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Two Teenagers Shot, One Killed. Shooter Still at Large.

A 16 year old Anson High School student, Malik Byrd, was shot and killed on Monday afternoon, January 20. His cousin, 15 year old Monroe High School student Chrishaun Hough, was also shot. Hough survived, but suffered serious, possibly paralyzing injuries.

According to police, a group of young people had gathered to play basketball on Martin Luther King Day. During the game an altercation took place on the court. Byrd, Hough and others left the scene in a vehicle. A short time later the shooting took place on Oak Lane, a street running between North Pine Lane and South Pine Lane, just off White Store Road in Wadesboro. Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer said, "Another vehicle followed them to another location and that is when the shots were fired at the car."

An athlete at Anson High School, Malik Byrd was a good student. Also a good student, Chrishaun Hough has recently received a Wayfind Scholarship from Wingate University, an academic scholarship awarded to future first generation college students.

Pastor Steve Adams of Harvest Ministries Outreach Center knew Malik Byrd. Adams said Byrd was a good student and a good football player who had received an award for his athleticism. "Malik was a fine young man, very respectful...a good kid," Adams said. "A life and a promising future has been lost. Of course the most important aspect now is to pray for the families involved. May we continue to pray for the families, the students, and this community. Anson is worth it!"



Uwharrie Bank staff are pictured above presenting a donation to Hospice. Pictured from left are Phyllis Rummage, Rebecca Thao, Josh Bricker, Kristina Leyden, Ken Caulder, Jean Neal, Mary Catherine Boylin and Jera Kerr.

Wreaths Across America Event in December

Event featured recognition of veterans, funds raised for Hospice

According to the Wreaths Across America website, "Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad."

Kristina Leyden, Chief Executive Officer of Anson Community Hospice, stated, "We are honored to have received a 2019 Wreaths Across America donation from the ceremony at Anson Memorial Park. The hospice staff and volunteers were honored to participate in the ceremony, and thank Ken Caulder and all of the Leavitt Funeral Home staff for their hard work and dedication to make this event such a success."

As a commitment to the 2020 Wreaths Across America campaign, Josh Bricker and other Uwharrie Bank employees in the Wadesboro branch presented a check in the amount of \$500 to Caulder and Leyden.

Leyden added, "We are grateful for the support of the many local businesses and individuals who helped make this event possible to allow recognition of veterans, raise awareness about hospice care, and give a financial contribution to Anson Community Hospice."



Suspect in SC Murder Arrested in Wadesboro

Darreas Anthony Isaac

On Thursday, January 23 the Chesterfield County, SC Sheriff's Office announced that a suspect in an home invasion that turned deadly was arrested and taken into custody without incident at the Anson Inn in Wadesboro.

Darreas Anthony Isaac, 19, along with several other suspects, including juveniles, is accused of breaking into a home located on Midway Road just off Highway 52 near Cheraw early in December. During the home invasion Isaac shot 23 year old Daniel Chase Compton, who died from the injuries, according to detectives. Several suspects were arrested soon after the incident, but Isaac remained at large until his arrest on January 23. While at large Isaac was considered armed and dangerous, and there was a \$1,000 reward offered for information leading to his capture.

In 2017, at age 17, Isaac was charged in an armed robbery that involved brutally attacking a woman. He was charged with attempted murder, armed robbery and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime.

The Wadesboro Police Department and Cheraw Police Department assisted the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office in the arrest.

Mattie Spencer Celebrates 106th Birthday!

"Happy 106th Birthday to the queen of my heart!" exclaimed Barbara Thomas. Mattie Spencer celebrated her birthday Saturday, January 25 with a large gathering of family and friends.

Mrs. Thomas continued, "A special thank you to my cousins Ronald and Roslyn for funding her birthday party, and for the beautiful red dress! To my daughter Shaunda for fixing her hair. Momma Vincine for catering the food! Thank you Marilyn Bennett for the fruit tray, Sue Allen for the deviled eggs, and Anita Spencer and Dr Bernice Bennett for the delicious cakes. Thank you to the Anson Health and Rehab staff for taking such good care of her. To Commissioner Ross Streater, Mattie's Pastor Dr. T. J. Horne, Moderator J. Van and 1st Lady Fannie Clyburn, and Pastor Michael and 1st Lady Cheryl McLeod. Thanks to all those who volunteered and served everyone so graciously, Dr. Bernice Bennett, Elissa Sturdivant, Stephen and Erica Greene, Jonathan Babydoll Williams, Sheila Little, Elizabeth Chisholm and Crystal Hailey. Thanks to everyone who came out to help her celebrate 106 years of life."



Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet February 4

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live-streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Public Comment Invited for Future Department of Transportation Projects

People will have a chance to provide input on what transportation projects they would like to see included in the next North Carolina Department of Transportation's 10-Year transportation plan for 2023-2032.

