

83
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #149
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.

Governor Pat McCrory Honors Dr. Altheria S. Patton

January 16th proclaimed Dr. Altheria S. Patton Day by Anson County mayors.
Event to honor Dr. Patton this Saturday, January 16 at Lockhart-Taylor Center.

On Saturday, December 12, 2015, Governor Pat McCrory awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine to Dr. Altheria S. Patton, a sixty year veteran educator who devoted her life to educating students in Anson County. This honor speaks to Dr. Patton's dedication to education and also to Anson County's commitment to its children and their teachers. On January 16 Anson County, along with Anson County Schools and alumni associations, will host a countywide celebration where the Order of the Long Leaf Pine will be formally presented to Dr. Patton.



Dr. Altheria Smith Patton

Dr. Patton epitomizes a hardworking teacher, who has worked in the same county for 60 years ensuring that all children in this rural county received the best education possible.

Dr. Patton came to Anson County in 1947, immediately following graduation from North Carolina A&T University. She was a teacher at the Polkton Colored High School. She has served in numerous capacities in her 60 years since with Anson County Schools. Most notably as the first African American and first female principal, the first African American female assistant superintendent, the first African American female vice-chair of the school board, and a two-term member of the North Carolina School Board Association. Even in retirement she remains active in education, community service, social justice and the arts.

Nelson Mandela stated that, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Over the course of her career Dr. Patton has taught and counseled thousands of students, many of whom are changing the world through careers in medicine, law, business, education, engineering, sports and the arts. As she is fond of saying, "Anson County Schools have produced a bevy of qualified professionals, who are doing great things, and they all got their start here in this often discounted, rural county. We have done some good things here."

Everyone is invited to an event held to honor Dr. Patton this Saturday, January 16, at 12 noon at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. It will be an opportunity for Anson County to celebrate her induction into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. A special presentation will be made by the mayors of Anson County as they proclaim January 16 to be Dr. Altheria S. Patton Day. Dr. Patton's legacy will be expressed through former students, their families and the county and school district that supported her for sixty years.

A bio of Dr. Altheria Smith Patton: Dr. Altheria Smith Patton, a resident of Anson County since 1947, has been an exceptional and inspirational personality in Anson County's education, community service and arts. Born January 23, 1927, in Warsaw, North Carolina, she began teaching immediately after graduating from North Carolina A&T University at then-Polkton Colored High School. This opportunity at a segregated school was the beginning of an accomplished 60 year career in education. Dr. Patton has been a trailblazer as a teacher, counselor, administrator and as the first African-American principal of Anson Junior High School, first African-American female Associate Superintendent of Anson County Schools, and the first African American female vice-chair of the Anson County School Board. She was instrumental in establishing the Alternative Learning School-Anson Challenge Academy, a concept that originated from her dissertation. Her life and career of courage and perseverance has been a shining example to thousands of young men and women to achieve their dreams, without fear. She was also Adjunct Faculty at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, at South Piedmont Community College and Student Support Services Consultant for Chesterfield-Marlboro Technical College in Chesterfield.

Dr. Patton's community service is evident through her work with numerous boards, clubs and organizations. She has served as Director of Christian Education (Children Division) for the Wadesboro-Monroe District of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church; Trustee, Sunday School Teacher, Class Leader and Director of Christian Education for Kesler Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church; Educator Emeritus to the East Polkton School Alumni Association; Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary, Order of the Eastern Star, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Wadesboro Town Council, Wadesboro Rotary Club, Anson County Chamber of Commerce, Anson County Historical Society, Anson County Arts Council, North Carolina Association of Educators, North Carolina School Boards Association, North Carolina Retired School Personnel, and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Chairwoman of Anson County Social Services Board, Trustee for South Piedmont Community College, Director for the North Carolina Association of Educators, Evaluator for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) on Accreditation and School Improvement, Director for the Wadesboro Branch of Anson Bank and Trust (now Uwharrie Bank), Director for the Wadesboro Branch of United Carolina Bank, Director for the Wadesboro Branch of Branch Banking and Trust, to name a few.

Dr. Patton has traveled to more than thirty countries and been acknowledged by international and national groups including United States Representative to the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession (now Education International), International Rotarian Paul Harris Fellow and National Association of University Women - Woman of the Year.

Dr. Patton holds a Doctor of Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1990); a Masters of Arts from Columbia University (1952) and a Bachelors of Arts from North Carolina A&T University (1947).

She is the widow of the late Morris Patton, Sr., also an educator, and parent of three children, Morris, Jr. (deceased), Mitchell Patton and Dr. Anja Patton-Evans (physician). She has been an active member of the AME Zion church for over 70 years. She is also a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. At the age of 89 she describes herself as a "lifelong learner" and remains active with daily walks and 30 minutes of "spinning."



Super Entertaining Soul Street Dance Company Returns to the Ansonia on January 22 - A Must See!

The Ansonia Theatre is proud to present Soul Street Dance Company on Friday January 22 at 7:30 p.m. These gentlemen are all formerly at-risk youth who turned their lives around through the art of dance. Now they travel the globe telling their story and spreading hope and inspiration to all. This show is not to be missed! Fantastic moves, great music and lots of laughs too.

Tickets are \$15 for general seating. Call 704-694-4950 or visit www.ansoniatheatre.com.

Plans Announced for Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in Anson County

The Anson County Martin Luther King Day Committee has announced plans for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration. This year's celebration will be held in Morven on Monday, January 18. The celebration will begin with a prayer breakfast at 8 a.m. at the HOLLA! Center, located at 229 East Main Street in Morven. Tickets for the breakfast are \$10. It will be served by the Wadesboro Chapter of the National Association of University Women.

