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## SPCC Class Prepares Students for Career in Green Power

Technology in green power is changing so fast, Dennis Baucom said, that "Every time I get on the Internet, I see something new." Baucom, South Piedmont Community College's director of vocational trades, teaches a class in solar and wind energy and wants to make sure his students have the knowledge and hands-on experience they need to be prepared for those rapid changes.

His class, which meets at the Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing Training Center on Airport Road, recently installed a wind turbine and a solar panel array that can power the center's flexible manufacturing system for short periods of time.

"It can run it for about an hour on a full charge," Baucom said. "The students did all the work."

The class met for four weeks. Because it was the first installation for the students, and for Baucom, "They had to do some planning," he said. "That's part of the class, too. They probably spent a solid week on the install."

When they were done, they had installed a 340-watt solar array on the ground near the front door and a wind turbine on the roof just above and to the left of the door. The electricity generated by the two units is fed into four batteries inside the building and that energy is converted from DC power into AC power to run the flexible manufacturing system that is used by Russell Carpenter's advanced manufacturing students.

Carpenter has taught some green power classes in the past, but this was the first class to have this caliber of equipment. The kit for the solar panels and wind turbine cost about \$5,000, and the school spent an additional \$1,000 on other items.

Baucom noted that for this first installation, some things were done with student safety in mind. For example, instead of being 20 feet in the air, the solar panel can be reached with a small stepladder. The wind turbine is where it can be reached easily from a lower section of the roof. "We did look at different applications with the install," Baucom said. "The reason we went with what we did was for the safety of the students."

Some of the additional expense was to make the solar panel safer and sturdier. "We had to add to what we bought just to make it safer," he said. "That just lets you know there's nobody around here who's set up to do this like it should be done."



Dennis Baucom, SPCC's director of vocational trades, talks about the solar panel array his Solar and Wind Energy students put together at SPCC's Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing Training Center on Airport Road.

"It's not only training, but we also emphasized there's not a whole lot of solar businesses locally," Baucom said. "Creating your own business is part of it. This stuff's coming. Russell and I found that there are really not a lot of local companies that do everything." For instance, Baucom said, a homeowner trying to purchase such a system might have batteries that come from Virginia and installers who come from Georgia.

Baucom said that at least two of the 10 students in the last class were interested in starting their own business. "I don't know where they'll go with it," he said. "I feel like even if they don't start their own business, they'll take this and do something on their own."

Depending on the budget for the coming year, Baucom would like to leave the solar panels and wind turbine in place and purchase a new kit for the next class. "If we don't get the budget money, we'll probably tear it down and have the students do a different application," he said.

Baucom has an evening class scheduled in August and an afternoon class scheduled in October. For information, he can be reached at 704-290-5222.

## Arts Council Forming Theatre Group

In a release from the Anson County Arts Council: Calling all Theatre enthusiasts! Meet at the Ansonia Theatre on Wednesday, July 27 at 5:15 p.m. If you can't come let us know of your interest ASAP.

Proposal: Organize a local community theatre group. Plan: Produce a top notch live production celebrating the Christmas season at the Ansonia Theatre.

There is a new fabulous asset in our community. Recent visitors with professional theatre experience have been very complimentary of the Ansonia Theatre, indicating that we should be able to have many and varied fantastic shows. The Anson County Arts Council, who own the theatre, are very anxious to have it used and enjoyed by all the community. The Arts Council would like to facilitate the organization of a local group who would produce and perform theatrical shows, starting with a version of a Christmas Carol this December.

To find out if this is possible there will be a brainstorming meeting. Initial meeting is for participants aged 16 and older, although there should be plenty of opportunities for youth to be involved later. Theatre professionals need to know if we have a committed community before they commit. They will organize a second meeting if we show enough enthusiasm. We need people with an interest, talent, experience, or skill in any of the following areas:

- set building crew--artist/designer, carpenter, painter, project planning, etc
- costume crew--design, sew, alter, provide material or accessories, make up/hair artists
- sound and lighting techs, electrician-anyone interested in sound and helping
- actor/actress • singers, musicians, dancers, choreographers
- marketing, publicity, web design, flyer/ticket design, ticket sales, phone reception
- script writing, directing
- financial, raising funds, finding good deals on supplies; supporter who can sponsor (help fund) a production
- manager--good at scheduling, organization, planning
- someone who has access to materials. i.e., lumber, building supplies, cloth, paint, old costumes, hats, etc.-props of any kind.
- anyone with a love of and enthusiasm for live theatre and willing to invest some time and energy into a project.

