

THE EXPRESS

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #149
Wadesboro, NC
28170

Postal
Customer

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.

Veteran Services Office Offers Help with Benefits and Eligibility

The Anson County Veteran Services office which is headed up by Ted Ward is available to all veterans. They offer information about the many services and benefits for veterans, will help determine eligibility and even help fill out the paperwork involved to receive benefits.

If you are a veteran of the United States Military and do not know your status of eligibility in regards to medical benefits, home loans, burial benefits or other services, then you need to talk with a Veteran Services Officer. In Anson County the office is located at 111 North Greene Street (the former Belk building). The telephone number is 704-694-4418 or you can email Ted Ward at tward@co.anson.nc.us. The hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office will be closed for the month of December until January 4.

- Here is a partial list of services available to veterans:
- **Compensation** - The VA compensation program provides monthly benefits if you are disabled because of an injury or disease incurred in or aggravated during your military service.
 - **Pension** - You can receive a monthly pension if you are a wartime veteran with limited income, and you are permanently and totally disabled, or at least 65 years old.
 - **Healthcare Benefits** - Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans are eligible for five years of free medical care from their last date of discharge from active duty. This benefit covers illnesses and injuries, except those clearly unrelated to active military services. All veterans, young and old, should be enrolled in the VA healthcare system. Once enrolled, most veterans will remain enrolled without further action on their part. However, certain veterans are required to provide income information to determine their priority level.
 - **Burial Benefits** - At the time of death, every veteran with an honorable discharge deserves the respect and honor of a military funeral. Burial benefits include a gravesite in any VA national or state cemetery with available space, the opening and closing of the grave, a government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. The Veterans Benefit Administration pays a burial and plot allowance to those veterans eligible by law. The next of kin or funeral director must provide the cemetery staff with a copy of the veteran's properly signed DD214 form or discharge papers.
 - **Education and Training** - The main requirement for education benefits is discharge from active duty service under honorable conditions.
 - **Home Loan Guarantee** - The VA housing loan program is available to service members, veterans, reservists, and unmarried surviving spouses for the purchase of primary homes, condominiums, manufactured homes or for refinancing loans.
 - **Other Benefits** - Other benefits include dependent pensions, vocational rehabilitation, job assistance and NC benefits, such as children's scholarships, license plates, high school diplomas, hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans, and property tax relief.

Fifth Graders Complete DARE Program at Ansonville Elementary School



In a release from Ansonville Elementary School: DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It is a wonderful program that Sheriff Tommy Allen, Jr. started in 1988. It was one of the first in the state and has operated continuously ever since. Each year DARE is taught to over 400 fifth graders throughout the county. DARE teaches students the different ways to say "NO" to peers and drugs.

This year, Lieutenant Paxton taught fifth graders at Ansonville Elementary School more than just drug prevention education - he taught the students good decision making skills to help them avoid high-risk behavior to ensure they grow up healthy, safe, and secure. On November 18 each student in Mrs. Burn's, Mrs. McRae's and Mr. Hieber's classrooms successfully completed the DARE program and were honored during a graduation ceremony.

Six students from the fifth grade were chosen as DARE essay winners. Jordan Sikes, Charlie Wallace, Marley Tarlton, Delana Little, Briana Burns and Kaylee Eury all received medals of honor for completing award winning essays about what they learned while



Pictured here are the Essay Winners at AES.

participating in the DARE Program. Congratulations to the winners of the essay contest and to all fifth Grade students for a job well done.

Veteran's Day Events Recapped by Ted Ward

In a release from Ted Ward, Anson County Veteran Services Officer: The Anson County Veteran Services Office would like to thank everyone who helped make the Veteran's Day Celebration a success.

The day started off with a brisk chill that brought a certain feel of excitement to the day. The parade assembly area was filled with anticipation that this was going to be a special day of celebration for our local heroes. Our grand marshalls were helped into waiting convertibles, including a 1935 Chevy (courtesy of local car owners). These men, all World War II veterans, are part of the greatest generation of soldiers that this country has ever seen. Following them were veterans of the Vietnam era and others who have served this great nation. At 10 a.m. the Wadesboro Police Department, with flashing lights, escorted the parade that was led by the Anson High School ROTC Color Guard. The Grand Marshalls (WWII Veterans) were next, followed by many other parade participants including the Lillie Bennett Bus with WWII and other veterans, the VFW Post 10403 float, the ROTC Drill team, Crisis Ministries, Chiropractor Dr. Brian Dial, the SPCC Career Cruiser, the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club (Charlotte Chapter), the Buffalo Soldiers Horse Calvary trailer (Greensboro), the North Carolina Army National Guard (Wadesboro), a 1967 Chevy, the Anson County Sheriff's Office and others.

