

77  
Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #149  
Wadesboro, NC  
28170

Postal  
Customer

# THE EXPRESS

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • [TheExpressNews@gmail.com](mailto:TheExpressNews@gmail.com) • [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)

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

## LuShawn Jeffrey Simon Arrested for Sexual Assault on a Child



**LuShawn Jeffrey Simon**

On Tuesday, November 24 the Wadesboro Police Department investigated a sexual assault case involving a juvenile. This led to the arrest of LuShawn Jeffrey Simon, 38, of 533 Harlem Heights Road in Wadesboro. Simon was charged with felony Indecent Liberties with a Child and Sexual Battery.

Simon was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$75,000 secured bond. His first court appearance was scheduled for December 1.

## Christmas Parade is this Thursday

The 2015 Wadesboro Christmas Parade is scheduled for 4 p.m. this Thursday, December 3. The uptown parade route will remain the same as in previous years – starting on Morven Road for the line-up and concluding at the Ray Shelton Ball Field for breakdown. The parade will move down Washington, Martin and Greene Streets.

A parade is a community's way of expressing holiday greetings. For more information on the parade contact the Anson County Chamber of Commerce at 704-694-4181 or [ansonchamber@windstream.net](mailto:ansonchamber@windstream.net).

## Medicare Annual Election Period Runs Until December 7

Your health needs change from year to year, and the benefits and costs of your health plan may change each year, too. That's why it's important to evaluate your Medicare choices every year. The Annual Election Period is the one time of year when all people with Medicare can change their Medicare health plan and prescription drug coverage for 2016. Take advantage of the Annual Election Period, and you may be able to save money, improve your coverage or both.

The Annual Election Period started on October 15 and lasts seven full weeks to give you enough time to review and make changes to your Medicare coverage. You will need to make your final selection for next year's Medicare coverage by December 7 to ensure that your coverage can begin without interruption on January 1, 2016.

"Many Medicare beneficiaries don't realize the importance of evaluating their plans every year," said North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. "The staff from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, are available to help over the phone or in-person in all 100 counties in North Carolina."

SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and offers free, unbiased information about Medicare, Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance issues. In addition to helping Medicare beneficiaries compare and enroll in plans during the Annual Election Period, SHIIP counselors can help people find out if they are eligible for Medicare cost savings programs.

Here are some of the ways to review and compare plans available for 2016:

- Get one-on-one help from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, by calling 1-855-408-1212, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also request in-person assistance in Anson County by calling Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.
- Visit [www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan](http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan) to compare your current coverage with all of the options that are available in your area, and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.
- Review the *Medicare & You* handbook. It was mailed to people with Medicare in September.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For more information about SHIIP and the Medicare Annual Election Period, call 1-855-408-1212 or visit [www.ncshiip.com](http://www.ncshiip.com).

## Christmas Back 'n Time Program this Saturday at Cedar Hill Methodist Church

The Ansonville Historical Society will be sponsoring a program entitled *Christmas Back 'n Time*. It will take place at Cedar Hill United Methodist Church, located off Highway 52, this Saturday, December 5. There will be two presentations, one from 4:30 until 5:15 p.m. and another from 5:30 until 6:15 p.m. The program features live musicians, lots of natural decorations, candlelight and reading of the Christmas Story by Pastor Robert Burr.

Pastor Burr said, "We sincerely hope that all who attend will leave with the true spirit of Christmas past. Please make plans to join us and bring a friend. Admission is by donation only."

## CBCC Blood Drive to be Held at Anson High School on December 8

Community Blood Center of the Carolinas (CBCC) will hold a Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 8 at Anson High School, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please note that there is a minimum weight requirement for donors of 120 pounds.

This Blood Drive is part of CBCC's 11th Annual Puppies for Patients' program. Join CBCC in bringing joy to children this holiday season. Donors who give blood through the end of December will be able to sign a gift tag that will then be attached to a stuffed toy puppy and delivered by CBCC to children in area hospitals and care facilities during the holidays.

More public drives can be found at Community Blood Center of the Carolinas' website [www.cbcc.us](http://www.cbcc.us). CBCC has donation centers in Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia, Hickory, and Greensboro. Call 704-972-4700 or go to [www.cbcc.us](http://www.cbcc.us) to make an appointment at any location.



