep it afloat - either way, it's the occasion of your life so rise to it!

Find harmony in the things you can overcome and heave the rest. Life is too short to turn yourself upside down and inside out over things you have no power or control to change. If troubles find you at odds, try to simplify the problem, solve it or simply dismiss it as trivial and tatty. If job stress is ranked high on your list of trials and you're more often than not participating in daily sessions of discontent, maybe other avenues should be sought. Waking up each morning with the thought "I'd rather take a beating than go to work," makes for a long, loathsome, lackluster day, especially when those days are multiplied 365 times.

Enliven your spirits with humor around your workplace lunch table. You know what they say about laughter being the best medicine. We've tried it where I work and it has proven constructive. At the very least you get some belly laughs out of it which can also burn calories, lessen your chances for wrinkles, and help the digestive process. So there, one sure fire way to at least trim your waistline a fraction of an inch or so and look more youthful at the same time!

"Life's not always a bowl full of cherries, sometimes it's the pits." But by rising to the occasion, we are more likely to see the glass half full, we'll turn those frowns upside down, change the things we can and dismiss the things we can't as worthless and ponderous. Henry Ellis said, "The art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on." So let your burdens go. Life is an occasion, rise to it, and as Jonathan Swift said, "May you live every day of it." *By Melanie Morse*

## "Shop With a Cop" this Season

The Wadesboro Police Department has announced their second annual "Shop With a Cop" program. This program was created to assist less fortunate families in Anson County during the Christmas season. As the holidays are quickly approaching, they are respectfully requesting donations to the cause.

This program not only helps the less fortunate during the holiday season, it also helps build a positive relationship between the police and the children of our community. All too often the only interaction a child has with the police is in a negative situation. If you or your place of business would like to give to this worthwhile cause, please send all donations to the Wadesboro Police Department, in the attention of SRO Robert Mims or SRO Ephraim Davis. Please make all checks payable to the Shop With a Cop Program. They are asking that all donations be made by December 12.

Only through the generosity of the community can this program continue to be successful. The police department would like to thank you in advance for your donation. The donations are tax deductible. Your contribution will allow a child to experience the magic of the holiday season!

The mailing address is Wadesboro Police Department, PO Box 697, Wadesboro NC 29180. SRO Mims and SRO Davis can be reached at 704-694-2167.

## Medicare Part D Enrollment Has Begun

Insurance Commissioner Jim Long wants to remind the state's 1.3 million Medicare beneficiaries that the Medicare Part D open enrollment period started November 15, and will continue through the end of the year.

"Now is the time to make changes to your Medicare Part D plan - whether you want to switch your prescription drug coverage to a plan that better meets your needs or you are enrolling in Part D for the very first time," said Commissioner Jim Long. "If you don't act now during this six-week enrollment period, you'll have to wait another year before you can make changes. Just like other insurance decisions, choosing a Part D plan can be confusing and overwhelming, but my staff in the SHIIP Division can help you make an informed decision."

SHIIP, or the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, employs trained staff who can answer questions about Medicare Part D. For the coming year, North Carolina will have 49 prescription drug plans (PDPs) available to Medicare beneficiaries, and 21 companies will administer the plans. Some existing plans also have changed their prescription formularies, monthly premiums and deductibles. [See attached chart for the most current Part D companies and PDPs.]

"There are programs available to those who qualify for extra help paying for their prescription drugs," said Commissioner Long. Low income beneficiaries may qualify for Medicare's prescription drug assistance program or North Carolina's NCRx program. To learn more about extra financial help, contact your local Social Security Administration office or call NCRx at 888-488-6279.

For questions about Medicare Part D's enrollment period, PDPs or other Medicare products, call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 or SHIIP at 1-800-443-9354.

## Open House, Ribbon Cutting for New Primary Care Facility Thursday

Anson Community Hospital invites the whole community to join them at the Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Anson County's new primary care facility they are opening at Plank Road Shopping Center. Carolinas Primary Care will feature family practice doctors, Dr. Jermaine Joefield and Dr. Charles Obiaja, along with surgeon Dr. Edward Blasko. They are supported by a terrific staff to bring the best care to the community.

The Open House celebration will take place tomorrow, Thursday, November 20, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Carolinas Primary Care is at Plank Road Shopping Center, located at 919 East Caswell Street (Highway 74) in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-DOCS.

## Advance Tickets Available for Friday Night Football

Advance tickets for Friday night's football game will be on sale for \$7 at Lacy's, located at 121 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. The Anson Bearcats play host to the Olympic High School Trojan's in the second round of the state football playoffs. The game is right here in Wadesboro at 7:30 p.m., so come on out and support the Cats!

**We play Olympic High School from Charlotte here at home at 7:30. I predict a toss up. Lightnin'!**

**Look inside for these special inserts**

- IGA
- SPCC