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

Landric Reid is Anson County's Next Sheriff



Landric Reid is Anson County's next Sheriff. Reid, a Trooper with the North Carolina Highway Patrol who is well known throughout Anson County for his charitable work and giving back to the community by volunteering for worthy causes, won the Democratic Runoff Primary Election over Mike Smith on July 15. Because there is no Republican candidate for Anson County Sheriff, Reid has won the office and will be installed as Sheriff on Monday, December 1, 2014.

In the Runoff voters elected Reid by a two-thirds margin, 66.83% to Smith's 33.14%. Reid had won the initial Primary Election over Smith, Ricky Little and Josh Beam, but Smith's and Reid's vote totals were close enough for Smith to request the Runoff.

Here are the vote totals for the initial Primary Election and the Runoff Primary Election:
Initial Primary - Reid 1,651 votes (39.6%) & Smith 1,399 votes (33.56%)
Runoff - Reid 2,664 votes (66.83%) & Smith 1,322 votes (33.17%)

Reid needed 40% of the vote, plus one vote to win the initial Primary Election, literally missing out by only a handful of votes.

Reid has lived in Anson County for over twenty years, and worked hard to help those less fortunate during that time. Among his accomplishments are:

- Founder and Director of "Stride with Pride Shoe Drive," giving away over 500 pairs of tennis shoes to needy children.
- Board member of Anson County Toys for Tots.
- Helped to spearhead the "Back to School with Pride" event, where school supplies have been distributed to many hundreds of students.
- Has worked with organizations to provide prom dresses and shoes to students, donate school supplies and clothing to students, and food drives for needy families.
- In 2013 he was a recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence. This is the highest award given to a state employee, with only seven awarded in 2013. It is given to acknowledge and express the governor's appreciation for outstanding contributions by participating in or implementing community projects that help the citizens in our communities.

"Officer Reid is a very generous, special, outstanding person," said Anson County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant. "He helps our community in so many different ways."

The Express asked Reid several questions about his campaign and plans as Sheriff. Here are the questions and responses:

• *Please say something about your campaign and how you kept it positive.* Reid: "My campaign committee agreed that we could only be successful if we ran a positive campaign. We also prayed together and believed our prayers were answered."

• *What is your mission statement?* Reid: "To improve the quality of life in all communities of Anson County for all citizens, by preventing crime - not just responding to crime. To ensure that all employees of the Sheriff's Office recognize and respect all citizens we serve, and to serve all citizens with integrity and equality. To gain your trust and respect so as to form a partnership with the court system, county commissioners and citizens to propel the Sheriff's Office into a new era of professional service."

• *During your campaign you stated that among the items in your mission statement was to work toward preventing crime, not just responding to crime. Can you share some of your ideas for achieving that?* Reid: "The Anson County Sheriff's Office will reduce crime by monitoring high crime areas and making sure we use all our resources, including our citizens. We will earn trust from our citizens by having community meetings. These meetings will allow the citizens to express their concerns about criminal activities. Together we will reduce crime and make our citizens feel safer in their own homes."

• *You have said that you will ensure that, "All employees of the Sheriff's Office recognize and respect all citizens we serve, and to serve all citizens with integrity and equality." Would you like to say any more about that?* Reid: "The Sheriff's Office will earn trust from our citizens by getting involved in community activities. This will help officers serve with integrity, and also let each officer understand the importance of equality when enforcing the law."

• *You have stated your goal of increasing community policing. What is community policing?* Reid: "Community policing is a partnership between the Sheriff's Office and the community we serve. Community policing allows officers to talk to all citizens, and earn trust by showing interest in their community. I expect officers to work all areas of Anson County including back roads, stores, community functions, church activities, school activities, and anywhere we can be highly visible."

• *What will be some of the items of focus at the Sheriff's Office?* Reid: "The Sheriff's Office will focus on all criminal activity, to include breaking and entering, drugs and domestic violence. We will focus on trying to reduce all crimes against all of our citizens. And we will do our job with compassion."

