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

## School Bus Safety: Does Your Child Know the Rules?

**Sheriff Landric Reid encourages safety measures to avoid injury**

Every day millions of students use school buses as transportation to and from school. Although school buses represent the safest form of highway transportation, there are a number of safety factors of which both student and drivers should be aware. Hoping to ensure school bus safety, Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid encourages caution whenever school buses are present.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), an average of 134 people die in school transportation-related traffic crashes each year, and more school-aged pedestrians have been killed during the hours of 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. than any other time of day.

"Children are often eager to get off the school bus because they are excited to tell their parents about all the fun they had at school that day," said Sheriff Reid. It is crucial that parents re-enforce the school bus safety rules children learn at school."

Sheriff Reid also suggests that parents drive their child's bus route with them to practice the proper safety precautions they can take to help ensure their child enjoys a safe ride to and from school.

The Sheriff encourages all parents to discuss the following safety measures with their children:

### Students

- Always arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early.
- While the bus is approaching make sure to stand at least three giant steps away from the curb, wait until the bus has come to a complete stop, the door opens, and the bus driver says that is's OK to board.
- Always walk on the sidewalk when preparing to cross the street near a bus. Make eye contact with the driver so that you are sure he or she sees you.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- If you are walking beside the bus, walk at least three giant steps away.
- Use the handrail when entering and exiting the bus. Take extra precautions to make sure that clothing with drawstrings and book bags do not get caught in the hand rail or door.
- Never stop to pick something up that you have dropped when a bus is stopped. Tell the bus driver or wait until the bus has driven off to avoid not being seen by the driver.

### Motorists

- Remember that children are unpredictable in their actions. Take extreme caution when traveling in a school zone.
- If there are no sidewalks, drive cautiously. Be more alert to the possibility of children walking in the road.
- Slow down and prepare to stop whenever you see yellow school bus lights flashing.
- Never pass a school bus when there are flashing red lights and the stop arm is extended. This is a sign that children are getting on or off the bus. Motorists must wait until the red lights stop flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and the bus is moving before they can start driving again.
- Learn and obey the school bus laws in North Carolina.



## Cub Scout Den 3, Pack 102 Visits Wadesboro Fire Department - Circa 1965!

Pictured above, Fireman Murray Osborne demonstrates the use of some firefighting equipment to Cub Scouts from Den 3, Pack 102 in 1965. The scouts are, from left, Bryan Hardison, Marshall Ratliff, Allen Lyon, George Stanback (kneeling), John Ballard, Ken Dickson and Marty Cooke. The Den Mothers are Mrs. Pickett (Anabelle) Stanback and Mrs. Adam (Joan) Hardison.

## Ellis Gene Smith Arrested After Dangerous High Speed Chase

On Friday, August 14 at approximately 7:40 p.m. a Wadesboro Police officer observed a silver Land Rover with an expired tag. The officers knew the driver, Ellis Gene Smith, was operating the vehicle with a suspended license, so he attempted to stop the vehicle. Smith ignored the officer and continued traveling down Highway 109 South at a high rate of speed. Smith's dangerous driving included veering into oncoming traffic. As the chase continued on 109 South, Smith went into a soybean field where he ran into ravine. He then exited the vehicle and attempted to flee on foot, but was quickly apprehended and charged accordingly.



Ellis Gene Smith

Smith, 35, of 8 Chestnut Street in Wadesboro, was charged with Felony Flee/Elude W/MV; Failure to Heed Lights or Siren; Driving While License Revoked; Expired Registration Card/Tag; Unsealed Wine/Lig in Passenger Area; Resisting Public Officer; and Habitual Felon. He was placed in Anson County Jail under a \$85,000 secured bond, with his first court appearance set for August 25.

## Two Georgia Men Busted for Drugs and Weapons

On Saturday, August 15 at approximately 7:27 p.m. officers from the Wadesboro Police Department were dispatched to Wal-Mart in Wadesboro in reference to two men refusing to leave the store. Officers made contact with both men, resulting in the investigation of damaged merchandise the men had opened. The men has also tampered with anti-theft devices attached. Officers made an arrest that led them to illegal drugs and weapons, which were seized.



Steven Roger Vu

Arrested were Steven Roger Vu, 30, of Lawrence, Georgia and Matthew Juan Morrison, 31, of Norcross Georgia.



Matthew Juan Morrison

Vu was charged with Felony Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sale and Distribute Schedule II Controlled Substance; Felony Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sale and Distribute Schedule III Controlled Substance; Felony Traffick in Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Simple Possession of Schedule III Controlled Substance; Trespassing; Injury to Personal Property; 3 counts of Felony Possession of Firearm by Felon; and Felony Maintaining a Vehicle/Dwelling/Place CS. He was placed in Anson County Jail under a \$101,000 secure bond with an August 25 court date.

Morrison was charged with Felony Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sale and Distribute Schedule II Controlled Substance; Felony Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sale and Distribute Schedule III Controlled Substance; Felony Traffick in Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Simple Possession of Schedule III Controlled Substance; Trespassing; Injury to Personal Property; 3 counts of Felony Possession of Firearm by Felon; and Felony Maintaining a Vehicle/Dwelling/Place CS. He was placed in Anson County Jail under a \$101,000 secure bond with an August 25 court date.

## On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive Campaign Continues Labor Day Weekend

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, State Highway Patrol and Mothers Against Drunk Driving will continue the "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign throughout Labor Day weekend, September 4-7.

