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Sheriff Looking for Dameon Yimaine Thomas in Shooting Incident

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies are investigating a shooting that occurred early Sunday morning. At 3:20 a.m. on July 1st, Deputies were dispatched to Parson Road in Lilesville to a Donny Huntley residence. Bradley Bennett was found there shot several times allegedly by a suspect identified by witnesses as Dameon Yimaine Thomas, who had left the scene following the shooting.



Thomas

Bennett is in Carolina Medical Center in critical condition with leg and stomach wounds. Sheriff Tommy Allen said that Bennett was shot several times. Witnesses told investigators that Thomas fired a handgun four or five times at Bennett following some kind of altercation between the two.

A warrant is on file with the Sheriff's Office for Thomas for Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury. Deputies have been unable to locate Thomas as of the date and time of this release. Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of Dameon Thomas should call the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188. All information will be confidential. "This was the second shooting of an individual at this residence in the past two months," said Sheriff Allen. "On May 2nd a Grant Hines was shot in the leg by an unknown subject at this Huntley house. The victim and witnesses were most uncooperative and we never really learned what really happen on this incident."

Local Veterans Pose with 48 Star American Flag



In a release from Ted Ward: On Thursday, May 10 a piece of American history showed up at the Anson County Veteran Services Office along with a few of our local heroes who served during that period. An original 48 star American flag that was flown on the USS Harnett County Warship was brought into the office by Mr. Charles Wilson, who served on the USS Harnett County during the Vietnam War. This flag's history began on July 4, 1912, when the US flag grew to 48 stars with the addition of New Mexico (January 6, 1912) and Arizona (February 14, 1912). An Executive Order of President Taft, dated June 24, 1912, established the proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward. This flag was official for 47 years - longer than any other flag - through two World Wars and the emergence of the United States of America as the leading nation of the world. Eight Presidents served under this flag:

William H. Taft (1909-13), Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921), Warren Harding (1921-1923), Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929), Herbert Hoover (1929-1933) Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945), Harry S. Truman (1945-1953) and Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961). Our local heroes who served during these periods of the 48 star flag are pictured here. In the photo, from left, standing are: Theodore Ward, Anson County Veteran Services Officer (did not serve under the 48 star flag), Curtis Howell (Korean War), Charles Wilson (Vietnam War), William C. Talton (Korean War), John L. Harris (WWII), Robert F. Tyson (Korean War), John W. Gatewood (WWII). Seated: Milan Cason (WWII), James Tyler Bennett (WWII), Geraldine Rorie (Korean War), Nell Conklin (Korean War), Charles J. Boyle (WWII) and Walter W. Jake Hanna (WWII). Present, but not shown in the photo were Lorenza Jones (Korean War) and Lorenzo Steele.

Summer Jam is July 4th Celebration

Everyone is invited to come out for an evening of fun this Friday in Wadesboro. The second Summer Jam of the summer will be held at the Ray Shelton Ball Field, and it will be a July 4th celebration! The band Liquid Pleasure with Kenny Mann will take to the stage at 7 p.m. and perform until 10 p.m. Immediately after the concert a professional fireworks show in guaranteed to thrill everyone in attendance. The band plays a variety of music for everyone to enjoy and dance to. Also during the show there will be event concessions such as hot dogs, chips, popcorn, baked goods and drinks offered by local girls who are raising money to reach a goal to get to the US Barrel Team. Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. t-shirts will be for sale for only \$15 so plan to get one before they are gone. There will activities for children throughout the event too. This night of fun is free, so come on out and boogie! If the weather doesn't cooperate the concert will be moved to the Ansonia Theatre, so plan to come on out even if the weather is bad. For more information about the band, here is their website: eastcoastentertainment.com/artist/Liquid_Pleasure.html.

Happy Birthday, America!

July 4 is Independence Day, a celebration of our political freedom and a commemoration of the signing and publication of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. In a description written to Abigail Adams from her husband John Adams, he chronicled that first Independence Day with, "Pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations." Adams was one of the signers of the Declaration. Even today most of those same descriptive words still remain true red white and blue. It is not difficult to find a parade or two or three to witness or participate in. There are certainly carnivals, ceremonies and summer festivals with plenty of pomp, and the games of today may likely include corn hole tournaments, beach volleyball, frisbee, horseshoes, baseball and softball. You will probably hear firecrackers from neighborhood backyards and see fireworks displays against the nighttime sky. In our communities picnics are commonly serving up hotdogs and watermelon, with a slice of that apple pie from Americana. But above all, Independence Day is a time for American families to come together with one another and their fellow man to celebrate our history, heritage and freedoms. Those liberties were fought for and won in order that we could live with the pomp, parades, games and illuminations we take part in year after year, while remembering our forefathers and the reason we have to celebrate America the beautiful, our freedom. God bless and happy birthday, America!
By Melanie Lyon



