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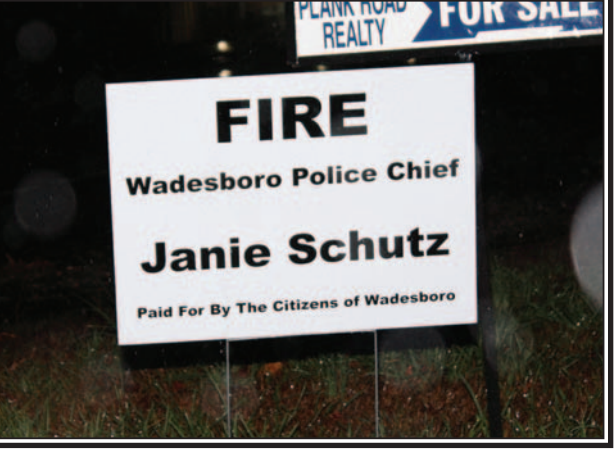
Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

3 Year Old Girl Shot by Her 5 Year Old Brother Tuesday Morning

A three year old girl was shot in the abdomen on Tuesday morning by her five year old brother in what initially appears to be a tragic accident. As of press time on Tuesday afternoon, the girl was in surgery and reported to be in serious condition. According to Sheriff Tommy Allen, the shooting took place in a home on Ansonville-Polkton Road, and his office was notified about 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning, November 29th. Sheriff Allen said that the mother, Kimberly Davis, was asleep in bed with her three year old daughter. It appears that Davis' five year old son came into the room, found a handgun in a drawer, pulled it out and fired it. A bullet entered the girl's abdomen, traveled downward breaking her femur, then exited through her leg. The girl was taken to Carolinas Medical Center - Union in Monroe, then transported to Charlotte.

"Fire Chief Schutz" Signs Posted Around Wadesboro

Signs sprang up around Wadesboro sometime on Monday with the message: "FIRE Wadesboro Police Chief Janie Schutz (Paid For By The Citizens Of Wadesboro)." They were located along roads and highways, and at several intersections. The signs were similar in size and construction to standard political campaign signs, with writing on both sides.



By 1 p.m. on Tuesday, the sign pictured here (at the intersection of Morven Road and Moores Lake Road) and others had been removed. It is not known who put the signs up. As one Wadesboro citizen put it, "I have a pretty good idea who took them down!"

Though they were only on view for a short time the signs caused considerable comment. An employee at Whit's Convenience Store reported that it seemed that everyone who came in Tuesday morning was talking about them.

Suspended Wadesboro Police Officer Back at Work

As reported in our edition of November 16th, a Wadesboro Police Officer had been suspended with pay by Chief Janie Schutz for what Schutz claimed was improper disposal of meth lab materials. The officer is now back at work. The matter has been turned over to Wadesboro Town Manager John Witherspoon in order for Witherspoon to determine whether any further disciplinary actions will be taken against the officer.

To recap the events, the officer was presented with several items that appeared to be related to a meth lab (including a bottle and tubing) by a relative. The items had come from the home of a woman who was then in jail on drug charges. The officer, who lives outside the Wadesboro city limits in the area of McFarlan, called the Sheriff's Office and spoke with an officer there, seeking information on what to do with the items. On the advice of the Sheriff's Office, the Wadesboro officer disposed of the items.

More meth lab items were found in the same home, and Sheriff's Officers investigated. They determined that there was no active meth lab in operation, and advised the residents of the home on how to dispose of the items.

Along with calling her police officer's action improper disposal of meth lab materials, Chief Schutz also said she thought the officer should have called her office when he was presented with the items.

Sheriff Tommy Allen stood up for his officers' actions, stating that neither incident involved an active meth lab.

Tickets! Get Your Tickets to Dickens' A Christmas Carol!

If you have not bought your tickets to see Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* you had better run over to the Arts Council really soon. Tickets are selling fast and I'm sure you wouldn't want to miss the first major production to be presented within the walls of the newly renovated Ansonia Theatre.

