

THE EXPRESS

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • TheExpressNews@gmail.com • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #149
Wadesboro, NC
28170

Postal
Customer

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

“Bathroom Thief” Gabriel Rorie Flushed Out by Wadesboro Police

During the months of October, November and December the Wadesboro Police investigated a series of breaking and enterings and larcenies within the city limits. Thanks to hard work, on December 23, investigators with the department arrested and charged 22 year old Gabriel Jamar Rorie with the crimes. Rorie, of 112-A Orchard Street in Wadesboro, was charged with five counts of Felony Breaking and Entering and Larceny.

One of Rorie's methods was to enter a place of business and ask to use the restroom. If given entry, he would either remove items at that time or observe items he would come back and steal. That was also an opportunity for him to learn the layout of the business for his break-in at a later time. Many business reported visits by Rorie asking to use the bathroom facilities. Often Rorie was accompanied by another young man.

Among the victims of Rorie's thievery were an uptown law firm, an apartment on West Morgan Street, an office on South Rutherford Street, and two offices at Anson Community Hospital where he took several items and medications.

Rorie is being held at the Anson County Jail under a \$10,000 bond awaiting trial.

Pilot Killed in Christmas Day Crash

A small single engine plane crashed near the Anson County Airport on Christmas day, December 25, as it was trying to make an emergency landing. The plane crashed in a field approximately 400 yards north of the airport's main runway around 3 p.m. The pilot of the plane was killed on impact and the passenger was airlifted to Carolina's Medical Center in Charlotte where she remains in fair condition.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said the plane was registered to the pilot Steve Patrick Reamer, age 57, of Marriotsville, Maryland. The passenger was his wife, Pamela Dobbs Reamer, age 54. The Reamers had filed a flight plan, and had most recently left the Greensboro airport enroute to Florida. Witnesses in Ansonville heard the plane come over low with what sounded like the engine cutting in and out. Witnesses at the Anson County airport told investigators they saw the plane come over the airport and circle. As Reamer attempted to land the plane hit the open field short of the runway.

Sheriff Allen said that the Federal Aviation Administration was on the scene the next day investigating the accident to try to determine the cause of the crash. Emergency Management Director Rodney Diggs coordinated the scene which, in addition to the Sheriff's Office, involved the Wadesboro and Ansonville Fire Departments, Anson Rescue Squad, State Highway Patrol and Anson EMS. Local pilots assisted as well.

Year-End Giving Advice: Give Wisely to Charities

December is the time for giving to family and friends, and to charitable organizations. Between now and December 31, you are likely to receive many requests for donations from area charities. By making a donation, you can help other people and get a tax-deduction before year-end. With 2008 being a tough economic year, charities need your support now more than ever.

The Better Business Bureau evaluates locally-soliciting charities on 20 standards covering fundraising, finances, governance and oversight, and the organization's efforts to measure its effectiveness. These standards were established by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance to help donors make informed and careful giving decisions.

"About 70 percent of Americans feel it is difficult to tell whether a charity soliciting their contribution is legitimate, operates with integrity, and actually does the kind of charity work it says it does," said Tom Bartholomy, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Southern Piedmont. "Charities have an obligation to be open and transparent so that the public can make confident decisions when donating money," Bartholomy added.

If you are giving, here is some advice:

- When in doubt, check it out. When an unfamiliar organization asks you for a donation, do not give without getting details about the charity first.
- Do not be fooled by low overhead claims. We have seen many cases where charities spend acceptable amounts on fundraising and administration, yet still fail to meet one or more of the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability. When giving to charity, ask if they are accredited by the BBB. If not, ask why.
- Think before you give. Ask for the charity's name, address, and written information on the charity's programs and finances.
- Watch out for cases of mistaken identity. With more than one million charities in the U.S., some charity names sound alike. Be careful that the one soliciting you is the one you have in mind.
- Know how much of your purchase goes to the charity. If something is being sold to benefit a charity, be wary of statements such as "all proceeds go to charity." Look for a disclosure that states how much will go to the charity's programs.
- Watch out for charity fraud. Legitimate charities willingly provide written information about their programs and finances. They never insist you provide your credit card number or bank account number.

If you are giving to charity, get a free BBB Wise Giving Report first. Full evaluations on nationally-soliciting charities are available online at www.bbb.org/charity. For more information, please visit www.bbb.org or call the BBB at 1-877-317-7236 toll-free in N.C. and S.C.

Wadesboro Garbage Pickup Schedule for New Years

There will be no garbage pickup in Wadesboro on Thursday, January 1, 2009, due to the New Year's holiday. All areas will be serviced on Friday, January 2.

Traditional Toys Still ‘Tiny Tot Preferred’



Pictured from left, Adam Beam, Malerie Austin, Caroline Austin, Hannah Austin and Emma Beam were definitely excited and happy to share their favorite toys, many of which were traditional ones, with me during my visit. Hannah's Mickey Mouse and Emma's musical Sea Horse will long be treasured by the tiny tots, as they head into 2009 with lots of toys for the good little girls and well behaved little boy.

Christmas lists composed by lots of tots today are dissimilar to the Christmas lists of long ago. Today's letters to Santa are filled with acronyms and alphabets like PSP, MP3, iPod, Wii, DVD, DS, Xbox, PS2, PS3 and HDTV. In reading the letters to Santa printed in last week's edition of The Express, I noticed those differences but found traditional toys also in demand by the many Anson County boys and girls who sent their letters to Santa via our newspaper.

