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

Lilesville Meth Lab Busted

On Wednesday, April 11 Lilesville Police Chief Bobby Gallimore's office received a tip. That tip resulted in a meth lab bust, as yet another one bites the dust. "We want to send a message to those people who continue making and distributing methamphetamines. If you do, we will find you and you will be arrested," said Chief Gallimore.

On April 11 the Chief proceeded to a residence located at 304 Neal Street in Lilesville, where he received the tip that James "Jamie" Howard Lear could be found. Lear was already facing charges for failure to appear on habitual felon charges in Anson County. Upon arrival Gallimore said, "There was an evident chemical odor. We received consent to search the residence where Lear was found, along with an active meth lab and the ingredients to make methamphetamines. Lear was arrested with no harm or physical force."

Currently Lear is in the Anson County Jail under a \$159,000 secured bond. The charges against him include: Possession of Methamphetamines, Possession of Precursor Chemicals, Maintaining a Drug Dwelling, and Manufacture of Methamphetamines. A trial date has been set for April 24.

Chief Gallimore would like to thank the Anson County Sheriff's Office, the SBI, the Lilesville Fire Department and Emergency Services for their help. *By Melanie Lyon*

Peachland-Polkton Elementary Terrific Kids



These Peachland-Polkton Elementary School students were recognized as Terrific Kids during the March PTO meeting. From left, front row: Emily Hasty, Adrianna Anastas, Maddie Burr, Cameron Hildreth, Erin Tucker, Jackson Harrington, Maddox Valler, Bethany Smith, Gavin Tarlton, Cierra Lear, Kaylie High, John Thao, Alana Wegner, Conner Thurman and Caleb Laney. Second row: Marley Joyner, Josie James, Broderick Clark, Kiyah Capel, Colin McCormick, Zachary High, Grant Thuleen, Brooke Johns, Chase Raffaldt, Haley Drake, Desi Dutton, Malaysia McPhatter, Kari Johnson and D'Metri Sturdivant. Back row: Destiny Barrett, Kaitlin Carpenter, Chandler Beachum, Ray Stegall, Marcus McLendon, Olivia Tucker, Sydney Austin, Makayla Kapitan, Destiny Williams, Blake Hill, Makaila Gray, Aaron Gray, Karsyn Mobley and Katie Hartis. Not pictured: Jackie Vang, Rayne Reid, Bethany Sutton, Genesis Vang, Caleb Evans, Scott Morgan, Maggie Pegram, E Raylin Blakeney, Arianna Yang and Ryan Hill.

Several Wildfires in Anson County Monday



Several wildfires broke out across Anson County on Monday, April 16th. Firefighters of the NC Forest Service, with assistance of several fire departments including Lilesville, Wadesboro, and Morven, fought the fires until about eleven o'clock that night. The causes of these fires ranged from residents burning debris to several possible woods fire arson sets. Most of the fires are still under investigation by rangers of the NC Forest Service, and law enforcement action is pending. All together these fires burned 7 to 10 acres of forestland.

Anson County Forest Ranger Robby Perry said, "All residents need to take extra care when doing any outdoor burning during the spring. Low relative humidity and gusty winds associated with the dry conditions that we are experiencing in most of central North Carolina make fires very tough to control. Anyone burning needs to keep the proper tools nearby to assist in keeping a fire contained. All fires must be carefully watched at all times, never leaving them unattended."

Anyone wishing to do any controlled burning must obtain a burning permit at no cost at www.ncforestservice.gov or contact the County Ranger's office in Lilesville at (704) 848-4705.

This picture is one of the woods fires on Monday. This one was on Powerplant Road in Lilesville. The NC Forest Service tractor and plow are constructing a fireline.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic to be Held April 28

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.

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.

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).

An exposure to rabies is an urgent situation: once symptoms appear, it is usually too late to start treatment, and the disease is nearly always fatal.

