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

Maurice Marshall Arrested for Murder

On Tuesday April 30 detectives from the Anson County Sheriff's Office along with North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI) arrested Maurice Marshall, 49, of Morven for the murder of Montzell Antavious Rivers. He was placed in the Anson County Jail under no bond with a court date of May 7, 2019.

On Monday, February 4 a car believed to be driven by Rivers was found abandoned on Ratliff Gin Road in Morven. While investigating the abandoned vehicle detectives found evidence of foul play and believed that Rivers was in danger and in need of medical assistance. On February 5 Rivers' body was found on the side of Peru Road in Morven, and the Anson County Sheriff's Office and the NCSBI began a homicide investigation.



Maurice Marshall

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "I would like to thank officers from the Anson County Sheriff's Office and agents from the NCSBI for their commitment and dedicated service to the citizens of Anson County. This is an ongoing investigation and anyone with information is encouraged to contact Captain Tim Watkins at 704-695-6314 or the Crime Hotline at 704-695-3111."

Global Automotive Textile Company Chooses Wadesboro for Offices

REV Uptown Incubator is site for Borgstena Textile North America offices and Tech Center

AnsonEDP is pleased to announce that Borgstena Textile North America LLC will be locating its offices and tech center at the newly opened REV Uptown Incubator and Coworking Space in Wadesboro. The company is leasing approximately 1,500 square feet of incubator space which will house a staff of up to 10 administrative and technical employees. The facility will allow the company to better serve its existing North American customer base and position it for future expansion in the critical U.S. and Mexico markets.

Borgstena Textile North America LLC is the North American subsidiary of Sweden's Borgstena Textile, a leading supplier to the automotive industry worldwide. Borgstena's strong multi-cultural textile design team is recognized in the industry for its creativity and boldness in satisfying the constant changes the market desires. The Wadesboro facility will allow the company to provide faster, more specialized response to its customers in the southeast United States and Mexico.

"Wadesboro's proximity to major markets and an international airport, along with its history as a hub for advanced textiles were key to the company's decision," noted AnsonEDP executive director John Marek. "But ultimately it was the availability of the new REV Uptown incubator that sealed the deal. We are pleased to have them as the anchor tenant for our new facility."

Story courtesy of Anson EDP

Unemployment Rate Dropped in March

Anson County's unemployment rate for March was 4.4%, down slightly from the 4.8% reported for February. Statewide the unemployment rate was 4.1% in March, basically unchanged from February's 4.2% rate.

Anson's total labor force in March was 10,524. Of that number 10,059 were employed and 465 were unemployed. In February the total labor force was 10,530 with 10,029 employed and 501 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 81 of North Carolina's counties in March, increased in three, and remained unchanged in 16. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 11.5 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.2 percent. 13 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases and two remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 5.3 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.3 percent. The March not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.1 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 61 counties, decreased in 26, and remained unchanged in 13. Nine metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, three declined, and three remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 34,495 to 4,858,751, while those unemployed decreased 4,855 to 206,445. Since March 2018, the number of workers employed statewide increased 72,828, while those unemployed increased 5,360.

Annual Compassionate Friends "No-Balloon" Release is Thursday

The Compassionate Friends is a support group for anyone who has experienced the death of a child. They cordially invite you to their annual Balloon Release and Covered Dish Meal. This year, though, there will be no balloon release to protect animals and the environment. The event is a special time as everyone joins together to remember our children are no longer with us.

This event will take place this Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m. at the Polkton Depot. Please bring a photograph of your child, a well filled picnic basket, and your family and friends. Everyone is welcome.

The Compassionate Friends meet the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric, located on Highway 52 North in Wadesboro. For more information call Irvin Thompson at 704-694-8774.

NAACP Reorganization Meeting

On Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m. there will be a NAACP reorganization meeting held at Atrium Health on Highway 74 West, Wadesboro in the Community Room. The meeting will be hosted by NAACP State Secretary Sylvia Barnes.

A \$30 membership due must be paid at the meeting. There must be 30 members to organize. Officers will be nominated and elected.

For more information contact Jesse Campbell at 704-695-1286 or Dannie Montgomery at 704-694-8326. All interested citizens are welcome.



Relay for Life Event is Friday

On Friday, May 10 local participants will join together at the annual Relay For Life of Anson County in uptown Wadesboro to help beat our biggest rival - cancer. The event starts at 6 p.m. and will last until midnight.

This will be the first year the event has been hosted in uptown Wadesboro, and organizers are optimistic about the change. "We'll definitely miss being at the high school, but we're excited about being right in the center of town. The event will have all of the same components including the survivor lap, caregiver lap, and luminaria ceremony," said Anne Hyatt, volunteer event organizer.

Founded by Dr. Gordy Klatt in Tacoma, Washington, in 1985, the Relay For Life movement of 3.5 million participants across the world unite at more than 4,500 events to celebrate people who have been touched by cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action for lifesaving change. Symbolizing the battle waged around the clock by those facing cancer, the event can last up to 24 hours and empowers communities to take a stand against cancer.

The Relay For Life of Anson County will feature local entertainment from the school system, MBM Twirly Girls performing with the Anson High School Majorettes, and music provided by Leon Gatewood. The event will also have a large kid zone with bounce houses and activities for all ages. Local churches, schools and businesses will have campsites set up to fundraise for the American Cancer Society. Some items being sold include popcorn, slushies, chick-fil-a sandwiches and more.