• *What are some of your plans as Sheriff?* Reid: "I will see to it that our officers provide quality service in a manner that is proactive, fair, courteous, professional and efficient. I will be a Sheriff who is personable and approachable, and one who will address your concerns personally."

As Sheriff I will implement the following plans: 1) I plan to organize ongoing training opportunities for deputies to make them more efficient and accountable while serving citizens. 2) Have a more accountable organizational structure so all employees will understand their duties and know that they will be held accountable. 3) I will implement a system that the detectives and supervisors will use to follow up and keep you informed if you are a crime victim. We will use the same system to make sure that a thorough and complete investigation is done. 4) All supervisors will be trained to lead, guide and direct all officers under their supervision. 5) Supervisors will also be held accountable by their supervisors who are over them, all the way up to the Sheriff. The concept of 'lead, guide and direct' will apply at all levels."

• *As Sheriff what can you do to help Anson County youth?* Reid: "I have dealt with many issues our young people are presently experiencing in Anson County. I strongly believe our children need to be reassured that our community can support them, love them and provide everything they need to achieve their goals. They need to know that we the community can support them better than any gang they could ever join."

• *Do you have anything to say to those voters who supported you?* Reid: "I would like to thank everyone for your support during the elections, and ask for your continued support as I perform my duties as Sheriff."

Sheriff Elect Reid finished the interview with this statement, "I will lead our officers in providing protection for you and your families through the enforcement of civil and criminal laws, operation of a professional and secure detention facility, outstanding public service, implementation of technology, and upholding the constitutionality of the Office of Sheriff."

I have pledged that I will listen to the citizens of Anson County. Your Sheriff cannot reduce crime without your support, and crimes in Anson County cannot be reduced with a Sheriff who is not listening to you. We will partner with all local and state agencies, as well as the community, to identify problems and create solutions to improve the quality of life in Anson County together."

Man Murdered in Wadesboro Early Monday Morning

On the morning of Monday, July 28 at approximately 12:52 a.m. Anson County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a residence located at 1074 Highway 52 North in Wadesboro, and upon arrival they found 21 year old Dameon Yimaine Thomas dead from an apparent gunshot wound. A female believed to be Thomas' girlfriend who was at the residence at the time of the shooting told deputies that two men entered the residence and shot Thomas several times. She told deputies that she believed the suspects were black males, but that she did not know who they were or why they attacked Thomas.

According to Major Charles Little of the Sheriff's Office no more information had developed as of press time, and the case is still under investigation.

Pee Dee River Boat Landing Shooting Suspect Arrested

Michael Kevin Allen, the suspect in the July 17 assault and shooting at the Pee Dee River was arrested by Anson County Sheriff's Deputies shortly before 1 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22. He was arrested without incident in a rural area of the county, at a residence on Usrey Road, near Lilesville.

Allen was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$25,000 bond.

Last Summer Jam of the Season is this Friday

This is your last chance to attend a Summer Jam in uptown Wadesboro! Be sure to come to North Rutherford Street this Friday for great music and fun with the Atlantic Groove Band. The show will run from 6 to 10 p.m. There will be beach balls and activities for the kids and Southern Medley Wine Cellar will have something for the adults too! Be sure to bring chairs and blankets...and some friends to this free UWI event.



The Birthday Girls

This group of girls are all good friends, and they all graduated from Wadesboro High School in 1958. For the past five years they have met at least once a year and sometimes more often to renew friendships and to have fun together for several days. Places visited have included the beach, Blowing Rock, NC, Raleigh, Wilmington and Beaufort, SC.

Six of the sixteen girls live in Wadesboro now, so it was decided that they would meet here this year, and all stay at the Shady Oaks Bed and Breakfast in Ansonville. The group arrived in time for the Arts Council's Bach's Lunch at the First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, July 16. During their time together the girls visited the Episcopal and Catholic Churches, James Price's Antique Shop, the Boggan-Hammond House, the Medical Museum, the Ansonia Theatre and Southern Medley Wine Cellar.

A rented van driven by Mr. Lee Ross was used to convey everyone to the various sites and also for meals at the Old Store in Lilesville, Shady Oaks and Oliver's Restaurant.

