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

Thief Caught Red Handed by Alert Cops

On Monday, January 14, at approximately 1 p.m. two off duty Wadesboro Police Officers observed a dark colored Ford truck, pulling a trailer, leaving Anson Machine Shop on Highway 74 west of Wadesboro at a high rate of speed. The officers, knowing this was suspicious, contacted on-duty officers to investigate further.

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies located the suspicious truck and trailer in the area of Kitty Bennett Road in Wadesboro and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. The truck did not respond and a pursuit ensued. The truck driver drove the truck into a ditch, and then fled from the vehicle. Officers from the Wadesboro Police Department joined Sheriff's Deputies in resulting foot chase. The suspect ran into a wooded area where he was later apprehended.

The suspect was identified as Roger Lee Hunt, 47, from Rowland, NC.

Officers contacted the owner of Anson Machine Shop and determined that the trailer attached to Hunt's vehicle was, in fact, stolen from the business. Hunt was arrested and transported to the Anson County Jail.

Hunt has been charged with Breaking and Entering, Larceny, and Breaking and Entering of a Motor Vehicle - all felonies. He was also charged with Trespassing, Resisting a Public Officer, Fleeing to Elude Arrest, and Damage to Property - all misdemeanors.

A spokesman from the Wadesboro Police Department said, "Our officers did an outstanding job being aware of their surroundings and using their "police instincts" to protect the property of the citizens of Wadesboro."

Last of 10 Charged with Drug Conspiracy Sentenced

17 years for remaining defendant of May 2010 bust

The last of 10 defendants charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Anson and Union Counties was sentenced on Monday, January 14 to serve 210 months in prison, announced Anne M. Tompkins, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina. U.S. District Court Judge Frank D. Whitney also ordered the defendant, Adrian Parker, 28, of Wadesboro to serve four years of supervised release following his prison term. Parker pleaded the charge in October 2010.

In making the announcement U.S. Attorney Tompkins praised the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations, the Wadesboro Police Department, the Anson County Sheriff's Office, and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. The five law enforcement agencies are partner members of the Charlotte FBI Safe Streets Task Force, which is dedicated to investigating violent crime and making our streets and communities safer.

The May 2010 indictment charged the 10 defendants with participating in a drug conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Anson and Union Counties and elsewhere in Western North Carolina from about 2007 through May 2010. The other nine defendants also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and were sentenced as follows:

- Cedrick Little, 23, of Wadesboro. Sentenced in May 2011 to serve 20 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised release.
- Shaun Burns, 34, of Peachland, N.C. Sentenced in November 2011 to serve 56 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised release.
- Gecoby Hailey, 27, of Wadesboro. Sentenced in May 2011 to serve 30 months in prison, followed by four years of supervised release.
- Clayton C. Kersey, 23, of Wadesboro. Sentenced in May 2011 to serve 30 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release.
- Duncan O. Borden, 31, of Wadesboro. Sentenced in May 2011 to serve 60 months in prison, followed by four years of supervised release.
- Katrina Gould, 41, of Wadesboro. Sentenced in May 2011 to serve 120 months in prison, followed by eight years of supervised release.
- Jasmine Gatewood, 23, of Wadesboro. Sentenced in May 2011 to serve 30 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release.
- Paul Long, 27, of Wadesboro. Sentenced in May 2011 to serve 78 months in prison, followed by four years of supervised release.
- Harvey Lee Sturdivant, 33, of Peachland. Sentenced in May 2011 to serve 70 months in prison, followed by four years of supervised release.

The case was referred to the FBI Safe Streets Task Force by the Wadesboro Police Department to address the growing gang problem in the town of Wadesboro, with emphasis placed on the gang activity, violence, and the narcotics distribution concentrated on Salisbury Street, US Highway 74. The activity consisted of shootings, robberies, weapons offenses, threats on law enforcement and narcotics distribution, mainly crack cocaine.

Parker has been in local federal custody since May 2010. He will be transferred to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons upon designation of a federal facility. All federal sentences are served without the possibility of parole.

The prosecution for the government is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Kaufman of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Charlotte.

DARE Program at Ansonville Elementary School



In a release from Ansonville Elementary School: DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It is a wonderful program that Sheriff Tommy Allen, Jr. started in 1988. It was one of the first in the state and has operated continuously ever since.

