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

Three Shot at Boom Boom Room Night Club in Morven on Saturday

The Boom Boom Room club in Morven lived up to its name this past weekend. On Saturday, June 20 at 2:43 a.m. Anson deputies were dispatched to the Boom Boom Room for a shooting call. Upon arrival deputies located three victims who had been shot and another victim with unknown injuries. Deputies secured the scene and EMS and The Anson Rescue Squad arrived to treat the victims. All four victims were transported to area hospitals.

During the investigation deputies were given a description of one of the shooters and a man fitting the description was picked up by deputies as he was walking along Highway 52 in the Morven area. The individual was identified as Frank Hall, 22 of Polkton. Deputies located a small caliber pistol on Hall. Hall was taken to the Sheriff's Office for questioning, and was later charged with the shooting incident in Morven. Anson County Detectives and NC SBI agents were able to identify the second shooter as Oscar Willoughby, Jr., 42, of Charlotte. It was determined that the shooting incident occurred during a dispute between Hall and Willoughby. Willoughby was arrested after turning himself in at the Anson County Sheriff's Office.

Hall was charged with Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury. He was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$400,000 secured bond. Willoughby faces multiple charges of Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury. Willoughby received a \$300,000 secured bond.

The victims were identified as:

- Consuelo Little, 30, of Morven, who is seven months pregnant. She was shot in the back. Little was transported to Chesterfield General hospital, and later transported to McLeod Regional Hospital in Florence. She was reported in serious condition.
- Natasha Leak, 34, of Morven. She was shot in the mouth. Leak was transported to Chesterfield General Hospital, and later transported to McLeod Regional Hospital in Florence. She was reported in serious condition.
- Anthony Gaddy, 44, of Monroe. Gaddy was shot in the chest. He was transported to CHS-Anson, and later transported to CMC-Main in Charlotte. He was reported in serious condition.
- Joseph Hall, 47, of Wadeboro. Hall was not shot, but suffered unknown injuries. He was transported to CHS-Anson, and later transported to CMC-Main in Charlotte. He was reported in serious condition.

Anson Sheriff Landric Reid spoke with Glenn Byrd, the owner and operator of the Boom Boom Room, and advised him that the club could not be reopen without proper paperwork and permits, and that if it was reopened without these items Byrd will be charged.

Sheriff Reid said, "I would like to thank the deputies from the Anson County Sheriff's Office, other officers from the Wadesboro Police Department, NC Highway Patrol, NC SBI, Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office, members of the Anson Rescue Squad, and Anson EMS for all their hard work during this stressful and chaotic situation."

Lucas Gathings Wins Preliminary in Country Music Talent Search

Lucas Gathings of Wadesboro won the preliminary contest of the Country Showdown Talent Search recently. The University of South Carolina at Lancaster hosted the venue for the Interstate 107 FM Country Showdown on June 5. The Country Showdown is America's largest and longest running country music talent search. It begins with local preliminary contests, and winners progress all the way to a national competition. Performers are evaluated on marketability in country music, vocal/instrumental ability, originality, stage presence and overall talent. Bonus points are awarded for acts performing their own music. Over the years, stars such as Garth Brooks, Sara Evans and Brad Paisley have competed in the Country Showdown.

During this year's Showdown preliminaries Lucas blew the crowd and judges away with two performances as he sang original songs *Downgraded* and *Replace You*. Lucas will advance to the South Carolina State Finals in the fall. Lucas is the son of Jamie and Tammy Gathings of Wadesboro. Fans may follow his journey on the Lucas Gathings Music Facebook page.

The Country Showdown begins each spring with over 450 local talent contests sponsored by country music radio stations throughout the US. The winner at the State Finals will advance to Regional Finals with the potential for participating in the National Competition in Nashville, Tennessee, including a TV appearance and a \$100,000 grand prize.

Foster Homes Needed in Anson County

The Anson County Department of Social Services is currently recruiting families interested in licensure for foster care. Foster families provide temporary care to children who are not able to remain in their own homes for various reasons.

The agency would like to meet with any interested individual or family to discuss the requirements. A DSS licensure worker is also available to speak to organizations and groups who are interested in learning more about foster care, child protective services or adoptions. The agency will be organizing classes to prepare individuals for licensure as well as adoption.

If you are interested in this worthwhile program contact Sherry Ponds or Mary Kendall at 704-694-9351.

School Board Meeting is June 25

The Anson County School Board will hold its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, June 25 at the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a Closed session. Open session begins at 6:30 p.m. and the public is invited to participate.



