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Drug Roundup in Anson County. 21 Arrested, More Sought

The Anson County Sheriff's Office concluded an eight month long undercover operation that resulted in 178 charges against 29 individuals. Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen said that his officers had been working with the state Alcohol Law Enforcement division (ALE) along with other local agencies on this operation. "Over the past couple of weeks we have arrested seven of our suspects, one at the time. On Thursday, March 27 we began the roundup of the rest, looking for twenty-two people. We found fourteen. We also found and seized guns, drugs and money. It all goes together," Sheriff Allen said.

Officers began working Thursday morning in the Ansonville area before moving to other parts of the county. Approximately twenty plus officers were involved, including Sheriff's Deputies, ALE agents and the Polkton Police Department. The Sheriff said that these charges were a result of undercover hand-to-hand buys. "These transactions were videotaped. It's hard to deny when we have their picture making the sale, handing the drugs and taking the money," the sheriff said. "We have a few more people to pick up. They know who they are. Some may turn themselves in. Others we'll pick up the next week or so."

Sheriff Allen concluded, "This won't solve the drug problem. But it puts a dent in it. And it lets the sellers and buyers know we are out there. They know someone will be next. They just don't know who. It might be them."

Among those arrested were: Mareco Lawilder McNair, black male, 30; Antonio Lee Thompson, black male, 25; Christopher T. Robinson, black male, 28; Jack Lee Wickham, white male, 59; Connie Joe Baker, black female, 43; Tonda Denise Jordan, black female, 42; Angie Renee Morton, white female, 32; Kelvin Maurice Horne, black male, 42; Damion Ray Jenard Horne, black male, 28; Dennis Steward Knotts, black male, 45; Kenneth Huntley, black male, 59; Mary Helen Hamilton, black female, 54; Brandon Drelle Wall, black male, 24; Deon Depri Marsh, black male, 19; Purcell Wall, black male, 19; Alberta Davis, black female, 58; Richard Neal Carpenter, white male, 52; Justin Lee Shifflett, white male, 18; Marcus Tyrone McIver, black male, 39; Calvin Edward Tyson, black male, 42; Marcus Dunlap, black male, 30; Gregory Alan Kirk, white male, 19; James Jr. Ratliff, white male, 47; and Corey Jamal Heilig, black male, 22.

Bomb Threat at Anson High School, 15 Year Old Apprehended

On Tuesday, March 25, the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a bomb threat made to Anson High School at around 2:18 p.m. At the time of the incident it was reported that a male subject called 911 and made a threat to blow the school up. The Wadesboro Police Department, Anson County Sheriff's Office and Wadesboro Fire Department responded to the bomb threat.

Upon arrival at AHS, in coordination with the school, police and fire departments, the students were evacuated and the school property was searched thoroughly for any explosive devices. After a systematic search, it was determined that there were no such devices on the campus and students were allowed to return to class.

Following the search of the school an investigative team with the Wadesboro Police Department began an investigation to determine who had made the bomb threat. The team was able to determine that the phone used to make the threat was a Boost Mobile cell phone.

"After four days of investigating, our investigative team was able to pinpoint the exact location of the phone with the help of Anson County 911 and the Anson County Sheriff's Office, which led to the perpetrator who made the threat," said Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer. "The suspect, who is a 15 year old male juvenile student of Anson High School, was charged for making the threat. The charge is 'Making a False Bomb Report as to a Public Building.' This offense is a Class H felony in North Carolina. If convicted, a person guilty of this offense can serve up to 20 months in prison."

Spencer, who coordinated the investigation, also said, "To all the first responders and agencies who assisted us in evacuating the school, searching the school for explosive devices, as well as those who conducted and assisted in the investigation, I want them to know that my department and the Town of Wadesboro greatly appreciate all the help they provided. I want to specifically thank Anson County 911, the Anson County Sheriff's Office, and the staff of Anson High School for all the help they provided. Additionally, I want to commend the officers of the Wadesboro Police Department who responded to the initial call and those who assisted in the investigation for a job well done. You performed your duties professionally and diligently, and I am proud of the service you provide to the Town of Wadesboro. Lastly, I want to say that this is the type of call that we hope never comes in as officers, and as parents. We take these types of threats very seriously. Many resources were used on the day of this incident and during the investigation that put all of those involved in harm's way, while also costing the taxpayers dollars. Students missed class and were put in a situation where they too could have been harmed. Thankfully the team on the scene that day, with the help of the staff at the Anson High School, was able to keep panic from spreading. Panic can cause individuals to act irrationally and without thought, which creates an atmosphere that can spawn danger. I want it to be clear that we will not tolerate threats of this nature, and anyone who makes them will be pursued by our department to the fullest extent of the law."

Antonio Gainey Shoots Brother Over Missing Alcoholic Beverage

Early Sunday morning, March 30, at around 3:57 a.m. officers with the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a shooting on Madison Avenue in Wadesboro. The responding officers were told by 911 Dispatch that a subject had been shot.