All seating is reserved so be sure to call 704-694-4950 or go by the Arts Council during hours of operation, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and from 7 until 8 p.m.

Rehearsals are in full swing and are going great. This will be a wonderful feel-good treat for all ages at Christmas. For your added pleasure there will be several local groups caroling outside the theatre prior to the performances. If you are interested in caroling or know a group who may be, please inform the Arts Council.

A word of caution: Performances start promptly at 8 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Doors will open 45 minutes prior. Latecomers will not be seated until a break in the action so you'd better be early rather than late!

The council would like to extend special thanks to sponsors: H.W. Little & Co., Anson Bank and Trust, CMH Flooring, Pee Dee Electric, and Poisson, Poisson and Bower. "We would not be able to accomplish this without their help and support," said Catherine Crandell. Also, they are still accepting sponsors at several levels if you are interested.

So who are the stars of the show? The cast includes: Ebenezer Scrooge-Bill Cleveland, Mrs. Dilber-Lou Lyons, Constable-Wayne Castle, Bob Cratchit-Francis Campbell, Mr. Steves-Donnie Lewis, Fred Hastings-Steve Lear, Mr. Mathers-Daryl Rember, Mrs. Mathers-Beverly Getzen, Tara-Ayla Perkins, Toby-Molly Abston, Mrs. Cratchit-Kim Crump, Peter Cratchit-Parker Layfield, Belinda Cratchit-Tracey Brewer, Bobby Cratchit-Jake Sessions, Sara Cratchit-Suzanne Sommerville, Dr. Thomas-Steve Fowler, Marley-Christie Williams, Christmas Past-Tina Sauls, Mrs. Fillbert-Annis Flood, Scrooge (young boy) Gage Tarlton, Fan-Savannah Tarlton, Mr. Fredrick-Glenn Caulder, Lois Fezziweg-Rebekah Chaney, Scrooge (young man) Samuel Kraus, Christmas Present-Alvin Goins, Martha Cratchit-Sydney Davis, Caroline Hasting-Laura Haynes, Man Child-Dylan Abston, Woman Child-Isabella McCray, Christmas Future-Chris Williams, Man One-Glenn Caulder, Man Two-Steve Fowler, Man Three-Wayne Castle, Undertaker-April Ratliff, Boy on Street-Tyler Greene, Narrator-Neil Jones, and Director-David Atrial.

By Melanie Lyon

When I Grow Up... Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Kids Enjoy Career Day



On Friday, November 18th, Peachland-Polkton Elementary School celebrated Career Day. Forty guest speakers including parents, grandparents and community members shared information with students about their various jobs. Wearing hard hats and proudly displaying their rocks in the picture is Mrs. Brown's first grade class. Also pictured with the students are Melvin Nance and Dorothy Goodman from B. V. Hedrick Sand and Gravel Co. Career Day helped promote career awareness and related the importance of education in student's future career choices.

Sheriff Allen Offers Tips for Safe Shopping During the Holidays

"The holiday season is right around the corner and shoppers are crowding malls and discount stores to buy the latest gadgets and find the best deals," said Sheriff Tommy Allen. But what shoppers are neglecting is their safety. According to Sheriff Allen, "This time of year attracts more shopping-related criminal activity because of the larger crowds and the extended store hours. These factors and the usual distraction of shopping, creates a more favorable environment for petty thieves and other offenders."

The Sheriff reminds all citizens to follow these safety tips:

- Shopping Safety:**
- A single shopper is the best target for theft. Always shop with a friend or relative.
 - When going shopping, tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you to return. Also, make sure they know what you are wearing, as well as the type of vehicle you are driving.
 - Shop during daylight hours. If you shop at night, park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
 - Dress casually and comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry. If carrying cash, keep it in a pocket rather than in a purse or wallet. This makes it much more difficult for a pick-pocket to remove. Also store car keys in a pants or jacket pocket. If your purse is stolen, you will still be able to drive home.
 - Pay careful attention to your surroundings and avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
 - When returning to your vehicle, check around it and in the back seat. Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Have your car keys in your hand to avoid spending unnecessary time unprotected from the security of your vehicle.
 - If you feel uneasy returning to your vehicle alone, find a security guard and ask them to walk you to your car.

