

From Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer: Last week we experienced a terrible tragedy in Wadesboro when one of our citizens was deliberately and heinously attacked by four young men who were seeking to rob him, subsequently losing his life as a result of this vicious assault. From the moment we received the call till the moment we made the arrests of those responsible, the men and women of this police department, alongside those at the sheriff's office and the SBI, worked tirelessly as a team in the pursuit of justice. However, justice can be elusive and can hide her face in the dark for long periods of time before she comes to light. Sometimes, that was not the case in this investigation.

The speediness of this was not a result of anything other than hard-work, professional investigation, and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the community. Unfortunately, there are those in our community who would like to say that there were other motivations behind this, mainly race. This tragedy occurred in the wake of the terrible attack in Charleston, S.C., and the controversial issue of the Confederate flag removed from the grounds of South Carolina's Capitol. Additionally, the ripples of Ferguson and Baltimore are still in our midst as well. It seems that as a nation we are becoming more and more divisive along the lines of color, and this is a tragedy in and of itself. I received an email this week from a concerned citizen who told me that I should call this murder what it is: a black on white crime. He stated that had the roles been reversed, everyone in the country would have been here in Wadesboro protesting white on black crime and hatred. On the other hand, I was approached by one of our local businesses by a concerned African-American man who told me my department solved the crime hastily only because it was a white victim, and had it been a black victim, the case would still remain unsolved. I'll let you decide what this citizen and the other citizens are suggesting. In both interactions, it is clear to me that everyone is wanting to make this crime and the speediness of its investigation, more race than the color.

The truth of the matter is this was a crime committed by mankind against mankind. The color of the skin of the perpetrators and victim is irrelevant; irrelevant to my department and how we conduct the investigation, and irrelevant to the scope of this tragedy. At the end of the day, a human being lost his life at the hands of other human beings. We do not believe that this victim was targeted because he was white, or that the offenders committed the crime because they are black. It disheartens me to see that the integrity of my department and those who we work alongside of is being challenged without due cause. With all that is going on in our nation, there are intense emotions of hatred and disgust residing in many of us, and as a society we have become increasingly sensitive to matters of race, sometimes trying to see an underlying truth which does not in fact exist.

I have lived in Anson County my entire life; it is my home and I absolutely love being a part of this community and living here. Becoming the Chief of Police for this department has been, and still is a blessing. As a black man myself, I acknowledge that where I am today would not have been a possibility had I been born in the generation before me. It was those of that generation who stood up for equal rights and peacefully marched and protested for equality, of both white and black complexion, that have made it possible for me to be where I am today. I refuse to allow the isolated incidents our nation has endured these last few months erase all that has been accomplished, not just abroad, but here in our community as well. It pains me to see so many people angry with hate-filled hearts because of the actions of a small handful of people. I believe in our nation, I believe in its people, and the actions of a few do not define the hearts and minds of the many. It is blind suicide to allow the hatred of those who do not represent the spirit of our nation to corrupt your consciousness and soul.

In church this past Sunday past delivered the message about what to do in life when things start becoming difficult and overbearing. Prayer, he said, is the answer for everything. So prayer is indeed what I am doing. My fellow Ansonians, I am praying that we come together as one community, not the black, white, Hispanic or Asian communities, but as Ansonians, as North Carolinians, as Americans, as fellow human beings. I pray that we choose to love one another, despite our differences, and not let what happens around us, which is caused by the few, to affect us all. In lieu of this I am in the process of scheduling a day for concerned citizens and local community leaders to come together and discuss the issues at hand.

We must always remember that people, especially children, depend on us to make decisions and take actions to ensure the continued prosperity and freedom of our community, state and nation. It will be impossible to ensure this while divided. We must be of one accord. Hate is not something a person is born with, it is something that they are taught. We are all born without any hate, without any biases, without any predetermined opinions. We are born with nothing but pure love, but somewhere along the way we are taught by those around us to be biased, to think that others not like us are worse than us, that we should hate those with differences, instead of doing what should be and is natural: love them.

My department and always will remain a department that seeks justice without bias, without hate, and without predispositions. If a crime occurs we will investigate it professionally and thoroughly, with dignity and respect to all parties. I understand people will have their own opinions, and they are entitled to them. But, we will continue to do our jobs to the best of our abilities, serve and protect our citizens, and uphold the constitution of this state and nation, as we are and have sworn to do.

"On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" July 4 Totals

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the State Highway Patrol released the totals for the "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign for the period of Friday, July 3 through Sunday, July 5.

The multi-agency initiative is designed to combine law enforcement resources to ensure safe travel on highway and waterways during the summer months. Many vehicle and vessel accidents are alcohol-related. In North Carolina, a driver or boat operator with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08 is subject to arrest.

The totals reflect each agency's enforcement efforts during the holiday weekend.