If you see yourself or someone you know, suggest they respond. Give an indication of where your interest is and how much of a time commitment you can make. Email [ansonart@windstream.net](mailto:ansonart@windstream.net), phone 704-694-4950, or come by the Arts Council office on South Rutherford Street. If you have not been to the renovated Ansonia, please come have a look.

## Camp Challenge Campers Enjoy a Week of Fun



In a release from Anson County Schools: Anson County Schools Camp Challenge campers returned this Friday from a week of fun and learning. We had 36 sixth through eighth grade students from our district attend.

The North Carolina Bankers Association's Camp Challenge is a summer camp experience for high-achieving, low-resource students from across the state. The camp is held at the Sertoma 4-H Educational Center in Stokes County.

## Ignorance of the Law is no Excuse

Wadesboro police officers assigned "meter maid" duty

Wednesday, July 20, began as a typical day. The neighborhood was peaceful and quiet as usual. My neighbor to the east was busy tidying her yard and pruning her shrubbery. There was a repair of our driveway in progress, but repairing cracks in concrete makes no noise. My neighbor from across the street walked her dog, Zoe, and others had already left for work. Earlier that morning I had breakfast at the Hub with a visiting friend, and upon my return parked my car in front of my home, as I had hundreds of times prior.

Later I peered out the kitchen window and noticed an unusual vehicle parked outside. I could see the driver's arm insignia and he was talking on what appeared to be a radio. This went on for a while, long enough for me to believe he was a police officer. But with that unmarked car, how could I have been sure, positively sure that is.

What is he doing, I thought, as I made my way toward the unmarked car parked behind my own. Maybe he thinks it's stolen, and so I walked with hesitance. Is he going to tell me to freeze, put my hands in the air, get facedown on the ground? The officer was busy writing what appeared to be a ticket and I was perplexed and anxious. "What's wrong," I asked using the most polite tone I could muster. "I'm issuing you a citation for parking illegally, it's only a warning," he responded. "Are you serious?" I asked. "Yes ma'am," said the officer as he tore off my copy of the warning and placed his copy onto a stack that appeared to me to be about two inches thick. Obviously my neighborhood wasn't his first stop, and he had been very busy for a long while, probably most of the day. What a waste, I remember thinking.

Because it is a dead end street, my neighborhood has very little traffic. And many of us park our cars in front of our homes, and have done so, pointed in either direction...some for forty, fifty years or more. I didn't know until that day that I was breaking the law by parking while facing the opposite direction. They say that ignorance of the law is no excuse and I can live with that. But, what about pure and simple ignorance? I'm willing to take my warning and amend my ways. But honestly, the more I think about the situation the dumber it becomes.

If I were a betting woman, I would wager that no one on this street has ever been a convicted felon or met with trouble from law enforcement. We're a pretty orderly bunch. I've never seen any drug deals or gang activity; we even comply with the noise ordinance. We enjoy outdoor entertaining but do not disturb the peace. We're like most streets in the community, and that's where my concern about ignorance lies.

Noticing the name on the ticker's badge I asked, "Aren't you the officer I so often read about in The Express for making so many drug busts and reeling in loads of cash from those busts?" He admitted to confiscating his share. And my confusion continued to escalate from there. Why in the world would a veteran officer be assigned "meter-maid" duties with so many more important things to do? That's like sending Superman to the post office to mail invitations to the policeman's ball! Really now, where's the logic behind the scenario I somehow found myself involved in last Wednesday? I've been shaking my head ever since, because to me it makes no sense.

As a Wadesboro citizen I am well aware of the crime rate, acts of violence, and drug related problems that we as a community face. When it comes to ticketing, there are speeders, drunk drivers and red-light runners a-plenty, enough to keep everyone on the force busy, while protecting the citizens from harm at the same time.

The point in all this is not the ticket; I deserved it, and admit that, and have parked correctly ever since. After reflecting I realized that the officer was only doing his job and carrying out the orders he had been dealt by Chief Shutz, just like any good employee would do for their boss. Wadesboro faces a huge load of problems, problems that pose danger and risk to citizens, problems which seem to have no resolution, persistent problems which should rank higher on the chief's list of priorities than ticketing parked cars on a quiet, rarely traveled neighborhood street...I make my point with this triple exclamation!!! Freedom of speech is my only means of law-abiding protest. And I am, by the way, a law-abiding citizen, and that car which was parked outside my home, pointed in the opposite direction, was no risk to anyone else, no way no how. What has happened to good ole common sense? Remind you, there was a mound of tickets already served for the same infractions.