According to data provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, alcohol was the leading factor in 21 percent of recreational boating deaths in 2014. Additionally, alcohol remains the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.

"Be safe and have a designated driver for the road and the water," said Lt. Sam Craft, a spokesman for the campaign. "Don't let an arrest or accident spoil your end-of-summer fun. Boat operators charged with operating while impaired must make a court appearance and could face a maximum \$1,000 fine and jail time."

"On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" concentrates on the three major summer holidays: Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day, with an increased law enforcement presence around popular recreational boating areas. The campaign is supported and coordinated by the Wildlife Commission, State Highway Patrol and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, along with Forensic Tests for Alcohol, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Governor's Highway Safety Program and local police and sheriff's offices.

There are more than 200 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 officers by reporting boating violations to 1-800-662-7137.

## Free Flu Shots for Veterans on September 2

The Salisbury VAMC's Rural Health Program will provide free flu shots to veterans on Wednesday, September 2 at the Anson County Veteran Services Office, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The flu shots are offered to all veterans who present a VHA ID card and/or a copy of their DD-214 and a valid photo ID. VA representatives will also offer enrollment assistance to those interested in enrolling in the healthcare system.

The Anson County Veteran Services Office is located at 111 North Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro, the Belk Building. For more information call Salisbury VAMC at 704-638-9000 ext 4958. The local office is headed by Ted Ward, [tuward@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:tuward@co.anson.nc.us) or call (704) 694-4418.

## Anson Arts Council Earns \$9,000 Grant

**Arts organizations across North Carolina receive support to expand arts programming**

Arts and cultural organizations across North Carolina will provide diverse arts experiences for citizens in all 100 counties of North Carolina through funding from the North Carolina Arts Council grants program. In fiscal year 2015-16, the N.C. Arts Council is expected to support arts organizations, individuals, schools and other nonprofit groups that sponsor arts programs or arts-driven economic development projects through the distribution of \$6.6 million in state and federal grant funds. The N.C. Arts Council is a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Anson County Arts Council received a grant of \$9,404 in the category of Grassroots Arts Program. The funds were provided to help with arts programs and administrative support. Their telephone number is 704-694-4950.

The grants are designed to support arts organizations and artists who contribute to the economic, educational and cultural vitality of local communities throughout the state. "Arts grants are investments in our communities and they serve as catalysts for corporations, foundations and individuals to support the arts," said Wayne Martin, Executive Director of the North Carolina Arts Council. "Almost \$19 is returned in matching funds for every grant dollar invested by the state."

Funds appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly, along with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, will provide almost 340 grants for organizations and artists across the state. The grants program is one of the many ways that the North Carolina Arts Council sustains and grows one of the most diverse and widespread networks of arts organizations in the country.

Through the Grassroots Arts Program funds are distributed on a per capita basis to all 100 counties in North Carolina. Programs like the SmART Initiative utilize the arts to revitalize downtowns. The initial SmART Initiative grant resulted in the development of the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park in Wilson that has sparked millions of dollars of direct private investment in the town's downtown. "The SmART Initiative influences business development, inspires downtown revitalization and historic preservation, builds community pride of place and stimulate the growth of more creative businesses," said Susan Kluttz, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. "Government and the private sector working together in communities, large and small, can invest in the state's creative industry to ensure that North Carolina continues to be a place where businesses want to be, people want to live and visitors want to explore."

Traditional Arts Programs for Students (TAPS) will be funded in 18 communities, providing youth with the opportunity to learn the arts of their heritage from musicians and other masters of traditional arts. In addition, schools across the state will host 10-day artist residencies that provide in-depth exposure to arts programs that support state education standards.

Grant awards are recommended by panels of civic leaders and arts experts based on artistic merit, benefit of the project to the state's citizens, and the applicant's organizational strength and capacity.

The North Carolina Arts Council works to make North Carolina The Creative State where a robust arts industry produces a creative economy, vibrant communities, children prepared for the 21st century and lives filled with discovery and learning. The Arts Council accomplishes this in partnership with artists and arts organizations, other organizations that use the arts to make their communities stronger and North Carolinians young and old who enjoy and participate in the arts. For more information visit [www.ncarts.org](http://www.ncarts.org).

## Tickets on Sale

**Now for Upcoming Ansonia Play, Driving Miss Daisy**

Anson County Arts Council will present a locally produced play at the Ansonia Theatre in September. The acclaimed story, *Driving Miss Daisy*, will be staged over two weekends, September 11-13 and 18-21. The play, written by Alfred Uhry, is directed by Tommy Wooten with Gina Clarke.

The play will be presented each Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. It is reserved seating, and tickets are \$15. Tickets are available at Lacy's in uptown Wadesboro, the Arts Council at 110 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro (704-694-4950) or online at [www.ansoniatheatre.com](http://www.ansoniatheatre.com)

## Free Groceries with Mobile Food Pantry

The Mobile Food Pantry will be at Ansonville United Methodist Church on Wednesday, September 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. Do not arrive before 9:30 a.m. If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, it will be canceled. If you have not yet done so, bring proof of your income to register. You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

This event is sponsored by Anson Crisis Ministry and local United Methodist, Baptist, Apostolic, and Presbyterian Churches. Interested in volunteering? Call Ansonville coordinator Rev. Robert Burr at (704) 826-8470 or Pantry Coordinator Rev. Cindy Lunsford at (828) 891-2753.

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