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Kurtis Eugene Russell Arrested After Brandishing Assault Rifle at Anson Courthouse on August 18



Kurtis Eugene Russell

Kurtis Eugene Russell, 35, of Vintage Road in Lilesville is in the Anson County Jail under a \$5,000,000 bond after being arrested for taking an assault rifle to the Anson County Courthouse, aiming it point blank at the courthouse door, and then hiding his weapon while opening the door and speaking to Sheriff's deputies who were just inside the door. The incident took place on Thursday morning, August 18. A surveillance video captured the whole incident. (The video can be seen at www.wsoc.com.)

According to Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid, Russell opened the courthouse door, and while still standing at the door, asked deputies if court was going on upstairs (in the courtroom). When the deputies told him that no court was taking place that day, Russell turned around and left the courthouse.



In the surveillance video Russell ascends the courthouse steps with the assault rifle in full view. When he gets to the top of the steps he walks toward the main entrance of the courthouse, raising and aiming the rifle directly at the door. He then lowers the weapon, and, holding it with his right hand, puts it behind his back as he opens the door. The video shows Russell stepping partway inside the door while speaking to the deputies, with the gun barely hidden from them. Then he turns around, moving the weapon around himself so that it is beside and in front of him, still hidden from the deputies, as he descends the courthouse steps and leaves. He left the area in a vehicle.



After a delay in gaining access to the surveillance video, deputies were able to view it and identify Russell on the video. He was arrested later that day at his home on Vintage Road. (Still photos from the video are above.)

It has been determined that Russell purchased the assault rifle earlier that same day at a pawn shop, while in the company of another man.

Russell was charged with Possession of a Weapon on State Property, Going Armed to the Terror of People and Possession of a Firearm by a Felon. He was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$5 million dollar bond, with a court date of August 29.

Russell has a criminal record, having been convicted for felony Indecent Liberties with a Child and DWI.

Board of Elections Sets One Stop Early Voting Plan for November Election

The Anson County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, August 16, and established the One Stop-Early Voting plan for the upcoming November General Election. There are a total of 17 voting days, and a total of 187 voting hours in the plan.

- Here are the voting times:
- October 20 to November 15**
 - Monday through Friday** 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Saturday, October 22** 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Sunday, October 23** 12 noon to 6 p.m.
 - Saturday, October 29** 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Sunday, October 30** 12 noon to 6 p.m.
 - Saturday, November 5** 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

What is Anson Connecting Families?

4-H Youth Promise is introducing a new program called Anson Connecting Families. This program will provide the education to assist in modifying moderate to serious problems at home, school and in the community. Parents will also increase their knowledge and skills to provide appropriate structure and responsibility for their children. The overall goal for the program is for youth and their parents to learn to better communicate assertively and effectively, to learn negative influences, appropriately resolve conflict and to make better choices for a healthier lifestyle.

This program will be offered once a week for eight consecutive weeks. Sessions will be held weekly at the Extension Office on McLaurin Street in Wadesboro on Tuesdays from 6 until 8 p.m. All enrolled participants will be provided transportation, a family style meal and child care. Referrals are accepted from the court system, juvenile court counselor, school counselor, community agencies, or parent/self-referral. To learn more about Anson Connecting Families program please contact the Program Director Sam Cole or Case Manager Quantelya Dumas for further information at (704) 694-2915.



Leadership Anson's 20th Graduating Class

The Leadership Anson (LA) program enjoyed its 20th graduation ceremony held on Tuesday, August 9 at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center. Leadership Anson was created to develop a commitment to community through leadership. This graduating class totals 295 participants that have completed the program. A number of family, friends, and sponsors of the program attended this special event.

The speaker for the evening was Senator Thomas McInnis. He encouraged each of them to strive to be the best leader that they can possibly be.

Testimonials were given from three class members that touched all in attendance. Scott Collier of SPCC and coordinator of this years program, stated that they have all learned so much about the county and themselves. This is Collier's 20th year with the Leadership Anson Program. The goal of this program is for those who participate to take what they have learned and use it in a way that will not only better themselves but the community as well.

Scott Rivers of SPCC recognized Holly Thomas and Ginger Phillips for their dedication in helping and organizing the all-day retreat held on March 8.

Each Class member earned a Continuing Education Certificate from South Piedmont Community College and received a Leadership Plaque from the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. These were presented to them by Shelby Emrich, Chamber Director, Scott Collier and Scott Rivers.

The graduates are pictured above, from left, front: Adam Stegall, Hornwood; Sadie Shaver, Anson County Schools; Devonne Gaddy, South Piedmont Community College; Beth Diggs, Carolinas HealthCare System Anson; and Megan Garner, Anson County Government. Back row: Stephanie Wilson, Carolinas HealthCare System Anson; Nicole Stegall, Anson County Schools; Matt Norris, Polkton Police Department; Kevin Boswell, Anson County EMS; Lewis Adams, Hornwood (Wadesboro Rotary Club Scholarship); and Scott Martin, Town of Wadesboro.

