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

People Fest Cancelled for this Year

At their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, September 12, the Wadesboro Town Council made the decision to cancel this year's People Fest celebration, which was scheduled for Saturday, October 22. The cancellation was necessary because there is not enough time to accomplish all of the many things that must be done in preparation due to the passing of an integral member of the People Fest team, Eddie Pope. There were also some scheduling conflicts.

The Uptown Wadesboro Fall Festival, which has traditionally been held at the end of October, had been scheduled to coincide with People Fest for this year. With People Fest's cancellation, Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. (UWI) is considering rescheduling the Fall Festival to the last Saturday in October, the 29th. That would allow the festival to be closer to Halloween, which has been an important component of the activities in the past. Once a decision has been made The Express will report that to the community.

Wadesboro Considering a New Fire Station, Announces Public Hearing

At their regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 12 the Wadesboro Town Council issued an announcement for a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, September 27 to offer details for a proposed new fire station building. This hearing will also be a forum for the public to be heard on the subject. The release is below:

The Town Council of the Town of Wadesboro, North Carolina (the "Town") has determined to consider whether to enter into an installment financing agreement (the "Agreement") pursuant to Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina obligating the Town to make installment financing payments thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 for the purpose of providing funds, together with other available funds, to pay the costs of acquiring, site prepping, constructing and equipping a public safety station to house fire department functions to be located on E. Morgan Street near the intersection of E. Morgan Street and Morven Road (the "Project"). To secure its obligations under the Agreement, the Town will grant a lien on the site of the Project, together with any improvements or fixtures located or to be located thereon.

Section 160A-20(g) of the General Statutes of North Carolina requires that the Town hold a public hearing prior to entering into the Agreement. If the Town Council of the Town so determines, an application will be submitted to the Local Government Commission of North Carolina for approval of the Agreement.

Please take notice that the Town Council of the Town will conduct a public hearing in the Council Meeting Room at the Town Hall located at 124 E. Wade Street in Wadesboro, NC, at its meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. on September 27, 2016, at which time any person may be heard regarding the proposed Agreement described above. Following the public hearing, the Council may take action related to the approval of the financing agreement, adopt any related resolutions or other paperwork, and direct staff to take related action as needed.

Any person wishing to comment in writing regarding the proposed Agreement should do so prior to September 27, 2016, to the Town of Wadesboro, P.O. Box 697 (mailing), 124 E. Wade St. (physical), Wadesboro, North Carolina 28170; Attention: Cindi Pope, Town Clerk.

Man Drowns at Blewett Falls Lake on September 6

A 26 year old man from Laurel Hill, NC drowned at Blewett Falls Lake on Tuesday, September 6. The man, Hernandez Salinas Carlos Miguel, was swimming with a friend when he went underwater and didn't come back up. The friend called for help at 4:50 p.m. which resulted in a response from the Anson County Rescue Squad, the Anson County Sheriff's Office, the Anson County Emergency Services, the Lilesville Fire Department, and the Cordova Fire and Rescue from Richmond County. Miguel's body was recovered by a diver in an area identified by the friend.

Wadesboro Selects New Uptown Director

After a lengthy search, Julian Swittenberg has been selected as the Town of Wadesboro's Uptown Director. Swittenberg has over 30 years combined in the corporate and governmental support sectors. Following his retirement in 2015, Swittenberg and his partner Melanie purchased the bed and breakfast in uptown Wadesboro now known as the Dream Inn.

Swittenberg is the Town's first Uptown Director in over 12 years and will serve in a part-time capacity. His duties include performing a variety of responsible tasks to enhance, promote, and revitalize uptown Wadesboro.

Swittenberg stated, "I have lived in quite a few places and had many different jobs, but this one brings with it a new sense of belonging that others lacked. I look forward to helping to enhance uptown Wadesboro."

Amateur Night at the Ansonia Coming

Sponsored by the Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation. All proceeds to benefit area youth.

Calling all local talent in the Anson County area! The Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation will be sponsoring an Amateur Night at the Ansonia Theatre on Saturday, November 5 at 8:00 p.m. The event is open to all comedy acts, singers and dancers. Whatever your talent, you are invited to showcase it at this upcoming event. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places during the event. Spaces are limited, so register asap!

All proceeds benefit the nonprofit Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation. The foundation awards an annual scholarship, athletic award and aids in other things within Anson County.

For more information and to register contact one of the following: Cassandra Reid 704-695-7097; Christine Hall 704-690-2596; or Amy Turner 704-695-6408.



Flags at Courthouse in Commemoration of September 11 Tragedy

At 6 a.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 26 enthusiastic volunteers showed up at the Anson County Courthouse to plant 2,997 flags to honor those lost in the September 11, 2001 attacks. Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. has sponsored this commemoration for several years. Brook Ainsworth laid out the design, and everyone present picked up flags and went to work. It took the group a little over an hour to place all the flags.

The volunteers were treated to a breakfast biscuit and water after a blessing of the food by Anson County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant.

Don Altieri of Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. said, "It was a good morning in Wadesboro and Anson County." The flags were removed on Tuesday, September 13.

Youth Livestock Show Set for Next Week

The annual Anson Ag Expo and Fair provides a variety of traditional agricultural events and competitions. One of the big draws each year is the 4-H Youth Livestock Show. If you are in town and can come out, you are in for a treat.

Set for Friday and Saturday, September 23 and 24, the show will be held at Circle G Arena in Lilesville. Youth ages 9-19 will be competing in the ring, showing their project goats, lambs and heifers. As an added bonus, pee wee classes for ages 8 and under will also get a chance to show off their animals.

