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

Andrice Pierre Kirby Arrested for Theft

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies searched a house on West Wall Street near Lilesville early Thursday morning, June 30th and seized a number of items believed to be stolen. The items recovered included five large screen TVs, a window air conditioner unit and other items. One of the TVs was immediately identified as stolen from Wadesboro.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said that most of the TVs had the serial numbers scratched off or obliterated in some way. "It will take us a while to recover the serial numbers but we will continue to try. We are now checking our files for large screen TVs that have been stolen recently. Unfortunately many people do not have these numbers recorded so positive identification is difficult," Sheriff Allen said.

Officers arrested Andrice Pierre Kirby, 25, of Lilesville and charged him with one count of Possession of Stolen Property. He was released after posting a \$1,000 bond. Sheriff Allen said that he would expect other charges to be filed as the owners of the items that were seized are identified.

Sherman Sturdivant Busted for Growing Pot

On June 28th deputies arrested Sherman N. Sturdivant, 34, of Peachland after finding 12 marijuana plants growing in pots behind Sturdivant's home on Sunset Drive in Peachland. The plants were about two feet tall.

Sturdivant was charged with Felony Possession, Manufacturing Marijuana and Maintaining a Dwelling to Sell Controlled Substances. He was released on a \$600 secure bond.

Anson Unemployment Rate 11.7% for May

After dropping below 12% in April, for the first time since October 2010, Anson County unemployment continued to wane in May, dropping to 11.7%. Statewide the unemployment rate for May was 9.7%, up a bit from April's 9.5%.

Anson's total labor force in May was 9,690. Of that number 8,557 were employed and 1,133 were unemployed. In April the total labor force was 9,670, with 8,523 employed and 1,147 unemployed.

Unemployment rates decreased in just under half of North Carolina's 100 counties in May. Rates decreased in 40 counties, increased in 44 counties and remained the same in 16.

"Seasonal hiring has begun to increase in some areas of North Carolina," said ESC Chairman Lynn R. Holmes. "We experienced growth in several of our industrial sectors last month and over the year. We continue to focus on growing jobs and working with our economic, education and workforce development partners. Our offices remain committed to assisting job seekers and employers."

North Carolina had 40 counties that were at or below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 9.7 percent. Rates increased in 10 of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas, decreased in one and remained the same in three.

Statewide the number of workers employed (not-seasonally adjusted) increased in May by 33,600 to 4,079,708. The number of people unemployed increased by 8,070. The number of unemployed people in May was 435,787 workers, compared with 427,717 in April.

Currituck County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in May, at 5.6 percent. Meanwhile, Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate, at 16.2 percent.

1,000 Children Currently Enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program!

The Anson County Partnership for Children has met its goal of having 1000 children enrolled in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at one time! On Wednesday, June 29th, Janiya Jones, age three of Morven, became the 1000th child currently enrolled. Janiya, the daughter of Fiona Redfean, was presented a Partnership bag filled with favorite children's books and a certificate commemorating her enrollment as the 1000th child. Since the literacy program began in Anson County in September 2006, approximately 2000 Anson County children have received free books in the mail each month. The Partnership has worked with local community agencies to enroll children and Janiya's application was acquired by Anson County Health Department WIC Director, Donna Allen. It is significant that this goal was achieved on June 29th, Phoebe Esta Lee Day, since Phoebe was also instrumental in the success of the literacy program as a Partnership board member.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is open to ALL Anson County children birth to age five. Enrolled children receive a free age appropriate book mailed to their home each month until their fifth birthday. Please call (704-694-4036) or come by the Partnership at 117 South Greene Street, Wadesboro to register your child for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Although free to children and parents, the program costs the Anson County Partnership for Children approximately \$35.00 per child per year. The Partnership's annual fundraiser, the Barn Blast, generates funds for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and other children's literacy programs in Anson County. The next Barn Blast is scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2012, at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. If you are interested in helping make sure that literacy programs like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library continue to be available for young children in Anson County, please call Partnership Executive Director Elaine Scarborough at 704-694-4036. The Partnership is in need of financial support as well as volunteers to assist with its literacy programs.

Parks & Rec Swimming Pool Schedule

The Anson County Parks and Recreation Department's swimming pool is open, and they welcome you to come enjoy a refreshing swim.

The pool is open from 2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The cost is \$1 per person. The pool is closed for maintenance on Mondays and Fridays.

30-minute swim classes will be offered in two-week sessions (Monday-Thursday). The cost is \$18 per person. For a complete schedule and or to register call Wendell Small at 704-694-5751.

