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

## Three Men Busted with Meth Lab

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies arrested three suspects on various meth lab charges on Tuesday, January 22nd. Deputies had gone to a residence on Raintree Road that day looking for a suspect from Union County on felony larceny charges. When the suspect fled out the back door he was arrested by deputies, and they then noticed a great deal of debris in the yard that they suspected to be used in meth lab operations.



**Gulledge**



**Hildreth**



**Lowery**

Deputies arrested Kenneth Michael Brower on warrants from Union County. Deputies also arrested Mickey Buddy Gulledge, age 35, of Raintree Road, Jimmy Lee Hildreth, age 22, of Hildreth Road; and Robert Christopher Lowery, age 42, of Lakeview Drive, all Wadesboro addresses. All three were charged with various counts of Possession, and Manufacturing and Distributing Methamphetamine. Gulledge was placed under a \$200,000 bond and Hildreth and Lowery were placed under \$100,000 bonds.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said that this was one of the messiest lab scenes his officers have run across. "It basically appears that they just threw their waste, by-products and other used items out the back door into the back yard. From the cleanup it appears that this operation was ongoing for a while. It was a long clean up time, most of the next day," Allen said.

The Sheriff said that he expects Brower will be charged when he is released from Union County. Other charges may also be pending against the above defendants as well.

## Secondary Schools Have Early Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences

On Thursday, February 7 only the secondary schools will dismiss early for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Dismissal and conference times are listed here:

- Anson New Tech & Anson Early College dismiss at 1 p.m.
- Anson High and Anson Middle dismiss at 1:30 p.m.
- Conferences are from 2 until 7 p.m.

Early dismissal is for secondary schools only, all other schools will operate on normal schedules.

## Health Department Announces Extended Hours Clinic Services

The Anson County Health Department will offer clinic services on Tuesday, February 5 until 7 p.m. The department will offer immunizations, flu vaccinations, family planning services, sick visits, work or sports physicals, etc.

The WIC office will also be open to serve teens for their initial prenatal WIC visit. Please call 704-694-9844 for a WIC appointment.

The Extended Hours Clinic is an attempt to provide services for students and workers who are unable to schedule appointments during the normal clinic hours.

Jennifer Dockery, FNP is the medical provider at Anson County Health Department.

All clients must call for an appointment for this clinic. Please call 704-694-5188 and then press "0" to make an appointment.

## Literary Festival is Saturday

The annual HOLLA!/Hampton B. Allen Library Literary Festival is set for Saturday, February 2. The festival will begin at 10 a.m. and last until 2 p.m. at the library. Over 30 authors have registered to attend the event. "This is our best response ever," said Amesia Huntley, planner of the event.

The first 50 people to attend the event will be eligible to win HOLLA! Bucks to spend exclusively on books during the festival. Beginning at 10:30 a.m. \$10 in HOLLA! Bucks will be awarded every 15 minutes until \$100 worth of bucks have been awarded. "This is our way of saying thanks to the authors and the attendees," added Huntley.

The mission of the festival is to promote the power of literacy. The following is a list of the authors who have registered to attend this year's festival: Kianna Alexander, Alexander Kane, Yvette Hines, YA author Samantha Williams, Brenda Stokes Lee, Shanton Smith, Cheris Hodges, Sandra Bruney, Isaiah David Paul, Brian Peay, Allyson M. Deese, Carolyn Morman, Tressie Lockwood, Joyce & Jim Lavene, Dahlia Rose, Tammy Ponds Thomas, Catherine Rith Guess, Stacey Covington-Lee, Elbert Marshall, J. Hale Turner, Dicy McCullough, Sly Fleming, Yolanda M Johnson-Bryant, Jaye Cherie, Suzetta Perkins, DeVondia Roseborough, Felicia Fleming, Ndea, Dedrick R. Briggs, Sharry Spencer, Nikkea Smithers, Jeremy Wright, and Carolyn Weaver.

The festival is free to the public. For more information call 704-695-4968.

## Frosty Feet 5k Run/Walk is Sunday

Keep your New Year's resolutions to become more physically fit and healthy by entering the "Frosty Feet 5k Run/Walk" to be held in uptown Wadesboro on Sunday afternoon, February 3, at 2:30 p.m. Burn off some calories BEFORE your super Bowl party!

For the run, wear your favorite team jersey and get into the spirit of the game. Or simply come out to run, walk or stroll with your family, friends, teammates or exercise buddies! This is sure to be a "fun run" and lots of prizes will be given away.

