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

Election Results on Page 4

Veterans Celebrated, Honored for Sacrifice and Freedom

Wadesboro Police Apprehend Two Robbers

The Wadesboro Police Department was called to the Velerio Convenience Store on Highway 74 West at approximately 7:15 a.m. on Wednesday, November 5 for an armed robbery. Thanks to excellent work by Police officers, the two suspects involved were arrested within three hours of the robbery.

Sgt. Brandon Chewning and Ptl. Ronnie Gainey arrived on the scene within two minutes of receiving a call from a female clerk in the store. She told them that two males came into the store - one went to the back of the store to a cooler and got a bottle of wine, while the other stayed near the door. She observed the man with the wine walk behind the counter with his hand under his shirt. He said to her, "Give me the money and your car keys." The clerk opened the cash register and the man reached in and took out the cash. Then he grabbed her keys, took the telephones and a grocery scanner. After that, both robbers exited the store and attempted to get into the clerk's car, but were unsuccessful. At that moment the clerk ran out of the store and onto the highway in an attempt to get someone to stop and help. Meanwhile, the robbers fled on foot, east on Highway 74.

With a good description of both male suspects, officers of the Wadesboro Police Department were able to apprehend both suspects at a residence on Graham Street in Wadesboro just a few hours after the incident.

Arrested were, Vernell Hubbard, age 35, of 196 Ashe Street in Polkton, and Arvetra Pickett, age 33, of 484 Brown Creek Church Road in Wadesboro. They both were charged with Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon. Additionally, Pickett was charged with Felony Possession of Crack Cocaine. The men were taken to the Anson County Jail and placed under bond. Pickett received a \$40,000 bond, Hubbard's bond was set at \$25,000.

Deputies Make Drug Arrests

Sheriff's Deputies arrested two drug suspects following the execution of a search warrant on Thursday, November 6. Deputies arrested Arvis L. Parker, age 35, and Twinkles Leshay Marsh, age 27. Both gave their address as 594 Brown Creek Church Road, Wadesboro.

Both subjects were charged with Felony Possession of Cocaine, Possession to Sell and Deliver Cocaine, Maintaining a Dwelling to Sell and Deliver Cocaine, and Possession of Marijuana. Bond for Parker was set at \$20,000 and bond for Marsh was set at \$1,000. Both have court dates of December 29.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said that officers seized a substantial amount of cocaine and a small amount of marijuana, along with an undisclosed amount of cash money.

Fundraiser for Aiden Beam November 22

There will be a fundraiser held for young Aiden Beam, the infant son of Josh and Jamie Beam. The event will feature delicious grilled chicken breast, potato casserole, green beans, a salad, dessert and tea. And, best of all, your participation in enjoying the food and fellowship will be for a great cause.

Come out to the Anson Rescue Squad building on Saturday, November 22, anytime between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. There is no specific charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted.

Sponsorships are available. If you are interested, or if you have any questions about the fundraiser, please call the First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro at 704-694-3818.

I Give Blood. Will You?

Anyone, even a member of your own family, could need blood. In fact, every two seconds someone in America will need blood. That is why your blood donation through the American Red Cross is so important - especially during the fall and winter months. With the holidays, travel plans and inclement weather in some parts of the country, blood donations can drop, but the need for blood remains constant.

This fall and winter the Red Cross is asking donors to remember to make giving blood a part of their holiday preparations, but it doesn't stop there. Once you've set an example by giving the gift of life, we ask that you challenge friends and family to do the same by saying simply, "I Give Blood. Will You?"

You don't need a special reason to give blood this fall and winter ...you just need your own reason.

To give blood, you must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, feel well and be in good health. If you have given blood before, it must be at least 56 days since your last blood donation.

Fall into the habit of donating blood this November! Thanks for Giving!

The next blood drive is Wednesday, November 19 at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, 208 South Greene Street, from 1:30 to 6 p.m.

Wadesboro Christmas Parade is Coming!

