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

Edward Lee Wall Arrested for Illegal Sale of Alcohol in Polkton

On Wednesday, February 15 officers of the Polkton Police Department conducted a search of a home located on Lumber Street in Polkton. The search was conducted after a month long investigation into the illegal sale of alcoholic beverages. During the investigation it was found that the defendant had been in business for more than 10 years.

After officers made purchases from the residence a search was conducted. During the search a large quantity of liquor and beer were seized from the residence. A quantity of moonshine was also seized along with alcohol related paraphernalia.

After the search a Warrant for Arrest was issued on the defendant, and he was arrested on the same night. Edward Lee Wall, Jr., 64, of Polkton, was arrested and charged with two counts of Possess Non-Tax Paid Alcoholic Beverage and one count of Selling Alcoholic Beverage with No ABC Permit. He has a district court date of March 19.

Two Wildfires in Anson County

In a release from Robbie Perry of the NC Forest Service: On Sunday, February 12 the NC Forest Service along with Lilesville Fire Department responded to a wildfire behind several houses on Oakwood Drive off Highway 74. The fire burned 15 acres of woodland along the railroad tracks. The fire did no damage to the timber since this forest had a prescribed burn in it about two years ago. The burn reduced the amount of fuel available to the wildfire and caused it not burn as intensely as it would have had it not have already been burned. A passing train ignited this fire.



Both the Forest Service and Lilesville Fire Department responded again to a wildfire the following day on Stanback Ferry Road near Olivet Methodist Church. This time the fire burned 15 acres of young planted pine forest. The small size of the trees and thick grasses allowed this fire to burn with a lot of intensity, killing many of the young pine trees. The cause of this fire is still under investigation.

Both fires were extinguished by constructing fire lines with the NC Forest Service's bulldozer and plow stationed in Lilesville. Fire lines are constructed by pulling a fire plow around the perimeter of the fire and burning the unburned fuels out between the fire line and the fire. Large fires such as these are too large to put out using water.

Late winter and early spring is fire season in the southeastern United States. More wildfires occur during this time of the year than any other due to low relative humidity, gusty winds and rising temperatures. The NC Forest Service in Anson County has already responded to 18 wildfires since January 1st. In 2011 the county only saw 75 fires all year long.

Residents are urged to use caution when burning outdoors. North Carolina Law requires that anyone doing any open burning is required to obtain a burning permit, maintain control of their fire at all times, and maintain a watchman to stay with the fire as long as it is burns. Residents are urged to keep a hose and a shovel near the fire to control it if it were to escape.

Anyone with questions about open burning or where the closest burning permit locations are located are welcome to call the NC Forest Service in Lilesville at 704-848-4705 to speak with a ranger. Burning Permits are free and can be obtained at the Forest Service office or at one of the several permit agents located around the county, or online at www.ncforests-service.gov.

Rep. McGuirt Not Running for Reelection

In a release from Rep. Frank McGuirt: It was a great honor in March of last year to have been appointed to complete the unexpired term of Rep. Pryor Gibson in the North Carolina House of Representatives. I have enjoyed my service to the people of central and eastern Union County and all of Anson County. I take pride in having served these wonderful people in legislative issues and with good constituent services. Every vote I cast was and will be cast with the best interest of the people of District 69 in mind. Some of my greatest satisfaction has been in helping citizens cut red tape and get good basic state government services.

I have enjoyed hearing from my constituents and meeting them at community events and one on one whether in my office or out in the district. Of particular interest to me have been the children and young people of our communities. I have voted for good public education, and therefore, against the draconian budget passed by the majority in the General Assembly. That budget denied adequate funding to programs for the most vulnerable in our society, the young, the elderly, the handicapped and the poor.

The "good ole boys" of the majority party have restricted, as required by law, and have gerrymandered me out of the House. I believe their actions are unconstitutional. The "new" District 69 is not drawn to be favorable to average citizens. If, in the future, the district is redrawn making it more favorable I would be interested in continuing to serve my fellow citizens. However, as it stands now, I will not be a candidate for election to the House this year.