According to Sheriff Allen, "During this time of year, busy holiday shoppers become careless and vulnerable to other crimes as well. Credit card fraud and gift card fraud are on the rise. However, taking a few preventive measures can help."

- Credit Card Fraud:**
- Keep a close watch on your credit card every time you use it, and make sure you get it back as quickly as possible.
 - Never write your PIN number on your credit card.
 - Never leave your credit cards or receipts lying around.
 - Shield your credit card number so that others around you can't copy it or capture it on a mobile telephone or other camera.
 - Only carry credit cards that you absolutely need.
 - Shred anything with your credit card number written on it.
 - If you're planning to purchase online, make sure the web page where you enter your credit card information is secure through SSL (Secure Socket Layer). You can tell if the web page is secure by looking for the gold lock or key icon at the bottom corner of your browser window.
 - If you're not comfortable submitting your information through the internet, call the seller and give them your information over the telephone. Never send your credit card information via email.
 - Check the company out. Only do business with companies that provide a physical address and telephone number.
 - Keep good records. Always print out a copy of any online products or services you purchase.
- Gift Card Fraud:**
- Never buy gift cards from online auction sites. This is a large source of gift card fraud. Many of the gift cards are stolen, counterfeit or used.
 - Only buy gift cards directly from the store issuing the gift card or from a secure retailer's website.
 - Don't buy gift cards off of publicly displayed racks in retail stores. Only purchase gift cards at the sales terminal from the cashier.
 - Always carefully examine both the front and back of a gift card before you buy it. If you see a PIN number, ask for a different card. If the card looks like it has been tampered with in any way, put it back.
 - Always ask the store cashier to scan the gift card in front of you. This will guarantee that your card is valid when you buy it and that it reflects the balance you just charged it with.
 - Always keep your receipt as a proof of purchase as long as there is money stored on the gift card.
 - If possible, register your gift card at the store's website
 - Never give your Social Security number, date of birth or any other unneeded private information when purchasing a gift card. No reputable company will ask for this information.
- In light of these problems, Sheriff Allen warns shoppers to be careful so that they don't become the victim of criminal activity. "Unfortunately, when shopping, people have a tendency to let their guard down," said Sheriff Allen. "However, paying attention and taking precautions can help eliminate their chances of being victimized."

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Students Donate 2,769 Cans of Food

To demonstrate an act of kindness and giving, students at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School held a canned food drive during the month of November. The school collected 2,769 cans of food that will be donated to various local charities. The Anson Crisis Ministry came and picked up 1,544 pounds of food from the students!



Wadesboro Christmas Parade is Thursday

The Wadesboro Christmas parade will be held at 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, December 1. The uptown parade route will remain the same as in previous years. It starts on Morven Road for the line up and concludes at the Ray Shelton ball field for breakdown. The parade will move down Washington, Martin and Greene Streets.

Anson Singers Concert on Sunday

The Anson Singers, a choral group made up of people from throughout Anson County, will be in concert on Sunday, December 4 at 3 p.m. The concert will take place immediately preceding the Wadesboro Tour of Homes.

The choir, conducted by Emily Litaker Privette, will sing a program of traditional Christmas music, both sacred and secular. The concert will take place in the First United Methodist Church of Wadesboro, and will be completed in time for listeners to begin the Tour of Homes. The church, while not on the official tour, will be open for visitors after the concert until 7 p.m.

A small group of the Anson Singers will also be Christmas caroling at the Boggan-Hammond House from 4:30 to 5 p.m. following the concert, in conjunction with the Tour of Homes.

The Anson Singers began in the spring of this year as an arm of the Anson County Arts Council. This will be their second performance. The public is warmly invited to attend this free holiday event.

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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.

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