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Second Body Identified in F&M McLendon Funeral Home Case

In a press release from Chief Thedis Spencer of the Wadesboro Police Department: On November 22, 2010 officers of the Wadesboro Police Department were contacted by the Anson County Sheriff's Office to assist in a foreclosure lock out at F&M McLendon Funeral Home. Officers were there serving strictly a peacekeeping role.

During this lockout, the Anson County Sheriff's Office found three bodies in the funeral home. The Wadesboro Police Department assisted the Anson County Sheriff's Office in identifying and removing these bodies. Sheriff Tommy Allen arranged with Leavitt Funeral Home to have the bodies transported there for storage until the families could make other arrangements. During this time it was found that the bodies were several months old.

Detectives with the Wadesboro Police Department investigated who these individuals were and why they remained at F&M McLendon Funeral Home. This investigation revealed that there was not a crime resulting from the bodies remaining at the funeral home and that there was not a crime with respect to the financial aspect of the funeral services either. Detectives with the Wadesboro Police Department, determined that the appropriate action was to turn this case over to the North Carolina Board of Funeral Directors. Wadesboro Police Department, as a courtesy, contacted all of the next of kin for the three bodies and helped them with the final arrangements of the bodies.

In the months and years following the initial foreclosure, the Wadesboro Police Department worked in conjunction with the North Carolina Board of Funeral Directors Investigator Carolyn Connors on several reports of misconduct at F&M McLendon Funeral Home. During the time that the North Carolina Board of Funeral Directors was investigating this case Funeral Director Mary McLendon-Brown made arrangements with the bank and was allowed to return to her building and continue operating. It was during this time that Marshall Ray Allen passed away and his body was turned over to Mary McLendon-Brown and F&M McLendon Funeral Home.

The North Carolina Board of Funeral Directors decided to revoke Mary McLendon-Brown's license and close F&M McLendon Funeral Home and then did so. This closure was a civil matter and therefore not within the jurisdiction of the Wadesboro Police Department. If officers were asked to accompany the North Carolina Board of Funeral Directors in closing F&M McLendon Funeral Home it would only be in a peacekeeping role, therefore officers were not legally justified to search F&M McLendon Funeral Home. At no point prior to the sentencing portion of the trial, State of North Carolina vs. Mary McLendon-Brown, did any officer of the Wadesboro Police Department have independent reasonable suspicion to believe that the body of Marshall Ray Allen was inside the building formally operated as F&M McLendon Funeral Home, and therefore no search warrant could be obtained.

On June 4, 2014, Officers with the Wadesboro Police Department located two bodies in the building formally operated as F&M McLendon Funeral Home. One body was quickly identified as that of Marshall Lee Allen. The other body remained unidentified until July 2. Working closely with the Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner's Office, detectives were able to positively identify the body as that of Henry Thomas Garris who died on November 23, 2011.

Chief Thedis Spencer said, "This investigation is still ongoing and no determination has been made regarding any charges that may or may not be brought against Mary McLendon-Brown."

Deceased's Information: Henry Thomas Garris, 57 Meachum Road, Wadesboro. Black male, date of birth April 3, 1948, date of death November 23, 2011.

New Schedule for BRLC Emergency Food Pantry

Hours for the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Emergency Food Pantry have changed for the month of July. The Pantry will open at 2 p.m. on Wednesday mornings rather than the usual 9 a.m. time.

Also, the BRLC USDA Food Commodities distribution will be held on Saturday, July 26 at 9 a.m. This program provides food to any resident of Anson County who qualifies.

For more information please contact Carol Smith at the BRLC at 704-826-8737.

Back to School Bash is August 16

This year the Caraway Foundation (TCF) has partnered with HOLLA! and Kesler Chapel AME Zion Church, along with the support of, SPCC, Mrs. Vancine Sturdivant, Landric Reid and others, to host the 1st Back-to-School Bash on Saturday, August 16 in uptown Wadesboro on the Square. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

Students will be given school supplies, school uniforms and shoes from Stride with Pride ... all for free! Colleges and universities will be there to provide information on preparing for college, the Safe Kids program by the Anson County Sheriff's office will have a demonstrations, music by local students and residents, food vendors, and more.