The reality is that, as the district is now drawn, working families, teachers, small business owners and the middle class in general within our district, will have no voice in state government. Bipartisanship and compromise are so badly needed to bring tax relief and jobs to our region and to prepare our young people for the global economy. But the majority party has pursued a far-right agenda to disenfranchise, discriminate against and to "divide and conquer" our people, as recently stated by the Speaker of the House. That is not good government. Good government is that which does the most good for the most people.

I hope and pray that the individual elected to represent District 69 will not fall into lockstep with the current majority in the General Assembly but will keep an open mind and carefully consider the issues and the long term effect on our people and our region.

As I serve out this term for the remainder of this year, rest assured I will continue to serve with great diligence and enthusiasm. I will continue to vote with the people of District 69 in mind. I urge those people to call or email me at any time. I look forward to hearing from them. My office phone number is 919-715-3700 and my email address is Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net.

Dance, Dance, Dance Part of Black History Month Celebration at SPCC



Latanya Johnson (third from left) and Jermaine Nakia Lee (center) lead audience members in a demonstration of the Ring Shout, a worship dance, during a Black History Month celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 15, on South Piedmont Community College's Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe. Johnson and Lee, who led the program "Dance, Dance, Dance," were from the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture in Charlotte.

Other events included "Music of the Movement," also put on by the Gantt Center; a presentation by Union County Public Library genealogist Patricia Poland on Dr. John Massey, Union County's first black physician; and a panel discussion on career readiness. The event was sponsored by IMPACT, SPCC's minority male mentoring program.

Back Porch Stories to Premier at Writers Conference

An evening of live entertainment will kick off the fourth annual Carolinas Writers Conference in April. Four N.C. storytellers will grace the stage at the Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro on Friday, April 13. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. and is free to the public.

Headliner is Gary Carden with "Preaching to the Chickens." Humorist Carden says he began his career by telling stories to the chickens in his grandfather's henhouse at age six. Since then, he taught English and drama at Western Carolina University before working for the Cherokee tribal government. He realized his childhood dream by becoming a full-time teller of Appalachian and Cherokee tales in 1984.



Gary Carden

Cynthia Moore Brown has been an acclaimed performer for three decades. She holds her audiences spellbound with "Folktales and Ghost Stories of the Piedmont." Brown also is the co-founder of the NC Storytelling Guild.



Cynthia Brown

New to the craft, Dorothy Morrison's "Short'nin' Bread" addresses



Dorothy Morrison

Ramona Moore Big Eagle travels throughout the U.S. and Canada giving programs and workshops on American Indian culture. She has used storytelling, authentic artifacts, music, drumming, dance and crafts to tell her stories since 1976.



Ramona Moore

but locally acclaimed, Dorothy Morrison's "Short'nin' Bread" addresses the pains and pleasures of cotton mill life and race relations in Statesville during the 1950s. Her performance highlights the rich musical heritage of the region. Her nephew, Roy Morrison, will accompany her on guitar, banjo, mandolin and harmonica.

The free program is made possible by the Anson County Writers Club (ACWC) the Anson County Tourism Development Administration and the Anson County Arts Council.

The conference continues on Saturday, April 14, with novelist Margaret Maron and poet Tony Abbott as featured presenters. Maron, the author of 26 novels, will discuss "Coming Home with the Bootlegger's Daughter." "Bootlegger's Daughter" is numbered among the 100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century. The North Carolina native also is the recipient of the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for best N.C. novel of the year (2004) and the N.C. Award for Literature (2008).

Abbot, professor emeritus at Davidson College, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Literature for "The Girl in the Yellow Raincoat." He was awarded the Novello Literary Award for "Leaving Maggie Hope" (2003), and the Oscar Arnold Young Award for "The Man Who" (2005). Abbott's topic is "Poetry and Secrets of the Heart." He also will lead a poetry workshop on the art of revision.

Fourteen authors, including Abbott and Carden, will hold sessions during the day. Topics range from money sources for writers, Christian fiction, sparking the five senses, co-writing a book, article writing, the writer's journey, marketing and using social media, contracts and the law regarding intellectual property rights, and the future of publishing. A teen writer will tell how she was inspired, and an octogenarian will share how he fulfilled his dream—years after he retired.

