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

Robert Pratt, Jr. Wanted, Considered Armed and Dangerous

The Anson County Sheriff's Office has issued an alert asking citizens of Anson County to be on the lookout for Robert Edward Pratt, Jr., 30 years old, who is considered armed and dangerous. Included among the many charges Pratt faces are Assault on a Female and Assault Inflicting Serious Injury.

Pratt, a fugitive from justice and convicted felon, is sought by both the Sheriff's Office and the Lilesville Police Department. They hold felony warrants and probation warrants. If you have information on the Pratt's whereabouts or have seen him, please call 911. There is a reward of \$250 for information leading to the Pratt's arrest. Pratt is described as 6'1" tall, 165 pounds. He has teardrops tattooed under his right eye. The word "Pratt" is tattooed on his neck. He was last seen in the Lilesville area wearing a white t-shirt and black pants.

The charges Pratt faces are: Assault on a Female, Assault Inflicting Serious Injury, Assault by Pointing a Gun, Communicative Threats, Possession of Schedule VI (drugs); Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Injury to Personal Property, Fleeing to Elude, Probation Violation and Speeding.



Robert Edward Pratt, Jr.

30th Anniversary Celebration of The Color Purple Set for July 13-18

Anson County is collaborating with the Marshville Museum and Cultural Center in planning a week of activities commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Steven Spielberg movie, *The Color Purple*, which was filmed in both communities. Representatives from the Anson County Arts Council, Uptown Wadesboro (UWI), the Chamber of Commerce, and the Tourism Development Authority along with a few cast members from the movie are meeting to plan the activities.

The Wadesboro Garden Club has planted purple petunias in pots uptown to provide a summer long remembrance of the movie. Also, a Facebook page is in place at thecolorpurple.com.

Activities planned in Anson County for the week include:

- Tuesday, July 14 - Gospel singing on the square in uptown Wadesboro at 7 p.m. UWI will provide lemonade for the event.
- Wednesday, July 15 - The Anson County Arts Council will have a Bach's Lunch at the First Presbyterian Church at noon featuring music from *The Color Purple*.
- Thursday, July 16 - A meet and greet reception featuring cast members and others involved in the film will be held at the Holla Center in Morven.
- Friday, July 17 - *The Color Purple* will be shown at the Ansonia Theatre at 7 p.m.

Activities planned for Marshville include:

- Monday, July 13 - Meet and greet reception in Marshville
 - Saturday, July 18 - Grand Finale Celebration. Marshville will have a street blocked and a downtown celebration with vendors, food and entertainment beginning at 6 p.m.
- Other things being planned in Anson County are:
- Wanda Maness has volunteered to organize a "Color Purple Paint Party."
 - An Oprah "look alike" contest or any other character "look alike" in movie.
 - Create a map of the filming sites in the two counties.
 - Encourage shops and businesses to have windows and displays featuring movie.
 - Gather artifacts and memorabilia to have on display during the week.

If you were involved in the movie in any way or know someone who was, or if you have memorabilia to share, or are interested in helping, please contact the Anson County Arts Council at ansonart@windstream.net or call 704-694-4950.

On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive Campaign to Begin

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, State Highway Patrol and Mothers Against Drunk Driving will kick-off the annual "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign with a news conference on May 14 at Blythe Landing Park on Lake Norman. The multi-agency safety initiative works to reduce accidents on the state's roadways and waterways, both of which see increased traffic during summer months. Participating agencies will highlight the importance of having a designated driver, whether operating a vehicle or vessel.

Many roadway and waterway accidents are alcohol-related. In North Carolina, a driver or vessel operator with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08, or is appreciably impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, is subject to arrest.

The campaign is coordinated by the Wildlife Commission, State Highway Patrol and Forensic Tests for Alcohol, and supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Governor's Highway Safety Program, U.S. Coast Guard and local police and sheriff's offices, along with participating non-governmental organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"'On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive' is a partnership, with the most important partner being safe drivers," said Sgt. Allen Carlisle, a wildlife officer who patrols Lake Norman. "Think before you drink, and have a designated driver - car and boat - this summer."

For more information on boating safety and regulations, visit www.ncwildlife.org/boating or call 919-707-0031.

About the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission: Since 1947, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has been dedicated to the conservation and sustainability of the state's fish and wildlife resources through research, scientific management, wise use, and public input. The Commission is the state regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of fishing, hunting, trapping and boating laws and provides programs and opportunities for wildlife-related educational, recreational and sporting activities. To learn more, visit www.ncwildlife.org.



Wadesboro Primary School Hosts Museum Night

In a release from Wadesboro Primary School: History and science became alive on Tuesday, April 21 during Wadesboro Primary School's PTA meeting. As parents and students walked around the museum (located in the gym), they visited countries, habitats, and met famous people in American history.

Among the displays: Second graders displayed their projects from research on countries around the world; Museum visitors traveled through many different 3-dimensional biomes and ecosystems; The final walk of the tour included meeting inspirational historical figures.

Students in Mrs. McCormick's fifth grade spent time in her classroom as well as the media center researching the importance of each person represented. Students created display boards providing information about the life and times of Rosa Parks, Louis Pasteur, George Washington Carver, Andrew Jackson, Paul Revere, Betsy Ross, Madam CJ Walker, Garrett Morgan, Harriet Tubman and Sacagawea. Visitors were welcomed with a short synopsis of each individual by the students themselves who had dressed the part!

On the following day the entire school gathered for a brief history lesson as the fifth grade students presented each influential American figure.

