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Governor Cooper Offers Reward in Murder of Wallace Sturdivant

On Wednesday, December 13 Governor Roy Cooper announced that the state is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Mr. Wallace Levon Sturdivant, age 60.

On Tuesday, June 6 at approximately 9:59 p.m. the Wadesboro Police Department received a call for service that was initially dispatched as 'shots fired on Salisbury Street.' Upon arrival officers located Mr. Wallace Levon Sturdivant lying in a vacant lot across the street from Wadesboro Discount Grocery, located at 702 Salisbury Street. Mr. Sturdivant had suffered apparent gunshot wounds and eventually died from his injuries. Officers also found Mr. Charles Edward Rivers, age 52, near the vacant lot with gunshot



Wallace Sturdivant

wounds. Mr. Rivers' injuries warranted a transfer to Carolinas Medical Center-Main Hospital in Charlotte. Mr. Rivers survived his injuries.

Anyone with information concerning this case should contact the Wadesboro Police Department at 704-694-2167 or the State Bureau of Investigation at 919-662-4500.

Town of Wadesboro Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Town of Wadesboro has been set for today, Wednesday, December 20, at 5:35 p.m. to discuss the following closed session item:

• Personnel: N.C. General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

The meeting will be held in the Town of Wadesboro City Hall Conference Room.

Sen. Tom McInnis Presented an Award

This is a release from the NCSA: The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association (NCSA) has recognized Senator Tom McInnis as a 2017 Defender of Public Safety for the important work he did during the 2017 legislative session to protect public safety in North Carolina.

Senator McInnis dedicated time and effort during the session advocating for law enforcement issues important to the Association which impact the office of sheriff, local communities and the state. "Senator McInnis took a leadership role in advancing the legislative priorities of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association which represent all 100 sheriffs in the state," said Sheriff Carson H. Smith, President of the Association. "As a result, our sheriffs are better equipped to protect the lives, liberties and property of North Carolina citizens."

Senator McInnis' legislative district is served by Sheriff Landric Reid of Anson County, Sheriff James Clemmons of Richmond County, Sheriff Kevin Auten of Rowan County, Sheriff Ralph Kersey of Scotland County and Sheriff George Burris of Stanly County.

Sheriff Reid said, "Senator McInnis has always supported the Anson County Sheriff's Office, and keeps me informed of new bills being voted on. Senator McInnis is well deserving of this award."

During the 2017 legislative session the General Assembly considered hundreds of bills and enacted dozens of laws that had a direct impact on law enforcement and public safety in North Carolina.

Town of Wadesboro Holiday Schedule

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26 to celebrate the Christmas holiday. The normal Monday and Tuesday garbage collection routes will be picked up on Wednesday, December 27. The normal Wednesday and Thursday garbage collection routes will be picked up on Thursday, December 28.

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018, to celebrate the New Year Holiday. Monday and Tuesday's normal garbage collection routes will be picked up on Tuesday, January 2. The normal route collection will resume on Wednesday, January 3.

The Town of Wadesboro appreciates your consideration in allowing town employees time with their families during this holiday season. As always, you will still be able to leave your utility bill payments in the night deposit box at Town Hall. If you have an emergency, please call Dispatch at 704-694-2167.

Tips for Hassle-Free Returns & Exchanges

According to the National Retail Federation, some retailers make their return policies more lenient around the holidays, while others tighten up the parameters to account for an increase in return fraud. In North and South Carolina, the law only requires that a retailer have a return policy and disclose it to shoppers, but it does not dictate the terms of that return policy. "Because there is no standard when it comes to returns and exchanges," says Tom Bartholomy, President of Better Business Bureau of Southern Piedmont and Western North Carolina, "it is important that consumers carefully read and understand the policy before even making a purchase."

BBB offers the following advice for hassle-free returns and exchanges:

- Keep your receipts. Keep any purchase receipts and be sure to enclose gift receipts as well.
 - Understand return policies. Make sure you understand whether you or the recipient of your gift can get a refund, exchange or store credit for unwanted merchandise. Policies for sale or clearance merchandise may be different.
 - Monitor the return clock. The return window starts the day the gift was purchased, not the day it was received, so know when that window closes.
 - Don't remove items from their boxes or remove the tags.
- Some stores will not accept a return unless the item is in its original packaging.
- Ask about return shipping fees. Be aware of additional charges if returning an online purchase.
- Check out bbb.org to look up a business, file a complaint, write a customer review, report a scam, read tips, follow BBB on social media, and more!



Entrepreneur Class at Anson High School

This fall the seniors of Anson High School's Youth Career Connect program were challenged by an Entrepreneurship I class taught by South Piedmont Community College's Fredrea Crawford-Smith. Of the 16 students attempting the course, 11 completed the 48-hour class, which included a group business plan competition.

