

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 • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

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

Partners Meet to Prepare to Launch Anson High's Career-Connect Program

"1 in 24." That huge statistic lit up the display screen behind Superintendent Michael Freeman as he welcomed guests to the inaugural meeting of the Partners Advisory Council and thanked them for joining Anson County Schools in the Youth Career-Connect initiative. "1 in 24," Freeman stated several times.

"1 in 24," Freeman continued. "There are only 24 recipients of this U.S. Department of Labor funding across our great country - and Anson County is one of them. That tells me that the funders believe in our plan; understand how critical you, our partners, are to the implementation of that plan; and trust that our Career-Connect plan will lead student participants to successful career futures."

Attending the meeting on Monday, May 19, at the ACS Staff Development Center were representatives of the school system, plus Lynn Edwards of the Anson Chamber of Commerce, Gary Henderson of Carolinas Healthcare System, David Hollars of the Centralina Workforce Development Board, Charles 'Chuck' Horne of Hornwood, Inc., and Dr. Stan Sidor and Dr. Tiffany Evans of South Piedmont Community College. Not in attendance at Monday's meeting but fully invested in the program as partners are Columbus-McKinnon Corporation and Schaeffler Group USA of Cheraw.

As attendees introduced themselves around the table, the excitement of partners was evident. Gary Henderson, Assistant Vice-President for Carolinas Healthcare System of operations in Anson County, told a personal story of how someone invested in him as a youth growing up in Washington, D.C., and what a difference that encouragement made for him as he moved ahead with his education and career.

"We at Carolinas Healthcare System are proud to be part of this Career-Connect program in Anson County," Henderson declared. "We look forward to working with you at this table and with Anson High School and its students."

Dr. Tiffany Evans, Chief Academic Officer for SPCC, acknowledged that the college has had multiple successes working with Anson County Schools and "we anticipate another successful experience as we bring college coursework to YCC students at Anson High."

Centralina Workforce Development Board Executive Director, David Hollars, echoed the sentiments of others around the table and also emphasized a critical element of the Youth Career-Connect initiative. "You are developing a high school program for students that can transform your local and regional economy," Hollars confirmed. "That is why we are at this table. We want to help you do that."

Secondary Education Director Deborah Davis reminded everyone that this partnership is necessary for Career-Connect to be able to offer life-changing opportunities to Anson High students. She pointed out that the world and the economic marketplace are changing, that routes to enter successful careers are likewise changing, and that it is not always necessary to have a college degree to be able to enjoy a productive future.

"This Career-Connect program," Davis explained, "will offer Anson High students multiple routes from secondary school to careers. If they want to get a college degree, we will prepare them to do that. If they want to earn an industry credential or college certificate, we will help them do that. If they want to prepare for early entry into the working world, we will also prepare them for that."

Anson High Principal Charles Murphy emphasized how vital Career-Connect is to help Anson High become a solid secondary prep setting for the 21st century. "This grant funding will unite us with you, key industry partners; connect our students to industry mentors and experiences that will shape their view of life after high school; and provide the resources to advance student preparation in key STEM areas," Murphy clarified. "Thank you for joining forces with us."



Kathy Carroll, technical consultant for the program, reminded partners of all the ways they would be supporting students in Youth Career-Connect, including mentoring and work-based learning experiences at industry sites. "Students will come to see themselves as competent and confident future employees who know their STEM concentration area and what is required to be successful in the workplace - such as fundamental reading, writing, and math skills; problem-solving and analysis; collaboration and teamwork," Carroll emphasized. "This Career-Connect STEM Academy will prepare students to be successful in school, careers, and life - and you, our partners, will be critical elements of that preparation."

Anson County Schools, on behalf of Anson High School and the local YCC Partnership, has received a Youth Career-Connect Grant from the Department of Labor that will bring over two million dollars to Anson High School during the next four years to establish a Career-Connect: STEM Academy Program. The program will begin this fall with 80 rising freshmen and grow into a full four-year program over the next four academic years serving over 300 students at Anson High.

Students will participate in programs of study that meet high school graduation requirements and also lead to an industry certificate through SPCC, propelling them into further college study or into a STEM industry after graduation. The four STEM career focus areas are Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, Information Technologies, and Medical and Biomedical Sciences. "The partners for this project," Freeman concluded, "is a who's who list of leaders in their industry. Your participation will transform student lives, and we thank you now, at the starting point, for your willingness to invest in our students. You are our direct connection to the career marketplace, to real workplace experiences."

Partner representatives shared information with ACS leaders about employees in their organizations who will be vital contacts for the Career-Connect program, then paused for a photo to capture the historic nature of this Partners Advisory Council assembly.

In each Career-Connect: STEM academy, college credits will count toward a two-year degree, which students can continue after high school graduation. In grades 9-12, students can earn 18 or more semester hours of college credit, while the senior year will be almost entirely composed of college coursework aimed directly at earning certifications or degrees. College courses will be offered by SPCC instructors on the campus of Anson High School. Therefore, the CAREER-CONNECT Academy will fast-track students to credentials and college credits that further their education and career goals.

Eighth grade student application requests for a specific high school setting this fall indicate that Anson High's Career-Connect: STEM Academy will definitely meet its enrollment goals for Year 1. Letters to rising freshmen will be mailed in June indicating each student's high school placement for 2014-2015.

