

THE EXPRESS

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

Postal
Customer

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.

Bradley Stuart Baucom Charged in Shooting Eldric Jovan Polk Last Tuesday

On Tuesday, October 18th at 3:11 p.m. Sheriff's Deputies and EMS were called to a shooting in the Burnsville Community off Ivy Road. The victim of the shooting was identified as Eldric Jovan Polk, age 34. Polk was wounded by a grazed gunshot wound and glass from a shattered storm door that was broken by a gunshot. Polk was treated and released from the hospital.

Deputies arrested Bradley Stuart Baucom, age 37, of Little Road in Polkton. Baucom was charged with Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury. His bond was set at \$200,000. He is currently in the Anson County Jail.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said that Baucom had been at the Polk's residence earlier, left and returned with a handgun and fired the gun at Polk one time. "Neither Polk nor Baucom were clear as to what their dispute was about, but I think we have a pretty good idea. Baucom is lucky he's not being charged with murder," Allen said. Baucom remains in the Anson County Jail at this time.



Baucom

Lights, Camera, Action! Final Cast On Board for Dickens' Play

Inside the Anson County Arts Council was a bevy of excitement and maybe even a few jitters during final auditions for Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This cast will perform the much-anticipated production to be held in the Ansonia Theatre. Play dates include a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday, December 11, and 8 p.m. shows on December 8, 9, 15, 16 and 17.



Director, David Ariail sets the stage and the mood for this scene from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," where it is anyone's guess how many Anson County stars will be born.

Rehearsals for the dramatic play adapted by David Ariail began on Monday, October 17th. Ariail, also in the director's seat, is a well-known talent to many locals who remember his previous works in Anson County, including the beloved *Harvey*.

Now that final auditions and casting are complete, it is clear that our area has some very talented folks and this work of art should be one event you mark on your Christmas to do list. The \$10 reserved/advance seating tickets will be available by mid November at the Anson County Arts Council.

Don't miss Wayne Castle as the Constable. I met Mr. Castle at the posting of the cast members. "I am very excited this play is happening. I think it will be good for Anson County," he said. Steve Lear who will be portraying Fred Hastings said, "I am pleased to have a part in the play. It will be difficult with such a grueling rehearsal schedule, but it will be fun." Bill Cleveland as Ebenezer Scrooge is a Richmond County resident who has played the part before, and I am told is sensational. Other characters include Narrator - Neil Jones, Bob Cratchit - Francis Campbell, Mrs. Cratchit - Kim Crump, Mr. Fredrick - Glenn Caulder, Boy with turkey - Tyler Greene, Christmas Past - Tina Sauls, Christmas Present - Alvin Goins and Christmas Future - Chris Williams (also portraying Marley).

Again, tickets will not be available until mid-November. For ticket information call 704-694-4950 or visit the website at www.ansoncountycouncil.org. This holiday classic is sure to have something for every member of your family. Plan to be seated in the majestic Ansonia Theatre for their first theatrical production since renovations were completed.

Make every effort to be in attendance. If not, you're sure to say, "Bah, humbug!" for missing it!

Photo and story by Melanie Lyon

Operation Medicine Drop - Dispose of Unused, Expired Prescriptions Saturday

Take-back event offers public safe, secure way to dispose of their medications

The Anson County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with Safe Kids Anson County and the Anson County Partnership for Children, is pleased to announce the 3rd Biannual Operation Medicine Drop in Anson County. The event is planned for this Saturday, October 29th at Food Lion in Wadesboro. Sheriff's Deputies and Safe Kids Anson County volunteers will be available from 9am until noon for citizens to drop off expired, unused prescription or over-the-counter medications. The last Operation Medicine Drop in Anson County was very successful. Held in March of this year, over 11,000 doses of medication were dropped off for proper disposal.

Many may not realize that unintentional poisoning from prescription medications is on the rise in North Carolina. Since 1999, nearly 4,500 people have died from prescription poisoning. Operation Medicine Drop offers the public a free and convenient option for disposing of their prescription and over-the-counter medications to protect their families and the environment.

For more information on the upcoming event, please contact Ashlie Jones, Safe Kids Anson County Coordinator at 704-694-4036 ext 31 or visit www.ncsafekids.org.

