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

## Reginald O'Dell Arrested, Charged in Murder of Dorian Miles

Sheriff Tommy Allen announced on Friday, February 7 that fugitive Reginald O'Dell, wanted for the murder of Dorian Miles and the shooting of Hason Pressley on December 30, 2013, in Anson County, was arrested in Baltimore, Maryland. Sheriff Allen said that O'Dell was taken into custody at a residence by US Marshalls early Friday morning.

"We knew he was in the Baltimore area," Allen said. "My office had been working with the SBI and the US Marshalls on this matter. We knew it was just a matter of time before we would find him. He was taken into custody without incident."

Sheriff Allen worked with the District Attorney in Baltimore to begin the extradition process. O'Dell waived extradition Friday afternoon, and was returned from Baltimore Saturday afternoon. He is now in the Anson County Jail facing the assault and the first degree murder charge.

"As soon as we were told he had waived extradition we made arrangements to pick him up. He was served with murder and felony assault warrants late Saturday afternoon. On Monday morning he was taken to court and appointed attorneys," Allen said.



Reginald O'Dell

## 18 Year Old Marshville Man Charged in Whisnant Death

Sheriff Tommy Allen announced on Thursday, February 6 that his office had made an arrest in the November 13, 2013, murder of Keith Whisnant, whose body was found alongside this car off Highway 742 North, approximately five miles north of Wadesboro. On Thursday Deputies charged Quamaine Lee Massey, 18, of Marshville with First Degree Murder and Armed Robbery in the shooting death of Whisnant.

Sheriff Allen said that his office had been working with the SBI and Union County officers in the 48 hours leading up to Massey's arrest. Massey was arrested Wednesday afternoon in Union County on a number of felony warrants from Union County.

"The case began to break the first of the week," Allen said. "My detectives had been looking for Massey, and with the help of Union County he was taken into custody yesterday (Wednesday) there. Based on our investigation we were able to obtain warrants for murder and armed robbery."

Massey is currently in the Union County Jail being held there on a number of felony charges from Union County. He is also being held under no bond for Anson County and will be moved to Anson when the Union County charges have been disposed.



Massey

## Which Road to Plow First?

### NCDOT's method in clearing roads statewide

Every year about this time, when the winter weather descends upon North Carolina and blankets our state's highways, citizens call in and ask, "I need to get to work. When are you going to plow my road?" As much as our crews would like to immediately respond to every caller, we have a set snow and ice removal process in place.

NCDOT plows the following roads known as bare pavement routes first: Interstates; Four-lane divided highways; Other routes essential to moving traffic. After bare pavement routes: Secondary roads/streets; Neighborhoods.

How did the NCDOT determine its priority order? Connectivity, Traffic volume, amount of use, Major business avenues and trucking routes, Importance to hospitals and other emergency routes.

Here's how we tackle the storm: The NCDOT works in conjunction with the National Weather Service to ensure to the best of our ability our 3,200 trained employees stay ahead of the storm by pretreating roads with a brine mixture to keep the snow and ice from sticking, then plowing and sanding once the wintry weather hits. Why brine? Based on recent winters and long-term projections, the NCDOT presets its budgets in advance for snow and ice removal, as well as pretreating operations, and since we like to save taxpayers money, brining is extremely cost effective. It uses less salt overall, which saves money and is better for cars and the environment.

To treat 1 mile of road: \$.15 per gallon of brine v. \$14.38 per mile of rock salt (Brine =23% salt + 77% water); Brining coats roadways better than over treatments; Lowers freezing temperature of water; More effective at keeping snow from refreezing; Buys time - we can brine as much as 48 hours before the storm hits as long as temperatures do not fall below 18 degrees and it is not raining. In most cases, rain will wash it off.

Interesting NCDOT Storm Fighting Facts:

- The NCDOT can store 162,000 tons of salt statewide
- We use between 50 - 60,000 tons of sand and salt during a typical winter snow season
- 1,900 trucks equipped with plows and spreaders
- 325 front-end loaders and backhoes
- 450 motor graders
- Also outfit pickup trucks with snowplows to clear less-traveled roads
- Plowing and brine spreading trucks are not multi-taskers. It can only do one thing at a time. If a plow has its bladeup, it's probably spreading sand and salt.

