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# THE EXPRESS

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ENJOY LETTERS TO SANTA INSIDE. AND...MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE EXPRESS!

## Ring in the New Year With A Perfectly Precious Pet, Adopt One Soon!

If you are still looking for a wonderful way to ring in the New Year, why not adopt a perfectly precious pet to make your family complete? The Anson County Animal Shelter in Polkton has over 20 pets who desperately seek the love they want and the home they need. If you have ever considered adding a pet to your family, do it NOW. What better time to adopt a rescue than with the arrival of a brand new year? Make 2016 the year you open your hearts to an animal adoption rather than a pet purchase. There's a huge difference in the two.

Adoption hours are at the Animal Shelter Tuesday through Thursday, from 1 until 5 p.m. Make haste and do not wait. In less than 30 days it will be too late for this kennel full of cuties. That is how much time they have before they are euthanized.



If pet adoption is not in your future you can still lend a helping hand to the workers at the shelter and to the animals who are currently living there. The MOST needed resources are bleach, paper towels and food. This is typically a time when we all are in the spirit of giving, and all three of these items would mean so MUCH and cost so LITTLE.

Or consider volunteering your time to help clean, feed, walk and spend time with the animals. There is a job for every person - all you have to do is show up with a little love to share with an animal who desperately needs it. After all, "It takes nothing away from a human to be kind to an animal."  
*By Melanie Lyon*

## Sponsor A Child for Shaundasia

### Barn Blast to celebrate the life of Shaundasia Smith

Barn Blast 2016 will celebrate the life of Shaundasia T. Smith. The community is invited to "Sponsor a Child for Shaundasia" by donating to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for a year at \$25 per child. Each year Barn Blast guests and others give from their hearts to support this literacy program proving the generosity of the Anson community.



Shaundasia T. Smith, 16, was the daughter of Mr. Shawn L. Smith and Ms. Natasha Y. Smith. She was raised by her grandparents, Sheriff Landric Reid and his wife Cassandra Reid. Sadly, Shaundasia's life ended tragically on March 29, 2015.

Shaundasia was a rising senior at Anson New Technology High School with aspirations of attending college to study Architectural Engineering. She was a very outgoing person, who loved her volleyball team and always encouraged her teammates to do their best. Shaundasia's former principal, Chris Stinson said of her, "She was very giving to the community. Her grandparents instilled that in her. And she always put others first."

Although she left this earth far too soon, Shaundasia continues to have an impact on all who knew her. Shaundasia's passion for helping others will continue through your support of Sponsor a Child for Shaundasia. Each donation of \$25.00 will fund one child's registration in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for a year. The goal of the Anson County Partnership for Children is to provide Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to every child in Anson County, birth to 5 years old. Currently the Partnership supports over 1,300 registered children in the program. An age-appropriate book is mailed to each child each month encouraging the family to read together. Studies show young children with access to books in their homes have improved literacy and vocabulary skills as they enter school and are more likely to succeed in school.

Please help celebrate Shaundasia's life by supporting "Sponsor a Child for Shaundasia!" Send your donations to: Sponsor a Child for Shaundasia, Anson County Partnership for Children, 117 South Greene Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

The 10th annual Barn Blast fundraiser will be Friday, January 29, 5:00 - 11:30 pm at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Tickets are available now at the Anson County Partnership for Children. Reserved tables for 8 are \$400 and single tickets are \$60. Get your tickets now before the event sells out! For more information, contact the Partnership at 704-694-4036 or [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org).

## \$11,822.50 Grant Awarded to Lilesville Fire Department

Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin announced that the Lilesville Fire Department was awarded a \$11,822.50 grant through the 2015 Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund from the State of North Carolina. The check will be mailed to Rescue Chief Marty K Morton Jr. to be used by this rescue/EMS organization to purchase needed equipment. The equipment is purchased using matching funds and must be approved by the Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal.

"Fire and rescue organizations protect our communities large and small across North Carolina, but sometimes their budgets don't grow with their responsibilities," Commissioner Goodwin said. "Our emergency service personnel should be supported with the best equipment and supplies needed to do their jobs correctly and safely. I know the Lilesville Fire Department, will use this money to serve their community even better. Thank you Chief Marty K Morton Jr., for all of your hard work and thanks to your dedicated staff."

The General Assembly created the Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund in 1989 to help volunteer units raise money for equipment and supplies. The grant funds must be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to an approved amount, by monies raised locally to purchase necessary equipment. Since the program's inception, the Department of Insurance has distributed \$27,952,380.19 to rescue and EMS squads across the state.