The Carolinas Writers Conference is sponsored by the ACWC, The H.B. Allen Library and South Piedmont Community College, and will be held from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Registration fee is \$25 (\$20 in advance.) For more information, see www.ansoncountywritersclub.org and click on "Carolinas Writers Conference" in the menu.

Writer's Club 23rd Awards Ceremony is Sunday, February 26

In a release from the Anson County Writer's Club: The Anson County Writers' Club is pleased to announce that the 23rd Awards Ceremony for the annual contests in prose and poetry will be held at 3 p.m. this Sunday, February 26, in the Little Theatre at the Hampton B. Allen Library.

Winners have been notified by mail. They will be presented a certificate and cash prize for their talent. Friends and relatives are invited to attend the ceremony and stay for light refreshments following the ceremony.

Categories were grades 3-6, 7-9, 10-12; and adult. Co-chairmen for the 2011-2012 contests are Kaye Ratliff and Randy Tarlton. Judges were members of the Union County Writers' Club.

The ACWC held its first contest in 1989 with the goal of encouraging and recognizing local writers. Every three years, the winning entries are published in an anthology, *Anson Pathways*. There are now seven books and an eighth will be added in 2013. The anthologies are available for sale at the Anson County Arts Council office and gallery.

Learn How to Feel Better...Healthier...Happier

In a release from the Grace Senior Center: Living with or caring for someone with Diabetes can affect your quality of life. Our free, six-week Living Healthy with Diabetes Workshop is designed to help you better manage your Diabetes and live a happier, healthier life!

You don't have to stop doing the things you love to do. The key to getting the most out of life is learning to manage your symptoms. No matter your situation, Living Healthy with Diabetes can assist you in taking control of your chronic health condition.

This workshop will give you the support you need to find practical ways to deal with your condition, discover better nutrition and exercise choices, and learn better ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health.

Living Healthy with Diabetes classes will be held at the Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 North in Wadesboro. The class is scheduled for every Thursday, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. starting March 8th and running through April 12.

Class size is limited and registration is required. Call Rita Short at 704-694-6217 and start living healthy!

BRLC Offers Computer Classes for Adults & Seniors

The Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center is offering Computer Skills Classes for adults and seniors. Each session starts on the first Tuesday of each month. If you are interested you asked to please register in advance.

The classes are organized through the BRLC and South Piedmont Community College. For more information or to register, call SPCC or BRLC at 704-826-8182.

Toys for Tots County-Wide Yard Sale

Toys For Tots will host a County-wide Yard Sale on the Square in Wadesboro on Saturday, March 3rd, beginning at 5:30 a.m. All proceeds go to the 2012 Toys For Tots campaign.

To donate items or money to the yard sale please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704 848-4412, Bernice Bennett at 704 694-6616, Jennifer Tarlton at 704 694-3115 or Ester Lindsey at 704 848-8452.

Democratic Party Precinct Meeting is March 6

The Anson County Democratic Party Precinct Meeting for all Anson County precincts will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 6th at Hampton B. Allen Library. All concerned citizens are asked to come.

February is Sign Up Month at Field of Dreams

Field of Dreams, located on Highway 74 in Polkton, will be holding sign ups for baseball, t-ball and softball every Thursday and Saturday in the month of February. If you are interested in baseball and are between the ages of 4 and 12, or if you are interested in softball and are between the ages of 7 and 16, then you are eligible to play.

On Thursday, February 9, 16 and 23 you may come and sign up for spring sports. Also on Saturday, February 11, 18 and 25, come between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. The final day to get your name on the list is March 1.

The cost for t-ball is \$35, baseball and softball are each \$55.

In addition, on February 28 and again on March 1, skills days will be held for those players who wish to come out and learn more of the fundamentals of ball sports. The time is from 6 until 7:30 p.m. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Tony Thuleen at tthuleen8@yahoo.com.

If your child is interested in having a Babe Ruth League for ages 13-15, Anson County athletes will be playing with Stanly County. Contact Tony Thuleen at the above email address if interested.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA