

Indian Trail, Wingate University Partner on Town's first Juneteenth Celebration

"A Celebration of the Arts, Education and Black Excellence: Learning Through Unity" will be the theme of Indian Trail's first Juneteenth Celebration, slated for Friday, June 17 at Crossing Paths Park. The event is being held in collaboration with Unity House, Wingate University's Multicultural Center.

"We couldn't be more excited about working with Indian Trail to kick off this event, which will offer something for everyone," said Dr. Antonio Jefferson, Wingate's assistant vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion. "It's also worth noting that ours will be the first of at least three Juneteenth celebrations across the county: Monroe will have one on Saturday, June 18 and Marshville on Sunday, June 19. So, local residents could feasibly attend all three."

The Indian Trail event will include: Professional Poets and Spoken Word Performances; Community Panel Discussion; African Dance & Drumming; Local DJ; Food Trucks; Vendors; Giveaways; Arts & Crafts; and a Bounce House for kids

April Smith, Wingate University's assistant vice president for community standards, and Hayden Kramer, director of Indian Trail Parks & Recreation, are helping to put the celebration together.

"The Town of Indian Trail is excited to host this event. Being able to collaborate with Wingate University is an honor and a partnership we look forward to growing," Kramer said.

Smith said she has been involved with Juneteenth celebrations since she was a child growing up in Arkansas. "It is a celebration that is essential for remembering the historical history of how enslaved African Americans were notified that they are no longer bound by physical chains, but also a sense of mental chain release," Smith says. "This day affirms how far people have come, but also how far we must continue to push and hope for a more equitable future."

Smith said the more that members of the University community and the surrounding area know about the history and meaning behind the Juneteenth celebration, the more they can understand the importance of diversifying needs and being inclusive of differences. "This awareness brings forth curiosity which allows us to sit at a table and listen to each other's perspectives through a lens that is different from our own. This type of diversity allows equitable growth," she added.

Dedrick Russell, talent acquisition specialist for Gray TV, will serve as moderator for the Juneteenth panel discussion, which will feature Candice Sturdivant, Wingate's assistant director of career services.

Prior to the June 17 event, Organizers are calling on local residents to enter their county-wide Juneteenth Poem and Spoken Word submission contest. Anyone from ages 5 to 85 may submit a poem or spoken word piece that captures the essence of Juneteenth. A number of the entries will be chosen as winners and their authors will have a chance to perform their piece on stage.

Indian Trail's Juneteenth celebration is set for 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on June 17. Crossing Paths Park is located at 120 Blythe Drive.



Caleb Laney is pictured above at the Court of Honor Ceremony with his BSA scout leaders

Peachland Boy Scout Caleb Laney Earns Eagle Scout Rank

On Sunday, May 1 Caleb Laney of Peachland had his Court of Honor to receive his designation as an Eagle Scout in BSA.

The rank of Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting, but also in higher education, businesses and in the military. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained since Boy Scouting began in 1912. It includes performing leadership roles within the troop as well as earning a minimum of 21 merit badges in

areas including first aid, citizenship, cooking, environmental science, camping and personal life skills. It also requires that the Scout develop, organize and execute a significant community service project before his 18th birthday.

Only about 5 percent of all BSA Scouts earn Eagle Scout. A 2012 Baylor University study reports that Eagle Scouts are more likely to stay physically fit, volunteer for church and civic organizations, maintain positive family relationships, be leaders in their work and community, donate money to charities, and work with neighbors to improve where they live.

Caleb is the son of Mike and Laura Laney and the grandson of Tom and Betty O'Neal of Peachland. He is a member of Troop 589 at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church in McFarlan, where the ceremony was held. The Scoutmaster is Perry Johnson, and the Assistant Scoutmasters are Sharon Johnson, Stephen Johnson and Bruce Puette.

Caleb is a Junior at Anson County Early College.

For his Eagle project Caleb developed a beautification project at Peachland Park which included spreading new mulch in the playground areas, as well as creating a nationally certified wildlife habitat garden featuring native plants for local birds and insects like bees and butterflies. The project does not just include the physical work but all aspects of planning such as addressing the town council, raising funds and purchasing materials, recruiting volunteers and developing a final presentation for the Board of Review.

At the Court of Honor Caleb thanked all who have helped him on his journey. "I've been a Scout since the first grade and I've learned so much," Caleb said, adding "I really appreciate all the adult leaders and family members who have invested their time and talent with me, and the opportunities I've been given to experience new things along the way."

Caleb is a member of the Order of the Arrow, which is the honor society for BSA. His high adventures have included the National Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia and sailing to Key West from the Florida Sea Base. This summer he will participate in a 12-day, nearly 100-mile hiking trek across the Sangre de Cristo Range of the Rocky Mountains in New Mexico at Philmont Scout Ranch.

For information about how to become a BSA scout contact Jesse Crump at 704-244-4414 or: Jesse.Crump@Scouting.org.

NEW HOME BAPTIST CHURCH VBS 2022

Kick off:
Saturday, June 11th
from 11 AM-1 PM

Classes:
Sunday, June 12th-
Thursday, June 16th
from 6-9 PM

See you at kick off for games, live music, and food!

Music by The Village Green!

Want to learn a high tech career?

LASER OPERATOR • ROBOTIC WELDING
CNC MACHINING • CNC BRAKE OPERATOR
ROBOTICS • POWDER COATING/PAINTING
SOLID WORKS DESIGN • TRUCK DRIVERS

Please Apply At
SOUTHERN FABRICATORS, INC.
8188 US Highway 74
Polkton, NC 28135

Scan to apply online

ANSON PEDIATRICS

PROVIDING QUALITY PEDIATRIC CARE IN ANSON COUNTY

Flu Shots Available **We Offer ADHD Evaluations**

Same Day Sick Appointments Available - Accepting New Patients

BEAT THE RUSH!

Be prepared for the next school year

SCHEDULE YOUR CHILD'S PHYSICAL NOW

KINDERGARTEN • SPORTS • CAMPS
PRE-K • DAYCARE

Sarah P. Elliott, MD

Serving Anson County Since 1996

"Children Are A Gift From God"

Call 704-994-2300 for an Appointment

904 Morven Road, Wadesboro, NC 28170

CLASS OF

2022

GRADUATION

SEE TO IT



Don't forget to schedule a comprehensive eye exam for your child...call today!

ANSON FAMILY OPTOMETRIC, PLLC.

1134 Holly Street in Wadesboro (On Hwy 74 across from CVS)
Mon-Thurs 8:30-5 & Closed Fridays 704-694-3618

Accepting New Patients
We Accept Most Insurances

704-694-3618

Call for an appointment today

Locally Owned & Operated



Holly Allison Kiker, OD
Vision Source

HONOR YOUR GRAD

WITH A RECOGNITION AD IN THE EXPRESS NEWSPAPER'S GRADUATION SPECIAL EDITION

Grad Special Edition Will Be Published in June

Call or email for more information
704-694-2480 TheExpressNews@gmail.com