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

BB&T Robbed Monday, Suspect Curtis Pratt, Jr. Arrested

On Monday, November 3 at approximately 3:48 p.m. officers of the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a bank robbery call at Branch Banking & Trust (BB&T) in Wadesboro. The description of the suspect given to the officers was a tall black male wearing a black coat. The suspect left the bank in an unknown direction after stealing an undisclosed amount of US currency.



Curtis Pratt

Upon further investigation detectives obtained an arrest warrant on Curtis Lugene Pratt, 28, for Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, a felony charge. Less than 15 hours later officers arrested Pratt. He was transported to the magistrate's office where he was served with the warrant. Pratt was placed in jail under a \$25,000 secured bond. His court date was set for November 18.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Drops Over 1% in September

Anson County's unemployment rate for September was 7.6 percent. In August the rate was 8.7 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate for September dropped to 6.15 from August's 7% rate. In September 2013 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 8.9%. In September 2012 it was 11.8%, in September 2011 it was 12.2%.

Anson's total labor force in September was 10,540. Of that number 9,744 were employed and 796 were unemployed. In August the total labor force was 10,587, with 9,670 employed and 917 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 98 of North Carolina's counties in September, increased in one, and remained unchanged in one.

Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 12.2 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 4.2 percent. All of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 8.8 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville at 4.6 percent had the lowest. The September not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 6.1 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 98 counties, increased in one, and remained the same in one. All 14 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in September by 45,670 to 4,373,599, while those unemployed decreased 41,683 to 282,633. Since September 2013, the number of workers employed statewide increased 22,939, while those unemployed decreased 58,540.

Compare Health Insurance Plans During the Open Enrollment Period

The first day to purchase individual health insurance is November 15

Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin wants to remind North Carolinians who purchase individual health insurance coverage to take advantage of the open enrollment period to compare plans and choose coverage. The open enrollment period for 2015 coverage begins on November 15, 2014 and ends on February 15, 2015. In order to have coverage effective January 1, 2015, you must enroll by December 15.

"Insurers will soon be sending renewal notices to their customers with information about 2015 coverage and costs. I encourage people to take action during the open enrollment period. Look at your options and decide if it's in your best interest to keep the plan you had last year or switch to another plan with your current insurance company or with a different company," said Goodwin. "By looking at all plans available to you, you may be able to save money or find a better benefits package for your needs."

The Department of Insurance is in the process of completing its review of individual health insurance plan rate filings submitted by insurance companies. Companies have filed average changes in premiums ranging from -10.6% to +17.6% for individual plans.

Buying Individual Coverage If you do not have the option to buy health insurance through your employer, you can buy coverage in the individual market on the federal exchange at www.healthcare.gov. Depending on your household income, you may be eligible for premium subsidies and cost-sharing reductions for plans purchased on the federal exchange. If you are renewing a plan purchased through the exchange last year, you should confirm your subsidy eligibility.

You may also purchase individual coverage off the exchange through an agent or broker or directly from an insurance company. Eleven insurers plan to sell individual health insurance coverage in North Carolina for 2015. Three of the 11 have expressed their intent to participate on the federal exchange.

Comparing Costs and Coverages It's important to carefully evaluate your family's health care costs when deciding on a plan. To pick the best coverage, first calculate your costs from recent years and try to estimate what they might be for the coming year. Don't forget to include co-pays for doctor's visits, prescription medications and any procedures you might need.

Next, compare the premiums, out-of-pocket expenses and benefits under each plan. If you are buying a policy from federal exchange, you will be able to do a side-by-side comparison of the plans offered on the exchange. All plans have a Summary of Benefits and Coverage that summarizes key features and definitions in simple language to help you compare your options.

When choosing a plan, it's also important to check to see which medical providers (physicians, hospitals, labs, pharmacies, etc.) you may visit to receive covered care.

Questions about health insurance? Contact the North Carolina Department of Insurance at 855-408-1212 or learn more at www.ncdoi.com.

For questions related directly to enrollment through the federal exchange, contact 1-800-318-2596 or visit www.healthcare.gov/contact-us.



Fire Safety Day Held at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School would like to thank our community's volunteer fire departments for making a special visit on Friday, October 10. The students were able to tour the fire truck, learn all about fire safety in the demonstration fire house, spend time with Sparky and Smoky, and even take home a bright red fire hat!

Mrs. Ross' Kindergarten class, pictured above, loved walking through the fire truck and learning how firefighters help when there is a fire.