The spring Rabies Vaccination Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 28 in the Tractor Supply parking lot, from 2 to 5 p.m. All dogs, cats and ferrets four months of age must have a current rabies vaccination.

All Wadesboro Tigers Invited to See John Tyson

John Tyson, a 1965 graduate of Wadesboro High School, is the director of the group Renaissance. They will perform in The Ansonia Theatre this Thursday, April 19. Former Wadesboro High School Band Director Bob Ellwanger will also be on hand to enjoy the performance. All WHS Alumni are urged to come and renew acquaintance.

John has toured the world playing and teaching his unique music. He has appeared as soloist in Italy, France, Germany, Spain, England, Scotland, Chile, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, Australia and throughout the United States. He has appeared with major ensembles in Europe and the US. Also he has taught music in a number of major universities.

Doors open at 6:30. Tickets (\$10) are available at the Arts Council 704 694-4950. A reception will follow the concert.

Fifth Battle of the Bands is Saturday

Music will fill the air on South Piedmont Community College's L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton on Saturday, April 21, when the school's Student Government Association puts on the fifth annual Battle of the Bands. Music will start at 5 p.m. and continue until 10 p.m.

Bands and individuals scheduled to play are Sons of Saron, Eyes Down, 21st Century Goliath, The Blackhounds, Emerge, Michael Tracy, Fire Fire, Clearwater Band, Brandon Kirkley and the Firecrackers, Steel Standing, A Deeper Shade of Blue, ALL-ERA, Elenora Fagan and Damsel Down.

Prize money has been dramatically increased for this year's event, making it much more lucrative for the winners. The first-place band will receive \$1,500 – three times last year's prize – and will have the option of being the opening act at the Carolinas Emerging Music Festival on SPCC's Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe in the fall.

The second-place band will receive \$750 and the third place band will receive \$500. The top individual performer will receive \$500, five times last year's prize.

As usual, the winner from the previous year – Fire For Effect, in this case – is not eligible to compete.

Anson County's WALL Comments on GrowGreen Power

In our edition of April 4 we reported on GrowGreen Power and their continued interest in locating a facility in Anson County. Anson County's W.A.L.L. (Water, Air, Land and Lives) contacted us and have expressed a concern about GrowGreen Power's intentions here. Their response to the article is presented below:

Recently it was reported in your paper that GrowGreen Power is still planning to come to Anson County. GrowGreen touts to be a renewable energy and greenhouse growing system. In actuality they are nothing but a biomass incinerator.

In the 1980's Anson County citizens successfully kept a hazardous incinerator from locating here. Again incineration has raised its ugly head.

According to Mr. Sean Lehman, Director of Communications for GrowGreen, the company is, "working their way through administrative and bureaucratic concerns." We should all be concerned about such a facility coming to Anson County.

Environmental experts, the American Lung Association, the Massachusetts Medical Society, the Florida Medical Association, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, and other health-concerned associations and groups have strongly objected to biomass plants and their impact on community health. Plants of this nature emit unacceptable levels of carbon dioxide, which contributes to climate change and global warming.

Particulate air pollution is increased through the burning of biomass, exacerbating upper respiratory illness that can be catastrophic for those with chronic lung disease. Many of our elderly and young asthmatics are particularly sensitive to air pollutants generated by such a facility. Further increased is the release of nitrous oxides, creating ozone, a highly reactive oxidant gas. Ozone in pulmonary airways may result in chest pain, shortness of breath, cough, and wheezing; increased susceptibility to infection, increased asthma attacks, increased asthma medication use, and more visits to emergency rooms for respiratory disease.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Particulate Matter can cause decreased lung function, aggravated asthma, chronic bronchitis, irregular heartbeat, nonfatal heart attacks, and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

These plants tend to be costly to communities - the electricity generated is expensive, and they provide a disincentive to minimizing the production of materials that are too toxic or complex to be cost-effectively or safely recycled. The location of this plant in Anson County, understanding the potential health and environmental risk, is simply irresponsible.

