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Crime Spree and Multi-County Chase Ends with Arrests in Anson

Three Anson County men charged in armed robbery, assault on a 92 year old woman, carjacking, shooting at law enforcement, stealing police vehicle and chase

Three Anson County men have been arrested in connection with a violent and dangerous rampage that included armed robbery, a home invasion, beating a 92 year old woman and her son, carjacking, a shootout with law enforcement, stealing a law enforcement vehicle and a wild chase last Wednesday, May 8. Jarvis Terez Marsh, 30, of Anson County was arrested Wednesday after crashing the police cruiser he had stolen. Robert Lamarr Smith, 23, of Morven was arrested on Monday, May 13, and Edward Hudson, also of Morven, was arrested early Tuesday morning, May 14.

The chain of events began on Tuesday evening, May 7 with two men committing an armed robbery in Charlotte and the victim's car being stolen, according to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Then the Stanly County Sheriff's Office assisted on a call for a home invasion and assault in the Midland area of Cabarrus County around 3 a.m. Wednesday. Officers searched for the suspects with the assistance of a K9 unit, but no suspects were found. In Midland a man reported that he had gone outside and started up his truck, went back inside his mobile home, and then was confronted by a man pointing a gun at him. The man and his 92 mother were tied up and beaten, with the 92 year old suffering serious injuries. His truck and two guns were stolen. At about 7:20 a.m. a Stanly County Deputy spotted the truck speeding down Highway 52 away from Albemarle, but was unable to stop it.

Shortly after that a male was spotted in a field south of Albemarle near Stony Gap Road. When deputies arrived on the scene the subject fired a handgun at them and managed to steal a law enforcement vehicle. As he fled the scene, the man exchanged gunfire with a second deputy, but was able to escape, heading south on Highway 52 toward Norwood. After a chase that went through Norwood and into Anson County, the gunman wrecked the vehicle and was arrested. He had sustained wounds in his confrontation with the deputies, but they were not life threatening. He was identified as Jarvis Terez Marsh. He was a wanted fugitive for several parole violations. Additional charges are pending.

Robert Lamarr Smith and Edward Hudson remained at large until this week. Their being at large after such a violent crime spree had caused people in Stanly and Anson Counties to be worried about encountering the men. Because of this activity Anson Middle School was placed on lockdown Wednesday, eventually releasing students early for the day.

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen said, "Anson County Sheriff's Deputies searched a number of places over the weekend looking for Smith, and he was found late Monday afternoon in Morven. He was turned over to Cabarrus County. Hudson was arrested early Tuesday around 7:30 a.m., also in the Morven area, by Anson County Sheriff's Deputies along with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Officers who came to Anson County asking for assistance to find Hudson."

5 Year Fracking Moratorium Passed by Anson County Commissioners

During their monthly meeting last Tuesday night the Anson County Board of Commissioners approved a five year fracking ban. According to the commissioners this ban was put in place to allow time for them to gather more information on this controversial type of drilling and its prospective pros and cons.

Anson sits at the southern end of a North Carolina corridor targeted for future drilling, which could be cleared for permitting in the next two to three years.

Creedmore in Granville County passed a similar anti-fracking ordinance recently.

There is a possibility that state lawmakers could eventually trump local control with fracking legislation.

Fracking is a drilling technique used to extract natural gas from underground shale deposits. Proponents say the drilling will bring jobs and commerce to North Carolina. Opponents say the practice poses environmental hazards, including groundwater contamination.

Cindi Pope is Wadesboro's Town Clerk

Following a multi-session review process, the Wadesboro Town Council appointed Cindi Pope as its new Town Clerk. Pope replaces Nancy Huntley who recently retired after 50 years of service.

After receiving nearly 30 applications, the council felt that Pope was the best fit for the Wadesboro community. Wadesboro Mayor Bill Thacker said, "The town council made a very good decision in appointing someone who already knows the system and is a very valuable part of our staff. Cindi will do a great job as our new Town Clerk."

Pope has a range of experience in human resources, finance, budgeting and public service. Her career has included serving as Acting Town Clerk, Accounting Clerk, and working in human resources for Boeing Computers in Fairfax, Virginia. Additionally, she was mentored by Huntley as the "back-up" Town Clerk.

A life-long learner, Pope plans to consistently increase her professionalism through ongoing education. She commented, "I'm looking forward to improving service to our community through the various municipal clerk certifications that are available."