Pictured above are, from left, front: Deborah Davis (Administrator for Secondary Education - Anson County Schools), David Hollars (Centralina Workforce Development Board), Kim Wilson (Hornwood), Lynn Edwards (Chamber of Commerce), Lisa Davis (Board of Education Chairperson), Steve Dutton (Career and Technical Education - Anson County Schools). Back row: Dr. Tiffany Evans (SPCC), Chuck Horne (Hornwood), Michael Freeman (Superintendent - Anson County Schools), Gary Henderson (Carolinas Healthcare System) and Chad Murphy (Principal - Anson High School).

Sen. Gene McLaurin Comments on Teacher Pay

"I am pleased that some of the concerns I had with the Senate budget have been addressed by the House," said Sen. Gene McLaurin. "But we're still not there yet. Over the last few weeks, citizens have called and written emails stating their concerns - and I appreciate hearing from everyone. We need a sustainable long-term plan to raise teacher pay to the national average, and I will continue to work towards a final budget that will protect our teachers and teacher assistants, and give students the tools they need to be successful."

School Board Meets June 26

The Anson County Board of Education's June regular meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Closed Session taking place immediately after the opening of the meeting. Open Session to the public will begin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.



Cub Scout Pack 530 Recycles More than a Ton of Electronics

On Saturday, May 31 Cub Scout Pack 530 held an e-recycling drive at Peachland United Methodist Church. Thanks to the participation of families and businesses from Anson and surrounding counties, the scouts collected 2,733 lbs. of electronics, including cell phones, printers, copiers, toner cartridges, monitors, computers, televisions and small appliances. That is over a ton of waste that was safely recycled instead of sent to the landfill.

Due to the strong community support the group plans to make it a semi-annual event, with the next drive planned for November 2014. Pick-ups prior to November can be arranged. Please contact Laura Laney at (704) 994-9173.

Participants are pictured here. They are, from left, front: Trent Taylor and Joseph Davis of Wadesboro and Caleb Laney of Peachland. Back row: Griffin Tyner of Ansonville and Laura Laney, Cubmaster.

Operation Dry Water Scheduled for North Carolina Waterways

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will participate in Operation Dry Water on June 27-29 - a nationwide campaign to build awareness of the dangers of boating under the influence of alcohol. "We want everyone to enjoy their time boating," said Maj. Chris Huebner, the state's boating safety coordinator. "Drinking affects the skills necessary to operate a boat, including reaction time and rational decision-making. Having a designated driver, whether boating or driving, is always a good idea."

In North Carolina, penalties for operating a vessel while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs include up to \$1,000 in fines and possible jail time.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the U.S. Coast Guard began Operation Dry Water in 2009 with a goal to reduce boating fatalities involving alcohol. In North Carolina, Operation Dry Water is incorporated into the multi-agency "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive initiative to promote safe summer travel.

For more information on safe recreational boating or to enroll in a free boating education course, go to www.ncwildlife.org/boating or call 919-707-0031.

Parks & Rec Youth Swim Lessons

Anson County Parks and Recreation will offer four Youth Swim Lessons this summer. These sessions will teach American Red Cross certified swim lessons.

- Session #1 June 16 - 26 July 10
- Session #2 June 30 - July 10
- Session #3 July 14 - 24 July 28
- Session #4 July 28 - August 7

Sessions are Monday to Thursday for two weeks. The cost is \$18 per session. Classes are open for registration until filled.

The schedule during each session is:

- Level 1: 9 to 9:30 a.m.
- Level 2: 9:45 to 10:15 a.m.
- Level 3-6: 10:30 to 11 a.m.
- Parent and Child, Pre-school Aquatics: 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

Contact Wendell T Small, Water Safety Instructor, at 704-694-5868 or 704-695-2782.

Meadowview Residents Donate to the Red Cross

On Thursday, June 5 Meadowview Terrace Assisted Living presented a check to the American Red Cross for \$168 for disaster relief - to be used in Anson County.

Meadowview residents made hearts from red and white card stock and decorated them with flowers, butterflies, hearts, flags and much more. They they sold the hearts to employees, visitors, family members and other residents for \$1 each to raise the money.

Each year the residents take on a project to help with various needs. In the past they have raised money for Relay for Life and the Humane Society. They have knitted blankets for infants overseas, and sent care packages to soldiers in Afghanistan.

Resident Rose Thomas presented the check to American Red Cross employee LuAnne Turner Johnson on behalf of Meadowview Terrace.



Giving Students An Extra Push for Their EOG Exams

The James D. Henderson Post 10403 and the Ladies Auxiliary presented checks to Morven Elementary School principal Dr. Joslyn Allen as EOG incentives for students taking the test. The post and ladies auxiliary feels that hard work deserves to be recognized. It helps keep students motivated and working.

Pictured from left are Mary Neal, Assistant Secretary; Dara K. Campbell, President; Joyce S. Little, Secretary; Dr. Allen, Principal; and Eddie Little. Commander James Bennett could not be present for the presentation.



Anson Historical Preservation Commission Meets Thursday

An open meeting of the Anson Historical Preservation Commission will be held this Thursday, June 19 at 5 p.m. in the small Anson County Commissioners Meeting Room in the Anson County Government Center in Wadesboro. There will be a general discussion, to include a discussion of the current status of matters concerning the demolition of the old hospital buildings.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Free Movie is Dolphin Tale

The free movie *Dolphin Tale*, starring Harry Connick, Jr., Ashley Judd, Kris Kristofferson and Morgan Freeman will be shown in the Little Theatre at Hampton B. Allen Library on Monday, June 23 at 10 a.m. This movie is based on a true story. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend!

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

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