It's almost time for sleigh bells to be ringing and stockings to be hung by the chimney with care. In the tradition of Christmas, the annual Wadesboro Christmas Parade, sponsored by Representative Pryor Gibson and Senator William Purcell, will take to the streets of uptown Wadesboro on Thursday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m. This year's parade will be an illuminated night parade.

After the parade there will be carolers on the square, and Santa will be visiting with kids in the Anson County Partnership for Children's recourse room on Greene Street. Uptown merchants will stay open to 7 p.m. to accommodate shoppers looking for the perfect Christmas gifts. With all the exciting events planned for parade day, we welcome you to ring in the start of the holiday season in uptown Wadesboro!

If you would like to be a part of this year's parade, please contact the Anson County Chamber of Commerce at 704-694-4181. Parade applications can also be downloaded from www.ansoncounty.org.



These fine veterans were on hand for the celebration of their service to all armed forces. Their pride was evident and their feelings strong as each moment in history unfolded memories, some good and some bad. We pay homage to these men and women who have served our country well. Thank you so much.

A chilly November morning was November 11, at 11 a.m., when veterans of all wars were honored and celebrated for their sacrifice and the freedoms we now as Americans hold true. Veterans Day and the observance thereof, was celebrated on the Wadesboro Courthouse grounds, where more Vets than I have seen of late were gathered together to share stories, songs and sentiments about their days in the armed forces.

Mr. Jarvis Woodburn provided a brief history of all the service branches. "These forces maintained blue collar, white collar and no collar; the rich and the poor, all making sacrifices for the freedom we still have today," he said.

During the singing of "My Country Tis of Thee" and "America the Beautiful," many a tear was shed and seen trickling down the faces in the crowd of citizens on hand to honor these brave men and women.

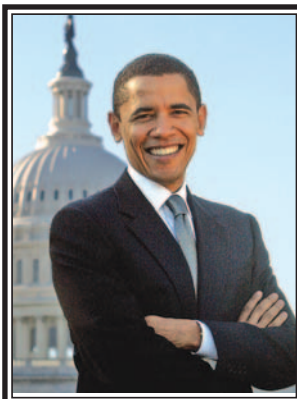
Representative Pryor Gibson spoke words of history. "We have just witnessed an historic election. But all elections are historic because we have the freedom to vote and live in a democratic society because of you, the veterans of all wars. For that I am humbled. Carpe

Diem, (seize the day) and educate our youth in the history and the importance of this, Veterans Day, and their service to America," concluded Gibson.

Mr. John L. Harris, age 86, of Lilesville was the oldest veteran on hand; however, there were five veterans at age 86 present and accounted for. It went down to mere months and Harris came away with the honor. Mr. Herb Hildreth of Wadesboro, also 86, was asked his age and quickly spoke up to say, "Never mind, they're all older than I am," and the entire crowd chuckled at his humor.

As the ceremony ended with the playing of "Taps" and the presentation of the wreath on the Veteran's Monument, the crowd joined together in banter and old stories shared. It was a gorgeous day and a particularly poignant one as we, as a community, commemorated the veterans who have fought in all American wars to secure what we sometimes may take for granted, our freedom. Thank you veterans one and all for your service. We wouldn't have been standing on the courthouse grounds this morning without your million acts of bravery and honor. I salute you. Photo and story by Melanie Morse

President Elect Barack Obama as Seen Through the Eyes of a Child



A five year old boy finds that politics isn't always clear. But the five letter words representative of our county ring true throughout the entire land.

