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

Ocean Isle Man Killed in Anson County

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies are investigating a murder that occurred along Highway 742 approximately five miles north of Wadesboro. Deputies were called around 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13th to investigate a vehicle in a ditch. When the first deputy arrived he saw a subject outside the vehicle with a gunshot wound to the chest. Highway 742 was blocked off for approximately nine hours as Sheriff's Detectives and SBI conducted their investigation at the crime scene. The victim was Keith Jerome Whisnant, age 42, who lived in Ocean Isle Beach, NC. He was driving a 2000 Silver Ford Focus with OIB on the front tag. Sheriff Tommy Allen said Whisnant was traveling to Johnson City, Tennessee. At some point investigators believe he picked up a rider somewhere between Burger King in Wadesboro and where Highway 742 branches off from Highway 52 North. Through video cameras investigators know that Whisnant was at Burger King in Wadesboro around 8 p.m. and appeared to be by himself. One passing motorist told investigators he saw what appeared to be two people struggling in the front seat of the vehicle as it sat in the ditch. There was no sign of a second subject at the scene when officers arrived, and officers do not know if the subject was picked up by a passing vehicle. Families in the area were notified to be on the lookout of any suspicious persons and call 911.

The Sheriff's Office believes a number of cars passed the victim's vehicle while it was in the ditch. Investigators are looking for the driver of a midsize white car that apparently stopped at the scene. Sheriff Allen said the driver of the car might have believed it was a minor vehicle collision and might have talked to the shooting suspect. Anyone with any information is asked to please call the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188.

Municipal Election Results

The Municipal Election was held on Tuesday, November 5. Canvass Day was held on Tuesday, November 12.

What is Canvass Day? Many people believe that the election results they see on election night are the final results, when, in fact, the outcome of the election is not official until the canvass is completed, sometimes several weeks after Election Day. The purpose of the canvass is to account for every ballot cast and ensure that every valid vote cast is included in the election totals. This involves accounting for every absentee ballot, every early voting ballot, every ballot cast on Election Day, every provisional ballot, every challenged ballot, and every overseas and military ballot. Once the canvass is completed the Canvass Board will certify the results of the election.

- Here are the vote results:
- LILESVILLE MAYOR Richard Harrington (unopposed) 76, Write-in 5
 - LILESVILLE COMMISSIONER (vote for 5): Juanita Williams 86, Bernice Bennett 85, Steve Whitlock 81, Jason Clarke 76, Frank McAllister 69, Peggy Baker Treadaway 51, Write-in 3
 - MORVEN COUNCIL (vote for 3): Theodore Carr 63, Marjorie Cole 53, Ben Atkinson 47, Affira Coppedge Graham 38, Beth Eddins 34, Michael Anthony Burch 30
 - PEACHLAND COUNCIL (vote for 3): Bennie Garrett McLendon 80, James Thomas Hamilton 75, Jason Mullis 58, Kenneth Rowell 46, Write-in 3
 - POLKTON MAYOR Minnie Staton 84, Henry Furr, Jr. 31, Tammy King 27
 - POLKTON COMMISSIONER (vote for 5): Johnny Raye Faulk, Jr. 90, Jimmy Hildreth 89, Sissy Stegall 87, Myra Thomas Dalglish 72, Lindsay Wallace 68, Cindy Melton Heafner 59, Jack Wickham 22, Neva Lee 21, Write-in 26
 - WADESBORO COUNCIL (vote for 3): Fred Davis 462, James David Lee 329, Bobby Usrey 329, Rick Beam 316, Priscilla Nunn 212, Kenneth Lynn Spencer 121, Harold Skipper 49, Write-in 2

Chartered Bus Offered for Trip to Havelock for Friday's Game

The Anson High School Varsity Football team will be playing in the second round of the State Football Playoffs this Friday, November 22 at Havelock High School in Havelock, NC (an approximately a 4 1/2 hour trip). A chartered bus has been secured for fans that will accommodate 42 people.

A parent or approved adult chaperone must accompany any student who rides this bus. The parent or approved adult chaperone will also be responsible for monitoring the student on the bus and at the game.