An organizer said, "We strongly believe if students are equipped with the right tools they will be the best students and citizens they could possibly be. With your support, I know that we can make this event successful. Please encourage children and parents to come out and take advantage of this event. Children must be present in order to receive school supplies."

You can support this event by purchasing supplies or by making a donation for the purchase of supplies on your behalf. If you donate by check, please make them payable to HOLLA! and mail to: Sarah Burns, P.O. Box 276, Ansonville, NC 28007.

Contact Sarah Burns at 704-761-4351; HOLLA! at 704-851-3144; or Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 to drop off supplies or make a monetary donation. They must have the supplies by Friday, August 8th. Organizers thank you in advance for all your support!

Veterans to Meet Thursday

Veterans and spouses are invited to the quarterly meeting of veterans on Thursday, July 10 at 6 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center.

The newly formed Veterans Council is trying to create a registry of all veterans residing in Anson County. The purpose is to foster brotherhood and cooperation, to combine resources to benefit all veterans in the county, and perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans.

All veterans are invited to attend for an interesting program and entertainment.



LES Summer Day Camp Students are Visited by Firemen

The Lilesville Elementary School Summer Day Camp Program staff and students were recently visited by volunteer members of the Lilesville Fire Department after a monthly fire drill.

The services provided by a volunteer fire department comprise structure firefighting as well as dealing with forest fires, depending on the locality and availability of the firefighting facilities. There are many rural places such as Lilesville where a volunteer fire department may be the only emergency service, and in that case, volunteer firefighting may include but not be limited to emergency medical services, quick response, dangerous material responses and other rescue operations.

Shown here are LES Students and staff: Cameron Sellers, Ms. Katie Gaddy, Taylor Cummings, De-John Pemberton, Alyssa Harris, Kamryn Winfield, Ronald Capel, Lucas Gatewood, Ashlyn Gatewood, Alexis McCracken, Whitney Phillips, LaDavien Simon, Gretchen Henry, Maci Sellers, Gracie McCracken, Kayden Murdock, Josey Beverly, Joseph Polson and LES Volunteer Firemen Billy Parker, Joe Rizzo and Jason Morris.

New Hospital, Carolinas HealthCare System-Anson Community Celebration is this Saturday

After much anticipation and excitement, Carolinas HealthCare System-Anson, part of Carolinas HealthCare System, will open next Monday, July 14. It is located on Highway 74 West, just past Anson High School.

Join Carolinas HealthCare System this Saturday, July 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to celebrate the opening of the new hospital. The event will take place at Carolinas HealthCare System Anson, located at 2301 U.S. Highway 74 West, and will feature a bounce house, free food, giveaways, interactive stuffed animal clinic, tours of the new facility and much more.

To learn more about Carolinas HealthCare System Anson, visit www.CarolinasHealthCare.org/AnsonFAQ.

Bible and Health Youth Camp Addresses Lifestyle Diseases

In 2012 the Anson County Health Department conducted a Health Assessment. The assessment revealed that diabetes; lack of knowledge of how to implement a healthy lifestyle for children and family; obesity; poor nutrition; and heart diseases were the top five health concerns of Anson County.

"It appears that Anson County families and children are getting sicker and sicker from a lack of knowledge. Many don't know that the food that they are feeding their families are killing them," says Pastor Cary Rodgers, a Bible and Health Evangelist for Pathway to Peace Ministries. He continues, "Many people in this county are going to an early grave and we must wake up and address the problem head on!"

Pathway to Peace Ministries is on a mission to educate our county of the direct relationship between what they eat and disease. Currently they have a lifestyle health retreat that educates participants and group how to prevent and fight against diseases naturally with no side effects. They specialize in showing many groups and churches how to put together plant-based meals that are nutritious and very delicious. For example they show you how to make your own healthy cheese from nuts and seeds! They conduct free healthy living and cooking seminars every third Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. at their health retreat at 11775 NC 109 South, 2 miles past Deep Creek Road in Wadesboro.

