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

Granddaughter of Sheriff Landric Reid Fatally Injured by Gunshot on Sunday, March 29

This is a release from the Anson County Sheriff's Office: The Anson County Sheriff's Office regretfully announces that Sheriff Landric Reid's granddaughter, Shaundasia Smith, was fatally injured in the early morning hours of Sunday, March 29. Due to the serious circumstances of this incident, and the relationship of the victim to Sheriff Reid, we requested the NC State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to lead the investigation. The SBI has conducted a professional and thorough investigation thus far, however their investigation is still ongoing. We respectfully request that Sheriff Reid's privacy is respected during this difficult time as we do with all victims and their families.

If you have any further questions, concerning this matter, please contact the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation, during this most difficult time. Signed, Chief Deputy Scott Howell, Anson County Sheriff Office

CSX Responds to Lilesville Neighborhood Blockage

After over 180 years in the railroad business, it appears that CSX has only just now determined that they should separate train cars at rail crossings to allow motorists through when the train is stopped for extended periods. CSX issued a statement to The Express addressing the serious safety issue caused by one of their trains in Anson County recently. That train was stopped and abandoned for over 12 hours, blocking the only access and egress for citizens living on Cowan Street in Lilesville. According to their statement, CSX will now separate the train cars at rail crossings when a train is stopped for more than 45 minutes.

Perhaps the plight of the Cowan Street residents who were held hostage has led to a solution for this serious public safety and personal freedom issue that was caused by CSX's former policy of allowing their trains to block rail crossings for hours at a time.

Here is the statement from CSX:

We sincerely apologize for the disruption to area motorists caused by a train blocking a crossing in Lilesville Friday night, March 20th. The Cowan Street crossing was blocked as a result of a shift change. Train crews are subject to hours of service laws that limit their shifts to twelve hours. CSX makes every effort to plan accordingly so that crews can change shifts on time and in areas that do not disrupt traffic. Sometimes that is not possible due to volume on the network or other delays and shifts expire while trains are en route. We understand the frustrations of residents and local officials and are making operational adjustments. If a train is stopped for more than forty-five minutes, crews have been instructed to separate the train's cars at rail crossings to allow motorists through. Again, we sincerely apologize for this disruption. Signed: Kristin Seay, CSX Corporate Communications

Traffic Violation Leads to Felony Drug arrest

On Wednesday March 18, shortly after 3:30 p.m. an Anson County Sheriff's Deputy attempted to stop a vehicle being driven by Niki Colson of Wadesboro for traffic violations. The vehicle came to stop on Orchard Street in Wadesboro where Colson jumped out and ran. After a short foot chase Colson was taken into custody. 6.8 grams of cocaine were located that Colson had attempted to throw into the woods. Colson was charged with Driving While License Revoked, Resist Delay and Obstruct and Felony Possession Of Cocaine.

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "I credit my deputies for being observant of criminal activity. I want to thank them for their dedication to enforcing the laws."

Search of Home Leads to Drug Charges

On Wednesday, March 25 Anson County Sheriff's deputies conducted a search of a residence on Mt. Vernon Road in Ansonville. Originally the deputies were at the residence attempting to serve an arrest warrant on a subject believed to be at the home. While at the residence deputies noticed a chemical odor in the house. After getting consent by the homeowner and other subjects in the residence, deputies searched the house. Deputies located a small bag of marijuana in a bedroom and several bags of methamphetamine and a pipe in bathroom. Other drug paraphernalia was located in a backpack belonging to Quintin Chambers, 24 years old, from South Carolina.

Chambers was charged with Possession Of Methamphetamine, Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia, and Possession with Intent to Sell or Distribute Methamphetamine. He was given a \$5000 secured bond.

Channing Green, 25, from Cabarrus County was charged with the Possession Of Marijuana. She was given a written promise. Both have a court date of April 7 in Anson County District Court.

Operation Medicine Drop Collects Over 9,000 Doses



The Anson County Sheriff's Office "Operation Medicine Drop" was held on Saturday March 21.