Please voice concerns to the Anson County Commissioners.

For more information you can contact Denise Lee, Member of Anson County's Water, Air, Land and Lives (W.A.L.L.), PO Box 563, Ansonville, NC 28170.

SPCC Medical Assisting Students to Conduct Health and Wellness Fair

South Piedmont Community College's Medical Assisting students will have a Health & Wellness Fair on Monday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in SPCC's Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company Conference Center in Building A on the Old Charlotte Highway Campus.

Participants will be able to get information on diabetes (including glucose screening), skin care, infection control/hand hygiene, colon cancer screening, and diet and nutrition.

For information, contact Lori Starnes at 704-290-5825 or lstarnes@spcc.edu.

Men for Change 2012

In a release from the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition: Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center, along with sponsor Forbes Jewelers, will be asking the men of Anson County to take a pledge this Father's Day to create for women and children a community free from violence.

Starting April 16th and continuing thru May 31, 2012, a committee of men will be asking other men to take this pledge. An insert will be in The Express Newspaper the week before Father's Day in June 2012 listing the name of each contributor.

Individual pledges will be \$5. To pledge in honor of someone or in memory of someone will cost \$10. Any business that would like to pledge will be asked to pay at least \$25. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly to assist victims of domestic violence or sexual assault so they may live in a home free from violence.

We need men from every area of Anson County to be on the selling committee so that every man in our county has the chance to participate. This was our largest fundraiser in 2010 and 2011, raising over \$4,174, with only 61 men and companies participating. Our goal is to at least double that in 2012. The man who raises the most money will receive a watch, compliments of Forbes Jewelers.

ACDVC is a nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Tax letters will be mailed after June 17th.

If you would like to be on the selling committee please contact Patricia Scott at 704-694-4499 for details. If you want to make a donation to Men for a Change, our mailing address is PO Box 694, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

Special Olympics Scheduled for Next Wednesday

Volunteers sought to help with this inspiring event

The 2012 Special Olympics Anson County Spring Games will be held on Wednesday, April 25 at Anson High School Stadium. Opening Ceremonies begin at 9 a.m. The rain date is Friday, April 27.

Volunteers are needed. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sylvia Tillman at 704-694-4417.

"What's That Smell?"

Farming is dirty. I don't mean dirty as in unclean, I just mean there are parts about farming that people would rather not put up with: like the dirt on the roads from tractors coming out of muddy fields, the smell of fertilizer at 7 a.m., the feathers on the side of the road from poultry trucks. It's all in the name of farming, and for one I am thankful that these slight inconveniences are there.

These nuances that some call problems are there because farmers are feeding America. Some people may roll their eyes after that statement is made; saying that nobody in Anson County is feeding America. But most certainly they are. Corn grown in Anson County is used as feed for the poultry and swine industries. You like to eat chicken and pork, right? Poultry farmers in Anson County grow for nationally known companies like Perdue and Tyson. Soybeans in Anson County often times go the same way, into animal feeds around the country. Wheat is made into flour and as we know, flour is in everything. Wheat is the grain that foodies are talking about in all of the "whole grain" labels we have seen popping up everywhere.

These commodities take time to grow. These farmers face the threat every year of drought, heat stress, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods, just to try to keep the food supply moving. They require fertilizers and pesticides that may have a discomfiting smell. But it's the smell of agriculture, and I suggest you get used to it. Agriculture is big business in Anson County, bringing over \$554 million dollars in value-added income to the county. There are over 2,000 people in Anson County employed in some sort of agriculture or ag-business related position, which is 22.1% of the employment aged population.

I, for one, would like to keep Anson rural. I like looking out at green fields and open spaces, even if they smell from time to time. *By Jessica Anderson, Agriculture Agent-Cooperative Extension*

Look inside for special inserts from IGA Family Dollar