Officers arrived to find the victim, 29 year old Lloyd Gainey, sitting on the floor of his residence with a single gunshot wound to his right chest. Family members were providing first-aid while officers secured the scene. Anson Rescue transported the victim to CMC-Union where he was airlifted to CMC-Main in Charlotte. At the time of the release the victim was recovering from his wounds.

Investigating officers were able to determine that the victim was shot by his brother, 32 year old Antonio Gainey. The argument appears to have started over some missing alcoholic beverages that belonged to Antonio Gainey.

Antonio Gainey turned himself in to the police on Monday, March 31. He was charged with Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury and Possession of a Firearm by a Felon. He is in Anson County Jail held under a \$25,000 secured bond.

Animal Shelter Set to Open April 28

The new Anson County Animal Shelter will officially begin accepting dogs and cats on Monday, April 28. County Manager Lawrence Gatewood said, "The next three weeks will be devoted to moving in, cleaning, making sure everything is in working order, getting organized, ordering supplies, hiring two part-time employees, developing policies and procedures, and perfecting work schedules."

The last step in the process will be securing the final approval and permit from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, which is scheduled for the third week in April.

There will be an Opening Ceremony and Open House held on Saturday, May 17. Everyone is invited to attend. The ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. followed by tours of the new facility until 1 p.m. Attendees are urged to offer a donation for the animals in the form of supplies that are needed, such as paper towels, trash bags, towels for bedding, Dawn dish-washing liquid and Clorox. The shelter is located at 7257 Highway 74 West in Polkton, in the former Brown Creek Animal Hospital facility.

Writers Conference is this Saturday

The sixth annual Carolinas Writers Conference will be held at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, April 5.

By request from past workshop leaders and attendees, the workshops have been extended to two hours. There will be four morning workshops and three afternoon workshops, followed by a question-and-answer session. Leaders are award-winning authors and experts in the craft of writing.

The morning sessions will include: • **Michelle Buckman:** Intensive Writing. If interested in having your work discussed during class, send three pages to michellpbuckman@gmail.com and put 2014 CWC Workshop in the subject line; • **Craig Faris:** The Wrong Way to Get Published • **Barbara Mellin:** Writing for Magazines • **Cathy Pickens:** Why Bother with "Getting it Right" in Fiction

Afternoon workshop leaders are: • **Craig Faris:** Conflict and Suspense • **Robin Weaver:** Getting into Deep POV (Point of View) • **Tamra Wilson:** The Successful Columnist/Blogger For complete descriptions of the workshops and information about the authors, go to www.carolinaswritersconference.org.

The conference is sponsored by the Anson County Writers Club, SPCC, the Anson County Tourism Development Authority, and Uwharrie Bank.

The registration fee is \$15 and includes a light lunch. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., but the committee requests that those who plan to attend register in advance in order to get an accurate headcount for lunch. Register online at www.carolinaswritersconference.org or mail payment to: Anson County Writers' Club, 2014 Conference, PO Box 363, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

If you plan to attend but would prefer to pay at the door on the day of the conference, or for more information, call Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211 or email info@ansoncountywritersclub.org.



RoboWolves 4-H Club Finishes Strong at NC Robotics Regionals

On Wednesday, March 12 through Saturday, March 15 youth and leaders of the RoboWolves 4-H Club traveled to Raleigh to compete in the FIRST Robotics Regional Competition. Club leaders, co-leaders, mentors and, of course, the youth have been working very hard since January to design, create and complete their robot for this year's robotics competition. These youth and club leaders are students and staff members of Anson New Tech High School in Wadesboro.

Teams across the state had six weeks after the kick off to complete their robots. Students could not see their robot again until March 13, which is when the competition started in Raleigh. Ms. Steffany Labree, team leader and 4-H volunteer leader, reported that the team had done well at the competition, ranking 33 out of 54 teams. The group and their robot were recognized for awesome defense on the playing field, and they received extra points during the autonomous round where the robot is programmed to move without manual operation. They also received a high QS score of 10. This is a value-added score determining how much benefit the team provided to their alliance group.

A big thank you goes to Steffany Labree, Chris Stinson, Amy Stewart, Rocky Carpenter, the youth and all parents and mentors who help RoboWolves be a success. To learn more about this awesome opportunity and group please contact Steffany LaBree or Chris Stinson at Anson New Tech High School.

Pictured are the RoboWolves 4-H Club youth at the NC FIRST Regional Competition in Raleigh.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic to be Held on Saturday, April 12

The Spring Rabies Vaccination Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 12 at Brown Creek Animal Hospital, on Highway 74 in Polkton, from 2 to 5 p.m. All dogs, cats and ferrets four months of age must have a current rabies vaccination that is administered by a licensed veterinarian. This is the perfect opportunity for you to vaccinate your pet.