To register go to [www.sportoften.com](http://www.sportoften.com). Entry forms are available at Vac and Dash in Albemarle, Buff Monkey Fitness Company or Lacy's. Register early by January 31 at 9 a.m., and pay only \$20. Entry fee is \$25 the day of the race. Sponsorships are still available too.

For more information contact Anne Hyatt at 704-694-0593 or [lahyatt@windstream.net](mailto:lahyatt@windstream.net) or Melanie Lyon at 704-695-2247.

Awards will be given for each age division ranging from age 5 to age 105!

All proceeds will go toward the Anson High School Majorettes and their upcoming performance trip to Walt Disney World. Come out in support of these Anson County girls. And whether you run for prizes, walk for exercise or stroll for fun, it's a guaranteed good time for all!

## Boy Scouts Annual Banquet is Tuesday

The Anson County Chapter of Boy Scouts will hold their Annual Banquet on Tuesday evening, February 5 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. This is a Pot-Luck supper starting at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish and dessert to share. Paper products and drinks will be provided.

Any questions please contact Chris Sanford at 704-694-5937 or Susan Poe at 704-848-4352. They hope to see all Scouts and their families there.

## Toys For Tots 2012 Gratitude Banquet, Executive Committee Appointed



In a release from Toys for Tots: Anson County hosted their 2012 Toys For Tots Banquet on Friday, January 11 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. The guest speaker for the event was Rev. Dr. Bernice Bennett, Mayor Pro-Tem and Toys For Tots Assistant Coordinator. Special guests included Attorney Fred Poisson and staff, Elaine Scarborough (Partnership For Children), Clerk of Court Mark Hammonds, Register of Deeds Joanne Huntley, School Board members, Sheriff Tommy Allen and Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer. We were graced with the presence of Wadesboro's new Town Manager, Alex Sewell and other elected officials.

The highlight of the evening was the special tribute to Robert Little. Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant and all the volunteers made a train to the song "Love Train" and got the audience to get on board.

Dr. Bennett stated, "From the beginning of time God has called men and women to serve His people. There were times when these men and women of God stood tall even when standing tall was not popular. And, in 2011 God placed a call on Sis. Vancine Sturdivant to go ye into the highways and byways of a little bump in the road called Anson County and let

The Toys for Tots Executive Committee is pictured here. They are, from left, Cassandra Reid, Officer Landric Reid, Toys For Tots Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant, Assistant Coordinator Dr. Bernice Bennett and Samuel Bennett.

the little children know that they did not have to wake up on my Son's birthday with tears in their eyes just because they did not have a toy or game. I am a firm believer that God uses people who are faithful, reliable and trustworthy...people whom He can use for His glory. People who are fervent and enthusiastic about the task given and their responsibilities. Toys For Tots Committee - all who have served and donated time, prayer and finances - we thank God for you. Thank you for your humility, thank you for your meekness, thank you for standing on the wall...and for watching over God's children."

Sturdivant said, "What we do, we do for the parents and youth of this great county. Toys For Tots has truly been a blessing to Anson County. I thank God for all my dedicated sponsors and volunteers, especially Attorney Robert Little. Over 3,000 youth received toys and gifts through your efforts."

## Get To Know Michael Freeman, Interim Superintendent of Anson County Schools

A lifetime native of Anson County, Mr. Michael Freeman was recently appointed Interim Superintendent of Anson County Schools effective February 1, with the resignation of Dr. Greg Finn.

Over the past five years Michael Freeman has held several positions in the upper tier of Anson County Schools' educational helm, including Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, Chief Academic Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Deputy Superintendent, and ultimately now, Interim Superintendent.

When asked about his history with the school system Freeman said, "I have been affiliated with the Anson County School System basically all of my life. I attended the public schools of Anson County from first grade through twelfth grade and graduated from Bowman High School in 1980. Following high school I became a substitute teacher with Anson County Schools while attending Anson Community College. After receiving my undergraduate degree from Pembroke State University I began my teaching career at Anson Junior High School, which was ultimately the point I knew that educating children was my calling and that my career path would be a rewarding one."

While working as a teacher, Freeman did as many educators do and returned to school at night to advance his education. He earned a Master of Arts Degree, North Carolina Educators License in Early Childhood Education, School Administration, Curriculum Instructional Specialist and Educational Mentor. In addition, Freeman earned his Educational Specialist Degree from Winthrop College, which qualified him to advance into school administration with a School Administrators License to include North Carolina Superintendent Licensure.