As the parade preceded along the parade route many family members and citizens cheered and waved American Flags (passed out by Teen Outreach Program members dressed as little Uncle Sams and helpers) as our local heroes smiled and waved back with pride. When our grand marshalls approached the reviewing stand across from the Ansonia Theatre, each vehicle was stopped and ushers escorted our World War II veterans to their seats as their names were called by our parade Announcer (Mr. Leon Gatewood). They all watched with pride as the remaining parade participants continued along the parade route.



Pictured here are some of the World War II Veterans who were honored during the Veteran's Day Ceremony in Wadesboro.

James Terry, Occasion, Tamika Webb and Speaker, Donnie Jordan). Mr Jordan gave a very informative speech about some of our past heroes, for whom some of our streets are named. He really captured everyone's attention as he did a rep of one armed pushups. Our welcome address was given by County Manager Lawrence Gatewood, along with remarks by Commissioner Anna Baucom. We were also favored with a powerful song selection by Ken Caulder. A special presentation was made to Mr. John Lester Harris (WWII Veteran from Lilesville) by the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club out of Charlotte.

At the end of the ceremony everyone was invited to the Ray Shelton Field parking area where free hamburgers (courtesy of Wendys of Wadesboro), hotdogs, drinks and chips were provided for everyone. From noon until 3 p.m music was provided by the Hidden Talents and The Sons of Sharon who are both local favorites and were enjoyed by all. Also on hand were the VA Rural Health Team and the VA Women Health Team, both from Salisbury. The Legacy Foundation from Lumberton provided information to veterans and their families about benefits that are available and even assisted with applications for activating benefits.

One of our special guests, the Buffalo Soldiers Horse Calvary out of Greensboro set up tents along with other authentic pieces as they shared the untold story of the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers. Dressed in their calvary uniforms, they were well received and enjoyed by all. After the 3 p.m. cleanup began, everyone was given an opportunity to break. At 7 p.m. the Jazz Guardians of the Army Ground Forces band stationed in Fayetteville gave an awesome performance at the Ansonia Theatre. It was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Special acknowledgement and thanks goes to the following for their support in making the Veteran's Day Celebration a success: Anson Sign Company, Anson County Arts Council, New Adventures Printing Company, Wendy's of Wadesboro, Walmart of Wadesboro, Ann James of Crisis Ministries (one of the greatest window decorators this side of heaven), Huntley Chevrolet, City Electric Company of Wadesboro, Nick of Subway (Caldwell Street), SFC Jordan and the NCANG of Wadesboro, CMH Flooring of Wadesboro, Subrina Hough and Teen Outreach Program (TOP), Pricilla Nunn and Anson County Community Economic Support Services (ACCESS), Anson County Parks and Recreation, Partnership for Children, Fairview Church of God of Burnsville, Anthony Parker (Union County Veteran Service Officer), Donnie Lewis, Kisha Dunlap, Lee Hardison, James Powe, WC Dunlap, Curtis Carpenter, Ed Huntley, Dennis Huntley, Mr Jackson (Photographer) and many others for all of your unselfish acts of support to ensure that this day was successful. Anson County is a blessed community and we should always be thankful for our Hometown Heroes.

Free Movie is Once Upon a Christmas

The free movie, Once Upon a Christmas, starring John Dye and Kathy Ireland, will be shown on Monday, November 28 in the Little Theatre of the Hampton B. Allen Library at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend.

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

North Wadesboro Baptist Church Presents Outdoor Drama

Everyone is invited to kickoff the Christmas season by attending the Outdoor Christmas Drama, "Jesus, the Heartbeat of Every Generation" at North Wadesboro Baptist Church, 1211 North Greene Street in Wadesboro. (Located just 5 blocks north of the town square.) The drama will take place on the front lawn of the church and can be watched from the parking lot in your car.