Veteran's Day Celebration in Wadesboro is Next Tuesday

Everyone is invited to Anson County's Annual Veteran's Day Celebration, held in Wadesboro on Tuesday, November 11. This is a celebration for hometown heroes and all veterans everywhere.

The VA Rural Healthcare Team will be there along with many other resources for veterans and their families.

At 10 a.m. there will be a Veteran's Day Parade. At 11 a.m. the ceremony will be held. Then, from noon until 3 p.m. there will be community fun featuring music, food, games, exhibits and more at Ray Shelton Field.

For more information contact Ted Ward, Anson County Veteran Services Officer, at 704-694-4418 or tward@co.anson.nc.us.

Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge Night Prowl is Saturday

Also a celebration for the Refuge's 50th Anniversary

The Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge and Friends of the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge will host the annual Night Prowl this Saturday night, November 8 starting at 5:30 p.m. Originally scheduled for November 1, the event was postponed to November 8 due to weather conditions.

The refuge was established in 1964 and they will also be celebrating their 50th anniversary. Activities will center around the Sullivan Pond area, located behind the refuge headquarters on Highway 52 North. Fun activities will include hay rides, a hot dog supper, and marshmallow roasts around the bonfire.

Refuge Manager J. D. Bricken said, "We hope to receive a rehabbed barred owl from the Carolina Raptor Center to release back into the wild during the event."

All activities will be held outside and participants are asked to wear cold weather gear and bring flashlights. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have any questions call the refuge at 704-694-4424.

Local High Schools to Participate in College Application Week

Anson High School, Anson Early College, Anson New Tech and Anson Academy will participate in the statewide College Application Week cosponsored by College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) and the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO) during the week of November 10-14, 2014.

As a part of the CFNC-CACRAO college access initiative, high schools will work with seniors during this week to complete and submit online at least one college application each using the career and college information and planning site, CFNC.org.

The goal of the program is to get more students applying to North Carolina colleges early in their senior year. During this event, students may apply to North Carolina community colleges, independent colleges and state universities, many of which will waive their application fees.

Students are encouraged to begin looking at applications on CFNC.org for schools they are interested in applying to as there may be essay questions they need time to work on. Students may begin working on applications but should not submit them without assistance from a counselor until the week of November 10-14.

For more information about events at your school, please contact your school counselor.

Financial Aid Workshop for High School Seniors and Parents

The College Foundation of North Carolina will hold a financial aid workshop on Tuesday, November 18th at 6:30pm in the media center at Anson High School. A CFNC representative will present information about applying for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Colleges and universities use this information to determine financial aid packages for students.

Seniors and their parents from Anson High School, Anson Early College, Anson Academy and Anson New Tech are strongly encouraged to attend. There will also be a representative from the financial aid department at South Piedmont Community College available to answer questions about FAFSA day which will be held in February.

Ladies Auxiliary Visits Meadowview Terrace Assisted Living



The Ladies Auxiliary of James D. Henderson Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10403 volunteered at Meadowview Terrace Assisted Living Center on Thursday, October 23. The residents enjoyed a movie, popcorn and drinks. Later they played fun games.

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary are pictured here with resident Ida McCall. They are, from left, Mary Ford, Joyce S. Little and Brenda Bennett, President.

Ansonville Historical Society Museum to Feature Quilt Exhibit

The Ansonville Historical Society Museum will be open this Saturday, November 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A quilt exhibit will be featured. Everyone is invited to come visit.

Pumpkin Recipe Workshop

You're invited to come out this Saturday to Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center for their Pumpkin Recipe Workshop. They will teach you how to make your fresh favorite pumpkin dishes, and you will learn about new recipes as well. If you enjoy the taste of fresh pumpkin or want to learn how to prepare different pumpkin dishes you are welcome to join this free workshop.

If you would like to attend please register in advance by calling 704-826-8066. Donations will be accepted.

Women's League Meets Nov. 11

The Anson Women's League will meet on Tuesday, November 11, from noon until 1 p.m. at Twin Valley Country Club. Lunch is available for \$8.50 and all women are invited. Join them to hear guest speakers Bernice Bennett, Wanda Talbert and Rita Short from the Grace Senior Center. They will share information about the Family Caregiver Support Program.

Please send RSVP's for the meal to AWL President Terri Martin at tmartin@covenantdove.com by Friday, November 7.

Senior Citizen Luncheon is December 4

Anson County's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 4 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Because of limited seating capacity there will be two servings, one at 11 a.m. and one at 1 p.m.

If you are interested in attending please call the Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register and to receive a designated time to attend.