

Letter to the Editor

Arts Councils Seeking Props for Upcoming Play

Dear Editor,

We are getting ready to do the next community play, *The Trip to Bountiful*, to be performed in May. We will need several items, if you can be on the lookout for possibilities or think who might have these we would appreciate it. We can borrow for 2 months or they can be donated to the theatre.

The most immediate need is for a costume for the leading lady, Carrie. This should be a dress that would have been worn in the 1940-50's. A shirt waist, with cloth belt, probably a pale blue or grey or light color, with small print - flowers or something. It should be long, well below the knees. It would probably button up the front and could have a lacy something at the neck. Size - bigger is better, because we can cut it down. But at least size 16 or 18. If we can't find a dress, then maybe we could find material to make it - again, very old fashioned.

The second dress is for a young person, Thelma, who is in her early 20's - maybe size 8-12. In the pictures she is in a dress with a short cropped jacket. She's dressed up for traveling.

The third lady, Jessie Mae, is 35ish. Maybe size 12. Probably solid color, maybe belted (large, colorful) maybe a v-neck or show off. Maybe a jacket.

Hats - one for each lady. Carrie's is floppy and cheap and plain. Thelma's is perky, matches her outfit. Jessie Mae is stylish. Purses - old black. Gloves - short white.

Furniture - needed too. We need two benches - not heavy (we have to move quickly), but should look like what would be in a bus terminal in the 1940's. It could have a solid back and be big enough to lie down on. The second bench could be different and smaller. We need a very small kitchen table for 2 or 3 people, light weight, and chairs for the kitchen table. The 3 chairs should be old fashioned, probably don't match, and cheap. And, we need a sofa - 1940's or 50's style. We want to move it quickly, so it should be not too heavy. We would prefer a love seat or very small full sofa - old, cheap and maybe not in good shape.

If you have any of these items, or can think where I might get them, please email or call. If you can send a picture that would be wonderful. The email address is ansonart@windstream.net or 704-694-4950.

Thank you, the Anson County Arts Council

Rachel Flake Wins Junior Miss Southern Horse Festival



Rachel Flake has won the Junior Miss Southern Horse Festival in Williamston, NC. With this title Rachel will travel across the state as an Ambassador for the North Carolina Horse Council promoting the equine industry. She will have opportunities to make appearances in parades, horse show events and at the North Carolina State Fair.

As part of the competition Rachel had to do a personal interview with the judges, give a speech on an equine theme, and ride a horsemanship pattern on her horse for the judges.

Rachel had a successful horse show season this year. She won the Western Junior Championship on her horse Invest Ina Redneck, and English 11 & Under on horse, Its Time to Flash, at the Union County Saddle Club. She also competed at the South Carolina Festival of Flowers Horse Show, and won high points Champion in Western and Game events. In October she attended the NC State Fair and won in her age division in Western Pleasure events.

Rachel's trainer in Jackie Turnbull. She is the daughter of Kelly Flake and the late Jerry W. Flake and is a seventh grader at Anson Middle School.

For Anson County Farmers, Microloan Gains Popularity

Faster, easier credit cultivates big dreams on a small scale

In a release from Cindy Kernodle, Acting State Executive Director for North Carolina USDA's Farm Service Agency: Through my tenure as North Carolina's Acting State Executive Director for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), I've met small, beginning farmers and producers, military veterans and disadvantaged producers interested in making a living in agriculture. Some are from here in Anson County! They tell me the high cost of purchasing land and equipment can be prohibitive, compelling too many newcomers to take financial risks on their dreams by relying on credit cards and personal loans with high interest rates. I am keenly aware, too, that the average age of North Carolina's farmers and producers is increasing. And, like you, I've become concerned about where we'll get the next generation of Anson County farmers.

Fortunately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture understands the needs of these small, beginning and specialty crop producers. Through the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Loan Programs division, the Department responded by developing a new microloan program that provides up to \$35,000 to bolster these producers during their start-up years. Likewise, it will assist small, established Anson County producers who find themselves in extenuating financial circumstances.

Like other operating loans, microloans can be used to purchase livestock, equipment, feed, seed, fertilizer and related supplies. And the real benefit when compared to those credit cards and personal loans? The current interest rate for a microloan is just 1.125%!

It's critical that we use solutions like the microloan to provide access to credit to beginning farmers or those producing on a smaller scale. Why? Because agriculture can provide new jobs that build North Carolina's economy and ensure a safe and affordable food supply in the U.S and abroad. In addition, these loans keep people living in North Carolina's rural communities, sending their children to our local schools and doing business in our local shops.

Microloans are different from traditional FSA loans. Applying for a microloan is more flexible process. By reducing the application from 17 pages to eight and modifying requirements for experience, it's easy - and far more convenient - for Anson County farmers and USDA employees.

Although some production experience is necessary, there are producers who may not meet the managerial requirements for traditional loans. The good news is that they may be eligible for a microloan. FSA will consider an applicant's small business experience, experience with a self-guided apprenticeship and specialized education to meet the prerequisite.

As America moves toward more local food sources and joins the farm-to-table movement, there is an increasing number of people going back to the farm and selling their products through farmers markets and community supported agriculture. Microloans are perfect for those North Carolina producers who want to grow niche crops and sell directly to ethnic markets, farmers markets or young farmers.

And Anson County's coming future farmers and ranchers also will benefit! Prospects previously using an FSA Youth Loan to finance an agricultural endeavor, successfully repaying the debt and are of the "age of majority" according to state law, are eligible for microloans. Microloans graduate producers to a new level, preparing them for larger FSA operating loans or commercial loans through the FSA Guaranteed Loan Program.

By expanding access to credit, FSA continues to help grow the industry on which our country was built - Agriculture. Through FSA, more than 128,000 loans totaling \$18 billion have been issued. The number of loans to beginning farmers and ranchers has increased from 11,000 in 2008 to 15,000 in 2011. More than 40 percent of USDA's farm loans now go to beginning farmers, while lending to socially disadvantaged producers has increased nearly 50 percent since 2008.

At FSA, we aim for ways to help Anson County farmers and producers achieve their dreams, to be part of the American population that feeds the world, whether large-scale or small-scale operations. By supporting America's growers, we help all Americans. We provide a secure, low-cost food supply and make a major contribution to the U.S. economy. And we do these things while nourishing millions.

You can easily obtain information on a microloan, or other FSA programs, at the Anson County FSA office, located at 1706 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-3516.

Spring Turkey Season Includes Youth-Only Week

The 2013 spring turkey season has changed to allow for a longer youth turkey season in which adults can accompany more than one youth. The youth-only season will be open from the first Saturday in April - April 6 this year - to the following Friday, April 12. An adult can accompany more than one youth during this Spring Youth-Only Wild Turkey Season. The adult must be near the youth. The bag limit for the entire week is one bird.

"With hunter recruitment as a major goal of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, we are chief of wildlife management for the Commission. "Adding these extra days to the youth season will give our newest hunters a better chance of bagging a bird, and get more youths and adults into the field."

Season information in the Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest does not include the above information because the extended season was not adopted until after its publication. Previously, youth-only season was one day only - the first Saturday in April. Adults could accompany only one youth under the previous rules.

The adult season runs from April 13 to May 11.

Class of 2003 Reunion Planning Meeting

The Anson High School Class of 2003 will hold a planning meeting on Tuesday, April 30. For more information, such as the time and location (which was not provided to The Express) visit ahs03reunion.eventbrite.com.

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<p>2009 Ford Edge SEL 47K Miles, Panoramic Roof White, Leather, Loaded!</p> <p>\$269 per month</p>	<p>2011 Chevy Impala LT Black, Like New!</p> <p>\$199 per month</p>	<p>2011 Ford Escape Limited Silver, 2WD, Leather, Sharp!</p> <p>\$249 per month</p>
<p>2012 Ford Econoline Van 12 Passenger, 22K Miles Backup Camera, XLT Package</p> <p>\$229 per month</p>	<p>2013 Ford Explorer XLT Loaded with Extras! 20K Miles, White</p> <p>\$425 per month</p>	<p>2010 Ford F150 Super Crew Locally Owned! Loaded! White</p> <p>\$350 per month</p>

Special Used Car Low Rate Financing: 2012 3.49% for 78 months; 2011 2.99% for 75 months; 2010 @ 3.49% for 75 months; 2008 - 2009 @ 3.5% for 72 months; 2006 - 2007 @ 6.5% for 63 months; 2004 - 2005 @ 7.9% for 60 months. Based on \$1,800 cash or trade. Certain conditions apply; 760 or higher Beacon; does not include tax, tag, title & \$169 doc fee.

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