The event will begin with opening ceremonies at 6 p.m. which will feature a performance from students at Anson County Schools. Immediately following opening ceremonies is one of the events most cherished traditions, the survivor lap. All cancer survivors in attendance will make a lap around the track while many in attendance cheer them on in celebration of their victory over cancer.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is the only organization fighting cancer on every front. Funds raised from Relay For Life events allow the ACS to attack cancer in dozens of ways, each of them critical to achieving a world without cancer - from developing breakthrough therapies and innovative research, to building supportive communities that come together to help those affected by cancer with access to treatment. The ACS provides empowering resources to deploying activists to raise awareness and develop game-changing approaches to address the cancer burden for all people.

Debbie Hildreth, a local cancer survivor, understands first-hand how vital access to treatment is. "I have been involved in Relay For Life for more than 5 years, because I am a cancer survivor. I had access to the care needed to treat my cancer and I hope for the same for other diagnosed, and ultimately, look forward to a day when no one will hear the words - you have cancer," said Hildreth.

The Relay For Life of Anson County is supported by many local businesses and organizations. This year's gold level sponsors include: ALL Truss, Anson Wood Products, Atrium Healthcare, Columbus McKinnon, Glenn Trexler & Sons Logging, Inc., Jordan Lumber, the Morven Chapter of Las Amigas Inc, and Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation. If you would like more information visit RelayForLife.Org/AnsonNC.

Holla! 5k is Saturday

The 5th annual HOLLA! 5K is this weekend, Saturday May 11, beginning at 8:00 a.m with a kick-off and warm-up rally in Morven. The rally will feature an array of presentations and warm-up routines before the race begins at 9:00 a.m.

Robert Gatewood, founder of the Marketing Pulpit Radio Program on Radio One in Washington, DC will be the host of the event. Gatewood is a Wadesboro native. Health enthusiast Coach Harvey, also of Washington, DC, will lead a 10 minute warm-up routine as well as present a two-hour physical fitness workshop from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the HOLLA! Center.

Over 15 teams have registered for this year's 5K. Anson Middle School is leading the way with over 30 registrants. Organizers say that it appears Anson Middle School will win the free HOLLA! Party this year. Morven Elementary School won last year's HOLLA! Party which is based on the school with the most students attending the 5K.

Other teams signed up include Gatewood Insurance and Real Estate, the Woodburns, Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition, Anson Women's League, Poisson, Poisson & Bower, Judge Sophia Crawford, Scott Forbes, Quality Florist, Nelson Funeral Home, Smith Funeral Home, the Chesterfield County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Katheryn McLeod and more.

Highlights of this year's event include the Buffalo Soldiers, the Spirit in Motion line dancers, Daniel Gatewood's premier of the Mother Gave Me Life line dance and the introduction of the cast of The Lion King, Jr.

Kick-off time for the run is 9:00 a.m. Want to sign up? Call 704-851-3144 or 704-695-4968 or go to www.racesonline.com.



Affair on the Square Event in Rockingham this Thursday

An event called the Affair on the Square will be held in downtown Rockingham this Thursday, May 9, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Listen to the music of DJ EROC and Junior Roscoe. Enjoy dinner specials in Pattan's Grille and Henry's Cafe. Hear the 'Doin It Again' Band while you dine at Hudson Brothers. Shop with artists and exhibitors as you stroll the sidewalks in between. Visit the participating merchants who will offer discounts or drawings for gift certificates or merchandise.

Come enjoy a social sidewalk festival!
Info: (910) 331-9965.

NAACP Reorganization Meeting Set for this Thursday

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All interested citizens are welcome.

Dearly Departed Opens at the Ansonia Theatre May 17

The Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro is proud to present *Dearly Departed*, a southern fried comedy about a funeral. The show tells the story of the Turpin family and the passing of their "mean and surly" father Bud. The family comes together to plan the funeral and say their goodbyes, but just like most families there are issues and old scores left unsettled that unfold in hilarious ways. You've never had this much fun at a funeral!

The show is written by David Bottrell and Jessie Jones, and is directed by Tommy Wooten, with set design by Mike Phillips.

The remarkable cast includes some of the Ansonia's heaviest hitters. Libby Dandridge stars as Bud's long suffering widow Raynelle. Her three children, Ray-Bud, Junior and Delightful, are played by Tommy Wooten, Jason Price and Teri Brown. Raynelle's holier than thou sister-in-law Marguerite, played to perfection by Leslie Capell, calls upon her "good for nothing" son Royce, played by Donald Perkins, to pick her up to offer "comfort and Christian counsel" to the grieving widow. Connie Thomas makes her triumphant return to the stage as Ray-Bud's wife Lucille, and Lindsey Melton is nothing short of hysterical as Junior's wife Suzanne.

Amidst the chaos the Turpin's turn to their friends and neighbors, an eccentric group of misfits, who manage to pull it together and get the family through their hours of need. They are played by Ansonia stage veterans Glenn Caulder, Ayla Perkins, Robert Graves, Chipper Long, Carolyn Munn, Donnie Lewis, Nekeisha Lindsey, Ann Crescitelli, Lela Chaney and newcomers Audrey Barringer and Angel Smith.

The show runs May 17-26, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Get your tickets now at ansoniatheatre.com or call the Anson County Arts Council box office at 704-694-4950. Don't miss this show!