If you are interested in riding this bus, call Mrs. Anne Hyatt at 704-694-4417 by Wednesday, November 20 at 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$45 per person and must be paid no later than Thursday, November 21 at 3:30 p.m. This will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Group Gathers to Tour New County Animal Shelter

Tuesday, November 12th was an exciting day for all 26,948 citizens of Anson County. On that day a number of Anson County Government Officials were joined with several members of the Town of Polkton City Council, Sheriff's Office personnel, interested citizens and Dr. Danny Wright to tour the former Brown Creek Animal Hospital recently purchased by the county for the new Anson County Animal Shelter. The facility is conveniently located on Highway 74 in Polkton. The 5,500 square foot facility can handle up to 100 dogs and cats along with treatment and grooming rooms and office space. The county expects to open the new shelter in April 2014.

Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood wanted to express his sincere thanks to Dr. Wright for working with the county, and for the full support of the county commissioners to open an active animal shelter for Anson County. "This is a much needed step that has been needed for many, many years. We are very excited about opening an animal shelter here in Anson County and having it staffed and open this spring. There will be a great need for volunteers and funding to make this program a success, and we plan to have an organizational meeting early next month for interested persons."



Gatewood continued, "We plan to organize a 501(c) 3 non-profit 'Friends of the Animal Shelter' organization with the aim of supporting the Anson County Animal Shelter and related projects. Specifically, we envision that this organization will receive donations to help with ongoing adoption costs and other expenses for the shelter. We wish to also thank the Towns of Polkton, Lilesville, Ansonville, Morven, Wadesboro, McFarlan and Peachland for their kind support on this project."

The county wants to adopt out as many dogs and cats as possible. The current euthanasia rate for the county is about 96%, a number that is too large for anyone to ignore any longer. The county wants to reverse that to a 90% percent or higher adoption rate. A notice will be placed in the local papers in the next few weeks announcing the date, time and place for the volunteer organizational meeting.

SPCC Nursing Students to Host Free Health & Wellness Fairs

The senior class of South Piedmont Community College's Associate Degree Nursing program will host free Health and Wellness Fairs next week on the college's campuses in Polkton and Monroe. Everyone is welcome to stop by for screenings and to receive valuable information about diabetes, breast cancer, skin health, eye health, immunizations, asthma, stress relief and more. Blood sugar and blood pressure checks will be available on site.

On Wednesday, November 20, the health fair will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Salon B (Building A) at SPCC's Old Charlotte Highway campus in Monroe. On Thursday, November 21, the event will move to the college's L.L. Polk campus in Polkton and run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Community Room of the Horne Library.

The Health and Wellness Fairs are the 40 students' class project. For the fairs, students have researched and developed materials related to the health issues being addressed. The topics were chosen because they reflect the most significant health concerns in Anson and Union counties.

For more information about the health fairs, including directions and campus maps, visit www.spcc.edu.



Wadesboro Primary School Students Perform

The fourth grade students at Wadesboro Primary School presented staff, students and parents with a musical presentation based on "Where in the World Are We?" The show, created and organized by music teacher Gail Litaker, brought together history and symbolism of both the United States and North Carolina. Students sang a variety of songs, played instruments, and even danced to provide entertainment to all who came.

Farm Service Agency Announces Resumption of 2013 Crop Commodity Loan Disbursements

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia announced that the processing and disbursement of 2013 crop commodity loans for Anson County farmers and producers has resumed. Crop year 2013 commodity loan-making was suspended October 1, 2013, to make changes necessary to accommodate the automatic funding reductions known as sequester. Sequestration is mandated by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

"We must comply with the laws established by Congress to reduce funds in accordance with sequestration policy," said Garcia. "We regret the delay this has created in USDA issuing marketing assistance loans because we know how critical the loans are to many farmers' cash flow at this time of year."

The commodity loan programs provide interim financing to producers for agricultural commodities stored after harvest and then sold throughout the year. Producers requesting 2013 crop commodity loans on their harvested commodities now will have a 5.1 percent reduction to the loan amount upon its disbursement, due to the sequestration. Commodity loans issued by marketing associations and loan servicing agents are also subject to the sequestration reduction.