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs Available in Anson County

The Head Start and Early Head Start programs of Union County Community Action, Inc. are now accepting applications at Faison and Central Centers in Wadesboro. Not only will your child be provided with quality care by trained professionals, your child will receive physical, mental, dental, social and educational services as well.

So, please bring your proof of income for 2010 (W-2 or tax form 1040), child's shot record, birth certificate and proof of insurance/Medicaid to apply. The Faison Center can be reached at 704-694-9885 and the Central Center for Children and Families can be reached at 704-694-2120. Give your child a Head Start in life...apply today.

Ansonville Elementary School Terrific Kids



Ansonville Elementary School would like to recognize the following students who were named "Terrific Kids" for the last nine weeks of the 2010-2011 school year.

Honesty Langston Springer, Camryn Martin, Allie Hill, Jasmine Lindsey, Ava Hill, Carolina Veronica-Martinez, Daniel Hartung, Rieley Pope, Gavin Jones, Kurstin Hartsell, Abigail Xiong, Alexis Broadway, Andrew James, Shellie Hathcock, Sharee Snuggs, Myasya Richardson and Kiantie Clark

Citizenship Cassidy Xiong, Jailia Thao, Jose Benitez, Gracie Love, Madison Thomas, Caleb Williamson, Syriniti Wall, Bricson Williams, Anthony Benitez, Akela Martin, Kanayih Christian, Kerry Davis, Parker Simpson, Jordan Sikes, Essence Hamilton, Naiya Woodburn, Autumn Peyton and Kathryn McRae.

The Truth About Men, Women and Dogs

Avoiding the risk of stereotyping, I should change my title to, "The Truth About Men, Women and Dogs According to Me. All men and women do not react in the same manner when it comes to their pets, and of this I have been reminded a lot lately.

For us, my husband Allen and me, we are definitely on the same page when it comes to our love, attention and affection for our dogs. Both of us speak to, interact with, care for and show unconditional love for each of the four, while going the extra mile to ensure their safety and wellness. But when it comes to the worry a dog sometimes causes, we are on different pages completely. I would be willing to go so far as to say we're in different books entirely!

Over the past several years we have had many, many incidents, which bring me to the conclusion of which I write. But in the past week two worrisome trials have reiterated the truth about men, women and dogs, at least in our household.

Having four dogs is a hard to handle and difficult job. Each of the four is entirely different, requiring specific and special kinds of attention and care. In the foursome is a Siberian Husky, a dog commonly known to escape, run, and never find their way home. They are bred to run and run and run for miles, never noticing where they are headed, and thus usually end up lost.



An artful shot of Belle in action!

This has happened twice to our husky and is the very reason for my overprotective reactions when something goes awry with her, especially. Admittedly I am a worrier and can go overboard at times. But my gut instincts are usually right when it comes to our dogs and I am the first to notice when something is wrong.

Since her last escape Belle seemed very content with her life and the fact that she has a huge area (fenced) to run and play. One of her favorite spots to watch over the yard is in a narrow space between a wooden fence and a wire fence. It's shaded and she can observe two different neighborhoods at once. We often find her there, happy and content. However, one day last week I came home and, as always, was greeted by the dogs. I petted and played for a minute, then realized that Belle wasn't in the mix. Calling and whistling I heard her voice and instantly knew something was wrong. Belle does not bark, she sings, and her song was different, changed. I found her in her usual spot, between the two fences where she loves to sit. But she wouldn't come out. This isn't normal I thought and tried repeatedly to coax her from underneath the area. (An area big enough for she and I both to go under.) She wouldn't budge.

I came back to the house and told Allen. "She'll come out when she gets ready," he said. And with that, I walked back down and tried to retrieve her, over and over and over again. Accomplishing nothing I ran back to the house and told Allen again. This time he followed me down and tried himself to coax her out. But she still wouldn't move. "She'll come out when she gets ready," he said again. But my gut instinct knew there was more to this than stubbornness. She seemed to cry each time I walked away and with that, I always turned around and went back. I couldn't leave her. I knew something was amiss. Belle is very shy and skittish. So Allen thought that to be the reason for her resistance. I, on the other hand, knew better and refused to give up. I became so annoying that Allen followed me back to the fence and tried to gently pull her out. It was then he realized something was wrong, that she wasn't being stubborn, and she did need help. I looked between the slats of the fence and studied her entire body again, looking for injuries. After examining her time after time I noticed the fur around her side looked "odd." It wasn't wet and she wasn't cut. It was just barely noticeable and I asked, "Why does her fur look like that?" Allen saw the area and also saw a tiny wire. That wire was wrapped around her abdomen not allowing her to free herself. "Go and get the wire cutters," her said, and I ran, for the one-hundredth time, back to the house. He freed her and she was the happiest dog I've ever seen, with no injury whatsoever. What a great feeling for us all but especially for her.