The Commemorative March from the Morven Park to Harris Chapel AME Zion Church will begin at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Bernice Bennett will preside over the annual program beginning at 10 a.m. The program will feature a community men's choir. All men are asked to wear black suits and red ties.

For tickets to the prayer breakfast and other information please call Donnie Lewis at 704-320-6376 or the HOLLA! Center at 704-851-3144.

Wadesboro Lions Club & Bojangles Share Night

On Friday, January 15 the Wadesboro Lions Club will participate in Bojangles' Share Night. Support your Wadesboro Lions Club by dining with Bojangles. You can dine in or drive through. 10% of sales will be used to support the Wadesboro Lions Club. This Share Night is only good at Bojangles located at 1200 East Caswell Street in Wadesboro.

All proceeds benefit the blind and visually impaired in Wadesboro and Anson County.

For information about the different projects of the Wadesboro Lions Club please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

Healthy Diet In 2016 Seminar

Do you have goals to lose weight, reverse diabetes, heart disease, cancer, arthritis, high cholesterol, high blood pressure or obesity in 2016? Learn how naturally using foods from "God's garden" at the next Pathway to Peace Healthy Living and Cooking Seminar this Sunday, January 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. The cost is free. You will also be able to eat dinner with at the seminar. The location is Highway 109 South, past Deep Creek at 11775 NC 109 South, Peachland. For more information call 704-695-1441.

Domestic Violence Purple Ribbon Campaign 2015 Recognition

This is a release from the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition: As many of you know the month of October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. During October the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition kicked off their annual Purple Ribbon Campaign, which came to a close on December 31, to raise funds and awareness for domestic violence. The 2015 campaign was a success, but there is always more that can be done to combat the incidences and consequences of domestic violence.

We would like to thank those of you that made this year's campaign a success. Without the support of the community we could not be able to do what we do for our victims. These funds are used to defray the costs of direct services, to match the grants our organization receives, to promote community awareness and education and most importantly to assist victims and their families.

We want our community to know that you not alone and we are here for them. Even though the campaign has officially closed, there is always a need for community support through donations and even through volunteering. We welcome these at all times during the year.

Again, we want to thank and recognize all that have contributed to the success of this campaign. We would also like to thank those individuals that contributed anonymously. The following is a list of contributors who wished to be acknowledged: Town of Peachland, Bethel United Methodist Church, Town of Lilesville, Bethel-New Hope-Long Pine UMM, Wadesboro Rotary Club, Fairview Church of God, John and June Witherspoon, Pee Dee Electric, Tommy Allen.

Economist Paints Positive Economic Picture for North Carolina in 2016

One of the state's leading economists paints an upbeat picture for North Carolina in 2016. In his latest quarterly outlook report, released this week, NC State University's Mike Walden predicts that the state's economy will continue to outperform the nation, generating more income and more jobs. Walden expects the state's gross domestic product to rise 3.5 percent faster than the national rate. Meanwhile, the state's unemployment rate will fall from 5.5 percent in 2015 to 5.1 percent by the end of 2016, as the state adds a net 90,000 new jobs.

Walden says he doesn't expect job growth to be evenly spread among sectors and industries: He sees North Carolina's fastest job growth taking place in the higher-paying financial, information and professional and business sectors and in the lower-paying leisure, hospitality and personal service sectors.

While all signs point to no recession in 2016, Walden mentions two economic trends that could be negatives for consumers: While remaining affordable, oil and gasoline prices will likely stop falling and perhaps rise a little. And, if the economy continues to perform according to the Federal Reserve's expectations, interest rates may rise to 1 percent by year's end.

For Walden's detailed summary of the state and national economic performance in 2015, and his predictions for 2016, see go.ncsu.edu/outlookjan2016.

Wadesboro Trash Schedule for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Town of Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed Monday, January 18 for the Martin Luther King Memorial Holiday. The trash collection route will not run on that Monday. Both Monday's and Tuesday's routes will be collected on Tuesday, January 19. The normal trash collection schedule will resume on Wednesday, January 20.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

Lynn Edwards Announces Resignation from Anson County Chamber of Commerce



Lynn Edwards

Lynn Edwards, Executive Director of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce has announced her resignation effective February 5, 2016. Lynn has served the Chamber as Executive Director for the past ten years.

Under Lynn's tenure the Chamber has increased its visibility in the county and focused on developing partnerships with other organizations, including the Anson Economic Development Corporation and Anson County Tourism Development Authority (TDA). In addition to the day to day business and events of the Chamber, other projects that Lynn and the Chamber have continued to sponsor and grow include the Big Game Hunt, which has grown to one of the largest big game hunts in the state, and the annual Chamber Golf Tournament, which continues to be one of the favorites for the community. Lynn also established the Chamber's Lunch and Learn programs, created the Ansonian Adventures 50th Anniversary board game and built up the Business After Hours events with local businesses, as well as other projects.

Upon announcing her departure Lynn said that she has enjoyed the work environment as well as the challenges over the past ten years. Right now she said she has no immediate plans other than taking a well-deserved break, but she is looking forward to the next opportunities.

Richard Allen, Chamber President for 2016, said that on behalf of the Board of Directors they deeply appreciate the dedication and hard work Lynn has demonstrated and wish her nothing but the very best.

The Anson County Chamber works to promote and preserve the business climate and the quality of life in Anson County. Membership in the Chamber comes from all areas in and out of the county from businesses and individuals.

BRLC to Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Jan. 18

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be celebrated at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center on Monday, January 18. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and the celebration begins at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. A financial donation is requested.

Your financial support and prayers have given BRLC the opportunity to help students develop in character, academics, social and spiritual growth. Remember that you have helped to make this organization into what it has become to this county and community. All donations are tax deductible.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.