For more information contact NCDOT communications at 919-707-2600.

## Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Services

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center offers so many valuable services to our community. They depend on the generous support of the community in the form of volunteering and monetary donations, and regularly hold events to help raise funds. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

- Emergency Food Pantry. Food given out every Wednesday, 9 to 10 a.m.
- USDA Food given out the fourth Tuesday of every month, 9 to 10 a.m.
- After School Program
- Summer Camp for children
- Adult Computer Classes
- Job Link
- Fax Services
- Many more services!



## "Spread The Love And Twirl" Majorette Clinic

On Saturday, February 1 prospective Anson middle and high school age baton twirlers gathered in the Anson Middle School gymnasium for a day of majorette boot camp! Coaches Anne Hyatt and Melanie Lyon coordinated and facilitated the event. The girls learned new and helpful stretches to improve flexibility and movement. During the day they traveled from station to station, while learning new tricks and baton techniques. Also on the days agenda were lessons on correct posture, poise and projection. The girls enjoyed incorporating gymnastics and twirling and also perfecting partner stunts and precision exchanges. Teachers, all former Anson High School Feature Twirlers, included Melody Goodwin, Cayla Lockhart and Holly Ratliffe. Holly, who also twirled at Appalachian State University, demonstrated how a tryout routine should be choreographed and executed. Sadie Freeman, a former Wingate University majorette, spoke about her experiences as a majorette at Anson High School and assisted each group throughout the day.

There's a lot more to twirling than meets the eye and these girls learned that very quickly during their "Spread The Love and Twirl Clinic." But the most important lessons learned would have to be, "Practice makes perfect," and "Before the performance comes the practice." And yes, the key word would be practice! *By Melanie Lyon*

Twirlers are pictured front, from left: Genesis Neal, Sally James, Savannah Houser, Olivia Edwards, Adriene Kersey and Kaeley Whitlock. Back: Brianna McCollum, Ashley Cameron, Destinie Bergman, Monique Mims and Tiffany Dollente. Brooke Baucom also attended.

## Singleton Silk Mill (1888-1926) of Wadesboro, NC

*This is one of a series of articles The Express will present during February in honor of Black History Month. Written by historian and genealogist Steve Bailey:*

Singleton Silk Manufacturing Company (1888-1926) of Wadesboro, NC was the first textile mill to hire African American employees in the early 1900's. The first silk mill in the South, it was started in Wadesboro in May 1888. Singleton Silk Mill was located on Carr's Mountain. Carr's Mountain is known today as Sikes Avenue, and the housing development is located where the Silk Mill once stood.

A look at county records reveals a deed of December 29, 1890 which transferred the Carr's Mountain property from James Bradley, trustee, to three men: George Singleton of Dover, New Jersey, Ebenezer Rose of Passaic, New Jersey and Russell Murray of New York. George Singleton and his brother Robert were silk producers in New Jersey. Robert came to Wadesboro to be the mill's first superintendent. This was the first textile mill in Anson County as well as being the first of its kind in the South. Later the Singletons started a silk mill in Augusta, Georgia similar to the Wadesboro Mill. It is thought that John T. Patrick, a great promoter of Anson County at that time, had something to do with influencing the Singletons to start their mill in Wadesboro. Patrick was the promoter of Southern Pines and Pinehurst as well.

The Singleton Company employed between two and three hundred people. The mill was known as a throwing mill. Raw silk was shipped to Wadesboro from China and Japan, and it was then processed for weaving. Offices were maintained in New York City, and the payroll was made up there and sent to Wadesboro.

For a period of time business was so good that the mill on the mount, which employed white workers only, could not meet the orders. Another mill or addition was built at the foot of the hill which employed around fifty or seventy African American employees. One girl's job was dragging a fire hose around all day, spraying moisture about the room where the silk was kept. A home for the superintendent was maintained on the mill grounds as well as some houses for the employees. Children as young as six years old were put to work. The average take home pay was twenty dollars per month.