Fall Festival in Wadesboro this Saturday

The annual Fall Festival in uptown Wadesboro will take place this Saturday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Bring the kids to this family friendly event that is taking place in and around the town square. Among the events happening are a costume judging at noon, a pumpkin painting contest at 10 a.m. with prizes for best painted pumpkins, prizes for guessing the number of pieces of candy corn in a jar, games for kids and treats!

Anson County Partnership for Children will provide books for all the trick or treaters. Safe Kids will have giveaways, there will be hayrides, trick or treating at uptown businesses and more.

For more details call 704-695-1644. This event is sponsored by Uptown Wadesboro, Inc.

300 Day of Caring Volunteers Completed Service Projects Across Anson County



While many people were just waking up, 300 volunteers were hard at work completing 39 projects across Anson County during United Way Day of Caring on Saturday, October 1st. "Thank you for your time and participation in this community-wide effort. United Way's Day of Caring illustrates the power of bringing together volunteers, organizations, and resources to really make a difference in our community," Kim Wilson, Day of Caring chair said during the morning kickoff.

The 32 teams from a combination of business and churches were spread across Anson County cutting grass, weeding flowerbeds, pruning shrubs, washing windows, removing limbs, and cleaning gutters at homes of the elderly and disabled. Other projects included sprucing up non-profit agencies and collecting more than 500 pounds canned goods given to Anson Crisis Ministry for families in need.

"It is important to give back to our community and I was thrilled to be able to help with this year's Day of Caring. It was amazing the difference our team made in the projects we had. Our day was blessed by seeing how thankful our homeowners were after we finished their yards. We are already looking forward to helping again next year," Ashley Rivers from Hornwood, Inc. said.

First Baptist Church of Wadesboro partnered with United Way to complete larger community service projects such as buildings ramps as well as serve lunch to all the volunteers.

Day of Caring is the campaign kick-off for United Way. In Anson County, 13 programs are supported by United Way funding. Last year, volunteers invested more than \$75,000 back into our local agencies.

"Unfortunately, the need has never been greater." Dr. Fred Thompson, United Way Campaign chair said. "Individuals and families continue to struggle each day here in Anson County, many who never before imagined they themselves would need help."

"Day of Caring is a reminder to members of our community of the tremendous needs in Anson County and how we can help each other through these troubling times," Wilson said.



If you are interested in learning more about United Way in Anson County or would like to make a financial contribution to United Way, please call Caroline Goins with United Way at 704-694-2600.

Will You Contact a County Commissioner on an Animal's Behalf?

Last week I was contacted by Richmond County Humane Society board member Evonne Swanson, who was feeling defeated and overwhelmed by goings on in the facilities of the Richmond County Humane Society.

Swanson explained that funding for their facilities is provided through grants to go towards the proper feeding, medical care and placement of animals within Richmond County. However, due to the excessive amount of animals they are accepting from Anson County, they are at maximum capacity and nearing a point of no admittance. What that means in a nutshell is this...If an animal is turned away by their facility, it will most likely be set free or sent to the dog pound - there facing almost certain death. "We do not want to be forced to turn any animal away, but we simply cannot afford to continue without assistance," said Swanson.

I spoke with Mrs. Carol Ann Gibson of the Anson County Health Department, who agreed, "There is a problem, and my suggestion would be to become more proactive about spaying and neutering your pets." Additionally, Gibson advised that a proposal should be written up and presented to the Anson County Commissioners, which Swanson has agreed to do. That proposal would ask that funding be provided to Richmond County, however, for assistance in taking in pets from our county.

In recent years I myself have been involved with several animal rescues and personally know of instances where animals have been taken to Richmond County to protect them from euthanasia. Without an active Humane Society here, to create one we are faced with a situation that will require a number of people, a lot of money, dozens and dozens of volunteers and their tireless efforts, housing facilities and the list goes on. In other words, there are no easy solutions. As I recall, I have written about the problems with lost, abandoned and stray animals in our county on a number of occasions, asking for help and assistance. Many others have done the same, but for whatever reasons, without much of an impact.