There Ought To Be A Law

Have you spoken to your family elders lately? If the answer is no, this story is for you. If your answer is, "Yes, I spoke to dad on Father's Day, to mom on Mother's Day or to my grandparents on Grandparents Day," this story is for you as well. If you are not in constant contact with your family elders then you have no idea what they are facing...because things change quickly in the lives of the elderly. There are no good reasons to keep you separated from your parents and grandparents. If you are a good soul, a Godly person, a Christian or any adjective reflecting what's right and just to you, then you should be feeling a bit anxious and a lot guilty right now for overlooking their loneliness. God commands you to honor thy father and thy mother, and you've certainly been taught to respect your elders. If you hold a stone then cast it. If there is a need for forgiveness...forgive. The story this article conveys has been a much talked about topic for years. People have openly communicated their personal concerns and relayed desperation as it pertained to their personal lives and the breakdown of families. Including those families you may think are far removed from the ugly, deadly, silent killing of our elderly mothers, fathers and grandparents, for no one is immune to this dysfunctional behavior. The original version of this story was written about a year and a half ago, but I am repeatedly asked to revisit the topic from those who are most affected by this sad situation, the sufferers who have detailed their circumstances to me through tears, hurt, anger, pain, disappointment and loneliness. And so for them, the lonely souls I've spoken with and met since the first article, I resubmit this piece with each of you in my heart. In a move to curb elderly suicides China is proposing an amendment to an elderly rights law that would require children to visit their aging parents. If not they could be sued. If the mandate works in China, perhaps the United States could consider a similar piece of legislation. In 2002, "America had the highest rate of elderly suicide amongst any English speaking country, with 507 deaths per million citizens," of those, many were attributed to loneliness and heartbreak. And the buck doesn't stop there. It also includes the breakdown of relationships between grandchildren and their grandparents. A study reveals, "Young people's values seem to have changed. Whereas reverence for the elderly was once an important virtue, increasingly, youth are leaving their elders behind. The result is rampant loneliness and disillusionment, which causes added mental and physical health problems in a population that's already struggling with chronic illness and dementia." One study called this form of loneliness, "a silent killer of the elderly." Bette Dewing of New York writes, "Many will scoff at a law to make sons and daughters visit their elderly mothers and fathers - but not this now-elderly mother of adults who has long rallied against the way the best of parents become "bit players," if that, in the lives of their adult offspring. And even when parents are old, ailing and often living alone, the trouble is that most do not talk about the heartbreak they feel over the loss of this primary relationship. And so their stories aren't told, their voices unheard. Sure, pass a law to get offspring to visit if need be; do whatever it takes to overcome this most heartbreaking and also unjust "family apartheid." The words of Bette Dewing really made me stop and think, is this most unfortunate unknitting of family ties really as epidemic as the legislation would lead you to believe? In search of the answer I realized just how severe this breakdown really is, right here in our own communities. Today's lifestyles are monumentally different than when I was a kid. Everyone has a long list of priorities that result in a struggle for even the best time managers. With school, athletics, cultural arts, tutoring, community service projects, church activities, all multiplied by the number of children per family, its no wonder there is little time to spare for aging mothers, fathers and grandparents. But on that calendar of events it is of utmost importance to pencil in a bit of quality family time. They say, "A little goes a long way," and with that belief, surely we can all muster the time to enjoy a Sunday lunch, a mid-week visit, a Saturday cookout, a daily telephone call or a "not for any particular reason" visit when you happen to "pop" into town. "A little does a body good," so why not stay in touch with those who can probably, if you are willing, teach you a thing or two about the interesting facts of your family tree, the values of their generation, while loving you for the mere company you provide them. After all, one day you too could become one of the people we now read about. Don't believe me? If the data is true then chances are, unfortunately, great. So you say to yourself, "My child would never, ever, in a million years turn their back on me. Not after all I've done for them." Again, unfortunately, words already spoken by the millions of elderly citizens now sitting alone, who wonder where their children and grandchildren have disappeared to. Really, there ought to be a law! At least the country of China, Bette Dewing and me all believe so.
By Melanie Lyon



Walk to Stomp Out Cancer Saturday

Everyone is invited to come out and join cancer survivors and patients as they walk together to stomp out cancer. You can walk in memory of someone or in support of someone who is currently battling cancer. This event will take place this Saturday, July 7 at Ansonville Elementary School at 9 a.m. Your support is greatly needed. There will also be t-shirts for sale at the event. For more information contact Patricia Harrison at 704-294-9360.

Diabetic Support Group Meets

The Diabetic Support Group will meet at the Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro on Thursday, July 26, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The speaker will be Hazel Seibles, Program Director at Sandhills Wound Center in Hamlet. For more information call Ruth Hildreth at 704-694-3979.

Veterans' State and Federal Benefits Seminar

The Anson County Veterans Service Office is sponsoring a meeting for all Anson County veterans and their spouses on August 1st in the Little Theatre at the Hampton B. Allen Library, from 6 until 8 p.m. The library is located at 120 Greene Street in Wadesboro. Topics shared will be state and federal benefits. Also special guests will share about the benefits of a county veterans' council. Ted Ward, the Veterans Service Officer for Anson County, encourages all veterans and their spouses in Anson County to attend. This meeting will be very informative and enlightening to all present. Any questions contact Ted Ward at (704) 694-4418 or ward@co.anson.nc.us.

UWI Farmer's Market on the Square Every Thursday

Come to Square in Wadesboro every Thursday from 4-6pm for the Uptown Wadesboro Farmer's Market for your chance to purchase fresh, locally produced foods. Brook Crider of UWI said, "Last Thursday, June 28th, the UWI Farmer's Market on the Square had seven tables with eight individuals with items for sale! This number is more than double what we began with on June 21st. This week we expanded our selection of corn, squash, potatoes, beans, zucchini and blackberries with eggs, pre-order fresh chickens, watermelons, peaches, tomatoes, boiled peanuts and handmade items! We welcome anyone with local produce, homemade, handmade and other local items to come out and set up at one of our tables. It is free to set up and sell, we just have one registration for you to fill out once you arrive! Thanks to everyone who has come out to buy and to sell! See you tomorrow, July 5th!" Not only is local food delicious and healthy, you are helping our local economy too.

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