Rabies is a vaccine preventable disease in humans, dogs, cats and ferrets as well as some domestic livestock. All mammals are susceptible to rabies and it is nearly always fatal. Rabies can be prevented in humans with timely and appropriate treatment. The disease most often occurs in wild animals especially skunks, raccoons, bats and foxes. Raccoon rabies is present in the raccoon population in virtually every North Carolina county. On February 25, 2014, a skunk came in contact with dogs north of Ansonville; the skunk tested positive for rabies and as the dogs were vaccinated by the owner rather than by a licensed veterinarian, they were surrendered to animal control.

Domestic animals (including cats, dogs, ferrets and livestock such as horses, cattle and sheep) are susceptible to rabies but there are few cases because of the use of USDA-licensed rabies vaccines. North Carolina general statute 130A-185 requires owners of dogs, cats and ferrets to have their pets currently vaccinated against rabies, beginning at four months of age. This vaccine must be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death. You can only get rabies by coming in contact with the saliva or brain/nervous system tissue of an infected animal — for example, if you are bitten by a rabid animal, handle a pet that has been attacked by a rabid animal such as a fox, or are cleaning a dead animal you have killed while hunting.

The number of human deaths attributed to rabies in the United States now averages just one or two each year. Most of those cases have been traced to bats. Bat bites can be difficult to detect and may not cause a person to wake from a sound sleep. To protect yourself from bat bites, do not sleep in a cabin, tent, shelter or lodging facility if bats have access to the living space. If you awaken to find a bat in your room, tent, or cabin, it should be safely captured (do not release the bat!) and tested for rabies as quickly as possible, and you should seek medical advice immediately. This is also true if a bat is found in a room with an infant, young child, or a person with cognitive impairment, even if they are awake, as they may have been bitten but unable to say so. Once you have secured the bat inside a room, call your local animal control for help. Never handle a bat or any dead animal with your bare hands.

People who are bitten by a mammal or otherwise possibly exposed to rabies should first wash any wounds thoroughly with soap and water for 15 minutes and then seek immediate medical attention to prevent the development of fatal disease. A doctor will determine what treatment is needed, such as post-exposure vaccination. Bites should be reported to the local health department animal control officer immediately to ensure that the biting animal is captured and tested (wild or ill animal) or confined (healthy domestic animal).

SPCC to Host Three Free, Fun Events this Friday and Saturday

South Piedmont Community College is offering three free events for the community on Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, at its campus in Polkton. On the evening of April 4 everyone is invited for a free family movie night outdoors at the college's Helen Goodman Amphitheater. Disney's Frozen will be shown beginning at 7:30 p.m. Those attending are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets. South Piedmont will provide free popcorn.

Then on Saturday, April 5, the college is offering Free College Day from 9 a.m. until noon at its campus in Polkton. (Free College Day will also be held at its campus in Monroe on April 26.) This relaxed event, for anyone ages 13 and up, gives participants the opportunity to sample three college classes - academic or personal interest - as well as tour the campus and get information and advice on applying for financial aid and scholarships. Advanced registration is required for Free College Day at www.spccevents.com/freecollege. A full listing of the classes being offered can also be found at the same website.

Following Free College day at 12:30 p.m. on April 5, South Piedmont will celebrate the grand opening of its new 9-hole disc golf course, also on the campus in Polkton. Everyone is invited to come out for the throwing of the ceremonial "first disc."

For more information about any of these fun, free events contact Cari Thompson at (704) 290-5812 or cthompson@spcc.edu. More information for the events is also available at www.spccevents.com.

Enjoy a Chili Lunch at Bowling for the Arts Tues.

On Tuesday, April 8 the Anson County Arts Council is sponsoring its annual Bowling for the Arts chili lunch at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, located at 208 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For \$10 you'll enjoy homemade chili (spicy or mild), slaw, cornbread, dessert and tea. For \$25 you'll get lunch PLUS your choice of a wooden or pottery bowl made by a local artisan.

Tickets are available at the Arts Council and Lacy's in Wadesboro or from any ACAC board member. Information at 704-694-4950.

Veterans To Meet April 10

Veterans will be having their quarterly meeting on Thursday, April 10, at the Lockhart-Taylor Center at 6 p.m. The Veterans Council is trying to register all veterans, as there is currently no record of just how many veterans are in the county. Please join them, along with your spouse, for a delicious meal, get on the registry, and voice any concerns you may have.

Volunteers from Richmond County AM Vets Post No. 316 will be demonstrating the proper way to retire the American flag. Flag etiquette mandates that the flag be displayed correctly and always shown respect even through the final act of retirement. Anyone having flags that they would like to have respectfully retired can drop them off at Whit's in Lilesville, Wadesboro or Polkton by April 9th.

Conway Twitty, Roy Orbison and Elvis Presley to Appear at Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library's 50+ Club will meet on Monday, April 14 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Tribute Artist Tony King will present the program. He does Conway Twitty, Roy Orbison and Elvis Presley music to name a few. He is known and loved in this area and is a great entertainer. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend and enjoy the music. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

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