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

## 8 Anson Student Athletes Selected to Participate in NC Sports Hall of Fame Program

Eight student athletes from Anson County have been selected to participate in a new program by the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame to honor students from across the state. The program will expose them to the many positive lessons to be learned from North Carolina's outstanding sports heritage.

Student athletes selected to participate are Haven Jarman, Elizabeth Delp, Shelby Clark, Aaliyah Crawford, Ben Smith, Ervin Bennett, Jonathan Polk and Tavion Rorie. Adult Chaperones for the students are Terry Mabry and Ralph Jackson.

The program kicks off May 5 and 6 in connection with the Hall's annual induction banquet in Raleigh.

The two-day event includes attendance at ceremonies where eight new members of the hall of fame will be inducted Friday evening May 5 at the Raleigh Convention Center. The student athletes Saturday will tour the state's hall of fame exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of history and participate in a panel presentation by some of North Carolina's most celebrated sports figures.

Presenters include former N. C. State basketball star Dereck Whittenburg, former UNC-Chapel Hill basketball star Phil Ford, former track standout Jim Beatty who was first to run the indoor mile in less than four minutes, and Ben Sutton, founder of IMG College.

The student athletes will be invited to sign up for Hall Pass, a new program that will offer opportunities to compete for scholarships, sports memorabilia and other prizes. As a Hall Pass member they will receive interesting information about the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame and the state's sports heritage. Any student athlete can sign up to become a Hall Pass member by visiting [www.nc-shhof.org](http://www.nc-shhof.org) and clicking on Hall Pass.

N.C. Sports Hall of Fame members being inducted Friday, May 5, are Glenn Bass, football and baseball star at East Carolina University; Dwight Durante, basketball standout at Catawba College; Mike Fox, baseball coach at UNC-Chapel Hill; Chastity Melvin, women's basketball star at N.C. State University; Ben Sutton, a national business leader in college football and basketball play-by-play broadcasting; Caulton Tudor, former sportswriter and columnist for the Raleigh News & Observer and Times; Steve Vacendak, basketball star at Duke University; and Stephanie Wheeler, Olympic gold medalist in Wheelchair basketball.



## Oscar Little and Gracie Bricker Win Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation Amateur Night at the Ansonia

This is a release from Cassandra Reid of the Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation: On Saturday April, 1 the Shaundasia T Smith Foundation held its second Amateur Night at the Ansonia Theatre. The foundation's board deemed the event a success. The contestants performed beautifully and did an outstanding job. The show was hosted by Christine Hall and Ken Caulder who did an excellent job. The audience was thoroughly entertained by the two. Their interaction with the audience was one of the many things that helped make the event a success. We are thrilled with the support of the community.

While we are glad that the community came out to have a good time, we would also like everyone to know the reason behind the event. This event is a means of putting funds into the foundation to help with programs for our youth. The foundation's purpose is to benefit the youth of Anson County. Through our shoe drive, scholarship, athletic award and backpack program, we hope to help our young people succeed.

The winner of our first amateur night (held in November) was Joy Gfeller of Peachland. The winner of this amateur night was Oscar Little of Wadesboro. The winner for the kid's category both times was Gracie Bricker of Wadesboro.

As this is one of our main fundraisers, we will have another amateur night in the near future. Get you act together, your nerves up and be ready for our next show. Keep in mind that first prize for the adult category is \$150.

So get ready, be brave and take a chance to take home the top prize. Keep watching The Express Newspaper for our next casting call in September.



## Board of Elections April 18 Meeting Postponed to Tuesday, April 25

The Anson County Board of Elections has postponed the meeting that was originally scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 due to sickness. The new date is Tuesday, April 25 at 5 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Board of Elections office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

To appear on a meeting agenda you must provide a notice in writing by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the meeting. For more information call Steve Adams, Director of Elections, at 704-994-3223.

## Anson County's Unemployment Rate 5.9% in February, Down from 6.4%

Anson County's unemployment rate for February was 5.9%, a bit lower than January's 6.4%. Statewide the unemployment rate in February was 5%.

Anson's total labor force in February was 10,934. Of that number 10,290 were employed and 644 were unemployed. In January the total labor force was 10,843, with 10,146 employed and 697 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 100 of North Carolina's counties in February. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 15.3 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.9 percent. All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 7.2 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 4.1 percent. The February not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 5.0 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year. The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in February by 41,376 to 4,669,306, while those unemployed decreased 21,827 to 247,223. Since February 2016, the number of workers employed statewide increased 87,222, while those unemployed decreased 8,361.

## Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge Youth Fishing Day is Saturday

The Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge will hold their annual Youth Fishing Day this Saturday, April 22 on Sullivan Pond at the Refuge. The event will be held from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. Sullivan Pond will be stocked with 400 catfish, and there will be prizes for the biggest and the smallest fish. Snacks and a hot dog lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. This event is for kids 15 and under. The adults may stay and fish after 12 noon.

The fishing pond is located 3 miles south of Ansonville, at 5770 Highway 52 North. Call 704-694-4424 for more information.