For the past eight summers Pathway to Peace Ministries has conducted Youth Force Bible and Health camps to address our health issues with our children. Each Youth Force camp is not only designed to prepare children ages 5 through 13 for math and reading for the next school year but, they teach them the importance of a healthy plant-based lifestyle that includes the importance of consuming fruits, nuts, veggies, grains, and seeds on a daily basis and exercise. They also teach them Bible principles that will prepare each camper to be successful in life. The next summer camp is scheduled for July 14 through 25 at 114 East Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We don't feed the camper cheap unhealthy hot dog, chips, and other junk food," says Pastor Rodgers. "We feed them food that grows straight from the earth that is very good for them." For more information and to register your child for the camp contact Pathway to Peace Ministries 704-695-1441.

Broadway Star David Burnham Coming to the Ansonia Saturday

Broadway performer David Burnham is bringing his concert of Broadway tunes to the Ansonia Theatre this Saturday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m. Burnham played Fiyero in the Broadway production of *Wicked* for three years, and created the role in the original Los Angeles workshop and productions.

He was a member of the original Broadway cast of the 6-time Tony Award-winning musical *The Light in the Piazza*, has performed on the Tony Awards CBS, and was featured on the PBS telecast *Live from Lincoln Center*.

In film Burnham was the voice of the Prince in the Warner Bros. animated feature *The King & I* and can also be heard as "Willy" in Disney's *Home on the Range*. His voice was also recently featured on TV's animated series *South Park*.

He first gained critical acclaim when, after a two-year search, he was chosen to replace Donny Osmond in the national tour of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He created the role of Tom in the new musical *Tom Jones* as well as the role of Billy (opposite Maureen McGovern) in the new musical *Letters from 'Nam*. In Chicago, he originated the role of Charlie in the world premiere of *Peggy Sue Got Married*.

Reserved seating tickets for the July 12 concert are available at Lacy's and the Anson County Arts Council (704-694-4950) and online at www.ansoniatheatre.com using Paypal.

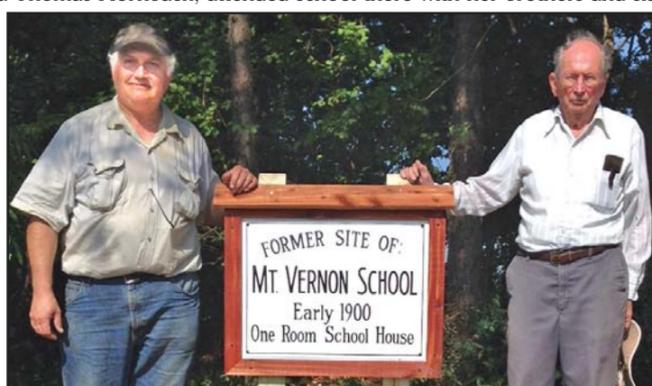
Joel Hornback & Henry Martin Mark Site of Mt. Vernon School

Joel Hornback and Henry Martin, Jr. recently erected a sign marking where Mt. Vernon School used to stand. The former school site is located alongside Red Hill-Mt. Vernon Road.

Joel's mother, Vera Thomas Hornback, attended school there with her brothers and sisters. They were the children of Jonah W. and Ada Griffin Thomas.

Henry's mother, Mrs. Daisy Flake Martin, was a teacher at Mt. Vernon.

A thank you to the Paul Turner family for allowing the marker to be erected on their property. This will preserve a piece of Anson County history.



Parks and Recreation Offers Adult Swim Lessons

Anson County Parks and Recreation is offering adult swim lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting July 8th. The cost is \$18 per person. Lessons will be taught at Little Park pool, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. There is a minimum of 10 participants and a maximum of 15.

Contact Wendell T. Small, CPRP, Aquatics Supervisor at 704-694-5868 for information.

Men's 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Anson County Parks & Recreation will be offering a Men's 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament at Little Park. The tournament will have a maximum of 8 teams. The entry fee will be \$100 per team and must be paid at the time of registration.

Please call Anson County Recreation for more information. Morris Gatewood 704-694-5751 or Wendell Small 704-694-5868.

Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have lost a child of any age, will meet this Thursday, July 10 at 7 p.m. in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

For information call 704-694-8774 or 704-475-5005.

Joe Dutton to Present Musical Program July 14

The Hampton B. Allen Library's 50+ Club will meet on Monday, July 14 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Joe Dutton will be the guest, entertaining with his music. Everyone is invited to join in and bring a friend for this special program.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

BCSWCD Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 22 at 10 a.m. at the BCSWCD office located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-3516.