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

Michael Dale Liles Charged in Fatal Shooting of Lawrence Thompson, Jr.

On Sunday, July 10 at approximately 5 p.m. a shooting occurred on Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. Though the details of what happened are still being examined, it appears that a disturbance between two men began with a physical altercation which was observed by several witnesses. At some point the fight turned deadly when one or both subjects armed themselves with guns. Numerous shots were fired leaving one man shot on the ground.

The victim is identified as Lawrence Thompson, Jr., a black male, 31 years of age, with a last known address on Salisbury Street. Thompson was transported to Anson Community Hospital and quickly airlifted to CMC in Charlotte. The Wadesboro Police Department was notified that Thompson passed away at approximately 1:20 a.m. Monday morning.

Michael Dale Liles, a black male, 20 years of age, is in custody and was initially charged with Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury. With the death of Thompson those charges are expected to be upgraded to First Degree Murder.

This is still an active investigation, and the Wadesboro Police Department, along with assistance from agents with the SBI, expect to continue working at putting all the details of just what happened together.

Elderly Woman Victim of Home Invasion

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies are investigating a home invasion that occurred around mid-afternoon on Saturday, July 9th at a residence off US Highway 74 east of Lilesville. Sheriff Tommy Allen did not identify the victim, but said that she was an elderly lady who was pushed down but not seriously injured.

The victim told deputies that she answered her door to find two either Hispanic or dark skinned white males. The men asked her about her roof, then forced their way into her home. One of the suspects stayed with the victim while the other went straight to one location in the house and took a box containing some money, a social security card and personal papers. They left, heading toward Wadesboro. They were driving a small white pick-up truck.

Sheriff Allen said that his office was working with the Hamlet Police Department where a similar crime occurred with the same described suspects and vehicle. Anyone with any information regarding this crime should call the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188. Crime Stoppers will offer a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any suspects in this case.

Be Responsible, On the Road or On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive

A multi-agency initiative in North Carolina, designed to combine law enforcement resources for highway and waterway safety during the summer months, is being termed a qualified success following the July 4th holiday. "The message of 'On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive' is being heard and heeded," said Maj. Jack Staley, supervisor for field operations with the division of Law Enforcement of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "There is still much to be done to reduce alcohol-related injuries and fatalities, obviously, but this campaign is gaining recognition and that is a good influence."

The campaign is led by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, the State Highway Patrol and Alcohol Law Enforcement, joined by local police and sheriff's departments and supported by Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"Holidays are a peak time for travel and boating activity across the state," Maj. Staley said. "We want folks to have fun and enjoy themselves. That means they have to be responsible, especially when alcohol is involved."

Drivers and boat operators can be charged if their blood alcohol concentration meets or exceeds .08 or they are impaired by alcohol and/or drugs. The legal drinking age is 21 and North Carolina has a zero tolerance for underage use of alcoholic beverages.

For more information on safe recreational boating in North Carolina, call 919-707-0031 or go to www.ncwildlife.org/Boating_Waterways/index.htm.

July Fourth weekend campaign totals:
Wildlife Resources Commission Operate While Impaired: 66; Careless and Negligent Operation: 17; Other Boat Violations: 632; Other Boat Warnings: 1,535; Total: 2,250
State Highway Patrol Driving While Impaired: 326; Provisional License Violation: 33; Other Implied Consent Violation: 99; Drug Violations: 31; Drug Paraphernalia: 22; Seatbelt Violations: 1,378; Child Restraint Violations: 227; Equipment Violations: 829; Driver License Violation: 1,435; Registration Violation: 1,450; Other Violations: 4,284; Total: 10,118
Alcohol Law Enforcement Arrest: 109; Underage Possession/Consumption: 77; Unauthorized Possession Spirituous Liquor: 13; Give Alcoholic Beverage to a Underage Person: 2; No Operators License: 1; Driving While Impaired: 1; Expired Registration: 1; Possess Non-Tax Paid Liquor: 1; Misdemeanor Drug Violation: 10; Felony Drug Violation: 3; Total: 218

Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents and siblings of deceased children of any age, meet on Thursday, July 14 at 7 p.m. in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

For information call 704-694-8774 or 704-475-5005.

SPCC Welcomes New President

New South Piedmont Community College President Dr. Stan Sidor talks with SPCC employees, from left, Lauren Haney, Cathy Horne and Beth Ricketts during a meet-and-greet with employees Monday, July 11, on the L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton.

Sidor will have a similar event on the Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe later this month.



Anson County Junior Marshals



Junior Marshals, recognized for achieving the top GPA's in their class, are also invited to assist with commencement exercises. These students are from three Anson County High Schools. Chief Marshals (number one from each school) are Caitlyn Jackson, Anson High, Jessica Beachum, Anson New Tech, and Jake Edwards from Anson County Early College.
Photos by Melanie Lyon

Brown Bag Book Club Features Sharry Spencer

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, July 18 at noon in the Pritchett Room of the Hampton B. Allen Library for a potluck lunch and author talk. The speaker is Sharry D. Spencer, who has just published her first novel, *The Storm Is Over*.

Please come and bring a friend. For more information please call the library at 704-694-5177.

