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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League Warns of Coal Ash Dumping in Polkton

Cary Rodgers, Community Organizer for the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League issued a statement and press release to *The Express*: Rodgers said, "If Duke Energy is allow to dump coal ash in community landfills like ours in Polkton, we are at great risk! Especially since the county has granted Waste Connections Landfill in Polkton the permission to double its capacity."

Here is the press release: League Demands: "Don't Dump Coal Ash on Our Communities" Today the statewide Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League announced a new campaign to block the landfilling of coal ash from Duke Energy's plants. Staff and volunteers are working with county commissioners and environmental justice advocates to prevent this hazardous waste from contaminating groundwater and drinking water in the state's mega-dump communities.

Governor Pat McCrory and Democrats in the NC General Assembly have expressed support for hauling the toxic ash from plant sites to double-lined landfills. The League warns that landfilling would endanger public health and the environment and is nothing more than a shell game.

Louis Zeller, BREDL Executive Director, said, "Duke's coal ash should be classified as hazardous waste. It contains cadmium, lead, chromium, arsenic and radioactive isotopes and cannot be landfilled safely no matter how many plastic liners." Next week Zeller will release a technical report which centers on alternatives which would keep the wastes on Duke's property and isolate the poisons from the air, soil and water.

The League's Executive Committee has determined that the full liability for the coal ash should be borne by Duke Energy. One huge disadvantage for mega-dump communities is that liability for contamination is pro-rated. In other words, a ton of Duke's hazardous coal ash could be equated with a ton of a local school system's solid waste. The League believes that would be an injustice.

For over twenty years the League has identified the dangers of waste landfilling. The US Environmental Protection Agency has stated on the record that all landfills will leak. Further, monitoring wells at mega-dumps are too far apart to identify narrow fingers of water pollution which, ironically, the liner's mask. They are capable of detecting only large plumes of contamination.

Cary Rodgers, BREDL's NC Environmental Justice Organizer who resides in Anson County, said, "The people who live near this mega-dump are primarily African American and many of them are poor. Handing coal ash over to a commercial company which dumps for dollars is a grave danger to our groundwater and nearby residents."

Zeller added, "The League has shared our formal position against coal ash landfilling with other NC organizations and hopes that they will join us in opposing this quick and dirty solution."

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League's headquarters are located in the place it was founded thirty years ago in Glendale Springs, North Carolina. Today, in addition to its North Carolina offices in Raleigh, Graham, Greensboro and Peachland, the League has projects and campaigns in six states. To learn more, go to www.BREDL.org.

Becky Wilson Hired as Director of New Animal Shelter

Becky Wilson has been hire as Animal Services Director for the new Anson County Animal Shelter that is set to open in April. Wilson starts work on March 31.

"I am excited to share that Ms. Rebecca Wilson has accepted the position of Animal Services Director of the Anson County Animal Shelter," said Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood. "She will start work on Monday, March 31. She's excited - and so are we!"

Wilson is from the Burnsville community. She worked at Brown Creek Animal Hospital for six years, and for the past seven years has been employed as an Animal Care Specialist for the Union County Animal Shelter. She is state certified as rabies vaccinator and euthanasia technician, both fundamental requirements of the job as Animal Shelter Director.

Gatewood concluded, "I am thrilled that we have been successful in attracting a well-qualified, enthusiastic and an experienced individual to lead our animal services program. Thank you for your participation in the interviews and all of your hard work on this project. We're still on fast track to open the Anson County Animal Shelter in April 2014."

Special Meeting Called for Town of Wadesboro for March 24

Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell has called a special meeting for the Mayor, Town Council and general public. The meeting is set for Monday, March 24 at 6 p.m. The following items are on the agenda:

- Needs Assessment / Facility Program
- Facilities
- Closed Session for real property as specified in the statute G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)

The meeting will be held in the Town of Wadesboro Conference Room.

Free Food at BRLC March 25

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center will hold their monthly USDA and Commodities Emergency Food Pantry on Tuesday, March 25 at 9 a.m. They have received a TEFAP shipment from the United States Department of Agriculture that contains frozen and canned foods.

The US federal income guidelines are the determining factor for eligibility for Ansonians. BRLC does not discriminate for any reason.

If you plan to take advantage of this opportunity you will need to register promptly at 9 a.m. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

Relay for Life Survivor Dinner is April 12

The 2014 Relay for Life Survivor Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 12 at First Methodist Church in uptown Wadesboro at 6 p.m. All cancer survivors are invited to the dinner. If you are a survivor and would like to attend you may bring a guest, or children survivors may bring two guests.

The RSVP date is April 5. Please contact Carrie Bunn at 704-294-0071 or email ansonrelay@yahoo.com.



Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church Seniors Event

The Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church held its 1st Annual "Three Score and Ten: Honoring our Seniors" event. This event was to recognize the seniors in the church who are 70 years of age and older. It was held on Saturday, March 8 in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Each honoree was recognized by a member of their family and received a medal of recognition from the church.

Honorees are pictured here from left: Rev. Pamela Martin, Georgia and John Adams, Estella Ellerbe, Ineda Terry, Pastor T. J. Horne; seated: Lucille Pratt. Not pictured: Nellie Horton, Isaiah Pratt, Eva Giles, Odell Tillman, Mattie Spencer, Ollie P. Ward, Laura Leak, Beulah Brooks and Loretta Wiggins.

Unemployment Program Provides Assistance and Verifies Identity and Work Search Records

March is the kickoff month for a new program at the Division of Employment Security (DES). Unemployed individuals who are receiving unemployment insurance benefits and receive their FIRST unemployment benefit payment on or after March 1, 2014, are required by law to attend an Employability Assessment Interview (EAI) as a condition of continuing eligibility for receiving unemployment insurance. Beginning on March 17, DES will begin issuing letters to inform claimants of their scheduled, mandatory interview.