With a goal of increasing safety, reducing congestion and promoting economic growth, NCDOT uses data and local input to determine which projects get funded in the 10-year plan based on a specific formula created by the Strategic Transportation Investments law. It allows NCDOT to use its funding more efficiently to enhance North Carolina's infrastructure, while supporting economic growth, job creation and a higher quality of life.

A statewide 30-day public comment period to submit project ideas is being held between Jan. 27 and Feb. 28. During this 30-day period, the public can send project suggestions in a short, interactive survey found on the 2023-2032 STIP web page at www.ncdot.gov.

During the 30-day period there will be open houses held at all the NCDOT highway division offices. People can visit an open house and provide input or speak to NCDOT staff about potential projects in a particular highway division.

Residents who can't attend the open house can still be part of the process by contacting staff in their highway division office during the 30-day comment period. For contact information, please visit the NCDOT's website at apps.ncdot.gov/dot/directory/authenticated/ToC.aspx.

Projects can be as large-scale as an interstate improvement or as small as a new turn lane or intersection improvement. Projects can be for any mode of transportation, including Highway, Aviation, Bicycle & Pedestrian, Ferry, Public Transportation and Rail. Please note that the comment period is not for maintenance-related projects such as patching potholes, resurfacing or ditches. NCDOT uses a different method to prioritize maintenance projects.

NCDOT highway division staff will also collect input from local transportation planning organizations and from its own staff as it puts together its list of potential projects. Project scores and a draft statewide mobility project list are expected to be released by March 2021. There will be another public comment period regarding regional impact projects in Spring 2021, with the same process taking place for division-level projects in Fall 2021.

The 2023-2032 draft STIP will be released in February 2022, with approval by the Board of Transportation in the summer. Projects scheduled in the first six years are considered committed, while projects in the final four years of the draft 10-year plan will be re-evaluated again as part of the next STIP development process. More information on the STIP development process can be found on the NCDOT STIP website, www.ncdot.gov.

Town Council Annual Planning Retreat

The Wadesboro Town Council's annual planning retreat will be held on Saturday, February 8, starting at 8:30 a.m. in the Wadesboro Fire Department Meeting Room at 205 East Morgan Street.

Free Tobacco Cessation Sessions Offered at Health Department

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Worldwide, tobacco use causes nearly 6 million deaths per year, and current trends show that tobacco use will cause more than 8 million deaths annually by 2030. The Anson County Health Department is now offering free one-on-one tobacco cessation sessions for Anson County residents who are interested in quitting.

The nicotine in cigarettes is a very powerful and addictive drug. For most people, quitting isn't easy. Current statistics show that it can take a person 30 attempts before becoming successful in quitting, and 1 in 20 smokers attempting to quit are successful without some form of help.

Smokers may have a much better chance of quitting with a support program. Smoking cessation sessions are intended to help individuals quit smoking. Smoking cessation programs combine several methods and targets the fears and problems people have when quitting. They also provide ongoing support for staying away from tobacco.

It doesn't matter how long an individual has been a smoker, quitting is always beneficial. Not only does it lower the risk of getting various cancers, including lung cancer, it also reduce the chances of having heart disease, a stroke, emphysema, and other serious diseases. Quitting also will lower the risk of heart disease and lung cancer in nonsmokers who otherwise would be exposed to secondhand smoke.

The Anson County Health Department is offering free one-on-one tobacco cessation sessions provided by their Health Educator and Certified QuitSmart leader, Dinikia Savage. QuitSmart success rates are high and are proved to be more effective than other methods. QuitSmart also produced impressive quit rates in published research studies, such as the V.A. Medical Center in Durham North Carolina with a 51% quit rate over a 6 month period. With QuitSmart, tobacco users are assured of high quality professional help.

The QuitSmart tobacco cessation sessions will be scheduled on a monthly basis. For more information or to schedule a QuitSmart smoking cessation session, please contact Dinikia Savage at 704-994-3342.

The Anson County Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

Upcoming Grace Senior Center Events

- Open to the community, all events and activities for seniors 55 and older.
- Tuesday, February 11 Valentine Drop-In, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Refreshments will be served.
- Tuesday, February 18 movie, *Happy Tears*, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 17 movie, *Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont*, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 31 Senior Citizen Prom, 12 noon to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Call to register 704-694-6616.
- Tuesday, May 12 Anson Wellness Expo. Refreshments will be served. Call to register 704-694-6616.

Austin Kiker Photography Exhibit at the Library

Kiker to host program at the library on Thursday, January 30

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be featuring a photography exhibit by professional photographer Austin Kiker. Austin's exhibit will be on display throughout the library through February 29. The exhibit will be open to the public.

Austin specializes in landscape, wildlife and lifestyle photography.

On Thursday, January 30 at 10:00 a.m. Austin will host a program in the Pritchett room to share about his work and where he gets his inspiration. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this special event.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

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