The Truth (As I Know It) About Men, Women and Pups

After last week's story I heard from countless people, mostly women in the community, willing to share their own versions of the same man, woman and dog truths. Very similar to my own, they included "worrywart women" and "mellowed out" men.

And so my saga continues with Vale, our newest and youngest puppy, who joined our home around February. Notice I said puppy, a dog not fully-grown or mature. Puppies have not yet learned the laws of life. And so this week may help clarify just how much a man and woman can or cannot put up with from their pups, and the differences in dealing with the challenges a puppy presents. Believing that a man often thinks with his head and a woman, her heart, is just a personal observation but one that I've noticed more over the past five months than ever before.

My personal knowledge of puppy training is null. On the other hand, Allen's is quite extensive. "I've raised many a pup and I know what to do," he says. Allen's love for our pets is great, have no doubt. His patience however is not as great as his love.

Vale is a rescue so we are unsure of her breed. What we do know is that she is full of energy, loves to chew and hates to be left alone. She is very territorial and believes herself to be the Alpha dog, even though she is much younger and smaller than the other three.

In the beginning I lost a shoe, the cord to my computer and a camera card, all to Vale's vicious little teeth! Allen lost much more. With several shoes, socks, towels, a computer cord of his own and a table leg or two, he felt the assaults of a puppy's uncontrollable urge to chew and bite numerous times. The difference in this scenario is that I very soon learned to place my belongings up high enough that Vale wouldn't become a reoccurring problem for me. Allen didn't learn that lesson. With each incident, and I didn't nearly name them all, Allen applied his knowledge, using what you hear is best for teaching a puppy right from wrong. His stern voice even left me with a shiver - with that said; admittedly I am a bit of a wimp.

I soon realized that I might need to run interference for the pup until she figured out what she could and could not do. Making sure she had not visibly napped on the furniture or chewed anything she shouldn't was now a priority upon each home entry. I would retrieve the tissue she had strewn on the floors and throw away anything that had bitten the dust, all before Allen had gotten both feet out of the car. When I discovered the table leg had been gnawed I nearly had a heart attack! I called our carpenter and friend Kent Thompson, asking for assistance in camouflaging the bite marks. He told me what to do and for a couple of months the scene of the crime went unnoticed.

Honestly believing that Allen is right in his methods I attempt to reiterate to Vale what is and is not acceptable behavior. But my instruction comes with a lower, softer tone. "She understands that I am showing her right from wrong and she doesn't hold it against me," Allen says. But Vale usually comes to me when the going gets rough and hides behind my legs or in my lap. Have I mentioned she's a very smart puppy?

The final straw happened a few nights ago. If I asked most women "What's your husband's favorite gadget," the majority would probably say, "The remote control." We came home, and I, as always, entered first to run interference. But the pieces I found were unidentifiable. Grabbing as many pieces as I could, Allen came in and went through Vale's bad behavior routine. Not having a clue as to where these pieces came from we just picked them up and threw them away, but I had a familiar, uneasy feeling. Later that evening we settled in for a little TV as he reached for the remote. It wasn't there. Realizing at that precise moment where those pieces came from I thought, oh no, and traveled the perimeter of each room in search of the missing remote. I found it underneath the coffee table and held my breath, while whispering to Vale that she couldn't play with it. "No, no, no," I said, wondering if the remote was still in workable condition? I said a prayer as I handed it to my somewhat annoyed husband. It was damaged but still operable, thankfully, but it wasn't enough to save Vale from being taught that now familiar lesson, yet again.

Since that night Vale has been an Angel, with no mishaps or misbehaviors to our knowledge. Maybe Allen was right all along, a firm hand and stern voice is the way to a puppy's head. Or could it be my more tolerant and gentle approach that finally helped her to see the light? That's something we could argue about but won't, because once again, the truth is that men and women usually react quite differently when it comes to their pups. The Bible says, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." So Allen, I suppose, is correct in reaction to our puppy mayhem, because a puppy does, after all, exhibit very child-like behaviors.

But when those big brown eyes stare me in the face, and that little head cocks to the side, as if to say, "Are you mad at me?" it's hard not to be taken in, and like most women my heart melts. My husband, like most men, is totally unaffected, and that's just the way it is, around here anyway.

By Melanie Lyon



Vale in a calm moment.

Ansonville Historical Society Museum

The Ansonville Historical Society Museum will be open on Sunday, July 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. Jack Brown will give the history of the William Lee Little house. The public is invited to attend.

The museum is located on Main Street and Highway 52 in Ansonville on the former campus of Anson Technical College. The telephone number is 704-826-8228.

Community Blood Drive July 20

There will be a community blood drive on Wednesday, July 20, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro. The Wadesboro Civitan Club is the blood drive sponsor. All donors will automatically be entered in a drawing for a \$3,000 gift card for gas or groceries.

Every minute of every day someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer donor, a person like you who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation. When you make a blood donation you join a very select group. Currently only 3 out of every 100 people in America donate blood.

From its beginning the American Red Cross has formed a community of service, of generous, strong and decent people bound by beliefs beyond themselves. The American Red Cross blood donor embodies this principle. Please join them in their mission to maintain a safe and stable blood supply by making your appointment to donate blood today.

Democratic Party to Meet

The Anson County Democratic Party monthly meeting will be held at Hampton B. Allen Library on Thursday, July 21 at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited.

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