On Friday morning, July 18 the girls gathered back at Shady Oaks for a sumptuous breakfast and to say their goodbyes. They all hope to gather again within the next year for a train trip to someplace exciting.

Those of the group living in Wadesboro are Edna (Edwards) Ponds, Sheila (Kelly) Sikes, Linda Ratliff, Rebecca (Porter) Westbrook, Mary Lynn (Lineberry) Ross and Paulette (Warren) Ridley.

Those attending from out of town were Elaine (Hill) Swink, Judy (Maxwell) Tyson, Ann (Parker) Taylor, Ellen (Sikes) Hill, Helen (Sikes) Coble, Ann (Warren) Land, Anne (Braswell) McGee, Marilyn (Maner) Pierce and Delia Ann (McGee) Shoemaker.

Carol (O'Quinn) Garner is a member of the group but was unable to attend.

NC Pre-K Available for this School Year. Apply Today!

Anson County Partnership for Children accepting applications for NC Pre-K, a kindergarten readiness initiative that is proven to help four year olds gain basic skills needed for success in elementary school. Children who are four years of age before August 31, 2014 are eligible to apply for the program, which is free to qualifying families.

"Availability in this program is limited," said Elaine Scarborough, Anson County Partnership for Children Executive Director. "If parents are interested in enrolling their children in the NC Pre-K program, I strongly encourage them to act quickly."

A high priority is placed on serving children who are "at-risk." A child is considered to be "at-risk" if the child's family is at or below 75% of the state median income level or if a disability has been identified. Enrollment is also open to students who have limited English proficiency, developmental differences, chronic health conditions, or a parent who is active service personnel.

NC Pre-K classes operate on a regular school calendar and are designed to address emotional and social development, physical health, language development, and cognitive functioning. Teachers are highly qualified and hold a minimum of a BA/BS degree as well as specific early childhood credentials. Through incorporation of indoor and outdoor learning environments, students participate in active learning experiences to foster a lifetime love of education.

Parents interested in learning more about the NC Pre-K program should contact Megan Sellers at 704-694-4036 or megan.sellers@windstream.net.

Back to School with Pride Needs Your Help to Help Students

The Faith-Based Center of Hope will have their annual "Back to School with Pride" event on Saturday, August 16, beginning at 10 a.m. in uptown Wadesboro on the Square. This event annually gives away needed school supplies to hundreds of Anson school kids.

Organizer, Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant said, "I am asking you to please help Back to School with Pride with a monetary donation or school supplies. In order for us to bless our students and schools we need you! If you can help, please send your donation to: Vancine Sturdivant, 1504 NC 145, Lilesville NC 28091. Thank you in advance!"

You can call Vancine at 704-848-4412 for more information.

Mobile Food Pantry Provides Free Groceries August 6

The Mobile Food Pantry will be at Marshville United Methodist Church, located at 310 Ross Street, on Wednesday, August 6 at 11 a.m. 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 Churches with volunteer help from other local churches.

Young Thespians Invited to Act in Library Play

Hampton B. Allen Library will be closing out their Summer Reading Program for this year with a play called *The Giving Tree*. The library is inviting anyone six years old and up who would like to participate. Rehearsal and other fun activity will take place at the library on Tuesday, August 5 at 10:30 a.m.

For more information call the library at 704-694-5171.

AHS Volleyball Tryouts Begin Thursday

Anson High School will conduct volleyball tryouts July 31 through August 1, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the AHS gymnasium. All girls must have a current physical in order to participate in the tryouts.

For more information contact Patty Livingston at livingston.patty@anson.k12.nc.us.

Veterans Enhancement Fair September 3

Anson County veterans are invited to the Veterans Enhancement Fair which will be held on Wednesday, September 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. This event is designed to bring available resources together in support of our veterans and their families. There will be many VA agency representatives on hand, such as VA Health Care, Homeless Veteran Coordinator, Mobile Vet Center, and more.

If anyone is interested in setting up a table, please contact Anson County Veteran Services Officer Ted Ward at (704) 694-4418.