"Mr. Irresistible" Pageant Held Recently

The "Mr. Irresistible" Pageant and fundraiser was held on Saturday, June 20 at the Lemuel Center in Morven. The pageant featured a fashion show and formal pageant, and young men of our community escorted the young ladies of the Allstars Cheering Team. Kadrian Gooding and Shavonda Garris were crowned Pageant King and Queen by the cheer team coach Shannon Spencer.

The judges for this event were Lilesville County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant and McShan Smith. The parents of the Allstar Cheering Teams sponsored this event.



Sheriff Landric Reid Offers Tips for a Safe July 4 Weekend & Summer

With the July 4th weekend approaching, Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid asks all citizens to join him in making this Fourth of July holiday happy, enjoyable and safe for everyone.

Anson County citizens should remember that fireworks, as enjoyable as they are to watch, can be dangerous and should only be handled by professionals. According to the U.S. Consumer Product and Safety Commission, there are nearly 9,000 emergency room-treated injuries associated with fireworks a year.

You can enjoy a safe Fourth of July by following these safety tips:

- Never give fireworks to small children, and always follow the instructions on the packaging.
- Keep a supply of water close-by as a precaution.
- Make sure the person lighting fireworks always wears eye protection.
- Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight "a dud."
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
- Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials.
- Stay at least 500 feet away from professional fireworks displays.
- Leave any area immediately where untrained amateurs are using fireworks.

Sheriff Reid also wants citizens to use caution when swimming at a beach or at a pool. The Sheriff said, "Sadly, most deaths from drowning occur within a few feet of safety. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. The Red Cross has swimming courses for people of any age and swimming ability. To find out where lessons are offered, or to enroll in a CPR/AED or first aid course, contact your local Red Cross chapter."

At a swimming pool, take the following precautions:

- If no lifeguard is on duty, do not let children swim unless they are accompanied by a responsible adult who knows lifesaving techniques and first aid.
- Post CPR instructions and directions to call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number in the pool area.
- Look around the pool area to be certain lifesaving devices are readily available for emergency use.
- Be sure covers are installed on all drains of a swimming pool or in a wading pool. The suction created by the pool's circulating pumps can be very dangerous unless it is reduced by covers.
- Take frequent breaks (about once an hour) where everyone gets out of the water, drinks water, reapplies sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) and rests.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first. Go to the edge of the pool and scan the entire pool, bottom, and surface, as well as the surrounding pool area.
- To reduce the risk of eye, ear, nose or throat infection from contaminated water, swim only in pools in which water quality is properly maintained. The water should appear crystal clear, be continuously circulated and be maintained at a level that allows free overflow into the gutter or skimmer. There should not be a strong odor of ammonia or chlorine.

At the beach, take the following precautions:

- Swim in a supervised, marked area with a lifeguard present, and swim with others. Never swim alone.
- If you are caught in a rip current, swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current. Once you are free, turn and swim toward shore.
- If you can't swim to the shore, float or tread water until you are free of the rip current and then head toward shore.
- Watch out for the "dangerous too's" - too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, too much strenuous activity.
- Look for water that is reasonably clear and free of floating materials and odors. Avoid swimming at beaches where there are large populations of ducks, geese or gulls. The waste produced by these birds causes high bacteria levels in the water.
- Look for movement in the water; it helps keep the water clean. Do not swim in stagnant or still water.
- Do not swim at any beach right after a heavy rain. Runoff following a heavy rain may result in a high bacteria level.
- When diving at a beach, exercise extreme caution. Beach water is not as clear as water in a pool, so underwater obstructions may not be visible.
- Avoid having beach water in your mouth or nose.

Sheriff Reid concluded, "Following these precautions will help the children and citizens of Anson County stay safe and healthy this holiday weekend and throughout the summer."

Celebrate the 4th on the 3rd

You can celebrate Independence Day a day early in Wadesboro, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 3 at the Plank Road Realty parking lot on the corner of Wade and Washington streets. The event features Gary Covington and The Mixx, a popular local band playing a variety of music. Activities for kids include beach balls, tie-dye painting, glow bracelets and chalk to draw in the pavement. You will need lawn chairs or blankets for seating. The evening will conclude with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Uptown Wadesboro is sponsoring the event with support from the Town of Wadesboro and sponsors. Don't forget to bring the kids and your dancing shoes!

Free Groceries July 1

The Mobile Food Pantry and CHS Mobile Health Unit will be at Marshville United Methodist Church (across from Post Office) on Wednesday, July 1, from 10 am. to 12 noon.

Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. Do not arrive before 9:30 a.m. If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, it will be canceled. If you have not yet done so, bring proof of your income to register. You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household. This event is sponsored by Anson Crisis Ministry and local United Methodist, Baptist, Apostolic, and Presbyterian Churches.

Interested in volunteering? Call Rev. Cindy Lunsford 828-891-2753 or the church at 704-624-6562.