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Lanesboro Correctional Institution on Two Week Lockdown After November 15 Attack on Officer

On November 15 a corrections officer at Lanesboro Correctional Institution was attacked by inmates using an "improvised weapon." The Polkton Police Department investigated the attack. The officer was not identified, and although injured, he is now back at work. Since that time the more than 800 inmates in close security have remained on lockdown.

After the attack a special response team conducted a search of the entire facility and uncovered cell phones, weapons and drugs. No information was offered on how the contraband got into the prison.

During a lockdown the inmates are denied telephone privileges and are confined to their cells at all times except for three showers per week.

The Truth About Men, Women and How We Feed the Dogs

A while ago I wrote several pieces regarding the differences in men and women when it comes to the tending of our pets, particularly dogs. We have four beautiful, sweet, interesting, funny, smart, loving doggies in our family, so of course I know them best. And though this doesn't pertain to every one of you, I found that very many of you were exactly like us. Sharing our experiences and how we deal with those experiences differently as men and women hit home with so many of you that I just had to share once again yet another of those experiences.

On a day-to-day basis I have taken on the responsibility of feeding our dogs. I feed them around six in the evening. On Monday nights however, I come in from work at around 8:45 p.m., which is well past their normal feeding time. Since that day is very physical for me, I am exhausted and ready to just take a seat, relax, maybe have dinner if I feel like lifting my fork, or just collapse. Usually Allen, who works from home on Monday evenings, has already fed our four hungry furbabies. And when I do make it home, the first words I utter are, "Have the dogs eaten?" More often than not the answer is "yes," and not until I hear that sweet little word can I sit, eat or relax. For me, the dogs come first because they rely on us for everything. Well, ours do.

Last night after teaching my classes I arrived home at my usual hour. Allen was busy working on the weekly edition of The Express, and I asked my very redundant question at about the same time I was on my way down to nestle into the comfy cushions of our sofa. But his answer was different than usual, his answer was no. Not even making the complete connection with the sofa cushions I immediately changed my downward direction and somehow forced my way forward to the feeding station, while fighting through my total and complete exhaustion. After a little more communication with Allen, I did learn that Posie, our eldest, had eaten, but the other three had not. (Editor Allen's Note...Despite having presented deliciously prepared food to them.) In fact, Belle had not even been seen. "You haven't seen Belle at all?" I asked while clenching my teeth as I awaited his answer. "No, she never came up when I called her," Allen said nonchalantly as he continued his work.

Suddenly I had a new found energy like never before. I pulled on my jacket and sifted through the drawers for a flashlight at the same time. I opened the back door, entering the cold, dark night alone, in search of Belle our Husky, who as you know, sometimes escapes the fence. While shining that bright light around the yard and calling Belle's name over and over and over, my mind wondered. What if she's gone and how long has she been out? Since she wasn't fed is she starving? I was prepared to run through the streets, across the neighbor's yards, around the city and over the countryside in search of our lost and hungry Husky. And admittedly I wondered too how in the name of God (please forgive me) Allen could be so lackadaisical? I mean really? Three of the four dogs had not eaten and one had been missing for hours! My heart stopped beating for a few seconds.

I couldn't see Allen because my quick steps had taken me far enough away from the sunroom windows that he was no longer visible, but I could sense that he was still sitting contently on the couch. I was on a mission, trekking through the trees and bushes in our gynomous back yard...well it seems gynomous when you're alone in the dark, searching for an MIA pup who may or may not want to be found. With Belle you just never know. I was envious of Allen; all snug as a bug in a rug while I was chilled to the bone from the arctic-like cold I was subjected to.

Suddenly I heard rustling leaves and steps coming toward me. I sure hope that's Belle and not some kind of troll who only comes out at night to eat crazy women looking for their dogs. Thank goodness I saw those pretty blue eyes shinning back at me in the beam from my flashlight. She was still in the fence. She pranced and danced like she always does when she greets me and we ran together back up to the house. Of course she was starved, absolutely famished, having missed that one meal. I fed her and she ate every single morsel.

Afterwards, the other two nearly starved dogs were fed as well and they too ate every morsel. What a great feeling to find Belle safe, feed her and her two sisters. Everything was right at our home and I could finally relax. You see, the "feeding of the dogs ritual" as invented by me, the keeper of the dog food, is not only to put food out for each dog to eat, but to stand guard and make absolutely positively sure that each of the four did indeed eat. And that's another of the many ways men are different from women. Allen will certainly set their food out, seldom noticing which dog ate what and which dog never ate a bite. If you have dogs you know that some will eat until there is nothing left in front of them to eat and some are more timid and prefer to have some privacy. We have both varieties amid our four.