Entrepreneurship I provided an introduction to the principles of entrepreneurship, including topic such as self-analysis of entrepreneurship readiness, the role of entrepreneurs in economic development, legal issues, organizational structure, and sources of financing, budgeting, and cash flow, requiring a lot of critical thinking skills.

Students completing the course received a certificate to recognize their achievement and the group with the winning business plan received \$100.

Pictured above are, from left, front row: Fredrea Crawford-Smith, Jaylin J. Gaddy, JaVonte Q. McLendon, Kayla M. Lowery, Tristan I. Dickson and Jordan A. Sturdivant. Middle row: Jada A. Maske and Noah E. Bacon. Back row: Daekwon R. Garmon, Havillynn McCallum, and Nasir Bellamy. Not pictured: Kevon Dunlap.



Hundreds Attend Annual Community Christmas Blessing Event at Harvest Ministries

Over 400 people poured into the auditorium of Harvest Ministries Outreach Center on Sunday, December 17 for the annual Community Christmas Blessing event. The event, now in its 15th consecutive year, proved to be one of the best yet.

Harvest founding Pastor Tim Adams shared, "Of all of the many outreaches that Harvest has been blessed to be a part of all year, this is the greatest of the year. To know that so many people contributed and came together to make Christmas possible for others - is truly what being a Christian is all about, it's wonderful."

Every child in attendance left with new Christmas presents, while many adults left with cash and many other great give-a-ways. Prizes included a new 32 inch television, \$300 in cash, Charlotte Hornets tickets, 20 bicycles, and hundreds of dollars in gift cards and prizes. All in all over \$2,000 in gifts, cash and prizes were distributed.

For the past few years Christmas Blessing has had the honor of partnering with Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant and Toys for Toys to reach as many families as possible. Lead Pastor of Harvest Steve Adams said, "This is why we are here, to serve God and serve others. This day could not be possible without the generosity and partnerships of so many people across Anson and surrounding counties. We are grateful for Commissioner Sturdivant and Toys for Tots for all they do on this special day."

On hand to help distribute toys and prizes were Playaz Elite Motorcycle Club, Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid, Wadesboro Mayor Bill Thacker, and others.

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center would like to thank the many volunteers, organizers, community partners, churches, and others who made this year's event possible. Pastor Steve added, "To have this many community leaders, businesses and individuals donate and give shows the confidence, faith and trust locals have in the outreach of Community Christmas Blessing."

A special thanks to: Sheriff Landric Reid, Leavitt Funeral Home, Lady Bug Restaurant, Whits Convenience, Martin Furniture, Forbes Jewelers, Huntley Oil, Badcock - Wadesboro, Constance Martin, Lafogata - Wadesboro, Wadesboro Mayor Bill Thacker, The Express Newspaper, C&M Auto, Smith Funeral Home, Attorney Aaron Bates.

• Key Sponsors: Poisson, Poisson & Bower, Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant and Playaz Elite Motorcycle Club.

• The Congregation of Harvest Ministries for their continued giving and compassion for Anson County

Pastor Steve summed up the event by saying, "A huge crowd is great, the presents for children is wonderful, and people loving and blessing others is truly what Christmas is supposed to be. And, to know that 21 people prayed to have Jesus Christ change their life, simply was the exclamation point on an awesome day!"

For more information on the programs and outreach efforts of Harvest visit www.harvestmin.com or call Steve Adams at 704-695-2879.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday

Free USDA foods will be distributed this Saturday, December 23, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution Division provide these food items through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for individual's eligibility. The food items will only be available to Ansonians. Individuals who have not registered or received food before from the BRLC Emergency food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. Those families that receive food stamp assistance will automatically qualify. Parents are asked not to bring children due to limited seating space. Neighbors are asked to please park in parking lot behind center.

The USDA prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political belief, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Not all prohibited bases will apply to all program and activities.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8182 for information. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

Showing of World War II In Color at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing part 3 of the 13 part documentary series, *World War 2 In Color*, on Wednesday, December 27 at 10 a.m.

Here is the documentary synopsis: When the United Kingdom declared war on Nazi Germany at the outset of World War II it controlled to varying degrees numerous crown colonies, protectorates and the Indian Empire. From September 1939 to mid-1942 Britain led Allied efforts in almost every global military theater.

Free Groceries for Families in Need January 3

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Mobile Food Pantry and CHS Mobile Health Unit will be at Austin Grove Baptist Church, located at 5919 Austin Grove Church Road in Marshville, on Wednesday, January 3. Please arrive and register between 9 and 11 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 10 to 10:30 a.m.

• Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 9:30 to 11 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Send an email them to hvillagrana@wncuccum.net. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.

BRLC Afterschool

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center offers professional afterschool care daily at the Kid's Cafe from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Children enjoy activities, hot meals and help with homework if they need it. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information call 704-826-8737.