An Employability Assessment Interview (EAI) is a mandatory, one-on-one, in-person meeting between an unemployed individual receiving unemployment insurance benefits and a workforce specialist at the local Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) office. The meeting will serve as an opportunity for the individual to speak to a workforce specialist who can assist them with finding suitable employment in their region, have their work search documents reviewed, and provide their photo ID. Acceptable forms of identification include a driver's license, passport or other government-issued ID.

"First and foremost, the interviews are designed to provide meaningful assistance resulting in getting people back to work," said DES Assistant Secretary Dale Folwell. "The claimants will also show proof that they are looking for work and proof of their identity. Presenting a photo ID is necessary when finding employment so it should also be necessary in order to receive unemployment. With the assistance of our partners at DWS, this will help eliminate potential fraud and abuse."

Failure to attend the Employability Assessment Interview could result in a denial or delay of unemployment insurance benefits.

Claimants who need more information can visit the Division's website at www.ncesc.com.

Free Fraud Awareness Program for the Latin American Community

The Better Business Bureau will present a consumer fraud awareness program designed to educate members of the Latin American community about scams so that they do not become victims of fraud. This educational program will be held this Sunday, March 23, immediately following the 12 noon and 2 p.m. services at Our Lady of Guadalupe, located at 6612 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, NC 28214.

Presentations will include consumer tips and advice on identity theft, counterfeit/fake checks, buying used cars, home repair fraud and other consumer fraud topics.

All presentations will be conducted in Spanish.

There is no cost to attend this fraud awareness program, but reservations are requested so that there are adequate materials for the number of people who attend.

For reservations in English or Spanish, please call (704) 927-8639.

Poker Run Fundraiser for Sandra Davis on March 29

There will be a Poker Run featuring door raffles, bands, food, a 50/50 drawing, and lots of fun on Saturday, March 29. This event is fundraiser for Sandra Davis, a wife and mother from Wadesboro who was severely injured in a Christmas day head on collision in Wadesboro. This was the accident that also cost the life of a child.

Sandra had all of her limbs broken, most of her top teeth knocked out, a fractured jaw bone, a crushed heel, a shattered femur and many deep cuts and abrasions. She has endured several surgeries to place pins and rods in her limbs and to reconstruct her mouth. Sandra faces a lot of rehabilitation, and her medical bills are building up. Thoughts and prayers are much appreciated.

If you would like to participate or make a donation, please contact Lynn Martin Thomas or Donna Bailey at 704-475-2456.

The Poker run begins at Tony's Bar, 10004 Moores Chapel Loop Road in Charlotte. Bikes roll out at 11 a.m. so come early to register and enjoy fellowship. The run will conclude at 4 p.m. at CBA Homestead Lodge in Gastonia.

Veterans, Tip the Scales in Your Favor!

The Anson County Veteran Services Office is offering a new program of exercise called Move. The two hour classes will be held at the office every Wednesday beginning April 2 and running through May 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The classes are open to all veterans and their family members currently using VA health care, and to those veterans possessing a DD-214 and a valid photo ID.

Please call to confirm your attendance, 1-800-469-8262 ext 4958.

The Veteran Services Office is located at 111 North Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro, in the Belk Building.

Bertha Watkins Celebrated Her 104th Birthday

Bertha Watkins was joined by her family and many friends to celebrate her 104th birthday party on December 7, 2013. Mrs. Watkins enjoyed the event greatly, and was very happy to see everyone who came to honor her. The event took place at Jay's Seafood Restaurant in Albemarle. Mrs. Watkins' birth date is December 9, 1909.

Mrs. Watkins' children are Thelma Watkins, Phyllis Watkins, Betty Stafford, Wilhelmina

R o b i n s o n, Shirley Brooks and the late Henry Watkins. She has eleven grandchildren, many great grandchildren, some great great grandchildren, and lots of loving n e p h e w s, c o u s i n s and other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank everyone who attended.

They also appreciate the participation by Rev. Andrew Davis and Rev. Anthony Ledbetter. Pictured here with Mrs. Watkins are, from left, nephew Lee Edward Carelock and daughters Thelma and Phyllis Watkins.



Introduction to Beekeeping Workshop is Saturday

On Saturday, March 22 the Richmond County Beekeepers Association invites you to attend their Beekeeping Workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Weather permitting there will be a hive of bees on site. Lunch will be served, and there is a door prize.

This class is free, but there is a \$2 fee to help cover the cost of lunch. It will take place at Richmond County Agricultural Complex, 123 Caroline Street in Rockingham. Please register by calling the Ag Extension office at 910-997-8255.

Free Movie is When Calls the Heart

On Monday, March 24 at 10:00 a.m. a free movie, *When Calls The Heart*, will be shown in the Little Theatre at Hampton B Allen Library. The movie is based on Janette Oke's award winning book and stars Stephen Arnell, Maggie Grace, Lori Loughlin and Daniel Sharman. It is suitable for all audiences. Everyone is welcome to come and bring a friend.

If you have any questions or need additional information please call the library at 704-694-5177.

Veteran Services Office Closed March 24 - 28

The Anson County Veteran Services Office will be closed from Monday, March 24 through Friday, March 28. Director Ted Ward will be away attending the North Carolina Division of Veteran Affairs Spring Conference. The office will reopen on Monday, March 31.

During the closure any urgent matters can be taken care of by calling the District 9 Service Office at 704-563-2037.

BCSWCD Monthly Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25 at 9 a.m. The meeting will take place at the BCSWCD office which is located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-3516.

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