

41  
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](mailto:TheExpressNews@gmail.com) • [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)

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

## Lilesville Citizens Held Hostage for Over 12 Hours by CSX Transportation Rail Train

The citizens who live on Cowan Street behind Hatcher's Park in Lilesville were stuck either in or outside of their neighborhood for over 12 hours this past Friday, March 20 when a CSX Railroad train stopped, blocking Cowan Street. Because there is no other way into or out of the neighborhood, the train blocking the Cowan Street crossing literally held citizens hostage. The train had been abandoned, with no engineer or other personnel on board.



According to Lilesville residents this is an ongoing problem, but usually the blockage lasts an hour or two - not twelve.

82 year old Sarah Harrington, a resident of the community, got off her job on Friday evening, looking forward to going home to rest. When she arrived at the crossing at 8:30 p.m.

she found it blocked by the train. A call was made to CSX, with a representative stating that the train would be moved within two hours. After waiting in a chilly vehicle at the crossing for more than two hours, Mrs. Harrington was too cold and tired to stay any longer. She had to seek shelter with a friend because she couldn't get to her home. "It's been a problem before, but not like this," she said. "I've never, never had to stay that long on the other side of the tracks."

Anson County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant became aware of the situation and found the train still blocking the track at 2 a.m. "I called CSX at 2 a.m. and was told that the train would be moved within an hour," Sturdivant said. "Sheriff Landric Reid and I monitored the situation, and we were on the scene when the train finally moved away at 9:37 a.m. on Saturday morning."

Commissioner Sturdivant continued, "Mrs. Harrington found shelter. There may have been others blocked from their dwelling, or trapped in their neighborhood. My questions to CSX Transportation are, 'Are you going to reimburse these fine citizens for their inconvenience? When will you stop ignoring this issue? This is unfair to our citizens.'"

"This has been a continuous problem for years," Sturdivant said. "The late Commissioner Claude Spencer and I were contacting CSX several years ago about this same issue. Some of the citizens of this community are elderly and have serious medical challenges. This problem becomes of great importance if the train is blocking the crossing when EMS or some other emergency service needs access."

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "The train was stopped because of federal regulations limiting the number of hours that workers can operate the train. If they had to stop here, they should have separated the train cars to open up this intersection. That would have been the easiest thing to do. I also asked CSX why they didn't do that, but they had no answer for that."

Sheriff Reid added, "This is a major safety issue. Abandoning a train while it is blocking the only way into or out of this neighborhood blocks access for emergency vehicles such as fire trucks, ambulances and law enforcement. This shows a disrespect for the welfare of the citizens of Cowen Street."

Perhaps CSX Transportation should respond to this problem, starting with firing the lazy crew who decided to abandon the train. It appears that they were more concerned with getting dinner and rest than they were with doing the right thing and separating the train to open access to Cowan Street.

Commissioner Sturdivant concluded, "I am concerned as a county commissioner and as a citizen of Anson County. My comment to CSX Transportation is everybody is somebody. The way these citizens were treated Friday night showed total disrespect. Would you block the governor's entrance or exit for twelve hours?"

## Anson's Unemployment Rate Was 6.5% in January

Anson County's unemployment rate for January was 6.5 percent. In December the rate was 6.3 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate for January was 5.9 percent.

Anson's total labor force in January was 10,908. Of that number 10,196 were employed and 712 were unemployed. In December the total labor force was 10,355, with 9,700 employed and 655 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 98 of North Carolina's counties in January and decreased in two.

Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 14.5 percent while Buncombe County had the lowest at 4.5 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 8.2 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville and Raleigh, both at 4.8 percent, had the lowest. The January not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 5.9 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 90 counties, increased in seven, and remained unchanged in three. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in January by 1,148 to 4,363,491, while those unemployed decreased 41,534 to 273,212. Since January 2014, the number of workers employed statewide increased 58,444, while those unemployed decreased 44,375.