"What if I had listened to you," I said to my Allen? She would still be trapped if it hadn't been for my own persistence, and that gut feeling that something was wrong. "You were right," he agreed as he apologized to Belle.

This morning I awoke earlier than I usually rise, but I jumped out of bed, feeling that same feeling again, as if something was not entirely right in the world. One, two, three dogs greeted me as I turned on the coffee maker. Where was the fourth? Where was Belle? In about a minute I had a cup of coffee in one hand as I walked around the house, quietly calling her name. No answer, no singing. I walked down into the basement, out into the back, no answer. I returned back to the house and noticed two sections of our fence had fallen. My heart sank. Setting my cup down I immediately ran out of the house and toward the opening, but no Belle. She was gone. And for how long no one knew?

Allen was still sleeping and I was hesitant, but woke him with the news. He was concerned, of course, but wasn't jumping out of bed to help me locate our now missing husky. He did get up, had his coffee, read the newspaper, took a shower and dressed while I was posting Belle's picture online and driving around surrounding neighborhoods looking. As I went out to go for a second drive I looked up the street and saw her from a distance. I began calling her and whistling to her and she came toward me. But, she continued to run past me time and time again. I ran through our neighbor's yards, over their shrubs, into the street, all the while trying to call her quietly, so as not to wake anyone. It was still relatively early in the morning.

Yes, I looked like a crazy woman who had just gotten out of bed, pulled on the first thing I could find and went on the chase to find her missing pet. The other three dogs were tucked safely inside our home, standing guard at the front glass door. When Belle repeatedly ran by our house they began to bark, and, finally, she responded by going to the door to greet her sisters and that's how I caught her. I took her in, hugged her and collapsed from exhaustion. Allen came out clean and fresh from his shower, petted Belle and exclaimed, "I knew you would come back home." I wanted to wipe the sweat from my face onto his crisp, clean shirt! But then I realized, once again, the truth about men, women and dogs. And the truth is, men are probably more right than wrong in their ability to cast worry aside and not overreact like I, the woman, so often tend to.

For my own sake and for the sake of those around me who know I'm, once again, probably going overboard, I wish I could cast worry aside. But, after my woman's intuition, that gut feeling I have when something's not quite the way it should be, hits me like a ton of bricks, there's no chance of ignoring my concern. It's during moments like those that I may become overly cautious, but I usually find the root of the problem while Allen lives life with a no-cause-for-concern attitude. You see, a man often feels that there's no reason to worry until you ACTUALLY have something to worry about. A woman usually worries until she knows there's nothing LEFT to worry about. With that said, how can I possibly expect any man or any woman to act any differently? Truth is, I can't.
By Melanie Lyon

Hampton B. Allen Library's Summer Reading Schedule

The Hampton B. Allen Library offers the following summer reading programs:

- Storytime - For pre-school children. Each Tuesday at 10 a.m.
 - Reading Program - for children up to 12 years old. Each Thursday from 10:30 a.m to noon through August 4.
 - Reading Program - for children ages 13-18 years old. Each Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. through August 4.
- For more information call 704-694-5177.

Hospice of Anson County to Offer Grief Workshop

On Thursday, July 21 Hospice of Anson County will present a grief workshop "Coping With the Loss of a Loved One." The workshop will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Lillie Bennett Nursing Center in Wadesboro. This workshop is open to the public. Hospice Chaplain Jane Brock will discuss healthy patterns of grief and healing.

This workshop is intended to be an interactive session with input from the participants, as well as Hospice staff. Handouts and reading lists will be available and light refreshments will be served. Please contact Judy Treadaway at 704-694-4880 by July 18 to register for this free workshop.

Hospice of Anson County began serving patients in 2000. Organized as a nonprofit 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization, hospice care services are provided in patient homes, a hospice house located on the Hospice of Union County Monroe campus, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Hospice, located at 205 West Morgan Street in Wadesboro, is part of the newly formed Carolinas Palliative Care & Hospice Network that is operated by Carolinas HealthCare System.

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