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

Man Charged with Second Degree Murder of his Son



Isaac Braswell Thomas

Isaac Braswell Thomas, 64, of Polkton, was arrested and charged with Second Degree Murder in the shooting death of his son, Isaac Peter Thomas of Albemarle. The Anson County Sheriff's Office received a call just before 2 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday, January 4. Upon their arrival at 2624 Randall Road in Polkton they found the victim lying in the driveway, dead from a gunshot wound. Deputies arrested the father and placed him in the Anson County Jail with a court date of Tuesday, January 10. Thomas was released on a \$100,000 secure bond.

The Sheriff's Office and the NC State Bureau of Investigation are working to determine what led to the shooting.

Couple Arrested and Charged with Theft of Auto Parts

Detectives with the Wadesboro Police Department issued arrest warrants for husband and wife, John Harley Lucas and Kecia Dawn Lucas on Saturday, December 30. Charges are related to a fraud committed against Carpenter's Auto Electric on Thursday, September 28, 2016. Both suspects were charged with obtaining property by false pretense and felony conspiracy. They were confined to Anson County Jail and have subsequently been released on bond.

Arrests were made after a lengthy investigation where the Lucas couple were found to have worked in concert to obtain motor vehicle parts from Carpenter's Auto Electric. The couple claimed to work for and charged parts to various businesses when in fact the Lucas' were not affiliated with or working on behalf of those businesses.

- John Harley Lucas, 379 Deberry Road, Mount Gilead, NC. Date of birth July 3, 1985.
- Kecia Dawn Lucas, 379 Deberry Road, Mount Gilead, NC. Date of birth September 11, 1986.

Detimothy Rashaun Smith Arrested in Breaking and Entering of Residence



Detimothy Rashaun Smith

Detectives with the Wadesboro Police Department arrested Detimothy Rashaun Smith on Wednesday, December 21 for charges related to a breaking and entering that occurred at a residence on Stuart Drive on Thursday, December 8. Smith was charged with breaking and entering and attempted larceny after breaking and entering. He was confined to Anson County Jail under a \$20,000 bond and given a court date of January 31, 2017.

Smith is currently being investigated in connection with other breaking and entering cases.

Anyone with information about this or any other breaking and entering is requested to contact the Wadesboro Police Department at (704) 694-2167 and ask to speak to a detective.

- Detimothy Rashaun Smith, 1200 Center Street, Wadesboro. Date of birth August 25, 1993.

Martin Luther King Celebration at BRLC January 16

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) will celebrates the Martin Luther King Holiday on Monday, January 16. Lunch will be served at 12 noon, the celebration activities will start at 1 p.m.

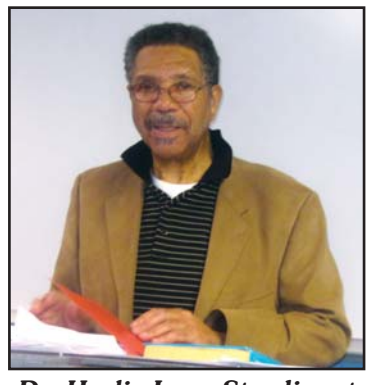
Mr. Harlie Leon Sturdivant of Greensboro, a native of the Ansonville Community, is the invited speaker. He is the son of the late Rev. Harlie Sturdivant and Prophetess Lizzie Sturdivant of Ansonville, the founders of Faith of Zion Baptist Church located in Ansonville.

Sturdivant graduated from West Ansonville High School in 1966. He attended Winston-Salem State University where he earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Teaching, with a major in biology and minor in chemistry. His other educational accomplishments include three degrees from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Masters in Educational Administration, Educational Specialist in Administration, and Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction.

Sturdivant has thirty-four years of experience as a public school teacher and administrator. He served as an Assistant Principal in the Guilford County schools in Greensboro.

After retiring as a public school administrator he worked for six years at the university level as an adjunct professor, instructing and training aspiring teachers. During this time he also worked at Winston Salem State University as well as A&T State University. In the scope of his career he taught, counseled and influenced some fifty thousand students.

The public is invited to attend this event. BRLC always accepts financial donations. and all donations are tax deductible. BRLC is located on Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737, or email burnsvillec@gmail.com.



Dr. Harlie Leon Sturdivant

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Scheduled

The annual celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is scheduled for Monday, January 16. Activities will begin with a breakfast at 8:00 a. m. at Kesler Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church on Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. Following the breakfast a commemorative march will commence at the old J. R. Faison School on Salisbury Street and end at the church. A morning program that includes songs, praise dances, and a keynote address by Rev. Rodney Moore will start at 10:00 a. m. at Kesler Chapel. This year's theme is "Keeping the Dream Alive: Continuing the Journey."

This is a county-wide event and all activities are free and open to the public. For more information contact Winnie Bennett at 704-851-9269.

District Spelling Bee is Today!

Anson County Schools will host the Annual District Spelling Bee competition on Wednesday, January 11. The Spelling Bee will be held at the district office and will begin at 3:30 p.m. The top spellers from the schools will compete for the honor of becoming district champion. The winner will represent Anson County Schools in the Charlotte Observer Regional Bee in February.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the event and to offer support to our hard-working students. Admission is free and open to the public. The address is 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Grace Senior Center Begins in February

Are you an adult age 55 or older with any type of diagnosed Arthritis? The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program will help you who have joint and /or muscle problems. Achieve improved joint mobility, muscle strength and endurance in order to improve the performance of your daily activities. Join Grace Senior Center's free 1-hour Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, held twice a week for eight weeks.