Lilesville Fire District Receives New Rating After Inspection

This will result in insurance savings. Lilesville citizens urged to check with insurers about receiving lower rates.

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshall Wayne Goodwin announced that the Lilesville Fire Department completed their routine inspection and received a significantly improved rating. The inspection, conducted by officials with the Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), is required on a regular basis as part of North Carolina inspections look for proper staffing levels, communications capabilities and availability of a water source. The results sent to Lilesville Fire Department will now classify the department as a ISO Class 4/9S.

The NCRRS rating system ranges from 1 (highest) to 10 (not recognized as a certified department by the state), with most departments falling into the 9S category. While lower ratings do not necessarily indicate poor service, a higher rating does suggest that a department is overall better equipped to respond to fires in its district. Higher ratings can also significantly lower homeowners insurance in that fire district. State law requires OSFM officials to inspect departments serving districts of 100,000 people or less, which makes up all but six of the state's fire districts.

Lilesville Fire Chief Marty Morton said, "This rating relates to what our citizens and property owners pay annually in fire insurance premiums. Inside the Town of Lilesville, we improved our rating from a Class 7 to a Class 4. Our homeowners should see the maximum credit allowed in residential properties. Business and commercial properties should greatly benefit in significant savings as well. In our rural areas, we will drop from a 7/9S to a 4/9S. In other words, residential properties in our rural district that are located within 5 road miles of the station will get the same rate reductions as those who live inside the Town of Lilesville. This new classification will take effect December 1, 2016."

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Morton for the departments performance and for the hard work of all the departments members," said Commissioner Goodwin. "The citizens in the Town and fire district should rest easy knowing they have a fine group of firefighters protecting them and their property in case of an emergency."

Chief Morton emphasized, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that made this possible, our members. Without their hard work, we could not provide the invaluable service we offer to our town and community. Your dedicated commitment makes us who we are, and your efforts and dedication never go unnoticed."

"If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Lilesville Fire Department at any time. I encourage our property owners to check with your insurance providers informing them of our new rating classification to ensure you take advantage of this opportunity," Morton added.

Make Safety and Responsibility a Priority as Dove Season Opens on Saturday, September 3

As hunters gather together to participate in opening day of dove hunting season on September 3, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission reminds everyone to always practice safety and responsibility while in the field.

The 2016-17 season for mourning and white-winged dove is separated into two segments: September 3 to October 8 and November 21 to January 14. The daily bag limit is 15 and the possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. All hunters must follow applicable licensing requirements and hunting regulations.

Shooting hours are from 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset for the entire season, including opening day. Hunting of migratory game birds by any method is not allowed on any days.

For many hunters in North Carolina, the first day of dove season is a communal experience, signifying fall's arrival and the commencement of many months of hunting opportunities. Such gatherings are a great time to promote responsible practices among fellow hunters, including: never place decoys on utility lines, always check fields to make sure you are not hunting over baited areas and never combine game bags.

Group hunts are also an opportunity to mentor young and novice hunters in essential safety rules, like always adhere to established zones of fire and never shoot at low-flying birds.

Visit the Commission's website for more information on migratory game bird hunting, hunter safety, hunting regulations and free Hunting Heritage Apprentice Permits at www.ncwildlife.org.

BCSWCD Board Meeting is Aug. 30

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held Tuesday, August 30 at 10 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For information call 704-694-3516.

"Computer 101" Classes at the Library

The Hampton B Allen Library will be offering "Computers 101" classes to teach basic typing, email, and visual design skills. The free classes will run for six weeks beginning September 30. They will take place on Friday mornings, from 10 to 11 a.m.

If you are interested in learning a lot about the computer and having some fun, contact the library as soon as possible because the class size is limited. For information and to sign up call 704-694-5177.

Parks & Rec Fall Sports Registration

Registration for Anson County Parks and Recreation fall sports runs until the deadline, Wednesday, August 31.

- Youth Flag Football for grades K-2; 3-4 and 5-6
- Tee Ball for 4-6 years old
- Coach Pitch Baseball for 7-8 years old
- Micro Soccer for 3-4 years old
- Youth Soccer for grades K-2; 3-4; 5-6; 7-9 and 10-12.

Youth Soccer, Micro Soccer, Tee Ball and Coach Pitch cost \$25. Youth Flag Football is \$30.

You may come to Little Park office to register Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or register on the Parks & Rec website, www.co.anson.nc.us. For more information call 704-694-5751.