My ignorance of that parking law landed me a citation last Wednesday. I'm interested though, in knowing how the chief of police could exhibit such poor judgment regarding priority of duty that day? Maybe I could write a citizen's citation like Gomer, from the Andy Griffith Show. ("Citizen's Arrest, Citizen's Arrest!" as Gomer would yell at a fleeing car.) Using highly trained officers as meter maids for parked cars only wastes their time and talents, and the reasons they were hired in the first place becomes trivialized. Who can afford such trivialities? I do not believe we can in Wadesboro or Anson County. And so I write this, not in protest for the ticket I received, but for the seeming lack of consideration with which this particular duty was doled out last Wednesday. If this is your plan Chief Shutz, then perhaps hiring what I am calling the equivalent to a meter maid would better serve our community, while leaving your qualified officers on duty to protect and serve us, the citizens.

By Melanie Lyon

## Loaded Dice to Play at Summer Jam

Uptown Wadesboro is holding the last Summer Jam for this year on Friday, August 5 at 7 p.m. with great music by Loaded Dice. Everyone is invited to come enjoy the surprisingly different music on offer that night - hits by Lynyrd Skynyrd, Eric Clapton, the Eagles, Jimmy Buffett, beach music and country. Also Lilesville Baptist Church will offer refreshments.

## Cornhole Tournament at Summer Jam

The Rotary Club is holding a Cornhole Tournament on Friday, August 5 in conjunction with the Uptown Wadesboro Summer Jam. Everyone is welcome to come join in the fun in the parking lot beside Plank Road Realty at the corner of Washington and Wade Streets.

"Toss the bags, win prizes, enjoy the band, have fun...all while helping Rotary fund scholarships and other community projects," said Kim Wilson of the Wadesboro Rotary Club. "Registration begins at 5 p.m. and the tournament begins at 6."

The tournament will be double elimination with winners at loser brackets. Official cornhole rules will be followed. The top three teams will be awarded cash prizes. The cost to enter is \$20 per team. To register or for questions contact Wesley Horne at 704-695-5497. Also, sponsorships are still available.

## Free Yoga Classes Offered

Certified personal fitness trainer Leslie Snow offers a free Introduction to Yoga-Based Fitness class each month, on the last Saturday. The classes are held at First Methodist Church in uptown Wadesboro, from 9 to 10 a.m. You can learn the principals of yoga, breathing and poses. For more information contact Leslie at 704-272-9254 or [leslie@lesliesnow.com](mailto:leslie@lesliesnow.com).

## Elvis is Visiting the Ansonia Theatre Thursday

Elvis has entered the building! Well, at least his music will have entered the building when the Uwharrie Players bring selections from their summer musical *All Shook Up* to the Ansonia Theatre on Thursday, July 28 at 8 p.m. *All Shook Up* is a new musical which incorporates the well-known music of Elvis Presley.

This production of musical selections will be presented without charge to the community. The doors open at 7:30. Information at 704-694-4950.

## Diabetic Support

The Diabetic Support Group will meet at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro on Thursday, July 28, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The speaker is Melissa Johnson from Second to Nature. Her topic will be medical equipment for diabetics.

For more information contact Ruth Hildreth at 704-694-3979 or Beth McLendon at 704-694-4291.

## 50+ Club

The Hampton B. Allen library announces the monthly meeting of the 50+ Club on Monday, August 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre. They will have a musical program featuring Ted Latham, Leon Smith, David Napier, Billy Oliver, Marcus Miller and Allen Billingsley. Everyone is invited to join them for this event.

Any questions call 704-694-5177.

## Back to School with Pride Event Aug. 19 & 21

Vancine Sturdivant will hold her annual Back to School with Pride event on August 19th and 21st. The Friday, August 19th event will be held at Hatcher Park in Lilesville at 4 p.m. The August 21st event will be held at Centenary AME Zion Church on Sunday, August 21st at 3 p.m.

Anyone who can donate school items or money that will be spent for school items for Anson County youth, please contact Vancine at 704-848-4412.

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