"We collected 717 controlled medications, 4,957 prescription medications, 3,161.5 over the counter medications and 285 liquid medications, totaling over 9120.5 dosage units," said Sheriff Landric Reid. "I

would like to take a moment and thank those who helped make sure the event was a success. Anson County Partnership for Children, along with the Anson County Deputies, did an amazing job with organizing and collecting all medication properly. I appreciate their hard work and service to the community."

Sheriff Reid continued, "A special 'thank you' to the citizens of Anson County who made the responsible choice to bring their medications for proper disposal. Thank you to everyone who supported Operation Medicine Drop. Let's continue to work together to make Anson County better."

Attorney Kenneth Spaulding is Anson County Democratic Convention Speaker

The Anson County Democratic Party will host their Convention at the Hampton B. Allen Library on Saturday, April 11, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with a full breakfast. The Convention starts at 10 a.m. Attorney Kenneth B. Spaulding, candidate for North Carolina Governor will be the guest speaker. The theme for 2015 convention is "Lets Do It Again."

During the convention Pecolia Dixon Leak will be recognized for her dedication and civic work in the community. All elected officials and candidates running for offices are invited.

Attorney Spaulding is a native of Durham, North Carolina, and has served as a practicing attorney since 1970. He is a graduate of Howard University in Washington, DC. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill in 1970. While there Attorney Spaulding was the first minority to be elected as president of a first-year law class and became the first minority Honor court Chief Justice.

From an early age he has had a sincere and determined work ethic. In 1966 he served as an administrative intern with the Office of the Durham City Manager. In 1967 he was awarded an internship with the Office of the United States Attorney General. For the years ahead Ken would receive intern placements with the Offices of the Vice President of the United States Hubert H. Humphrey and the North Carolina Attorney General Robert Morgan. In 1974 Ken initiated and executed negotiations that eliminated segregated caseloads for parole and probation officers throughout the entire state of North Carolina.

In 1978 Spaulding was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives where he served until 1984. During his tenure he successfully introduced and helped secure bills to better serve the citizens of North Carolina. He was also appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve as chairman of the General Government Appropriations sub-committee. From 2005 to 2009 he served on the Board of Transportation for Wake, Durham, Person, Granville, Vance, Warren and Franklin Counties.

Chair Vancine Sturdivant stated, "It is very important that the citizens and Democrats come together for an important 2016 Election." For more information about the convention please contact Vancine Sturdivant at (704) 848-4412.



New Faces at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center recently welcomed some new faces as well as great help. They are pictured here, from left, Henry Collins, Mary Gaddy, Rosa Powell and David Cash.

Back Porch Stories, Old-Time Fun

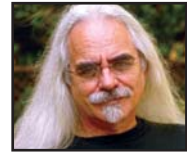
Back Porch Stories, featuring three North Carolina storytellers, will present an evening of old fashioned, family-friendly fun at the Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro. The program begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 17. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Anson County Arts Council, Lacy's, and at the box office the night of the program.

Two storytellers appeared at Back Porch Stories in 2013 and are back by popular demand. Michael Reno Harrell, the featured presenter, is an award winning songwriter, storyteller, and published author. His combination of music and storytelling are based in experience, sometimes downright funny, sometimes just plain scary, maybe even with a message worth taking away, but always mesmerizing and entertaining.

Martha Reed Johnson is a master at finding, creating and telling amazing stories from ordinary moments. According to her parents, she has been telling tales from the time she could talk. Martha's stories will leave you laughing and wanting more.

New this year is J. A. Bolton. Bolton started telling stories at a young age when the fellas at the local store would buy him a drink and candy bar to tell a story. Since then he's gone on to tell some pretty tall tales that include huntin', fishin', and workin' on the farm.

Back Porch Stories is sponsored by the Anson County Writers' Club, the Anson County Arts Council, the Anson County Tourism Development Authority and Uwharrie Bank. For more information call 704-693-5211.