Learn basic arthritis self-management from a certified instructor. Learn basic principles of exercise and of joint protection. Learn tips for managing stress and pain, and how to make exercise a daily routine. Exercise and strengthen your body, educate yourself and become more active and stress free.

The one hour classes will begin Tuesday, February 7, and are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12 noon through March 30. Please call Wanda Talbert 704-694-6616 or 704-994-3495 to register or for more information.



Anson cowboy, John "Dusty" Witherspoon makes a bid at last year's Barn Blast.

New Opportunities for Fun at 2017 Barn Blast

This is a release from the Anson County Partnership for Children: The 2017 Barn Blast is right around the corner! Anson County Partnership for Children will host its 11th annual fundraiser to benefit young children in Anson County on Friday, January 27, at 5 pm at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro.

"We would like to thank the many supporters of Barn Blast who continue to make this event successful, including our presenting sponsors, Poisson Poisson and Bower and Uwharrie Bank. We are grateful that the community embraces early education and the long-lasting benefits of literacy in the lives of young children," said Caroline Goins, Executive Director, in appreciation of the generosity of the community.

At this time, Barn Blast is sold out, but please call the Partnership if you would like to be put on a waiting list for tickets.

Barn Blast 2017 will offer a new game and surprises but will include many signature activities that are guest favorites. Although cash payment for games is not accepted by game volunteers, cash is accepted during checkout.

This year offers a Wine Pull game where for \$20 guests will select a bottle of wine from the Wine Wall, where bottles will range from local favorites to more expensive wines from specialty shops. This game is sponsored by Kiker Resource Management and Anson Family Optometric.

Anson County Partnership for Children would like to express appreciation for the support of the community for Barn Blast. Through your generosity and enthusiasm for Barn Blast, the Partnership for Children has been able to continue the programs and efforts on behalf of young children in Anson County. Children participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library received more than 13,000 books during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, thanks in part to the support of this program during Barn Blast.

There are many opportunities available to support children through Barn Blast, even if you do not have tickets. Sponsorship opportunities are still available and auction items are needed. Contact the Partnership if you are willing to contribute to Barn Blast. In addition, you may sponsor children to receive Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books for \$25 per year through Sponsor A Child. Think of this for gifts in memory or honor of a loved one. Contact the Partnership for more information about the event and ways you can help.

Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child." All profits from the Barn Blast are used for Partnership programs which address the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on child care, health, literacy and family support. For more information, contact the Partnership at 704-694-4036 or www.ansonchildren.org.

<h3>Business Expo to Showcase Anson Businesses</h3> <p>The Anson County Chamber of Commerce will present the first annual Business Expo on Thursday, March 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro.</p> <p>"The expo is a way to showcase our members to Anson County and surrounding communities through products and services offered by their business or organization," stated Chamber Executive Director Shelby Emrich.</p> <p>This is event is free to the public. There will be door prizes and lots of giveaways, so mark your calendars today!</p> <p>For more information on the Business Expo contact the Chamber of Commerce at 704-694-4181 or ansonchamber@windstream.net.</p>	<h3>Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday</h3> <p>The Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have a lost a child, will meet this Thursday, January 12 at 7 p.m. in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.</p> <p>For more information call Irving Thompson at 704-694-8774.</p>
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<h3>Town of Wadesboro Schedule for Martin Luther King Day</h3> <p>The Town of Wadesboro will be closed on Monday, January 16 for the Martin Luther King Holiday. There will be no garbage collection that day. Monday's trash route and Tuesday's trash route will both be done on Tuesday January 17.</p> <p>For information please contact Town Hall at 704-694-5171.</p>	<h3>Blood Drive in Wadesboro January 17</h3> <p>A community blood drive will be held at First Baptist Church-Lee Avenue in Wadesboro on Tuesday, January 17, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. To schedule your life-saving appointment visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter "Wadesboro" in the search box.</p> <p>First Baptist Church is located at 309 Lee Avenue.</p>
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<h3>Leadership Anson Participants Chosen</h3> <p>The Leadership Anson Oversight Committee has selected 17 participants for the Leadership Anson Class of 2017 that begins in January. The 20th annual developmental program will kick off with an all-day retreat at the Griffin Hill Lodge on January 31st.</p> <p>The participants are: Joannie Barnhill, Carolina Apparel Group; Josh Bricker, Uwharrie Bank; Brian Campbell, South Piedmont Community College; Aimee Colf, Anson County Cooperative Extension; Bradley Davidson, Wadesboro Police Department; Jill Lucas, Carolinas HealthCare System Anson; Rashaun Durden, South Piedmont Community College; Alexandra Harrington, Anson County Partnership for Children; Kyle Eudy, Uwharrie Investment Advisors; John Marek, Anson Economic Development Partnership; MaryBeth Kiser, Anson County Schools-Peachland-Polkton Elementary School; Jacqueline Rubio, Anson County Health Department; Anita Sturdivant, Hornwood Inc.; Julian Swittenberg, Town of Wadesboro-Uptown Wadesboro Inc.; Brian Tice, Anson County Sheriff's Office; April Watkins, South Piedmont Community College; and Shelby Emrich, Anson County Chamber of Commerce.</p>	<h3>Forum to Help with High School Selection Process</h3> <p>Anson County Schools will host a forum for high school selection process on Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Anson Middle School. This forum will provide information to help parents and students choose which high school to attend.</p>
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<p>The Leadership Anson program was implemented in 1997 by the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. The program, with assistance from South Piedmont Community College and Hornwood Inc., is designed to develop a commitment to community through leadership.</p>	<p>The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com</p>
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