## 'Twas The Eve of Christmas Eve

'Twas the eve of Christmas Eve  
and all through the newspaper  
There wasn't a mover - nor even a shaker  
The computers were put to sleep  
and the lights were dimmed low  
With no sign of a headline about  
new fallen Christmas snow

The pets were nestled all snug in their beds  
While visions of Santa letters (lots of 'em!!!)  
danced through their owners' heads  
And Allen in his "soft clothes" and me in mine too  
Were working on things we had no prior time to do

When out on the street there was such a sight  
'Twas Clayton in the "Expressmobile"  
like a merry ray of light

And he whistled and shouted each  
town by their names  
As he delivered The Express  
to all residents the same

And within the edition...news, Santa letters and ads  
Such a jolly good time our Kourtnie did have  
For our Christmas newspaper is one of our faves  
Everyone loves it and is one to be saved

So from our office, our homes and  
from each of us too  
May your Christmas be merry and never, ever blue  
Enjoy this special time with your family and friends  
And the happiest of wishes are the wishes we send

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL**  
From The Express Newspaper Poem by Melanie Lyon

## Parks and Recreation Spring Registration 2016

Anson County Parks and Recreation will hold Spring Registration for the following activities:  
• Tee Ball Ages: 4-6 • Coach Pitch Ages 7-8 • Minor Baseball Ages 9-10 • Major Baseball Ages 11-12 • Girls Softball Ages 4-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15 • Micro Soccer Ages 3-4 • Youth Soccer Grades: K-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12.

You may come to Little Park to register Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration will also take place from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the schools on the dates below:

- Wednesday, January 20 at Wadesboro Elementary
- Thursday, January 21 at Peachland-Polkton Elementary
- Monday, January 25 at Lilesville Elementary
- Tuesday, January 26 at Ansonville Elementary
- Wednesday, January 27 at Morven Elementary
- Thursday, January 28 at Wadesboro Primary

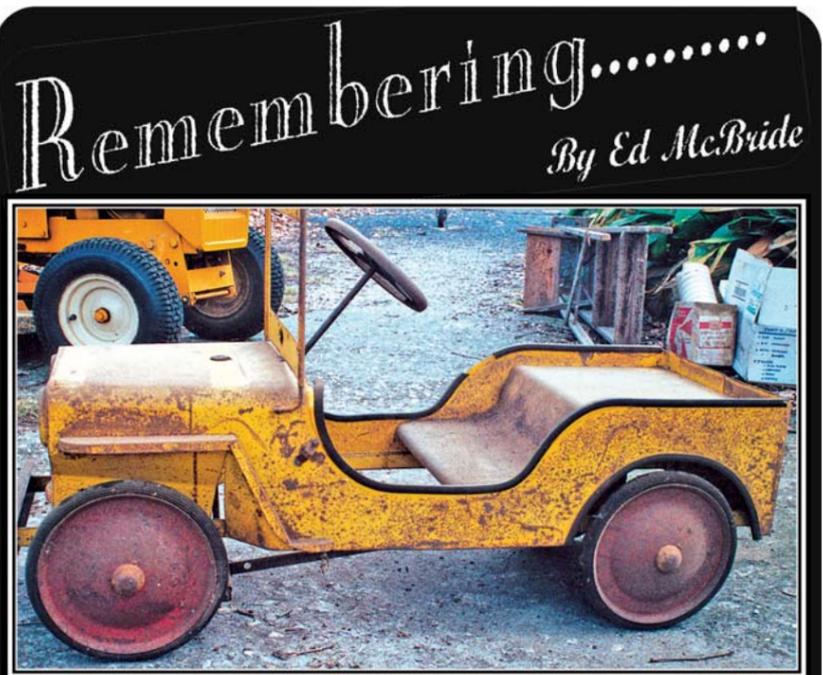
The deadline to register is Friday, January 29. Cost for athletic programs is \$25. For more information contact Jeff Waisner 704-695-2550, Wendell Small 704-695-2782 or Morris Gatewood 704-694-5751. The email address is [recreation@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:recreation@co.anson.nc.us).

## Man Shot and Killed Thursday, December 17, Information Sought

On Thursday, December 17 at approximately 4:16 p.m. Anson County Communications received a 911 call from the Peachland area concerning an individual who had been shot and wasn't breathing. Anson County emergency services were dispatched and arrived on the scene within minutes to find Tadarrell Durrell Lee, a black male, shot multiple times. All emergency measures were administered, but Mr. Lee was pronounced dead at the scene.

The victim's body was sent to the North Carolina Medical Examiners for an autopsy to determine the actual cause of death. This case is being investigated by the Anson County Sheriff's office with assistance from the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. If anyone has any information concerning this incident, please contact Captain Tim Watkins of the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188.

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



## Christmastime Years Ago...

Not many have the memories of so many years - when Santa did not have electricity, television, paved roads - certainly not things of "today's luxury" such as all types of electronics...even cars with "electric starters," electric windows, lights or whatever...things we just take for granted.

I can and do remember so much of the above. When my sister, brother and I walked a mile in the morning to meet the school bus, and that same mile back in the afternoon to get home. There we found night chores to do before supper time (no dinner time!!). We were so fortunate because some were not as lucky as we - but oh, the lessons of life!!

I can remember about riding with my granddaddy to Wadesboro, my brother and I would ease quietly over to the "seasonal" toy department to "see and touch" the pedal cars and other Santa toys displayed for only a short time around Christmas. This was at Belk's Department Store, on the third floor, on Greene Street or at Rose Gathings Furniture Store (mezzanine floor) at the corner of Rutherford and Wade Streets. Now this was "something"...real toys that we could see and touch! To my knowledge there were no such a thing as a "toy store" here at that time!

Who in the world could ever have "dreamed" at that time about the many toy stores, grocery stores, service stations - even "roadside" displays that "demand" our attention today!!

Seriously, as we stop to "remember the reason for the season" that we do use the lessons in the way and manner of which we are instructed!

Have a Merry Christmas you all!!

Ed