A Wadesboro resident for almost 20 years, Pope is involved in a number of community activities. She serves on the Board of Directors of Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. and is a member of First Baptist Church. She is married to retired Wadesboro Fire Chief Eddie Pope.

Special Olympics Rescheduled to this Friday

The Anson County Special Olympics are set to be held this Friday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the Anson High School Football Stadium. The event was cancelled twice due to weather, but the report looks good for Friday as of press time...sunny and temperatures in the high 80's.

Also the drawing for the beautiful hand made Relay for Life quilt will take place during the opening ceremonies.

Everyone is urged to come out and enjoy this uplifting event, while cheering on Anson County's special athletes.

New Beginnings Cancer Support Group Meets May 20th

The New Beginnings Cancer Support Group will meet at the Lady Bug Restaurant at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 20th.

There will be no meetings in the months of June, July and August.

Anson County Relay For Life Held Last Weekend



On Friday, May 10 Anson County Relay for Life was held in the Anson High School Bearcat Stadium. Teams joined together from across the county to stand up and fight cancer by finding a cure, the ultimate goal for the Relay for Life event.

Coordinator Carrie Bunn was very enthusiastic with this year's survivor participation and overall relay effort. "We have already set our date for next year, May 9, 2014, and hope to see even more of you there to support this worthy cause," encouraged Bunn.

Pictured is the Leak family, whose motto is Ride 4 A Cure!

Photo by Melanie Lyon

And The Oscar Goes To...

The Ansonia Theatre is presenting *The Trip to Bountiful*, a dramatic production set in 1940's Houston, which could easily be today in rural North Carolina.

Carrie Watts, a woman living with her son and daughter in law in a cramped two-room apartment, feels she is nearing the end of her life. Her only wish is to return home. Home is Bountiful, Texas, and Carrie must overcome some very difficult obstacles before she can make her final wish come true.

The most prominent of obstacles for Carrie is her daughter in law, Jessie Mae. As dear and sweet as Carrie is, Jessie Mae is a stark opposite with her biting personality and spiteful, self-centered approach to her life and the people in it.

We all know the story of an elder, in need of assisted living, but too often going unnoticed, unheard and whose feelings are totally disregarded. Ginger Heath as Carrie Watts portrayed her character so well, she left the majority of the audience in tears. If we were crying, then Ginger is commended for reeling us in and making us believe her quest for Bountiful was not a drama, but real life.

As for Gina Clarke's portrayal of Jessie Mae, she jokingly told me after the performance that she wondered if she needed a bodyguard to get out of the theatre! Gina too made you feel as if her mean, bitter, resentfulness toward Carrie Watts was reality. With each snippy, snooty shout I could feel the tension well up in the audience, and I for one wanted to slap her silly. That's good acting.

Everyone did an outstanding job. If you haven't seen the show there's still time. This Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18 there are shows beginning at 7:30 p.m. And on Sunday, there is a matinee showing at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 (reserved seating) and are available at the Anson County Arts Council and at Lacy's.

This storyline is a bit of a bummer, but the music is beautiful and the show itself is great, local entertainment at its best. You really should see *The Trip To Bountiful*. And don't forget to ask for autographs afterwards for these Academy Award caliber performances. If I were awarding little gold statues I would say, "And the Oscar goes to Ginger Heath, Best Actress, and to Gina Clarke, Best Supporting Actress. Bravo, bravo to the entire cast! *By Melanie Lyon*

Anson County Awarded \$400,000 in Two EPA Grants

On Wednesday, May 8 Anson County was awarded US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants in the amount of \$400,000. It is hoped that the funding will be made available sometime after October 1, 2013. The money will be used to test some older vacant buildings in order to ensure that they are clear of any hazards, as well as compile properties and list them as certified economic development sites in a process by NC Commerce standards.

Anson County Economic Development Director Mary Chandler Beck wrote the grant. In his letter informing Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood of the grant awards, David Lloyd, Director of the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization at the EPA, praised Beck's work. He said, "Anson County submitted an outstanding grant proposal, and we deeply appreciate the tremendous commitment of time and energy that went into its preparation."

