

THE EXPRESS

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

Bryant Dewitt Lemon, Jr. Arrested, Charged with Attempted First Degree Murder, Multiple Drug Offenses

Enough Fentanyl seized during arrest to kill over 100,000 people

Three others arrested during the investigation

This is a release from the Wadesboro Police Department: On Saturday March 8 at approximately 11:29 a.m. Wadesboro patrol units responded to the CVS, located at 1156 East Caswell Street in Wadesboro. The victim informed officers that she was being followed and when she pulled into the CVS, the vehicle pulled in and fired multiple rounds into her vehicle. The victim's vehicle had four occupants, two of whom were children, and they were seated in the rear of the vehicle. None of the rounds struck anyone inside the vehicle. The suspect vehicle fled the scene, heading back out onto Highway 74.

Officers were able to obtain the suspect's information, and the on-call Wadesboro Police Detective and Interim Chief were called in to assist patrol units. At the request of the Interim Chief additional Wadesboro officers were also called in to assist. After speaking with the magistrate, officers obtained warrants for the following individuals listed below and a search warrant for the residence on Cherry Street.

- **Bryant Dewitt Lemon Jr.** 28 (No bond) Felony Attempted First Degree Murder (4 counts); Felony Discharge Weapon Occupied Property; Felony Felony Conspiracy; Go Armed to the Terror of the People; Assault With a Deadly Weapon

- **Malcolm Duboise Bennett** (\$50,000.00 secure bond) Felony Conspiracy (4 counts)

- **Calvina Lynette Bennett** (\$50,000.00 secure bond) Felony Conspiracy (4 counts)

Anson County Sheriff's Office assisted with scene security while Wadesboro Police executed the search warrant at the residence on Cherry Street. No occupants were located inside. **Officers located 232 grams of Fentanyl, which is enough to kill 116,000 people,** 639 grams of marijuana, 4 grams of cocaine and drug paraphernalia. Officer also located two firearms, multiple handgun magazines, assault rifle magazines and a large amount of ammunition, to include the same ammunition used in the shooting. After the removal of all evidence, Wadesboro Police obtained additional charges as follows:

- **Brian Dewitt Lemon Jr.** (\$306,000.00 secure bond, drug charges only) Felony Trafficking, Opium or Heroin (2 counts); Felony PWIMSD Schedule II CS; Felony PWIMSD MDA/MDMA; Felony PWISD Cocaine; Felony PWISD Marijuana; Felony Possession Marijuana; Felony Possession Cocaine; Felony Possession SCH I CS; PIMSD SCH VI CS

- **Calvina Bennett** (\$5,000.00 unsecure bond) Felony PWISD Marijuana; Felony Possession Marijuana; Felony Maintain Veh/Dwell/Place CS; Felony Conspire Sell SCH VI CS; Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia

- **Brooklyn Shaniece Smith** (\$5,000 secure bond) Felony PWISD Marijuana; Felony Possession Marijuana; Felony Maintain Veh/Dwell/Place CS; Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia

The individuals involved turned themselves in to Wadesboro Police on Monday morning, March 10. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Domestic Violence Coalition Thanks its Sponsors

This is a release from the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition & Rape Crisis Center: The Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition & Rape Crisis Center would like to recognize the generous sponsors of our 2025 Annual BBQ Fundraiser, held on Friday, February 28. We couldn't have done it without your support!

Our sponsors include: Southern Piedmont Piping, Smith's Funeral Home, James Paxton, Leavitt Funeral Home, Huntley Oil, Evadne K. Smith, Marcus L. Dean Esq., Scott Forbes, Wadesboro Rotary Club, Sheriff & Mrs. Scott Howell, and other anonymous donors.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to everyone who came out to volunteer their time to help and the generous monetary donations we received for the event. ACDVC is a non-profit organization funded solely by grants and fundraisers, such as this one.

All proceeds will be used to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Anson County.

We are overwhelmed by the support received from the community and appreciate your help in making this event a success!

Anyone who would like more information on volunteering with our agency or to donate can call our office at (704) 694-4499 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ACDVC is located at 204 East Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mailing address is: PO Box 694, Wadesboro NC 28170. Office 704-694-4499; 24 Hour Crisis Line 704-690-0362; Fax 704-694-4515. The website is: acdvrcc.org and you can find them on Facebook.

Anson Mobile Food Market is March 20

The next Anson Mobile Food Market will be held this Thursday, March 20, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Ansonville City Hall, 8778 Highway 52.

Food will be given away, including fresh vegetables, fruit and bread (if available). There will be blood pressure and blood sugar checks, along with other healthy living topics and booths. This free event offers citizens of Anson County six to eight different types of fresh produce monthly. This is a free initiative, so please come and get some produce. **Nothing is required for you to receive produce, just come.**

The event is sponsored by the Anson County Extension and its partners.

This event is to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county. It will also serve as an educational event to offer education on the two targeted areas of the county health assessment which are tobacco use and hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas.



Lemon



Lydia Williamson is pictured above, seated, with the BRLC group. BRLC attendees are, from left, front row: Carol Smith, Michelle Giddings, DJ Jackson, Madison Rorie, Mahogany Jackson, Margaret Horne, Arrie Perry and David Perry. Back row: Shaun Flake, James Smith, Jewel Brewer and Allen Jackson. Not pictured: Dana and Ernest Polk.

Anson Native Lydia Williamson Stars in Children's Theatre Charlotte Play

Ansonian Lydia Williamson presented a one-woman show entitled "Tiara's Hat Parade" at Children's Theatre of Charlotte. The Kindness Project piece ran from February 22 to March 9. The show was directed by Angelisa Gillyard. The book author is Kelly Starling Lyons and the playwright is Paige Hernandez.

"Tiara's Hat Parade" will be performed in five states nationwide.

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center former student and now parent Allen Jackson transported a group of Kids Cafe kids, family, friends and supporters to see the performance recently. After the 90 minute performance the BRLC group had the opportunity to speak with Williamson as well as make a picture with the rising star.

Tickets and Tables on Sale for the 4-H Clover Crawl this Friday

This is a release from the Anson County Cooperative Extension: The 4-H Clover Crawl event is happening this Friday, March 14, at a NEW location, Flake Haven, located at 5298 Highway 742 North, Wadesboro, from 6:00 until 11:00 p.m. The Clover Crawl is an adult event, 21 and over. Tickets and tables are still on sale!! Ticket prices are \$50, which includes entry to the event, unlimited food, drinks and dancing. Where else can you go to get all of that for \$50?!!

Tables are being sold in two size options, regular (8 seat) tables or super (12 seat) tables.

Regular table prices are \$500 and Super tables are priced at \$750. Come by our office at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro or buy from a planning team member and purchase yours today. Tables are on a first come, first served basis and we will not do will call (hold tickets for anyone). These will sell out fast, so don't wait too long before you come buy yours. Tickets can also be purchased at the Extension Office, Lacy's and First Citizen's Marshville.

Anson 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise has had much impact on the youth in this county. With your help, we can continue to make significant contributions to their future, and the future of our county. We hope you come out, attend and/or support the 4-H Clover Crawl. We are looking forward to a fun filled event.

South Piedmont Community College is Hosting Two Open House Events this Spring

South Piedmont Community College is hosting Open House events in March and April. The first will take place from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 27 at the Old Charlotte Highway campus (4209 Old Charlotte Highway) and Tyson Family Center for Technology (3509 Old Charlotte Highway), both in Monroe.

The second Open House will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 5 at the L.L. Polk Campus, located at 680 US 74 in Polkton.

Both events will feature tours of the campus, the ability to meet faculty and staff members, information about the admissions process and financial aid, and exciting demonstrations. The Polkton event will include bounce houses, free food, and Anson County Partnership for Children's Touch a Truck event.

The events are drop-in style and open to anyone interested in learning more about South Piedmont.

Attendees who register and attend the events will be entered to win a \$100 gift card (one per event).

Register at events.spcc.edu.

Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament is April 4

Save the date for this fun golfing event!

The 10th Annual Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament, sponsored by Gum Springs Baptist Church Youth, will be held on Saturday, April 4. The event will take place at Twin Valley Golf Course with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

This is a two man Captains Choice with 1 A player per team. The cost is \$65 per person which includes golf, a cart and lunch. Mulligans will be sold. There will be a split the pot on hole 14.

Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Places. There's also a Closest to the Pin Award and a Longest Drive Award.

For registration and sign up sheets contact Twin Valley at 704-694-2336, or you can call Lynn Whitlock at 704-695-2200. A sign up sheet is available at Twin Valley.

Sponsorships are available. Call for more information: Stephanie Austin 704-694-8788, Evan Currie 704-690-1307 or Lynn Whitlock 704-695-2200.

Parks & Recreation Easter Egg Hunt is April 12

The Anson County Parks and Recreation invites all children ages Pre-K to 12 years old to their Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12, starting at 11:00 a.m. Kids will enjoy pictures with the Easter Bunny, candy, prizes, kickball games...and, of course, the Easter Egg Hunt! The event is free.

The event takes place at Little Park, located at 845 Airport Road in Wadesboro. For information you can call 704-994-3025.

Class of 1977 Reunion Planning Meeting

The Bowman High School Class of 1977 is meeting on Saturday, April 26 at 11:00 a.m. at Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro to discuss their 50th Class Reunion. All class members are invited and encouraged to attend to make this event successful!

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets March 18

The Anson Commissioners' second meeting in March takes place on Tuesday, March 18 at 6 p.m.

Meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes every Thursday in March. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Author Event at the Library with Marion Elliott Deerhake

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host an author event featuring Marion Elliott Deerhake on Monday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Marion will be sharing about her book *Jane Pratt: North Carolina's First Congresswoman*. Jane Pratt was born in Morven and is a distant cousin of the author.

Books will be available for purchase. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.