WPS would like to say thank you to Ms. Avis Rorie, PTA President, as well as the other volunteers, and to the Anson High School National Art Honor Society.

In the pictures above, on the left are Isyss Clark and Adrian Leak representing the life and times of George Washington Carver. On the right is student Shmira Dumas dressed as Rosa Parks with WPS PTA President Avis Rorie.

Special Olympics are Thursday

Wouldn't you like to volunteer or come out to cheer the competitors on?

The Special Olympics Anson County Spring Games will be held on Thursday, April 30 at Anson High School Football Stadium. Opening ceremonies begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by a day of exciting activities for Anson County's Special Olympics athletes. Everyone in the community is urged to come out and cheer the competitors on. This event is very important...and very fun! The rain date is Tuesday, May 5.

Would you like to volunteer? For more information about the games, including community volunteer interest, please contact Coordinator Sylvia Tillman at (704) 694-4417.

Labor Department to Recognize Anson Businesses

The NC Department of Labor will honor area employers and employees at the agency's annual safety awards banquet in Wadesboro on Monday, April 27. "It's really an honor for me to travel throughout the state and recognize these employers who are making a commitment to their employees' safety and health," Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry said. "These employers are helping to make North Carolina workplaces some of the safest in the country."

The awards honor outstanding on-the-job safety achievements of each company during 2014. Recipients are located in Bisco, Hamlet, Lilesville, Marston, Norwood, Peachland, Rockingham and Wadesboro. Commissioner Berry will speak at the banquet and present the awards.

The event is co-sponsored by the NC Department of Labor and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. The banquet, slated to begin at 6 p.m., will take place at Oliver's Restaurant in uptown Wadesboro.

Anson County recipients include Silver Award winner (*Rate of days away from work must be at least 50 percent below the industry average*): B.V. Hedrick, Anson County. Gold Awards winner (*Rate of days away from work, job transfer or restriction must be at least 50 percent below the industry average.*): First Year - Allen's Professional Investigations Inc. & Wade Manufacturing, Wadesboro Plant; Third Consecutive Year - Pee Dee Electric Membership Corp; and 17th Consecutive Year - Hildreth Wood Products Inc.

The local recipients have met the stringent requirements necessary to receive a safety award.

Under program rules, companies must have been free of fatal accidents at the site for which the award is given to be eligible. The gold award criteria are based on a DART rate that is at least 50 percent below the statewide rate for its industry. The rate includes cases of days away from work, restricted activity or job transfer. The silver award is based only on cases with days away from work. They are recorded when the worker misses at least one full day of work, not including the day of the injury. The applicant must attain an incidence rate for cases with days away from work that is at least 50 percent below the rate for its industry.

More information on the Labor Department's Safety Awards Program is available by calling 919-807-2908 or emailing Eursula Joyner at eursula.joyner@labor.nc.gov.

Advice on Giving to Nepal Earthquake Relief

After the devastating earthquakes in Nepal this past weekend, many people will want to make contributions to help the victims. The easiest and most common way that people can help is by making donations to disaster relief agencies and charities that are experienced at working with disaster victims.

As with every natural disaster, there are unscrupulous people who will attempt to take advantage of your generosity.

"In the face of any disaster, people will immediately make donations to help the victims," said Better Business Bureau President Tom Bartholomy. "Unfortunately, scammers will also try to take advantage of generous donors."

If you want to give, here is some advice:

- Before making a contribution, check the charity out to see if it meets the BBB's Standards for Charitable Giving. Go to bbb.org to obtain detailed reports on relief organizations and charities.
- Give to charities that are experienced in disaster relief. While other charities may solicit donations for earthquake relief, these organizations may not have the ability to quickly deliver aid to those in need.
- Watch out for fake charities that imitate the name of well-known organizations in order to confuse donors. Look-alike and sound-alike charities pop up on the Internet following disasters.
- Give to tax-exempt charities. To ensure your contribution is tax deductible, donations should be made to charitable organizations that are tax exempt, 501(c)(3) charities.
- Beware of emotional appeals that do not address how the charity will meet the needs of victims and their families.
- Do not give cash or send money via wire transfer. Checks or money orders should be made out to the name of the charitable organization, not to the individual collecting the donation.
- Do not give your credit card number or other personal information to a telephone solicitor or in response to an email solicitation.

For more information on the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, please visit www.give.org.

Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is Friday

The 2015 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics will be held this Friday, May 1. Lineup will be at Lanesboro at 7:30 a.m., with kickoff at 8 a.m. Walkers will leave the camp and walk to Highway 74. Turners will pick up the pace along Highway 74, through the Town of Wadesboro, with the finish line at Lilesville.

For information call Donna D. McAllister at 704-695-1013 ext. 1690.

Big Yard Sale at Social Services Parking Lot this Saturday

Come one, come all...to the Department of Social Services parking lot for a big yard sale on Saturday, May 2. Lots of great items will be available. Come take a look and you will be sure to find a deal on something you just have to have!

The yard sale is being put on by employees of Social Services. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the American Cancer Society. This is an Anson County Social Services Relay for Life Fundraiser.

The yard sale will run from 7 a.m. to noon. The Department of Social Services is located on Washington Street in uptown Wadesboro, across from the Sheriff's Office.

Herbs in the Garden Seminar

Anson County Parks and Recreation will be offering a class on Herbs in the Garden on Wednesday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Little Park in Wadesboro, presented by a master gardener.

For more information contact Wendell Small at 704-695-2782.