Wildlife Resources Commission:
 • Boats Checked: 534 • Boaters Contacted: 1,966 • Citations: 206 • Warnings: 331
 • OWIs: 26 • Boating Accidents: 16 • Boating Fatalities: 3

State Highway Patrol:
 • DWIs: 405 • Driver License Violations: 1,471 • Seatbelt Violations: 1,372
 • Child Restraint Violations: 184 • Registration Violations: 1,208
 • Equipment Violations: 661 • Highway Fatalities: 10

The "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign is coordinated by the Wildlife Commission, State Highway Patrol and Forensic Tests for Alcohol, and supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Governor's Highway Safety Program, U.S. Coast Guard and local police and sheriff's offices, along with participating non-governmental organizations, such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

There are 200 full-time wildlife officers across the state who patrol 5,000 miles of inland streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waterways and instruct certified boating safety education courses. The public can assist them by reporting boating violations to 1-800-662-7137. For more information on boating safety and regulations, visit www.ncwildlife.org/boating or call 919-707-0031.

For additional information specifically relating to State Highway Patrol statistics, please contact Sgt. Michael Baker, Public Information Officer, at 919-733-5027 or Michael.D.Baker@ncdps.gov.

Cheraw Arts Commission Presents Theatre Camp in August

Aspiring actors can discover the performing arts at the Cheraw Arts Commission's Theatre Camp on August 3-7 at the Theatre on the Green. Campers will learn basic acting skills, sing, and dance during the week. There will be a performance on Friday night, August 7 featuring these future stars.

Porkchop Productions will provide instruction at two sessions. Those campers who are at reading level and have completed the 4th grade will attend the first session from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Registration for this camp is \$45 for CAC members and \$55 for non-members. Campers who have completed the 5th grade and up will attend the second session from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Fee for the 3 hour camp is \$50 for CAC members and \$60 for non-members.

For almost 20 years Porkchop Productions of Aiken, SC has been providing theatrical instruction for these young performers. Porkchop also comes to Cheraw during the school year with its Pre-school Theatre productions.

Campers should register at the Cheraw Community Center - 200 Powe Street. Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843-537-8420 x 12 for additional information.

Parks and Rec Pool is Open

The Anson County Parks and Recreation swimming pool at Little Park is now open for the summer season. Starting July 16 the schedule will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, from 2 to 5 p.m. The pool is closed on Mondays and Fridays for maintenance. The cost is \$1 per person.

Swim lessons will be offered, with three different classes during the summer. The lessons are \$18. The schedules are:

- Class #3 July 20 - 30
- Beginners 9:30-10 a.m.;
- Advanced 10:15-10:45 a.m.;
- and Parent & Child 11-11:30 a.m.

Call Wendell Small at 704-694-5868 or 704-695-2782 for information.

Richmond Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC

A professional service that meets everyone's needs

OUR PRICES ARE NEGOTIABLE

921 East Caswell St.
 Wadesboro
 704-694-2222



POOLS, POOLS, POOLS!!!
 Inground & Above Ground - All Sizes
 Call for Your Price 704-694-5191

BRASINGTONS, INC.

Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-5191

We have the **two-year degree** program that will lead to a **lifelong career**.



Electric Utility Substation Relay Technology

Our graduates are building careers with companies across the country.
 Our graduates are making \$40-\$60K in their first year on the job.
 Our graduates are finding careers they will have for life.

Seeking Ambitious Students: Call now to get in this fall (910) 410-1700!

www.richmondcc.edu | 1042 W. Hamlet Ave., Hamlet, N.C.

ANSON PEDIATRICS

PROVIDING QUALITY PEDIATRIC CARE IN ANSON COUNTY

Don't Forget Physicals for Camp, Kindergarten & Sports

Same Day Sick Appointments Are Available
 Accepting New Patients



Sarah P. Elliott, MD
 Serving Anson County
 Since 1996



O. Elliott Peters, MD, FAAP
 Serving Anson County
 Since 2008

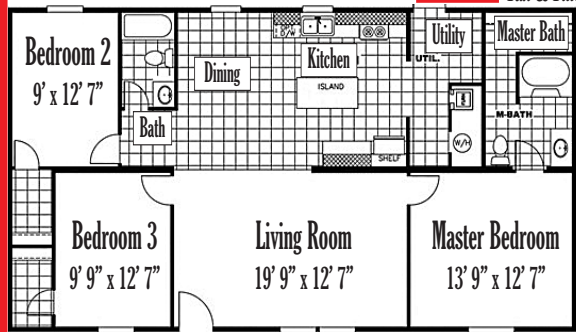
"Children Are A Gift From God"

Call 704-994-2300 for an Appointment

904 Morven Road, Wadesboro, NC 28170

THE MONEY HOME Delivered to Site & Set Up

28x48 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH Thermopane Windows, Refrigerator, Range, Dishwasher, Heat Pump, Footings & Brick Skirting, Steps, 200 Amp Electrical Service, Plumbing, Permits \$59,995 Plus Tax & Title



No land improvements included, but can be added.



2008 E Roosevelt Street (Hwy 74)
 Monroe • 704-225-8850
www.1stchoicemonroe.com