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

Southern Fabricators, Inc. in Polkton Announce Major Expansion

Southern Fabricators in Polkton is expanding, adding an additional 20,000 square feet to an existing 100,000 square foot building. It was announced that the company will invest \$4,804,771 and create 33 jobs. This expansion was aided by a grant of \$165,000 from the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA).

Southern Fabricators is a sheet metal fabricator and custom welder that has been in business since 1968. They are a major employer in Anson County, currently employing over 130 people. Their management of manufacturing systems and procedures has earned the company the coveted ISO 9001:2008 registration.

The RIA grant was awarded from the state's Building Reuse Program - Existing Building Category.

About the NC Rural Infrastructure Authority

Statewide, the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved seven grant requests totaling \$1,296,030, N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland announced on August 23. The requests include commitments to create a total of 153 jobs, 80 of which were previously announced. The public investment in these projects will attract just over \$32.7 million in private investment.

"Economic development in rural North Carolina can only succeed with strategic investments in infrastructure," said Secretary Copeland. "By awarding these new grants, the Rural Infrastructure Authority continues to support job creation in communities across our state."

The North Carolina Department of Commerce's team of rural economic development professionals supports the Authority's work. Authority members review and approve funding requests from local communities. Funding comes from a variety of specialized grant and loan programs offered and managed by N.C. Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division, led by Deputy Secretary for Rural Economic Development and Workforce Solutions Napoleon Wallace and Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Kenny Flowers. Grants can support a variety of activities, including infrastructure development, building renovation, expansion and demolition, and site improvements.

"The projects approved today will support business expansion and prepare sites for future growth, resulting in more job opportunities for rural North Carolinians," said Assistant Secretary Flowers. "The Rural Economic Development Division at Commerce and the Rural Infrastructure Authority board work closely with our rural communities to help them attract jobs and investment."

The RIA approved four grants under the state's Building Reuse Program in two categories: Existing Building Category and Vacant Building Category. The Building Reuse Program provides grants to local governments to renovate vacant buildings, renovate and/or expand buildings occupied by existing North Carolina companies, and renovate, expand or construct health care facilities that will lead to the creation of new jobs in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties and in rural census tracts of Tier 3 counties.

The RIA approved three requests under the state's Economic Infrastructure program, all in the Rural Demolition category.

The Economic Infrastructure Program provides grants to local governments to fund infrastructure projects that will lead to job creation. With priority given to jurisdictions in the 80 most economically distressed counties, the program helps build water and sewer lines, wastewater treatment plants, natural gas lines, public broadband infrastructure, roadways, rail spurs, and other infrastructure allowed under program guidelines.

In addition to reviewing and approving funding requests, the N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority formulates policies and priorities for grant and loan programs administered by N.C. Commerce's Rural Economic Development team. Its 15 voting members are appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President Pro Tem. The North Carolina Secretary of Commerce serves as a non-voting member of the Authority.

For additional information about the North Carolina Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division, visit www.nccommerce.com/rd.

Welfare investigation by Anson Deputies Results in Meth Lab Bust

On Wednesday, August 15 an officer from Probation and Parole conducted a search of a residence at 2594 Olive Branch Road in the Burnsville area for possible violations of the resident's probation. Information was gathered by the Anson County Sheriff's Office that drug activity was occurring and that a juvenile may be staying at the home.

During the Probation officer's search the officer noticed items that he believed were used in the making of methamphetamine, and requested it be checked by Sheriff's Office detectives. Upon receiving confirmation that the items were used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine detectives obtained a search warrant. During the search of the residence two items and dangerous chemicals were located.

The two occupants of the residence were arrested on charges of Possession Of Methamphetamine, Manufacture Methamphetamine, Possession of Meth Precursors, Maintain a Dwelling House, and Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia. Justin Bruce Thomas of the residence and Lisa Huffstetler of Wadesboro were arrested and given \$50,000 secured bonds with court dates of August 28. At the time of report no juveniles were located the residence.

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "Methamphetamine has been a major problem in Anson County for the past seventeen years, and our officers will continue to fight this epidemic. I encourage anyone with information about methamphetamine or other illegal activity to contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188 or Crime stoppers at 704-695-3111. You may remain anonymous."

Anson High School Class of 2003 Reunion Scheduled for October 20

The Anson High School Class of 2003 will have their 15th Reunion on Saturday, October 20 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. For more information about the reunion please contact OnJerya Smith at 704-475-1776 or ansonhsco2003@gmail.com, or join the Facebook group at AHS Class of 2003.



Singing a Dixieland Tune Way Back in 1982

These four gentlemen are entertaining their audience with a dixieland tune sung with full gusto! In this 1982 photo the singers are, from left, Nicky Cox, Fully Huntley, Tom Little and Paul Kitchin.