Each year DARE is taught to over 400 fifth graders throughout the county. DARE teaches students the different ways to say "NO" to peers and drugs. This year Lieutenant Paxton taught fifth graders at Ansonville Elementary School more than just drug prevention education, he taught the students good decision making skills to help them avoid high-risk behavior to ensure they grow up healthy, safe and secure.

Recently each student in Mrs. Conklin's, Mrs. McClendon's

and Mr. Valler's classrooms successfully completed the DARE program and were honored during a graduation ceremony.

Six students from the fifth grade were chosen as DARE essay winners. These students wrote in response to the following prompt: What knowledge and skills have you learned in D.A.R.E. to help you make healthy choices? Give details about what you have learned and why it's important, and tell about what impact did it have on you? The winners were Kaylee Lomax, Akela Martin, Madison Threath, Raven Spencer, Subree Hall and Briyana Clyburn. Each student received medals of honor for completing award winning essays.

Congratulations to the winners of the essay contest and to all fifth grade students for a job well done.

Adoption Fees Waived on Dogs Scheduled to Die February 1

Area residents are urged to help save dogs that have remained in Humane Society facility too long

When I began this story last week, the Humane Society of Richmond County had 21 dogs, considered long timers, who would be put to death on Friday, February 1. Today, I am pleased to say that number has dwindled. But there are several that remain on "death row."

A long timer refers to any dog that has been placed in the shelter for over 60 days. Do not be confused that the dogs themselves are of old age. Many are very young. "Some of these dogs have been here since last summer," said Shelter Manager, Amy Kuhnen. "We are being forced to adhere to policies and the dogs will absolutely be put down if not taken into foster care or an adoptive home," Kuhnen continued.

Some of the dogs include, "Thelma and Louise," young female lab mixes. They are playful, friendly and have been in the shelter for quite some time. These endearing girls deserve better than to grow up in a shelter and would love to find a home. Or "Fido," an adult male pit/boxer mix who came into the shelter as a stray. Fido is very sweet, has not been neutered, and has probably been at the shelter longer than all the others. Fido is very loving. "Elvira," is a chocolate lab mix, 2-year old female and has not been spayed. Elvira came to the shelter in October. Her beautiful, soulful eyes have made her a staff favorite.

"Tex" is an adult male lab mix. He is very sweet and loves belly rubs! Tex will do best in an only pet environment, so if you only want one dog, maybe Tex is for you. "Baxter" is an intact pit/boxer mix who is as sweet as sugar. He is here with his friend "Piper." Both are young adults who are growing up together in the shelter. Piper is an intact pit/boxer mix that is a loving, gentle soul. "Colton," a male pit mix loves attention, listens very well to the staff, is not a loud dog, and he keeps his kennel clean too!

All adoption fees have been waived on these dogs. Each wears an orange tag to identify their urgency. The shelter is located on the West end of Richmond County, which is not so far away from us here in Anson County. Please go over and take a look at the "orange tagged long-timers" who are facing an ominous fate.

These specific dogs (there are no cats listed as long-timers) are running out of time. Euthanasia will, no doubt, begin on February 1 and continue through February 3.

Call 910-895-8989 for further information...but do not wait! If you do, it will be too late for so many loving, wonderful furry friends who would love for you to love them.

You've heard the phrase, "Dead man walking," but have you considered the phrase, "Dead dog barking?" In just 8 days, that is sure to be their fate. If you have been thinking about a pet, please consider a rescue. For those scheduled to die, the adoption is free. Urgency is key. Do not delay but act now in order that these animals might find a loving home.

On a personal note, Allen and I currently have four rescues and absolutely love them all. When asked, "What kind of dogs are they," we answer, "Very sweet, loving dogs who provide some of the happiest moments of our lives."

Please don't overlook a dog simply because there are no pedigrees or papers. Anyone can BUY a dog, but it takes someone special to rescue one from certain death.

Anson County is filled with special dog lovers. Go over and be one of the special few who will save the life of a dog in need and whose lives are in our hands.



Thelma



Louise



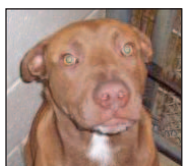
Fido



Elvira



Tex



Baxter



Piper



Colton



Buster

Boater Rescued from Storm-Swollen Pee Dee

The Ansonville Fire and Rescue received an early morning call on Sunday, January 20 concerning a boating emergency. They, along with an EMS unit responded to an overturned boat with a stranded victim hanging onto a tree in the Pee Dee River near the Highway 109 bridge. The man was rescued without injury.

According to representatives of the Ansonville Fire and Rescue, once they arrived on the scene they met the person who made the call. He advised that the victim was hanging onto a tree about a mile down the river. A North Carolina Helicopter and Aquatic Rescue Team was notified to assist with the rescue. Ansonville units then responded to the campsite of the boaters where they found the victim in a tree about 75 yards out into the river. The river was swollen out of the banks due to recent storms upriver.

The Ansonville unit deployed their rescue boat and brought the stranded victim back ashore. Other than suffering from distress, the boater was okay. At that point the helicopter team (NCHART) was notified that the rescue had been made, and their call was cancelled.

A spokesperson for the Ansonville Fire and Rescue said, "This is a reminder to all boaters that this is a lesson learned. It is never safe to enter a swollen river because of strong currents and debris. Always wear a proper personal floatation device (PFD) in and around the water!"

Town of McFarlan Changes Meeting Time

The Town of McFarlan has changed the time for their regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners to 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. The meetings take place in the Town Hall.

Groundbreaking for New Emergency Services Center

Anson County will hold a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new county Emergency Services Center on Friday, February 1 at 1 p.m. The ceremony will take place on the site of the new center, located at 2230 Country Club Road just past Coffing Hoists. There will be a brief program, then the Anson County Commissioners will each be presented a shovel for the groundbreaking. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The Emergency Services Center, designed by Moseley Architects of Charlotte, will consolidate all of the county's emergency services under one roof. The building will house the county's Emergency Management Department, which will include the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Fire Marshal's Office, the Emergency Medical Services Department (EMS), and the 911/Emergency Communications Center.

The facility will feature state of the art communications technology, and will be hurricane and blast resistant (the 911 portion). In order to maintain function under adverse conditions, two redundant generators will provide back-up power.

Support spaces will include ambulance vehicle bays, training room, break out rooms, bunk rooms for 24 hour staff, locker rooms, fitness room, storage, offices, server room, sign shop, and administrative spaces.

County Manager Lawrence Gatewood has said that the new \$3.6 million, 24,000 square foot facility should serve Anson County for the next 40+ years.

Health Department Announces Extended Hours Clinic Services

The Anson County Health Department will offer clinic services on Tuesday, February 5 until 7 p.m. The department will offer immunizations, flu vaccinations, family planning services, sick visits, work or sports physicals, etc.

The WIC office will also be open to serve teens for their initial prenatal WIC visit. Please call 704-694-9844 for a WIC appointment. The Extended Hours Clinic is an attempt to provide services for students and workers who are unable to schedule appointments during the normal clinic hours.

Jennifer Dockery, FNP is the medical provider at Anson County Health Department.

All clients must call for an appointment for this clinic. Please call 704-694-5188 and then press "0" to make an appointment.

Blood Drive Thursday

There will be a community Blood Drive on Thursday, January 24 at Peachland Volunteer Fire Department, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Harvest Ministries Will Hold Community Event Saturday for Salisbury Street

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center has announced that they will hold a community event for the residents of the Salisbury Street area this Saturday, January 26, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The event will be held at Ebenezer Church near the 74 Stop and Shop Store.

There will be free groceries, free toys, free clothing, bottled water and drinks, popcorn, games, face painting, prizes, and a chance to win cash!

For more information contact Lead Pastor Steve Adams at 704-695-2879.

Bowling for the Arts

The weather is cold, but the chili and cornbread will be warm. Join the fun on Wednesday, January 30th, when Anson County Arts Council patrons gather at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. First you will select a beautiful hand-thrown bowl to add to your pottery collection, and then you will enjoy a delicious meal of homemade chili, cornbread, slaw, tea, and dessert for \$25. Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce, Lacy's, and the Anson County Arts Council. Please call 704-694-4950 for more information.

Blood Drive January 30

The Wadesboro Rotary Club will sponsor an American Red Cross community blood drive on Wednesday, January 30. It will take place from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. All donors will be entered to win a \$1,000 gift card. For more information about Red Cross blood drives, visit www.redcross-blood.org.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA