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

Wadesboro Woman Arrested with Firearm at Chesterfield School



Chesterfield police arrested an Anson County woman, Rebecca Tucker Burr, 42, on Wednesday, March 6 and she now faces multiple charges, including Possession of a Firearm on School Property. According to the incident report Burr had threatened to kill her ex-husband, his girlfriend and herself.

Chesterfield Police Chief Eric Hewett said this, "We received information from the Anson County Sheriff's Office to be on the lookout for a 2009 Chevy Malibu, black in color, with North Carolina tags, driven by Rebecca Tucker Burr, who was wanted by their agency for communicating threats. We were told that Burr could possibly be armed, and had made statements that she was going to kill her estranged husband, his girlfriend, and then kill herself. They advised us that Burr was en route to two area schools to pick up her children. At that time we did not know which two schools, so I dispatched officers to area schools and placed the schools on lockdown. Our main concern was the safety of the children at these schools. Chesterfield County Sheriff Parker sent units to Chesterfield-Ruby Middle School. After the schools were placed on lockdown Chesterfield Police Lt. David Lisenby spotted Burr's vehicle entering Edwards Elementary School. At this time officers from our police department and the Sheriff's Office took Burr into custody without further incident. Upon inventory of her vehicle officers found a Ruger .380 handgun. Burr was charged with Possession of a Firearm on School Property, Driving Under the Influence, Simple Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Open Container, and Communicating Threats."

According to Lt. Lisenby's report, Burr had pulled into the line of cars waiting to pick up students, then pulled out of the line, heading back out of the school. Her vehicle was blocked from exiting the school property by law enforcement units, and Burr was removed from her vehicle. When asked if she had a weapon in the vehicle she replied yes. The weapon, loaded with one magazine, was removed from the glovebox. At that time officers searched her vehicle and found 3.1 grams of marijuana, a box of .22 long rifle bullets, a box of .380 bullets, a steak knife under the driver's seat, a bag with pills, a marijuana pipe and other paraphernalia. Another magazine was found in Burr's purse.

Officers noted that Burr's speech was slurred, and there were several open beers in her vehicle. She failed a field sobriety test, later testing over the legal limit (.10) with the blood alcohol datamaster.

While in the Chesterfield County Detention Center Burr commented to officers that she thought she would be dead by this point. When asked what she meant, Burr stated that she had planned on killing her ex-husband, his girlfriend and herself.

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen stated, "In Anson County Burr was charged on a warrant from her ex-husband on communicating threats stemming from this incident. We later served (on Monday, March 11) a temporary custody order regarding her children. A hearing on that matter is set for Thursday, March 14."

Jury Finds Union County Man Guilty in Murder of Anson Teacher

On Thursday, March 7 a Union County jury convicted Lamata Sherron Anderson, 31, of First Degree Murder for the stabbing murder of 37 year old Yolanda Simon, a fifth grade teacher at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School. Anderson killed Smith in front of her six year old daughter in February of 2010. Anderson was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

According to prosecutors Anderson, who lived across the street from Simon in Union County, took a knife from his home and knocked on the door of Simon's home, stabbing her multiple times when she opened the door. During the trial Anderson unsuccessfully tried to convince the jury that he was insane at the time of the murder. It took the jury less than two hours to reach their guilty verdict.

At the time of the murder friends and family members of both the Simon and Anderson said they had no idea what preceded the stabbing. James Blount, the father of Simon's six year old daughter said he only knew Anderson as a neighbor who tried to date Simon's roommate. Blount said that Simon was an easy going woman who worked very hard at her job. He said she also worked for UPS in the evenings. "Everybody loved her," Blount said.

Former Polkton Police Chief Charged with Embezzlement

Sheriff Tommy Allen confirmed on Friday, March 8th that former Polkton Police Chief Kevin Mullis was arrested and charged with one count of Felony Larceny and one count of Embezzlement. The charges stem from an incident that occurred while Mullis was serving as Chief of Police of Lilesville, a position he held prior to taking the Polkton chief's job. Mullis resigned as chief in Polkton in April of 2012 and has not been in law enforcement work since.

An Anson County grand jury returned two Bills of Indictment against Mullis earlier that week.