That feeding ritual also means that dogs are fed in their favorite places. Posie is fed in the carport, Belle is fed next to the fountain, Jane is fed on the basement steps, with the light turned off I might add, and Vale, well she rarely eats when the others do. She prefers the morning hours. All of this knowledge I have acquired and developed over time as I learned where each of the girls were most comfortable. After knowing that, I couldn't just set their bowls out any ole place and expect them to eat it, could I? It takes a lot of time to know your pets and it takes a lot of time and energy to make sure they all eat what they need to be healthy, happy dogs. And that's exactly how I handle it.

Allen on the other hand is perfectly content with whipping up a big batch of food and sitting it out on the patio for whoever is fastest and lucky enough to get it! Which explains his earlier behavior...that of nonchalant and lackadaisical. Yes, once again I am reminded of just how differently we do things at our house, especially when it comes to our four girls. I would call myself the hands on type who goes the extra mile to be sure all four are equally taken care of. Allen is the type who thinks that the dogs will figure it out for themselves and he goes the extra mile to make sure they do just that. Neither of us are right or wrong, we're just so different that sometimes I shake my head before realizing it CAN work both ways. I've told you that I believe Allen is nonchalant. Allen would say that I am obsessive. Imagine that!

We both love our dogs equally. Our dogs love us equally in return. I suppose they know our differences and probably understand them better than we do. If they didn't I guess they would starve to death or even be lost for weeks before Allen noticed they were gone! That of course is a joke. He would figure it out during the first few days at least. As for that word, obsessive, I prefer passionate. And honestly, passionate is the only way I could ever be about my four dogs. It is crazy insane sometimes and I am absolutely the craziest woman alive. Thankfully for me, my dogs like me that way. It's called unconditional love and they forgive my insanity. Which makes me one very lucky lady, the luckiest lady in the world. If that makes me crazy then so be it.

By Melanie "Crazy Lady" Lyon

Christmas Parade is Thursday

The 2013 Wadesboro Christmas Parade is set for 4 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, December 5. The uptown parade route will remain the same as in previous years - starting on Morven Road for the line-up and concluding at the Ray Shelton Ball Field for breakdown. The parade will move down Washington, Martin and Greene Streets. Enjoy!

Two Fun Uptown Events Immediately After Christmas Parade

The Anson County Partnership for Children and Town of Wadesboro have announced a collaborative effort for two exciting events immediately following the Christmas Parade this Thursday, December 5. The Town is hosting its Christmas Tree Lighting while the Partnership is holding its annual "Visit with Santa." The parade begins at 4 p.m.

The Town's Christmas Tree Lighting will feature a lighting countdown and hot chocolate provided by Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. This event will occur in the bank lot at the Green Street/Wade Street intersection.

The Partnership's "Visit with Santa" event will provide families with a free opportunity for their children to sit in Santa's lap and tell him what they want for Christmas. Mrs. Claus will also be there to give each child a free winter themed book. After the event, each child will receive a letter from Santa mailed to their home. This event will occur in the Partnership's Early Childhood Resource Center at 117 South Greene Street immediately following the parade.

"I'd like to thank the Partnership for Children, Chamber of Commerce, Uptown Wadesboro, Wadesboro Town Council, and Wadesboro employees for helping make uptown light up with excitement on December 5th," said Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell.



Wadesboro Police Donate First Toys for Tots Boxes

Wadesboro Police Department and Chief Thedis Spencer has donated the WPD's first box of toys to the Anson County Toys For Tots 2013 campaign. Officer Kris Ray called Toys for Tots Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant and informed her the police department had filled their first box of toys. Ray added that the Burger King in Wadesboro also wanted to join as a drop-off station.

Sturdivant stated, "This is truly a blessing. The need for toys is greater then ever. We have received so many applications and I do not want to turn anyone down. How do you tell a child they will not get anything for Christmas? With the great executive board we have, this will never happen."

Sturdivant concluded, "I want to personally thank Attorney Fred D. Poisson for his generous contribution to Toys For Tots. I challenge all the other attorneys and law enforcement to do the same." Information at 704-848-44412.