During the period that loan-making was suspended, Anson County producers were still able to submit loan applications to the Anson County FSA office, marketing associations and loan servicing agents. The processing and disbursement of these applications will begin immediately.

For further information about commodity marketing loans, farmers should contact the Anson County FSA office at 1758 Morven Road, Wadesboro NC or call 704-694-3516 Ext 2 or go online to www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Fresh Ventures Taking Orders for 2014

After a successful first year, the multi-county, two state partnership of local agricultural producers that organized as Farm Fresh Ventures is ready to enroll subscribers for 2014. Farm Fresh Ventures Cooperative brings farmers in Anson, Chesterfield, Montgomery, Richmond, Stanly and Union Counties together to sell their products through a weekly produce box subscription for 18 weeks. The cooperative provides consumers with fresh, local produce at peak season while providing new marketing outlets for our area farmers.

Just in time for the holidays, subscription orders are now being taken for 2014. For the same price as the 2013 season you can either purchase a subscription for yourself, or purchase a subscription for a Christmas gift. A limited number of subscriptions will be available.

Beginning in May of 2014 subscribers will receive a box of fresh local produce containing six to eight different items, from among what's in season in our area. The program will run for 18 weeks through early September. Boxes will be delivered to pick-up sites in each county on Tuesday afternoons. Pick-up sites will be located in Wadesboro, Troy, Rockingham, Albemarle, Monroe and Cheraw.

The 2014 season subscription cost is \$396, which works out to 18 weeks at \$22 per box (the same as 2013) for a limited time during the holidays. After January 1 a subscriber membership fee of \$10 will be added to the cost of a subscription.

A Farm Fresh Ventures Cooperative subscription is a great way to enjoy healthy seasonal produce all summer long, boost your intake of fruits and vegetables, support local farms and the economy.

For information about this project or subscriptions please contact Thomas Cureton, Market Manager for Farm Fresh Ventures at 704-694-2415. You can also email him at farmfreshventures@gmail.com.

Check out photos from last season on Facebook at Farm Fresh Ventures Cooperative and place your order on their website at farmfreshventures.com. Subscription forms are also available at 501 McLaurin Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

In addition, you can contact your local Horticulture Agent with Cooperative Extension in Anson, Union, Stanly, Montgomery and Richmond Counties. In Anson County contact Horticulture Agent Aimee Rankin at 704-694-2415. As an educational partner, Cooperative Extension can put you in touch with Farm Fresh Ventures for local group presentations as well.

Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope has begun their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They have distributed coats to several of the churches and schools in Anson County.

Blankets for the elderly are also available. To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Esther Lindsey at 704-848-8452.

Christmas in November Shopping Event is Saturday

Ready, Set, SHOP...at the Arts Council's Christmas in November. Get out your gift list and put on your shopping shoes! Save your gas and support the local creative community! It's time for the Anson County Arts Council's third annual Christmas in November this Saturday, November 23, at SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Find unique holiday gifts (and maybe a treasure or two for yourself) among the creations of artists and craftsmen from Anson and surrounding counties. Prices are very affordable, and you'll be keeping your money in the local economy.

Items include hand-thrown pottery, both functional and decorative wood items, watercolors, cards and prints, handmade baskets, Christmas ornaments, gourd art, hand-painted glassware and serving pieces, stained glass, angels, wreaths, decoupaged planters, crocheted scarves and wraps, aprons, doilies, table runners, pillows, soft books, and handmade jewelry from silver, copper, semi-precious stones, natural stone, fossils and a variety of other materials are just some of the beautiful creations that will fill the tables. Baked goods, Uptown Wadesboro t-shirts and hats, and gift certificates for local Southern Medley wine at 10% off will also be available.

The Arts Council offers this event as a service to both the creative community and local residents. Admission is free, and artists and craftsmen pay only a minimal table fee. All vendors keep 100% of their sales. For more information call 704-694-4950.

Don't miss this once a year event. Treasures await!

New Date for Board of Education Meeting

The Anson County Board of Education has changed their regular meeting date to Monday, November 25. (It was previously scheduled for November 18). Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin around 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.