

# THE EXPRESS

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

## Lilesville Man Shot and Killed Friday Night

Sheriff's Deputies investigated the shooting death of a man on Friday night, June 20. Deputies were called to the vicinity of Deberry Way, off Highway 145 South of Morven at around 11 p.m. where they found a man who had been shot and was deceased. They quickly arrested a suspect.

Sheriff Tommy Allen identified the victim as William Chandler Thompson, 35, of Lilesville. The Sheriff said that Thompson was shot one time in the chest with a handgun. Witnesses gave officers a possible suspect, Bobby Leon Little, 35, of 58 Deberry Way in Morven. Officers took Little into custody in the same area. He was arrested without incident, and the weapon believed to have been used in the shooting was recovered. Little was charged with First Degree Murder.

Sheriff Allen did not give a motive for the murder but said that Thompson and Little knew each other and there was apparently some dispute between them just prior to the shooting.

Little is in the Anson County Jail under no bond. His first court date was set for July 14.

## Anson County Water Bill Payments Have a New Home on July 1

Effective Tuesday, July 1 Anson County water customers will pay their monthly water bills at a new location. Water bill collections will move to the Water Department located at 907 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. The Water Department is located on the left hand side of Washington Street just past the Lockhart-Taylor Center.

The change is being made to consolidate all water related items (permits, taps, meter requests, payments, etc.) in one physical location. It is envisioned this will enhance the customer's experience by providing a one-stop shop for all water related issues and questions. Further, the Water Department has sufficient off-street parking and handicap accessibility to enhance the customer's parking experience.

If customers have questions regarding the building location or payment related issues, please call 704-694-5208.

## Jennifer Ross Named Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Ross, a second grade teacher at Wadesboro Primary School, was honored as Anson County's Teacher of the Year, 2007-2008, by Anson Bank and Trust.



Anson County's Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Jennifer Ross, and Kenneth Huntley, Anson Bank and Trust Board of Directors' chair.

"Teachers have a special mission of helping mold and encourage our children to be what they can be, to dream big dreams and realize those dreams," said Kenneth Huntley, the bank's board of directors' chair, who recognized Mrs. Ross. "Jennifer Ross comes from a long line of educators. Her grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, parents and sisters are all in the field of education, so you could say teaching is in Jennifer's blood. She has a passion for helping others and truly loves children so there is no better job for Mrs. Ross. She received her bachelor of science in elementary education and Spanish from Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania and received her masters in education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Jennifer has taught for ten years. Her interests include reading, sports and time with her two boys. She is contemplating going back to school for her doctorate in curriculum and instructional supervision."

Mrs. Ross was presented with a monetary donation and a desk clock frame from the bank. The clock frame featured an original piece of art depicting her area of teaching.

## Advance Directives Program at Grace Center

Legal Aid of North Carolina and Grace Senior Center will sponsor a presentation entitled "What You Need to Know About Advance Healthcare Planning and Organ and Tissue Donation" on Thursday, June 26 at 1 p.m. at Grace Center. The presentation will cover misconceptions on who can be a donor, how the donor program works, faith-based objections and how this ties in with creating advanced directives in making a person's healthcare wishes clear to providers.

If you are interested in attending, call Grace Senior Center to register and for additional information. The number is 704-694-6616. Depending on demand, an attorney may be available to draft advanced directives for attendees while they wait. If not, a follow-up date will be set.

## Anson County Early College Staff and Student Body



Deborah Davis and the Anson County Early College student body and staff would like to thank the Anson County Community for making their first three years of existence a huge success.

## Labor Department Honors Area Businesses for Safety and Health

The N.C. Department of Labor honored area employers and employees at the agency's annual safety awards banquet on Tuesday, June 10. "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."

Gold Awards winners from Anson County were B.V. Hedrick Gravel and Sand Company, Bonsal American, Building Products, Wade Manufacturing, Cemex, Employment Security Commission, and Hildreth Wood Products Inc.

The local recipients 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.

## Wrapped Up In Wisteria? Bugged by Bushes?

Wrapped up in wisteria, caught by kudzu, maddened by magnolia and finding ivy irrefutably irritating? It may be time to do something about your not so lethal, at-the-moment problem, that is, before it has taken a toll on your landscape, home, and day to day activities whether indoors or out.

Not only can these beautiful but often insect ridden plants and vines wreak havoc on your happiness by keeping you a virtual prisoner in your own home due to biting bugs, they may also take over your landscapes by strangling to death your bushes, shrubs, and trees, while at the same time engulfing your home exterior, air conditioning units and pipes. They slither and slink around the base up the trunks and right into the heart of the canopy until they suck all the sunlight from their victims while snuffing out their lives by suffocation, or at least that's the case where my property was concerned.

While the vines and leaves thrive, so do the insects which love to use the hearty plants as home sweet home breeding grounds and living space. Unfortunately for me and many others like me the pesky pests fly and swirl into your face and onto your extremities while sucking what you may feel is every pint of blood you have in your body, leaving you to fend for yourself in the doctor's office waiting area with mounding lumps of infected allergic reactions to the venomous bites.