Toys like baby dolls and BB guns were still in the running as were dirt bikes and doll houses, bicycles and bakeries. Bats and balls, trucks and tractors remained among the favorites as well.

Craig and Stephanie Austin and Kyle and Connie Beam enjoyed a traditional Christmas holiday together with their five small children close at hand. The Austin's with three girls and the Beam's with two tots bring together five siblings and cousins for family-style festivities. "Watching the kids as they saw what Santa had brought them was my favorite part," said both Connie and Stephanie. "It's an exciting time for our children," they added.

Six year old Malerie Austin was the oldest and most vocal child in this group. "We stayed up making

cookies for Santa until 9:30 on Christmas Eve night. I visited Santa at Bass Pro Shop in the mall and told him I wanted a Nintendo DS which is the best thing I received," said Malerie with a grin.

Little sister Caroline who is two years old whispered, "I like my guitar and my baby the best." It was obvious that she enjoyed mothering her baby dolls and playing her guitar with much musicality for such a tiny tot. Adam Beam, eighteen months old and the only boy in the bunch made sure his four wheeler and tricycle weren't too far away. Those being his favorite toys, he also loved his trucks and blocks, which he played with throughout the afternoon.

This family has begun what will be many holiday traditions which they will pass on to their children and their children's children. The homes were decorated with traditional ribbons, candles and evergreens. A huge Christmas tree adorned the Austin's family room, decorated with fine ornaments and hand made paper ones as well. But the prettiest ornamentation in the room was definitely the bright and beautifully happy smiles on the faces of each child, showing how joyful their holidays have been.

Photo and story by Melanie Morse

Resolve for Fitness and Finance in the New Year

New Year's Eve is upon us and as usual most citizens are crafting resolutions to help direct their paths through the next 365 days. Most of us, however, will never see that year end mark as we have given up or forgotten our resolutions in lieu of more pertinent things in our busy and hectic schedules. In fact, so many of us do our resolve to do or to be that the decision not to even generate resolutions for the new year is more commonplace than not.

But since there are those who do not dismiss resolutions lightly, there are several atop the list for this year-end event.

It's no secret that fitness is usually on the resolute list and usually at the tip top of the tier. Fitness clubs around the country report an increase in memberships during the first quarter; especially during the month of January. Getting in shape is sometimes a dream as those hours needed in the gym slowly dwindle into hours spent at work, with family, in meetings, or just mulling over the minutes turned into hours of their packed to its peak work week, after week, after week.

Smoking or a resolve not to smoke is pretty near the top too. Those realizing the health hazards this hard-to-deter pattern can reek on one's body usually try during this time of year to kick the habit. Sheer will, chewing gums, patches and even injections are used as supportive resources to help in their efforts to begin a healthier lifestyle. But, like the fitness craze in area gyms and exercise facilities, the stop smoking resolution also very often falls short of the mark and the habit is commonly resumed until the next year's resolution.

But the year is almost over, in a few hours it will be, and as people count down the minutes until 2009, many resolutions are coupled with the economy. Staying in shape or getting into better shape financially is high on the list. With economic woes worrying just about everyone around town, crafting better finances is a safe bet toward economic freedom. Becoming more responsible is the intent of many. Budgeting, paying off credit card debt, and perhaps refinancing your mortgage at a lower interest rate are all plausible options. "It is important to write things down because that process adds a sense of accountability. If you're planning to save money, prepare a budget, refinance, etc., you should document your plan and stick to it," said Tyler Glynn of Edward Jones Investments.

So if there are ways to cut back on spending take a long look at finding those ways and plan your course of action. Getting into the habit of saving a little money here and there could put you at a greater advantage in the long run. It doesn't have to be a mint, just do what you can do, no more no less. The simpler you keep it the more apt you are to stick with your plan.

With no resolutions currently jotted on my note pad for 2009, perhaps I will spend the next few days mulling over matters key to lifting some of the financial burdens barricading my own avenue toward fewer financial woes, and thus presenting me with a prettier picture of financial peace of mind. Happy New Year Anson County and a successful resolve to your year end refinements. *By Melanie Morse*

Happy 100th Birthday Paul Gray!



Paul Allen Gray, Sr. celebrated his 100th birthday on Saturday, November 15 at the First Baptist Church with family and friends. Mr. Gray was born on November 15, 1908, to Wilburn Beecher and Jesse Forte Gray.

Having served three years in the South Pacific during World War II, he returned to Wadesboro where he, wife Reynolds and the family have lived ever since.

A son, Paul Allen Gray, Jr., was born while Mr. Gray was serving his country during the war. Sons Beecher R. (Gus) and John completed the family.

Mr. Gray retired from the Anson County Health Department after eighteen years of service. He later worked with the Anson County Farmers Market as manager for six years.

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Program on Brer Rabbit

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the monthly meeting of the 50+ Club on Monday, January 12, at 10:30 a.m. in the Pritchett Room. Leon Smith, accompanied by Aaron Baker and David Napier, will be presenting our program on Brer Rabbit and Friends stories and songs.

The public is invited to attend. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Economic Development Corp Meets January 15

The Anson Economic Development Corp. Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, January 15 at 7:30 a.m. at the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, located at 107-A East Wade Street in Wadesboro. The meeting is open to the public.

Anson Writers' Club Meets January 25

The Anson County Writers' Club will meet on Sunday, January 25 at 3 p.m. at the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, located at 107-A East Wade Street in Wadesboro. The public is invited.

For more information and/or program topic, visit news.www.anson-countywritersclub.org.

Look inside for
these special inserts
• IGA