The 4-H Youth Livestock Show will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday with the Pee Wee Goat Show, followed by the 4-H Youth Goat Show. Saturday's show will begin at 10 a.m. with the Pee Wee Heifer Show, followed by both the 4-H Youth Heifer and Lamb Shows.

Last year's event featured 81 youth from 14 different counties showing 112 lambs, goats and heifers in conformation classes and the district showmanship circuit. Mark your calendars and come join the spectators. Hotdogs and all the trimmings will also be available for purchase.

Additional information about the weekend's festivities can be accessed on the Anson County Cooperative Extension website at anson.ces.ncsu.edu. Click on the Spotlight link. Also check out the postings on the 2016 Anson Ag Fair & Expo Facebook page.

Come out and join the fun. There is something for everyone. Celebrate agriculture in Anson.

Community Safety Day Event is this Saturday

The Second Annual Community Safety Day will be held this Saturday, September 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Walmart parking lot in Wadesboro. This family friendly event will have activities for all ages including hands-on demonstrations, a fire magic show, free car seat checks and special guests such as Smokey the Bear.

"This event is all about educating the community on safety related risk areas. The organizations participating in the Community Safety Day are dedicated to keeping the residents of Anson County safe," said Rodney Diggs, Chief of Anson County Emergency Services. "We want to educate the community about preventable injuries."

The Wadesboro Fire Department will be there with fire trucks and smoke house for children to practice exiting smoke-filled rooms safely. The Anson County Sheriff's Office and Wadesboro Police Department will also be there with a drunk driving simulator as well as other activities.

Safe Kids Anson will offer free child passenger car seat checks and give out information during the event. Approximately 94% of children in Anson County are riding in a car seat improperly according to the latest Safe Kids Anson evaluation.

Also during the event an Operation Medicine Drop will be held. At this station people can bring expired or unused prescription drugs to be properly discarded to keep medications from being misused and in the hands of children and young adults.

These are just a few of the services that will be on hand that day. Many more organizations that help protect you and your family will be there informing you of their services. Information will be handed out at different stations throughout the day.

This event is sponsored by the Anson County Emergency Services and Wadesboro Fire Department. For more information call Rodney Diggs at 704-994-3272 or Scott Martin at 704-694-2167.

Anson County Writers' Club Annual Contests Announced

This is a release from the Anson County Writer's Club: The Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC) is pleased to announce its Twenty-Seventh Contest in Prose and Poetry. The ACWC will award over \$400 in prize money to the winners of the annual writing contests.

First, second and third place winners in the adult prose and adult poetry categories will receive \$50, \$30 and \$20, respectively. Youth winners (grades 10-12) will receive \$20, \$15 and \$10, respectively. Grades 3-6 and Grades 7-9 will compete separately in the children's division. Prizes are \$15, \$10 and \$5, respectively, for prose and poetry winners in both categories.

All winners will receive a certificate suitable for framing and will be honored at a reception for friends and family on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017.

Winning entries of the contests will be published in an anthology, Anson Pathways X, which will be released in 2019. Previous issues of Anson Pathways, which has been published every three years since 1991, are available at the Anson County Arts Council.

The adult contests are open to anyone residing in, having resided in, attending school in or working in Anson County; or members of the ACWC. There is a \$1 entry fee, which is waived for students at any institution of higher learning.

There is no entry fee for students. Entries will be accepted from students living in or attending school in Anson County. Rules and entry forms will be provided to all schools. Deadline for the 2016 contests is 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5.

A complete copy of the rules and an entry form that must accompany each entry are available at the H.B. Allen Library; the Anson County Chamber of Commerce; or by writing to ACWC 2016 Contests, P.O. Box 363, Wadesboro, N.C., 28170 (enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope).

The contest committee urges writers to study the contest rules carefully. In past years, some excellent entries that might have won were disqualified because the writers did not follow instructions.

For more information, call contest co-chairman Beverley Getzen at 704.694.7022 or Sandy Bruney at 704.694.5211.

Physical Education Offered for Homeschool Students

Anson County Parks and Recreation is offering Homeschool PE for kids ages 9 - 12. They will play a variety of sports on Wednesdays, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. during October. Registration is open until Friday, September 23. You can register at Little Park in Wadesboro. For more information contact Jeff Waisner 704-695-2550, Wendell Small 704-695-2782 or Morris Gatewood 704-694-5751.

CFNC Financial Aid Workshop for High School Seniors and Parents on Tuesday, September 20

The College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) will hold a financial aid workshop on Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center at Anson High School. A CFNC representative will present information about applying for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Colleges and universities use this information to determine financial aid packages for students. This year, the FAFSA application for the 2017-2018 school year will become available on October 1st.

Parents will learn more about student and parent loans, work study and how to interpret financial aid award letters received from schools once their student is accepted. Seniors and their parents from Anson High School, Anson Early College, Anson Academy and Anson New Tech are strongly encouraged to attend.

Benefit Breakfast and Orange Crush 5K on Saturday

A benefit breakfast and 5k will be held this Saturday, September 17 to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Foundation in memory of Alice Wright Moore. The event will take place at Lilesville Baptist Church.

The breakfast begins at 6 a.m. and runs until. You can enjoy sausage, eggs, grits, pancakes and toast. The cost is only \$6 for all you can eat.

Sign up for the Orange Crush 5k at www.runsignup.com. It will take place that Saturday at 8 a.m. The fee is \$20, or you can sign up the day of the race for \$25.

For more information call 704-475-2344.

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