Beck stated, "I believe we are quite fortunate to have received this funding, and I believe this is a "big" step towards assisting the County with securing certified sites that we can market and move forward on. The grant application was quite detailed, as will be the paperwork required as we move forward. But, as noted in the award letter from EPA, we had a strong grant application, complete with photos and descriptions and outlining former uses of many of the sites I detailed, and I believe that helped us to receive this much needed funding."

There were 4 types of EPA grants - and Anson County applied for two with regards to testing of hazardous or petroleum contamination of sites, which is required in order to certify Economic Development potential sites. The two categories of funding the County applied for were the Assessment Grant Category and the Community-Wide Grant Category. Funding will provide the County the opportunity to compile an inventory of sites; complete Environmental Assessments; perform Phase I and/or Phase II Environmental tests to allow the County to have an inventory of buildings and properties; identify past uses of these properties that the County may wish to include as certified Economic Development sites; and, should testing of any sites result in any hazardous contamination; allow the County to apply for additional Brownfields funding for clean up of any contaminated areas. Each of the two (2) grants were \$200,000 - making a total of \$400,000 in grant funds.

There were only a total of five grants funded in North Carolina, which included Anson County, the City of Greenville, Piedmont Triad Regional Council, Town of Robbins and City of Wilson.

In its release to the media, the EPA detailed the grants: "Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the selection of 240 recipients recommended to receive \$62.5 million in grants to protect people's health and the environment in local communities. These new investments, funded by EPA's Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) grants, provide communities with funding necessary to assess, cleanup and redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies and leverage jobs while protecting public health and the environment.

"These Brownfields grants target under-served and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods - places where environmental cleanups and new jobs are most needed. Approximately \$29.5 million are going to communities that have been impacted by auto plant closures. Other selected recipients include tribes and communities in 45 states across the country. Communities selected range in population from a few hundred, like City of St. Marks, Fla. to New York City, which is home to more than 8 million people. Specifically, 106 grants will support communities with populations greater than 100,000 and 134 grants will go to communities with fewer than 100,000 residents - with 29 of these will go to communities of less than 10,000 people. Nearly half of the grantees this year are new recipients."

Bone Marrow Motorcycle Ride for Minister Larry Whitley

There will be a bone marrow motorcycle ride for Minister Larry Whitley, a retired State Highway Patrol Captain, on Saturday, May 18th at Centenary A.M.E. Zion Church in Lilesville, beginning at 10 a.m. with registration. All proceeds will go to Larry Whitley's bone marrow procedure. The cost is \$20 for a single rider and \$25 for two-up.

To participate in the ride or to make a donation, please contact Thedis Spencer at (704) 475-2695 or Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant at (704) 848-4412.

Seminars Offered on Medicare Fraud & Waste

Medicare beneficiaries, you may be paying for services you have not received! The North Carolina Senior Medicare Patrol Program is holding free events to help protect you from Medicare fraud, waste and abuse. In Anson County the events will be held:

- May 15 at the Glennie Bennett Center in Morven at 10 a.m.
- May 30, 2013 at Peachland Community Center in Peachland at 10 a.m.
- June 13, 2013 at the Grace Senior Center at 10 a.m.

For more information call your local SHIIP coordination site at Grace Senior Center 704-694-6616.

4-H Lunch Fundraiser is Fri.

The Anson County 4-H Program is planning a lunch fundraiser on Friday, May 17th at the Cooperative Extension Center on McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The lunch, which will raise money to help supplement funds to 4-H county programs, assist youth in attending 4-H summer programs and other activities throughout the year, will be held from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. The menu includes a marinated grilled chicken sandwich with spread, slaw, chips and homemade dessert.

The cost is \$6. Take-outs and deliveries only are available. Dining in will not be available.

Deliveries will be available from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Call 704-694-2915 to place orders. If you would like to fax your order in please send to 704-694-2248.

Also the Anson County 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association are having a raffle drawing for a 26 inch flat screen TV, a \$75 gas card and a \$35 gift card. Tickets are \$2 each. You can purchase tickets from any 4-H volunteer leader or from the Extension office.

For more information call 704-694-2915.

Board of Education Calls Special Meeting

The Anson County Board of Education will meet in a specially called meeting on Thursday, May 23, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Stegall Administrative Building on the Wingate University campus, located at 220 North Camden Street in Wingate.

The only item on the agenda will be a closed session for confidential personnel matters pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) and G.S. 115C-319. The board will convene the meeting in the front lobby and then proceed to another room to hold the closed session.