Perhaps we as citizens of a county without an active Humane Society should ask our county officials for help. And, let's take that a step further...If our county officials do not hear from us, the citizens, specifically about problems which exist with regard to the humane treatment of animals, then they cannot be expected to help. Animals cannot speak on their own behalf. It is our duty to protect them. I ask that you contact the County Manager, Mr. Lawrence Gatewood, or any of our County Commissioners. That would be a start. Some, if not all, may not even be aware a problem exists. Communication is certainly the key. It could be that Anson County could use the Richmond County Humane Society services for about the same cost or little more cost than the expenses involved in running our present dog pound...with far superior treatment of the animals. Lost animals would have vastly improved chances of being returned home, and adoptable animals would have so much more opportunity to survive and end up in loving homes.

A list of contact information for our Board of Commissioners follows: Bobby Sikes, 704-826-6244; Claude Spencer, 704-848-4119; Ross Streater, Vice Chairman, 704-851-9945; Dr. Jim Sims, 704-694-5493; Anna Baucom, Chairman, 704-694-5981; Jarvis T. Woodburn, 704-694-9240; Harold Smith, 704-694-4121; and County Manager, Lawrence Gatewood, 704-994-3200.

The Board of Commissioners meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of the Anson County Government Center, located at 101 South Greene Street. To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, you may fill out a request online or call Bonnie Huntley, Clerk to the Board at 704-994-3201. Your request must be submitted at least one week prior to the meeting to allow you to appear on the agenda.

If you have concerns, the commission needs to be aware. Perhaps we can all take a step in the right direction toward resolving those concerns. And remember, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a SINGLE step." Will you contact a commissioner on an animal's behalf?

By Melanie Lyon

Application Fees Waived During College Application Week

Anson High School will participate in the statewide College Application Week cosponsored by College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) and the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRO) during November 14 to 18. As part of the CFNC-CACRAO college access initiative, the school counselors and college advisor at Anson High School will work with its seniors on November 15, 17 and 18 to complete and submit online at least one college application each using the career and college information and planning site, CFNC.org. The goal of the program is to get more students applying to North Carolina colleges early in their senior year.

During the week of November 14 to 18, the following North Carolina colleges and universities will waive the application fee for all students applying online through CFNC.org: All 58 NC Community Colleges, Barton, Belmont-Abby, Bennett, Brevard, Campbell, Catawba, Chowan, Gardner-Webb, Guilford, Johnson C. Smith, Lees-McRae, Lenoir-Rhyne, Livingstone, Louisburg, Mars Hill, Meredith, Methodist, Montreat, Mount Olive, N.C. Wesleyan, Pfeiffer, Queens, St. Andrews, Saint Augustine's, Salem, Shaw, Warren Wilson, William Peace, Elizabeth City State University, and Winston Salem State University.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to apply to two year or four year institutions with the assistance of their school counselors and college advisor.

School Board Meeting is Today

The October Board of Education meeting is today, Wednesday, October 26 at 4 p.m. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Mobile Food Pantry is Today

The Mobile Food Pantry for October is coming to the Lilesville United Methodist Church today, Wednesday, October 26, at 11 a.m.

Please bring bags or carts with you to carry your food. Do not arrive before 9:30 a.m. If it is raining significantly the day of delivery, it will be canceled. If you have not yet done so, you must bring proof of your income. Please note you can no longer pick up food for more than one household, you may only pick up food for yourself.

This event is sponsored by W.A.C.O.M. and local United Methodist Churches.

Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil is Thursday

In a release from the Domestic Violence Coalition: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. On Thursday, October 27 at 6 p.m. a candlelight vigil will be held at the front steps of the Anson County Courthouse. ACDVC invites anyone who has a friend or loved one represented here to come and join us during this special time of remembrance.

Our victims include: Maggie M. Bennett, Argatha H. Clark, Clissie B. Gaddy, Cindy B. McIntyre, Rebecca B. Morrow, Connie Newton, Laura Parks, Mary Polk, Danette Streater, Mary Jane Suss, and Linda Kay Walters.

For more information please call 704-694-4499. Our 24 hour crisis line is 704-690-0362.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA Living Well