To give a better perspective of my plight, I found it to be about 20 steps from car to front door where I was apt to be swarmed, bitten and left swollen and itching for days just for entering my own home sweet home. Averaging a bite per every four steps while outside didn't mean I was risk free once inside either. Those critters used stealth-like approaches for ways to fly through the mere inches I allowed myself to enter my doorway. Realizing how much this problem was affecting my life, not to mention the inability to use my back deck, front porch, or even think of an outdoor activity without dousing myself with maximum, extra strength, extreme supreme super sonic toxic deet or other probably harmful pesticides, I was left with no other choice.

Yes, wrapped up with wisteria was an understatement where I was concerned and I finally found an answer to the serious predicament, simply to get rid of it. But how in the world could you get the job done? Cutting, trimming, axing, spraying, poisoning and positively pitching a hissy fit with each invasion was to no avail. It was time to call the experts.

Now before you allow yourself offense by my exasperation with wisteria and her climbing friends, let me appeal to you as a plant and tree lover myself. Wisteria is a beautiful sight to behold. The purplish hues, dangling teardrop blooms and romantic appeal are gorgeous. Given that, I am not opposed to anyone who loves the powerful vines and am in no way suggesting you rid your personal space of such. What I am saying is that I personally couldn't live with it so instead, decided to live without it.

Mr. Jeff Burr, Anson County native and family business owner, has plenty of heavy equipment and the answer to my prayers when it comes to getting down and dirty and right to the heart of the problems I faced. In one day he and his crew wiped out the life altering vines and took with them the infestation of bite till you bleed bloodsucking insect assailants. In fact, I just spent the first evening enjoying my back yard deck since moving into my home sixteen months ago and it was an absolute delight. No creepy crawly horrifyingly ugly entanglements, but no more pesky pests controlling my destiny either. And heavenly is the only word to describe the solitude of the evening.

I watched the sensational drama unfold as Burr's excavator and bulldozer bullied their way through my jungle-like backyard like the Tyrannosaurus Rex and Raptor of the dinosaur era, rummaging through the snarl with inherent ease. The untangling of trees and unearthing of acreage was poignant as I didn't even realize their existence. The men and machines worked together like a choreographed ballet. Yes, I said ballet.



Dennis Helms and Scottie Harrington, equipment operators, along with the help of Jerry Lee Connolly, worked diligently while unwrapping the wisteria and other hefty overgrowth from my property. If you need help with vine control which could possibly mean pest prevention too, then be sure and give Jeff Burr a call. He's gotcha covered, or in this case, uncovered!

I guess you would have to see it to know why I describe the use of heavy equipment in such a poetic way. But to me, that's exactly what it was, poetry in motion. These guys know exactly what to do and when to do it. They made what had to be a difficult task seem easy. Call on them if you have anything similar to my situation. You won't regret it. So far, it's the best thing I could have done for my little piece of property while securing a lot of peace of mind for my self and my health. Photo and story by Melanie Morse

## Mobile Health Screening Clinic July Schedule

Free health screenings, which include blood pressure, heart rate, cholesterol and blood sugar for anyone over the age of 18, will be offered by the Healthy Ansonians Mobile Health Screening Clinic. The schedule for July is as follows:

- Tuesday, July 1, Polkton Depot, 9a.m. until noon
- Wednesday, July 2, Pleasant Hill UMC, McFarlan 9:30 until 11:30a.m.
- Thursday, July 3, Ansonville VFW, 9a.m. until noon
- Friday, July 4, Holiday-Closed
- Tuesday, July 8, IGA, 9a.m. until noon
- Wednesday, July 9, Morven Senior Meal Site, 9:30a.m. until noon
- Wednesday, July 9, Morven UMC, 3 until 6p.m.
- Thursday, July 10, Wal-Mart, noon until 4p.m.
- Tuesday, July 15, Burnsville VFD, 1 until 4p.m.
- Wednesday, July 16, Anson Station (Old Wal-Mart), 9a.m. until noon
- Thursday, July 17, Peachland Center, 9a.m. until noon
- Saturday, July 26, Anson County Farmer's Market, 8:30 until 10:30a.m.

The Mobile Clinic does not operate on days that Anson County Schools are delayed or closed due to inclement weather. For more information, contact Linda Griffin, RN, BSN at 704-695-3488 or 704-694-5131.

## Holiday Garbage Pick-up for Lilesville

Due to the Fourth of July holiday, the Town of Lilesville will be picking up trash on Wednesday, July 2.

## Diabetes Program on June 26

Are you a diabetic, or do you know a diabetic? You are invited to learn how you can live a healthier life from a "real person" with diabetes who has "walked in your shoes."

Carol Hall, an A1C Champion with diabetes, will present a program entitled "Taking Control." at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at 308 East Wade Street in Wadesboro, on Thursday, June 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Look inside for these special inserts  
• IGA