The drama will take place on Saturday, December 3, at 7 p.m. and again on Sunday, December 4, at 7 p.m.

For many in our county the drama begins their Christmas celebration. This will be the 21st year of presenting the drama to our community. For more information or transportation call the church office at 704-694-3711. Rev. Ronnie Stewart is the Pastor.

Chamber Big Game Hunt is this Weekend

The 14th annual Big Game Hunt Tournament which is sponsored by the Anson County Chamber of Commerce will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 25th and 26th. Hunters are encouraged to enter to win some of the over \$5,000 in prize money that is up for grabs. Weigh-ins will be held from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the Ansonville Volunteer Fire Department. For more information and to enter, call the Chamber at 704-694-4181. For the official rules and to view the 2011 hunt brochure visit www.ansoncounty.org.

The Express Website is Back!

Please visit us at TheExpressNewspaper.com and you will find the latest edition. The online pages look exactly like the printed pages so internet users can enjoy the same experience as someone with a printed version.

Be sure to tell your out-of-county friends and relatives about it!

Tickets on Sale Now for Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol at the Ansonvia

The play *A Christmas Carol* is coming soon and tickets for this feel good event are now on sale through the Arts Council. The reserved seating only production will provide you with a specific seat while watching the much-anticipated Anson County version of this Christmas classic.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. But, don't expect there to be any of those on hand because this is sure to be a sell out event! Make plans today to visit the Arts Council located next to the Ansonia Theatre or call 704-694-4950 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday (except for Thanksgiving Day). If by chance you do not get an answer, simply leave a message to include your telephone number and the date you are interested in attending. Also, the number of tickets you will need. You will receive a return call. You may also check seat availability and pay using PayPal at www.ansoniatheatre.com.

This truly is a must see Christmas event for the entire family. Thirty cast members and a crew of 35 are all involved, and they all live in and around this area. These Anson, Stanly and Richmond residents are well prepared to help the Ansonia Theatre celebrate the first community production in the gloriously renovated facility.

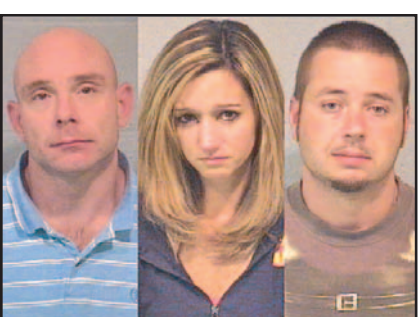
Local businesses, families and individuals have offered to help supplement the costs incurred while bringing this play to a professional level. The Arts Council offers four levels of support and is currently getting responses from each level. If you would like to become a patron of the arts, call the Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950.

"It takes a village to raise a child," and it takes an entire community to put on a professional, quality production. So show your community support by planning a family evening spent in the Ansonia Theatre, and perhaps by placing your name on one of the four levels of support for this wonderful endeavor.

I'm headed to the theater now to stand in line for my tickets. I would expect that line to wrap around the block a few times, but I am certainly willing to wait. Come on over and join us!

By Melanie Lyon

Ansonians Arrested with Mobile Meth Lab



Three people from Anson County were arrested in Stanly County after a mobile meth lab was found in their vehicle. Mark Anthony Taylor, 32, and Bethany Leigh Horne, 26, both of Peachland

and Christopher Scott Rhynes, 36, of Wadesboro were passengers in a 2008 Chrysler Sebring that was stopped on Highway 52 in South Albemarle about 9:20 p.m. on Saturday, November 19th. The driver of the car, Dennis Ray Hyatt, 42, of Matthews, ran from the scene and escaped.

Inside the car Sheriff's Officers found plastic bags, digital scales and other drug paraphernalia. Upon further investigation the officers concluded that there was a mobile meth lab inside the car.

Officers used K9 dogs to track Hyatt, but were unable to locate him. Law enforcement agencies in several counties are participating in the manhunt for Hyatt.

Taylor, Horne and Rhynes are each charged with Manufacture Methamphetamine, Possess-Distribute Methamphetamine Precursor, and Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Taylor and Rhynes are also charged with Resist Public Officer. They are in jail, each with a \$50,000 bond. Their court date is November 28.

Look inside for special inserts from
Family Dollar
H.W. Little