Domestic Violence Investigation Leads to Major Drug Seizure

On Friday, August 3 deputies from the Anson County Sheriff's Office responded to a call for shots fired and reports of a woman screaming on Crown Road in Peachland. Upon arrival deputies met with a male who came from behind the residence. The individual, identified as Quinten Smith of the residence, advised officers that shots were fired but no one was hurt. Deputies did a check of the property to confirm that no one was in need of medical attention.

While doing the check officers noticed a large amount of marijuana laying on a counter inside the residence. Detectives obtained a search warrant, and after conducting a search of the home deputies found 11 pounds of marijuana, a cache of firearms and a large amount of cash.

Quinten Smith and his roommate Ricardo Jimenez were charged with Felony Possession Of Marijuana, Possession With intent to Sell and Deliver, Trafficking in Marijuana, Maintain a Dwelling House, Manufacturing Marijuana, and Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia.

Smith was arrested on the scene and given a secure bond with an August court date. Jimenez has still not been arrested. Anyone having information on the whereabouts of Ricardo Jimenez please contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office or your local Law enforcement.

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "I would also like to thank our deputies for their quick response, attention detail and their dedication and professionalism throughout this investigation."

The Sheriff continued, "If you know someone or you yourself are the victim of Domestic Violence please call Law Enforcement or the Domestic Violence Coalition at 704-694-4499 / 24 hr. Crisis Line at 704-690-0362."



Quinten Smith



Ricardo Jimenez is being sought by law enforcement.

Citizen Tips Lead to Drug Bust

On Wednesday, August 1 deputies from the Anson County Sheriff's Office served a Narcotics Search Warrant at 345 Highway 52 North in Wadesboro. Deputies recovered marijuana and weapons during the search. Two men were arrested on scene, Johnathon Blount a.k.a. Mark Sparks who resides at the residence was arrested and charged with Possession With intent to sell and deliver Marijuana, Maintain a Dwelling, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Blount was given a secured bond and an August Court Date.

Clifton Lee of Monroe was also arrested and charged with Simple Possession Of Marijuana and given an August court date.

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "I would like to thank the citizen who voiced their concerns about the drug activity at this house. I would encourage all citizens of Anson County to call our office or Crime Stoppers Hotline at 704-695-3111 to report any drug or criminal activity. You may remain anonymous. Working together we can make a difference."

Wadesboro Selects Scott Martin as Fire Chief

The Town of Wadesboro is pleased to announce that Scott Martin has been selected as the new Fire Chief for the Wadesboro Fire Department after the retirement of Chief Marc Sessions. His assignment was effective August 24.

Martin has served the Town of Wadesboro for more than 10 years as both a telecommunications officer and the Town's Fire Marshal/Fire Life Safety Educator. He has also served as a volunteer for the Lilesville Fire Department since 2003 as a firefighter and Captain. Martin is also an Anson County native, a graduate of Anson High School, and currently resides with his wife in Lilesville.

Town Manager David Edwards commented, "Scott has shown an outstanding level of commitment to serving the citizens of Wadesboro and Anson County throughout his 15 years in the Fire Service. I look forward to working with him in the coming years to continue to push the division forward, innovate and implement new ideas, and build on the longstanding tradition of excellence in citizen service that the Wadesboro Fire Department is known for."

Chief Martin had the following to say about his new role, "I'm excited to have the opportunity to lead the Wadesboro Fire Department and its members as we continue to build, educate and refine our staff while increasing the level of protection for our district and its residents."



Wadesboro's new Fire Chief Scott Martin (left) is welcomed by Wadesboro Town Manager David Edwards.

Free Groceries for Families in Need September 5

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Mobile Food Pantry and CHS Mobile Health Unit will be at First Baptist Church, 309 Lee Avenue in Wadesboro on Wednesday, September 5. Please arrive and register between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m.

• Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email tschumpert@wnc-cumc.net. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.

Batman Day Celebration

It's that time of year again! Batman Day is coming, and the Hampton B. Allen Library will be celebrating it. The event will be held on Saturday, September 15, from 12 to 3 p.m. downstairs in the Little Theatre.

Everyone is invited come and join the Library's fourth annual Batman Day celebration. A bat packed day is planned, with TV episodes, comics, and trivia. And, best of all, the Dark Knight himself will be there for photos and autographs.

All library programs are free for the public to attend. Please contact the library 704-694-5177 with any questions.

Writers' Club Welcomes New Members

The Anson County Writers' Club meets on the fourth Sunday of each month, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, except in July and December. All meetings are open to the public. New members of all ages are welcome.

For more information call Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211 or email sandy-bruney@gmail.com.