## The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Opens at the Ansonia Theatre December 10

The Ansonia Theatre is proud to present *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, opening Thursday, December 10 and running through Sunday, December 20. This children's classic is based on the short story by Barbara Robinson and will be directed by Tommy Wooten. The cast features over 50 members from all over the region, and this play is sure to be a favorite among theatre goers.

Due to popular demand, Thursday night performances have been added to accommodate as many people as possible. Tickets are \$15 and go on sale November 23. Groups rates are available for parties of 10 or more at \$12 each. Show times are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Call the Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or visit [www.ansoniatheatre.com](http://www.ansoniatheatre.com) for tickets. Don't miss this show!

Pictured here are the Herdmans, played by Adam Horne, Charley Williamson, Garrett Smothers, River Pearson, Rocky Moore, Lindsay Thomas and Adeline Cavenaugh.

Photo by Mallory Bricker

## Writer's Club 26th Prose and Poetry Contest

The Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC) is pleased to announce its Twenty-Sixth 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, February 28, 2016. Winning entries of the contests will be published in an anthology, *Anson Pathways IX*, which will be released in 2016. 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.

The deadline for the 2015 contests is 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 7.

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 2015 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-chairmen Kaye Ratliff at 704-694-5431 or Beverly Getzen at 704-694-7022.

## Tobacco Referendum Passes by Wide Margin

North Carolina tobacco growers voted overwhelmingly November 19 to continue a self-assessment that raises funds to support tobacco-related research and extension efforts of NC State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Under the Tobacco Research Check-Off, started 24 years ago, producers decide whether to assess 10 cents per 100 pounds of flue-cured and burley tobacco sold. This year's referendum – which passed by 94.5 percent – continues the assessment through the 2021 crop year.

The N.C. Tobacco Research Commission allocates about \$300,000 annually for tobacco-related projects. The commission includes the state Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services; the presidents of the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation, the N.C. State Grange and the Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina; and the N.C. Tobacco Foundation chairman.

Keith Oakley, president of the foundation and state check-off coordinator, said the referendum's passage is important for future tobacco production in North Carolina, especially in light of the fact that federal funding for tobacco research ceased in 1994 and state support has declined in recent years due to state budget cuts.

Tobacco continues to be the highest-value row crop produced in the state, with farm-gate sales in 2014 of more than \$900 million. North Carolina produces about 80 percent of the Southeast's tobacco acreage, up from two-thirds since before the tobacco buyout of 2004. That increase is partly due to "competitive advantages related to tobacco-production research and education," Oakley said.

According to CALS Dean Dr. Richard Linton, funds from the check-off will address such important areas as variety development, insect and disease management, and reduction of pesticide residues, production costs, on-farm energy consumption and weed-seed contamination in tobacco exports.

## Raffle in Support of the Anson County Animal Shelter

Help support the Anson County Animal Shelter by purchasing a raffle ticket. There are prizes from several businesses in Anson County, Bojangles, IGA, KFC, Lady Bug Restaurant, Lacy's, H.W. Little & Company, Tractor Supply and La Fogata. One ticket costs \$1 or you can get 6 tickets for \$5. The drawing will be held on December 31.

Tickets can be purchased at the Animal Shelter or at the Anson County Health Department. For more information call 704-994-2738 or 704-694-5188.

## Veterans Fellowship Event Planned for December 3

The Anson County Veterans Council invites all veterans and their spouses to an evening of fun and fellowship on Thursday, December 3. The event will take place at the National Guard Armory, located on Anson High School Road in Wadesboro, at 6 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendar for this special event.

## Zimmer Friends to Meet December 4

All Zimmer Friends are invited to the upcoming get together that will be held on Friday, December 4 at Bojangles in Wadesboro at 1 p.m. For more information call 704-694-4213.

## Class of 1971 to Meet on December 5

The Bowman Senior High School Class of 1971 will meet on Saturday, December 5 at Hilltop Restaurant in Monroe at 3 p.m. They are asking that everyone be in attendance.

## Woodmen of the World Christmas Dinner

The annual Woodmen of the World Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 5. The event will take place at the WOW Lodge, located Highway 74 West in Wadesboro, at 6 p.m. The dinner will be catered and there will be live entertainment. For tickets and information call Diane Shackelford at 704-694-4107.