This is a true story: "I voted for the nice black man," said five year old Jordan, appearing at home after a mock election held at Lilesville Elementary School, while wearing an "I Voted" sticker on his uniform shirt. "You did what!" replied his mother in a more severe tone than the five year old was accustomed to. "I cannot believe you didn't vote for the Republican. I always vote Republican," she continued, which further surprised her five year son, not knowing what a Republican was. Little Jordan's posture became slumped as he held his eyes in a gaze toward the floor. Did I do something wrong?" asked the child. At that moment his mother realized the impact her words had on her tiny little boy who didn't quite understand why he was suddenly feeling like he had done something quite wrong. But, the vigilance of his mommy who noticed her son's body language immediately went into action, as she felt bad for placing her son in a situation a five year old shouldn't be expected to understand. "It's OK if you voted for the nice black man Jordan. Just because mommy voted for someone else doesn't mean you had to."

After some serious thought, the mother went on to say, "You see, we live in America where you have choices and freedoms others may not have. You can do anything you want, and if you chose to vote for Mr. Obama then that's alright with me. In fact, maybe one day you'll be the President and we can vote for you!" Certainly Jordan was reassured. Later that evening Jordan visited his grandmother who also inquired about the sticker still adorning his shirt, "Who did you vote for today," she asked. "I voted for the nice black man," he said quietly, not knowing how his answer would be received. "Oh my sweet boy, I voted for him too," and with those words little Jordan ran across the room and hugged his grandmother in a moment of common bonding.

Isn't it nice when a five year old can bring together likenesses through differences? The family, even though their political views were different, came away from the experience with a new insight as seen through the eyes of a child, his innocence intact and his understanding of America now keener than before. Maybe we can all learn valuable lessons from the innocence of children.

In my polling of voters in Anson County I found several more commonalities with the five year old boy. Words representative of what Mr. Obama stands for in his quest for change during his presidency were more often than not, five letter words.

My poll represents the top ten five letter words beginning with "first," the word probably most often heard as it relates to Barack Obama and his historic win. "Black," another word resonating throughout the county, denoting his first ever status as a black American president. His five letter name, "Obama," and that of Vice President elect, "Biden." "Youth," Obama's youth and those who helped make the dream a reality with their texts and internet savvy. "Votes," even if it meant standing in line for hours. "Equal," hearing the word may now bring belief. "Women," strong values in the power working women hold. "Unite," now that the election is over, maybe everyone can stand side by side together as one America, and the "US of A," my final and most significant five letters. I repeat, the US of A, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. By Melanie Morse

This is Employ a Vet Week

Veterans of all eras and the unique skill sets they can offer employers across North Carolina are highlighted during "Employ A Vet Week," which is November 9-15.

"The military has always played a vital role in our state's economy," said ESC Chairman Harry E. Payne Jr. "Every year, thousands of veterans use the services provided by the ESC. These brave men and women have served with honor and leave military service with various skills that can be vital for our state's employers. We encourage and work with employers to hire those who have served their country."

With six major military bases in the state, the armed forces pump millions of dollars into local economies. In addition, more than 20,000 veterans exit military service in North Carolina each year. For many, their first stop is a local Employment Security Commission office. The ESC has a Veterans Employment Representative in each of its offices statewide whose main task is to provide job-seeking services specifically for veterans. As required by federal and state law, veterans have first priority in applying for publicly-listed job openings.

The N.C. ESC has an outstanding record in finding jobs for veterans. This year, staff placed nearly 23,000 registered veterans into new jobs. Over 83,000 veterans received direct service from the ESC over the past year.

Diaper Giveaway Nov. 22

New Home Baptist Church has been collecting diapers for several months and now plan to have a Free Diaper Giveaway on Saturday, November 22. They have many diaper packages that they want to give to any family in need. There are no requirements or qualifications; this is just a ministry for the community.

New Home plans to give away different baby items throughout the year. The ministry is called Project The Least of These.

If your baby needs diapers and you need help, please come out to New Home Baptist Church between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. You will receive one package per household, while supplies last. The church is located on New Home Baptist Church Road in Peachland. The telephone number is 704-385-9283.

Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings who have lost a child of any age, will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 13 at the Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro, in the training room.

For more information call 704-694-8774.



We play Hickory St.
Stephens Friday at home at 7:30. I predict a toss up. Lightnin'!

Look inside for these special inserts
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