Marc Sessions Appointed as New Wadesboro Fire Chief



After receiving applications from across the nation Wadesboro Firefighter Marc Sessions has been selected as the Town's next Fire Chief. Sessions has over twenty years of public safety experience, and has been instrumental in the Fire Department's emphasis on fire safety education within the community in addition to emergency response. He will replace Fire Chief Jimmy Burns who is scheduled to retire in March 2014 after a nearly fifty-year firefighting career.

Chief Burns and Sessions plan to work together to ensure a seamless transition for the Wadesboro community.

"Marc Sessions was the obvious choice, as he exhibits characteristics on a daily basis that are essential in the fire chief - experience, knowledge, expertise, innovation and integrity," stated Town Manager Alex Sewell. "I'm confident he will carry on the great job that Chief Burns has done. The Town will miss Chief Burns, both professionally and personally."

Sessions holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Wingate University and numerous certifications in firefighting and public safety. He is married to Rhonda and has three children, Marci, Jake and Stetson.

"After much prayer and soul-searching I believe this is my opportunity to help make Wadesboro a better and safer place," Sessions said. "It is my genuine belief that I possess the right combination of education and experience to humbly lead the Wadesboro Fire Department in a positive and progressive direction."

Sessions will be sworn in at Town Hall during a meeting of the Town Council on Monday, March 3, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. A public reception will precede the ceremony from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. bidding farewell to Chief Burns and welcoming Chief Sessions.

Wadesboro Mayor Bill Thacker commented, "Without a doubt public safety is a top priority for Wadesboro residents, and we anticipate Marc Sessions will continue to move our progressive department ever forward."

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc.'s Christmastime Tour of Homes

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. proudly presents its Christmastime Tour of Homes this Sunday, December 8. Tour local homes beautifully decorated for Christmas with your friends and family.

The day will begin at 3 p.m. with a Free Concert at First United Methodist Church by the Anson Singers, entitled *A Symphony of Carols*. The group is directed by Emily Litaker Privette.

You may then travel to Southern Medley Wine Cellar to taste their locally made wines and purchase tickets for the Tour. The winery opens at noon, and tickets will be available at 3:30 p.m. at this location for \$10. There are four homes on the Tour and local businesses will be open too.

\$10 advance tickets are available at Lacy's, Buff Monkey Fitness, Wadesboro Town Hall and the Chamber of Commerce.

Wadesboro Elementary School Christmas Shoppe Opens December 9

The Wadesboro Elementary Christmas Shoppe will be open the week of December 9. This event is run entirely by volunteers and is a wonderful way for students and families to purchase affordable new or gently used items as Christmas gifts for their friends and family. All items sold are either homemade or have been donated.

Each gift is priced so that every child who comes to shop can make a purchase no matter how little change they may bring with them. Volunteers beautifully wrap each and every gift so that the presentation is as special as the gift itself.

If any of you have items you would like to contribute to this project, it would be greatly appreciated. Just drop them off in the school office. All proceeds go to assist students who are unable to afford the cost of planned field trips.

Wadesboro Elementary School is located at 321 Camden Road. The telephone number is 704-694-9383.

Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon is Thursday

Anson County's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 5th at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Because of limited seating capacity there will be two servings: One at 11 a.m. and another at 1 p.m. If you are interested in attending please call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register and to receive a designated time to attend.

Toys For Tots Motorcycle Ride

There will be a charity motorcycle ride for Toys for Tots this Saturday, December 7. All motorcycle riders are invited to join in for fun and a great cause - helping provide happiness to many less fortunate Anson children on Christmas day.

Everyone will gather at the Burger King parking lot at 10 a.m. for registration. The ride begins at 11 a.m. There will be food, a 50/50 drawing and lots of fun. The ride will end at the Toys for Tots Warehouse, located at 121-C Wortham Street in Wadesboro (behind Dollar General).

Compassionate Friends Candle Lighting

The local chapter of the Compassionate Friends is again sponsoring the annual Candlelight Service for deceased children this Sunday, December 8 at 7 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro. Attendees will enjoy fellowship and refreshments after the ceremony in the church fellowship hall. Everyone is invited.

This is an annual event, held worldwide in each of the 24 time zones at 7 p.m. on the second Sunday in December. This means that somewhere in the world candles are being lit in honor of deceased children every hour.

Families and their friends are invited to attend locally. Covered dishes and refreshments are welcomed. For information call Leavitt Funeral Home at 704-694-2524 or 704-694-8774.

If you are unable to attend you are invited to light a candle at home at 7 p.m.

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