## Wadesboro is Opening a Recycling Drop-off Site

The Town of Wadesboro is opening a trial recycling drop-off site for residents and small businesses starting Saturday, April 4. The location is the back corner of the Police and Fire Station parking lot, with customers entering from East Morgan Street across from the Anson Rescue Squad facility.

The drop-off site will be open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Hours may be expanded as warranted in the future.

Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell commented, "Thank you to the Town Council for allowing staff to try something new to address citizen concerns about recycling opportunities. Also, thank you to Town of Wadesboro staff for making this happen."

Below is a list of materials that are accepted. Items do not need to be separated by material type and can be commingled.

- **What you can recycle:** cardboard (flattened); all plastic containers #1 through #7 (free of hazardous materials and food contamination & no styrofoam or plastic shopping bags or plastic film; plastic containers #1 through #5 & #7 (i.e. commercial/retail/automotive); wide-mouth plastic containers; glass bottles & jars; cereal & food boxes; milk & juice cartons, juice boxes; aluminum cans; metal food cans, paperback books; magazines & phone books; shredded paper (in clear bags); empty aerosol spray cans (no paint); spiral paper cans with plastic lids removed (chips, snacks, bread crumbs); rigid plastic containers & small hard plastic toys (HDPE must be less than 2 inches in length & 40 pounds); mixed paper, newspapers with inserts & junk mail.
- **What you cannot recycle:** contaminated food items; pizza boxes; wire hangers; paper plates, napkins or paper towels; plastic bags; ceramics; pots & pans; styrofoam; pencil shavings; candy or gum wrappers; hardbound books; rubber bands; garbage; light bulbs; batteries.

## US Army to Conduct Training Exercise in Uptown Wadesboro Next Tuesday, Spectators Invited

On Tuesday, March 31 Army Special Forces Robin Sage students will conduct a training exercise on the Tollison Building in uptown Wadesboro at the intersection of North Washington and East Morgan Streets.

This Robin Sage training exercise will occur between 6:30 7 p.m. and will feature "blank" gunfire noises. While these gunfire noises will be loud, they will not be dangerous to the public.

Coordination between the Army and Wadesboro town officials has ensured all safety concerns are addressed. During the exercise Wadesboro Police will block off the area around the Tollison building as a safety measure.

Spectators are welcome to watch the training exercise from a distance.



## Corvette Owners Bring Some Flash to AHS

The Road Runner Vette Club based out of Charlotte came to Anson Senior High School on Wednesday, February 25, and with the assistance of Anson Senior High School Assistant Principals, Dionnya Pratt and Fred Davis, Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer and AHS SRO officers, Sgt. G. Cannon and E. Davis the event was a Lunch & Learn. Students were able to talk to different club members about their cars, and how important education is to becoming successful.

"The Road Runner Vette Club is a socially responsible social organization, utilizing Corvette enthusiasts to promote Corvette ownership, foster true fellowship and community stewardship," said Chief Spencer. "We would like to thank Mack Foster, Dee Foster, Fred Johnson and John Watkins for taking the time out of their busy schedules to come to Anson High School."

## Wadesboro Police Seeking Public's Help in Shooting

The Wadesboro Police Department is investigating a shooting that occurred during the early morning hours of Thursday, March 12. The shooting took place at a residence in the Harlem Heights neighborhood.

WPD Captain Brandon Chewning said, "We are asking for information concerning this incident. Anyone with information is urged to call the Wadesboro Police Department at 704-694-2167."

## Locally Written and Produced Play Presented this Saturday

*Getting Pass Ugly, the Untold Secret* play is celebrating its one year anniversary this Saturday, March 28 with a new presentation at Wadesboro Primary School Auditorium at 6 p.m. The show will introduce a great cast of characters, full of talent, right here in Anson County.

The play was written, produced and is directed by Lucille Gaddy. It features Amp Clark, Rachel Melton, Jackie Sturdivant, Sheila Raye, Kee Ondra Barrett and Lucille Gaddy. The music is provided by Leon Gatewood, Richard Ellerbe, Mary Ellerbe, Destiny Stewart and Minister Timothy Marshall, Jr.

You don't want to miss this rousing show! You are guaranteed to have a great time. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students 12 and under. You can purchase them at Awesome Touch Hair Salon at 121 North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro (704-695-1808) or You're So Special Beauty Salon, located on Highway 74 directly across from Captain D's (704-994-9277). Or you can buy tickets at the door. For more information contact Lucille Gaddy at 704-985-4414 or email [Lucille1236@yahoo.com](mailto:Lucille1236@yahoo.com).

Lucille said, "Be ready for more auditions coming soon!"

## The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Presented by Local Actors at the Ansonia

This is the last weekend!

Dorothy is trying to get back to Kansas and home! Along the way she is joined by Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion and a wonderful group of delightful munchkins. Oh no! Then there is the wicked Witch of the West and her two evil sidekicks. Thanks goodness for Glinda, the good witch and of course, the Wonderful Wizard of Oz.

Join the whole cast for a fabulous evening of entertainment! You will leave singing. This adaptation of Frank Baum's magical tale, written by Michele L. Vacca and further adapted by a very talented group of Ansonians, will be presented at the Ansonia Theatre beginning this weekend. There are presentations on March 27, 28 and 29. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday shows are at 3 p.m. Hurry and reserve your seats before they are all sold out.

Call 704 694-4950. The box office is open Monday through Friday, from noon 'til 5. At other times you can leave a message.

## Anson Women's League Announces Scholarship Opportunities

The Anson Women's League will be accepting applications now through April 24 for \$500 scholarships to three (3) college-bound female graduates from Anson County this year. One scholarship of special note is the Eloise Rywak Scholarship offered each year by a special bequest from the family.

Applications will be judged primarily on academic achievement and financial need. They welcome evidence of student's involvement and leadership in clubs, churches, extracurricular activities and charitable service to the community. A written essay addressing these activities will provide further support in the evaluation process. Finalists will be interviewed by the scholarship committee.

Application forms are available through the various high school guidance counselors, or by telephoning Beverley Getzen, Chairperson of the AWL Scholarship Committee, at 704-694-7022. You may also write to the Anson Women's League, PO Box 94, Wadesboro, NC, 28170. They welcome the applications from all Anson County students, including those who are home schooled.

## Champion for Children Nominations Requested

Partnership for Children seeks nominations for 2015 Champion for Children Award

Do you know someone who is helping make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child? Acknowledge their excellence by nominating them to be the 2015 Champion for Children. The award will be presented at the 2015 Champions for Children Reception on Thursday, May 28 at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro at 6 p.m.

Presented by Anson County Partnership for Children, this award will recognize an individual who:

- 1) Champions the well-being of children in Anson County.
- 2) Demonstrates commitment to providing a better future for children in Anson County.
- 3) Works with others to raise awareness about children's issues.
- 4) Believes in building strong families.
- 5) Demonstrates leadership on behalf of children in Anson County.

The Anson County Partnership for Children welcomes nominations from all facets of the community including professional and community leaders such as educators, doctors, police officers, ministers, tutors, coaches, or community volunteers.

Nomination forms are available on [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org), on the Partnership's Facebook page or by contacting the Partnership at 704-694-4036. All nominations must be returned to the Anson County Partnership for Children no later than Friday, May 8 at 5 p.m.

## Free Ultrasounds & Pregnancy Tests

Hope Pregnancy Resource Center offers free ultrasounds and pregnancy tests every other Monday. They bring a mobile ultrasound unit to the Wal-Mart parking lot from 2 to 5 p.m. for the tests.

They also offer prenatal / parenting classes every Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at Cathedral Baptist Church. Those who attend earn points to be used to receive free diapers, baby clothes and other baby items.

For more information about Hope Pregnancy Resource Center call 704-690-6689 or visit [hprc-anson.org](http://hprc-anson.org).