Michael
Reno Harrell



Martha Reed
Johnson



J. A.
Bolton

D. G. Martin to Speak at Carolinas Writers Conference

D. G. Martin, host of "North Carolina Bookwatch" will be the keynote speaker at the seventh annual Carolinas Writers Conference, to be held on Saturday, April 18 at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. His topic will be "Looking Back at North Carolina Bookwatch: What I have learned from conversations with more than 250 Carolina authors."

Martin is a graduate of Davidson College and Yale Law School and is a former Green Beret. He practiced law for 20 years before joining the University of North Carolina as Vice President for Public Affairs. Now retired, he writes a weekly newspaper column and has written numerous book reviews and feature articles for newspapers, journals, and magazines.

Scheduled workshop presenters for the conference are Joseph Bathanti, N.C. Poet Laureate 2012-2014, "Where You Live: Writing about Yourself and Your Family;" storyteller Martha Reed Johnson, "From Page to Performance;" novelist and poet Ruth Moose, "Flash Fiction;" strategist Susan Sloate, "Screenwriter's Tricks for Killer Novel Structure" (morning) and "Marketing on Amazon" (afternoon); and L. Diane Wolfe, owner of Dancing Lemur Press, "Publishing and Printing 101" (morning) and "Publishing and Promoting 102" (afternoon). Sloate will hear pitches in the afternoon.

A complete description of workshop topics, workshop leader bios, and a schedule can be found at www.carolinawritersconference.org.

Cost for the conference is \$25 with pre-registration and \$30 at the door. A catered lunch is included in the fee. The deadline for registration is April 10. A limited number of lunches will be available for walk-ins, but it is strongly urged that participants register early by using Paypal on the web page; sending a check or money order made out to Anson County Writers Club, PO Box 363, Wadesboro NC 28170; emailing info@ansoncountywritersclub.org; or by calling Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211.

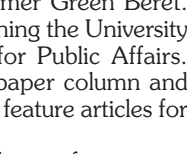
For those who would like to attend Martin's lunchtime address only, the cost is \$15. Registration is the same as for the workshops.

The Carolinas Writers' Conference is sponsored by the Anson County Writers' Club, Uwharrie Bank, Anson County Arts Council and Ansonia Theatre, Tourism Development Authority, and South Piedmont Community College.

Email ansoncountywritersclub.org for more information.



D. G.
Martin



Joseph
Bathanti



Susan
Sloate

Wadesboro Special Budget Meetings

The Town of Wadesboro Town Council will be holding special meetings in April to discuss the 2015-2016 Budget. The meetings will be held at the Town of Wadesboro Conference Room at 5 p.m. Below is a list of the meeting dates:

- April 7 - Sanitation
- April 14 - Police, Fire
- April 21 - Streets, Shop, Parks
- April 28 - Water, Sewer
- May 5 - Administration, Personnel, Insurance
- May 12 - Capital Improvement Plan

Anson Women's League Meets Tuesday, April 14

The Anson Women's League will meet on Tuesday, April 14, from noon to 1 p.m. at Twin Valley Country Club. A program will be presented by speakers from Relay for Life. All women are invited. Lunch is available for \$8.50.

Please send an RSVP if you want the meal to AWL President Terri Martin at tc-martin@windstream.net by Friday, April 10.

Wadesboro Garden Club Tea

The Wadesboro Garden Club has a limited number of tickets available for their 3rd Annual Afternoon Tea. This event will be held on Saturday, April 18 at 1:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro.

Please call Phyllis Dunlap at 704-695-2275 to reserve or pick up your tickets now. Non-member tickets are \$15 each.

Ansonville Historical Society Spaghetti Supper

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner at the Ansonville Fire Department in support of the Ansonville Historical Society. This spring fundraiser will feature spaghetti, a salad, bread, dessert and a drink for \$9. It takes place on Saturday, April 18, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Raised Bed Gardening Class

Anson County Parks and Recreation will be offering a class on Raised Bed Gardening on Wednesday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Little Park in Wadesboro. It will be presented by a Master Gardener.

For more information, contact Wendell Small at 704-694-5868.