Sheriff Allen said that Mullis turned himself in at the Sheriff's Office late Thursday afternoon. He was released on a written promise. A future court date will be set in Anson County Superior Court. The State Bureau of Investigation was the investigating agency.

Storyteller Hawk Hurst Brings Native American Music and Tales to the Ansonia



Another Tuesday evening - TV or exceptional entertainment? The choice is easy.

On Tuesday, March 19 storyteller Hawk Hurst will bring the wonders and wisdom of ancient cultures to life at the Ansonia Theatre. Hurst incorporates unique musical instruments as he shares stories and songs offering a fresh perspective of how indigenous people came to value the unique diversity of each other and the natural world around them.

Fun-filled and highly-educational, Hurst's performance includes firsthand accounts from his time spent with the First Nations people.

General seating tickets, \$5, are available at the Arts Council and Lacy's and online at www.ansoniateatre.com. The show begins at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:30.

Terrific Kids Recognized for Caring and Fairness at Lilesville Elementary School



The Wadesboro Kiwanis Club and Lilesville Elementary School recognized students who exemplify the character traits of Caring and Fairness at school. Parents and guardians were on hand to share breakfast furnished by the LES PTO, and a proud moment as their children were recognized by Principal Maresa Dutton Phillips, School Guidance Counselor Frances McLendon, School Nurse Maggie Gibson, and other LES Staff.

Students acknowledged for the character trait of CARING were: Rachel Auman, Destiny Bauer, Skylar Boone, Taylor Brigman, Gabrielle Crowder, Malik Gaddy, Adaijianna Hamilton, Jason Helms, Jaydan Lindsey, ZaQuon Little, Patrick Lucas, Ashley Polston, Peyton Pratt, Athena Spencer, Hailey Treadaway, Jesse Usrey and Abbey Wright.

Students admired for the character trait of FAIRNESS were: Hannah Bolick, Huntley Bowers, Candra Butler, Timothy Diggs, Isabelle Felix, Kendall Hoskins, Janiah Lindsey, Sasha Mayse, Anthony Medley, Francis Peterkin, Jada Ridley, Nakayla Robinson, Alyssa Simon, Mason Smith, Tinita Spencer and Caniyah Webster.



Pictured here are SBI Special Agent LaShawn Keith, Chief Spencer and Captain Chewning.



Pictured here are Lieutenant Kelly, Chief Spencer and Sergeant Gainey.

Ronnie Gainey and Brandon Chewning Receive Promotions at Wadesboro Police Department

Two officers of the Wadesboro Police Department were awarded promotions on Friday, March 1. Lieutenant Brandon Chewning was promoted to Captain, and Officer Ronnie Gainey was promoted to Sergeant.

Chewning started his career with the Wadesboro Police Department in September 1998. Gainey has been with the department since April 2003. Police Chief Thedis Spencer said, "These two officers are an asset to the Wadesboro Police Department and the community."

A dinner held in honor of the two officers was hosted by Chief Spencer and his wife Stephana, Sgt. McCormick and wife Renee, Lieutenant Kelly and wife Norma, Brandis Chewning, wife of Captain Chewning, and Wadesboro Police Department Investigators. Decorations were created by Renee McCormick and her mother Bunk Hill.

Honor guests present for this promotion included Mayor Thacker and wife, members of the Wadesboro Town Council, and Town Manager Alex Sewell. Special guest speakers were Special Agent LaShawn Keith of the SBI, and Lieutenant Steven Kelly of the Wadesboro Police Department. The families of Captain Chewning and Sergeant Gainey were also present for the promotion.

4-H Clover Crawl is this Friday!

The sun is shining and spring is right around the corner...what better way to kick off spring than with laughter and good times at the local "Clover Crawl?" Anson County 4-H is hosting its annual social and dance this Friday, March 15 at Twin Valley Country Club in Wadesboro. The cost to attend is \$30 per person in advance and \$35 at the door. Where else can you go and have drinks, great food, and entertainment while never leaving the county? Plus, did we mention that all proceeds go towards programs for youth in Anson County!

The Clover Crawl will run 7 p.m. until midnight. This is a 21 and over event. Although tickets are going fast you can still get yours at the Extension Office on McLaurin Street and Lacy's in Wadesboro. If you have any questions, feel free to call 704-694-2915.

So let your shamrock and clovers dance and come out and have a St. Patrick's Day eve celebration at the "Clover Crawl." Hope to see y'all there!

Civitan Club's Lucky Hot Dog Sale is Monday

All proceeds go toward Anson County Special Olympics

Come and enjoy lunch at the annual Civitan Lucky Hot Dog sale on Monday, March 18 at the Scout Hut. For only \$5 you get two grilled all-beef hot dogs, trimmings on the side, potato chips and a dessert.

You may choose to eat in there at the Scout Hut or get take out. Delivery is available for orders of 5 or more lunches. Please call (704) 694-3185 for delivery orders by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 15. This advance notice is important so that the Wadesboro Civitans can schedule drivers and deliveries appropriately. The proceeds from this Lucky Hot Dog Sale will benefit Anson County Special Olympics, so join us in helping create a Lucky Day for Special Olympians.

Cemetery Meeting

The Peachland Cemetery Association will have a meeting this Sunday, March 17 at 4 p.m. at the Peachland United Methodist Church in Peachland. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

ACTS is Ready to Help You Get to Where You Need to Be

The employees at the Anson County Transportation System (ACTS) are proud of the service offered to the community of Anson County. Their fleet of vehicles regularly transport individuals to doctor's appointments, nutrition sites, employment, post secondary school, shopping facilities and recreational functions. ACTS offers two types of transportation - regular scheduled routes and demand response.

- Regularly scheduled routes transport individuals to the same destination on a consistent basis. Regularly scheduled routes consist of nutritional routes for the elderly to the Peachland, Wadesboro and Morven meal sites, employment training routes to the McLaurin Vocational Rehabilitation Center in Hamlet NC, dialysis treatment, and employment routes throughout Anson County.
- Demand response transportation is very flexible and is accessible by dialing at least 24 hours in advance to schedule appointments, 704-694-2596. (To ensure availability of vehicle, one might need to call earlier than 24 hours.)

- You can pay for your transportation in several ways:
- Cash • Medicaid • Monthly payments by established agencies and businesses
- Elderly & Disabled Transportation Grant (These funds are handled by the transportation department and can be accessed by calling the transportation office at 704-694-2596).

Need a ride? Call ACTS at 704-694-2596. Drivers are friendly, courteous, honest and helpful.

Anson County Farm Service Agency Supports National Ag Day

Anson County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Anita Solesbee announced that March 19 is National Ag Day, and invited all citizens to celebrate this area's agriculture by honoring the hard-working farmers of Anson County. This year's theme is "Generations Nourishing Generations."

"USDA studies show that the agricultural sector remains a bright spot of economic stability and growth," said Solesbee. There is a strong demand for U.S. agricultural products. Of course, generation after generation of agricultural producers in Anson County rise early every day, providing the food, fiber and fuel that feed and clothe America and the world. As research advances, the future continues to be positive. New uses for North Carolina's ag products are being found to utilize natural ingredients for life-saving medicines and supply the critical commodities required in a long list of manufacturing sectors."

Solesbee noted that, despite recent natural disasters weathered by farmers creating less than ideal growing conditions, producers still managed to grow the commodities that keep the economy moving forward. And an abundant supply of renewable resources in an environmentally sensitive manner was maintained. "For their life sustaining efforts, we honor Anson County's agricultural producers for their vital contribution," said Solesbee.

Major commodities produced in North Carolina include poultry, hogs, nursery and greenhouse, soybeans, cotton, corn tobacco and cattle. North Carolina agricultural cash receipts exceeded \$10.5 billion last year.

Today, each American farmer produces enough food to feed 144 people, a dramatic increase from the 25 people a farmer sustained in 1960. These increased efficiencies demonstrate that American agriculture is producing - and achieving more - than ever before.

AgDay is a project of the Agriculture Council of America. For further Ag Day information, visit www.agday.org. More information on FSA assistance and programs can be obtained at 1758 Morven Road, Wadesboro NC 28170 or by calling (704) 694-3516 Ext 2.

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