Charles Uren of New Jersey came to Wadesboro in 1905 to be the mill's superintendent. His wife was the bookkeeper. Charles stayed with the silk mill until its decline in 1927. The mill's decline was due to several reasons: the northern owners got old and died; the machinery was badly worn and found difficult to replace; and World War One interfered with trade. A tuberculosis scare spread among the workers as several came down with the disease and died. This was not attributed to working conditions, but it was thought that some of the workers were carriers.

The site of the old silk mill has an interesting history. Before it was used as a mill, it was the county fairgrounds with a racetrack nearby. The fair was operated for several years by the Dixie Agricultural and Mechanical Association. It was sold in 1879 from the door of the courthouse to a group of businessmen. It was from James Bradley, acting as trustee for these men, that the Singletons acquired the property. *You can contact Steve Bailey for genealogy services at 704-475-3877 or genealogy1959@yahoo.com*

## Wadesboro IGA Launches IGA Hometown Label Savers Marketing Program

Wadesboro IGA has announced the launch of IGA Hometown Label Savers, a new community-based marketing program that encourages community non-profit organizations to collect IGA Exclusive Brand product barcodes in exchange for funding towards organizational needs.

It's easy to participate in IGA Hometown Label Savers:

- Eligible non-profit organizations submit a mail-in application to the IGA Hometown Label Savers team
- Once approved, the organization is posted on the IGA Hometown Label Savers microsite, accessible at [www.wadesboroiga.com](http://www.wadesboroiga.com) or at [www.iga.com](http://www.iga.com), letting shoppers know they can start collecting IGA Exclusive Brand barcodes in support of their cause.
- Organizations collect bundles of 500 IGA Exclusive Brand barcodes from shoppers and submit them to IGA USA in exchange for a \$15 donation good towards organizational needs.

"Wadesboro IGA has always been community-conscious and with IGA Hometown Label Savers we can give back to the organizations that mean the most to the Anson community," store owner Chris Sanford said. "There are a number of organizations that play a vital role in this community. IGA Hometown Label Savers provides us the opportunity to show our support so they can continue their good work. I invite all charitable organizations, schools and non-profits to register and participate in our IGA Hometown Label Savers program. Stop in the store today and we can help you get started, or visit [www.wadesboroiga.com](http://www.wadesboroiga.com) or [www.iga.com](http://www.iga.com) for more information."

Individuals can also bring IGA product barcodes by Wadesboro IGA where collection containers have been set up for Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition (ACDVC). ACDVC is a local non-profit organization that helps victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

## Field of Dreams Spring Sign Ups

Field of Dreams spring sports sign ups are underway now through March 8. The Field of Dreams office will be open on Saturday, February 22, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. You can also sign up online at [www.sportsmanager.us/aaya.htm](http://www.sportsmanager.us/aaya.htm).

Springs sports include the following: Tee ball (ages 4-6), Baseball (ages 7-12) and Softball (ages 7-18). Cost is as follows: Tee ball \$30 until February 22, and will go up to \$45 after that date. Baseball and Softball \$55 before February 22, and after that date will go up to \$70. Sign up now and save some money. The Field of Dreams is looking forward to a very eventful and successful spring sports season. Sign your kids up today!

## Second Winter Storm Covers Anson

For the second time in as many weeks, snow fell on Tuesday in and around our area, covering all it touched with a blanket of white. The picturesque beauty will most likely become hazardous for travelers through Thursday, with accumulation of snow and ice expected. This is the third snow of this winter.

With the threat of ice comes the potential for downed trees and power outages. Everyone is advised to stay off the roads and wait out the winter storm if possible. Temperatures ranged from mid to upper 30's during the day to mid to low 20's at night on Tuesday, with cold temperatures forecasted for Wednesday and Thursday. Below freezing temperatures coupled with snow and ice could mean treacherous conditions. Be mindful before venturing outside. *By Melanie Lyon*



Sisters in the Snow, Posie and Belle are enjoying some playtime together. "Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks," says Belle the snow-loving Siberian Husky? Posie, on the other hand insists that her 13 years and knowledge are far superior, even in the snow! Photo by Melanie Lyon

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