## Connections Family Support Meeting

For those serving children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges

The Connections Family Support Program holds a group meeting for parents, grandparents and foster parents serving children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges.

Connections Family Support Program hosts a monthly support group the third Thursday of each month (April 20) at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Lunch and resources are provided free.

Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, or by email at [connectionsfsf@gmail.com](mailto:connectionsfsf@gmail.com) for more information.

## Wadesboro Police Department Hosting Traffic Safety Day this Saturday, April 22

This is a release from the Wadesboro Police Department: To make our young teens safer drivers, the Wadesboro Police Department will be hosting a free Traffic Safety Awareness Day on Saturday April 22, from 10 a.m. until 2: p.m. The Event will be located at the Wadesboro Police Department, located at 212 South Rutherford Street and the Ray Shelton Park parking area.

Displays will be set up representing traffic campaigns conducted by traffic officers throughout the NC Governors Highway Safety Program Region 6, whereas these officers work together to help promote safer roadways in our region. There will be displays such as Booze it or Lose it with the Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch present with the BAT Mobile, a Patrol Car Show voted on by the community, Fatal Vision Course to simulate drunk driving, along with the presence of M.A.D.D. (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), car crash displays, a seat belt convincer, and Anson County Partnership for Children will be checking car seats. Everything will be open to the public to experience and learn about. Hot dogs, chips and refreshment will also be provided free for participants.

So, please come out and let's work together to make the roadways in Wadesboro and Anson County a safer place for everyone, especially our younger drivers.

Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer said, "As your Chief of Wadesboro, I know parents play a critical role in preventing distracted drivers, so I employ you to take the time to attend this event with your teen drivers. There will be literature and officers present to answer questions."

## First NETworX Class Accepting Applicants

NETworX will begin classes on Thursday, April 27 at First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro. The program runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and includes a light meal and childcare. The classes will meet each Thursday for 12 weeks, and end July 13 with graduation. There is no charge to participate.

NETworX is a program that offers individuals the opportunity to self-improvement through Nurture, Education and Transformation. These classes teach strategies and frameworks for personal growth, goal setting, organization skills, emotional support and financial planning. NETworX offers education environment for your kids too!

Anyone interested in joining the class or who knows of someone who could benefit from it can call program director Norma Villagrana at 816-351-4232 for more information.

## Anson County 4-H to Host Summer Adventure Camp

Many of the youth in the county have received brochures through their school in regards to the Summer Adventure Camp program coordinated by Anson County 4-H. This year's Summer Adventure Camp will bring more adventure, education and fun activities than ever before! The dates and themes of the camps are listed below

- Week 1 "Cloverbud Camp" June 20-22, 5-8 years, \$35, Limit: 22
- Week 2 "Day Camp @ Millstone 4-H Center" July 5-7, 9-14 years, \$70, Limit: 25
- Week 3 "From Agriculture to Science Technology" July 11-13, 9-12 years, \$35, Limit 25
- Week 4 "Cloverbud Camp" July 18-20, 5-8 years, \$35, Limit: 22

All time of camps are from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. unless otherwise stated. Remember, you do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to participate in the summer fun programs.

The cost for each week includes snacks, all supplies and cost of trips during that week. Registration begins Tuesday, May 9 at 8:30 a.m. Don't wait too long to sign up for these programs, classes are limited and registering will be on a first come, first serve basis. So, start bringing forms in as soon as possible! Remember, adults must come and register youth at the Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street, Wadesboro.

If you have not seen a brochure or if you have questions about any of the weeks of camp, please call the Extension Office at 704-694-2915 for more details.

## Rotary Club Offering Scholarships

Deadline to register is April 24

The Wadesboro Rotary Club Scholarship committee is now accepting applications for the Wadesboro Rotary Club Scholarships for upcoming college freshman students 2017-2018 school year.

Please contact your high school or early college guidance office for a copy of this application or call 704.694.3618 to obtain a copy. The deadline for submission is Monday, March 24, 2017 at your guidance office.

## Wadesboro Budget Workshop

Budget workshops for the fiscal year 2017-2018 annual budget for the Town of Wadesboro are being held at the Wadesboro Town Council Meeting Room at 5:00 p.m. each Tuesday in April.

## Free Movie is Prayer Never Fails

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie, *Prayer Never Fails*, showing Monday, April 24 in the Little Theatre at 10 a.m. The movie stars Nick Lashaway, Corbin Bernsen, Lorenzo Lamas and Clifton Davis. The story is about an up-and-coming high school basketball coach, on his way to a record number of wins, who is fired for praying with one of his players. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the movie. For more information call the library at 704-694-5188.

## BCSWCD Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-694-3516.

## Veterans Memorial Dedication is April 27

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony for the new Veterans Memorial that has been constructed at Wadesboro City Park. The event will take place on Thursday, April 27 at 11 a.m. The memorial and ceremony are sponsored by the Anson County Veterans Council.

Wadesboro City Park is located near Anson Pediatrics, just off Morven Road on Gatewood Street.