The graduate level work proved valuable and he left the classroom setting and transferred back to Anson Junior High School to serve as an Assistant Principal. AJHS was a very large school, serving students in grades 7-9 in those days. After completing five years in this position he was appointed to serve as Interim Principal at Polkton Elementary School, and eventually became Principal at the newly opened Peachland-Polkton Elementary School.

Additionally, Freeman accepted duties to serve in the role of ACS Basic Education Program State Summer School Director, which provided him the opportunity to service students in grades 1-12 and to work with children from every school throughout the entire system.

After serving in various roles from substitute teacher, teacher, director, assistant principal and principal he transitioned to the Executive Director: Teaching and Learning for ACS and eventually became the ACS Chief Academic Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Deputy Superintendent and is currently Interim Superintendent.

I asked Mr. Freeman to share with us a little about his life outside of the school system. "Life for me outside of ACS has been very blessed. I was born and raised in Anson County and have enjoyed a simple country life. My parents and family members exposed me to opportunities beyond the geographical boundaries of Anson County - yet I made the choice to remain here at home. My faith has been and continues to be a driving force in life. Attending and professing my Christian faith at both Olivet United Methodist Church in Lilesville and Mount Beulah Baptist Church in Wadesboro has set the tone for my entire life both personally and professionally. I was actually called through experiences in my small county home church to become a teacher after having such wonderful experiences in teaching Vacation Bible School - and yes this blessing truly influenced my entire life," shared Freeman.

"After a wonderful Anson County childhood I courted a hometown girl who quickly became my best friend and the one I married. Carla and I are blessed with two wonderful children, Samuel and Sadie. Both of our children continue to provide us many joys of being parents. Both attended grades K-12 in Anson County and graduated from Anson High School."

Mr. Freeman shared that Superintendents Arthur Summers and James Sims recognized his potential and encouraged him to continue to grow as a leader and prepare for the superintendent position. During Freeman's preparation we see proof of leadership by example, while experiencing a variety of job roles, providing foresight into the operations of a successful school system.

Many details must be addressed for schools to operate successfully. Freeman is fully aware of and addresses the work that remains to be done here. "Perhaps this is because I can relate to staff based on the contributions they make on behalf of children, as I have completed many of the same tasks as they - from cleaning the building, monitoring the buses, answering the phones, serving meals, teaching students to guiding and collaborating with teachers, support staff and principals. I have also worked with community stakeholders - parents, faith groups, businesses and governmental agencies."

In conclusion Freeman shared, "It is an honor that the Anson County School Board Members have appointed me Interim Superintendent. This confirms that they recognize the necessary strengths I have to be a successful superintendent for ACS. These board members are elected by Anson County citizens - many of whom I have served as an educator. I am convinced that our citizens know of my passion for children in Anson County. Together we will educate all children in Anson County."



## Polkton Fire Department BBQ is Saturday

Yum! This Saturday, February 2 you are invited to come out and enjoy some great food and fellowship while supporting the valuable services that the Polkton Fire Department provides to the community. They will be serving BBQ pork and chicken as well as their salt & pepper chicken. You can eat in or carry out.

The BBQ will take place at the Polkton Fire Department from 10 a.m. until. Plates cost \$8 and include BBQ, beans, cole slaw, bread and dessert. There will be baked goods available too. To place large orders call 704-272-7933.

Citizens who wish to donate baked goods for the desserts or donate money, your contributions will be greatly appreciated!

## BRLC Golden Sweethearts Valentine Party

The Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center invites you to attend their Golden Sweethearts Valentine Party on Saturday, February 9. This event will take place from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. and will feature great music from the 1940's, 50's and 60's along with games, delicious food and refreshments.

Director Carol Smith says, "Come one, come all to this spectacular event!" A small donation of \$5 per person is all it takes, and all proceeds will go to support BRLC and all the great works they do for the citizens of Anson County.

For information or to buy tickets call Linda Pratt at 704-826-8066 or Carol Smith at 704-826-8182. BRLC is located at 1961 Wightman Church Road (Highway 742 N) in Burnsville. Their website is [www.brllc.us](http://www.brllc.us).

## Groundbreaking for Emergency Services Center

Anson County will hold a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new county Emergency Services Center this Friday, February 1 at 1 p.m. The ceremony will take place on the site of the new center, located at 2230 Country Club Road just past Coffing Hoists. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## Arts Council's Art and Soul Dinner Dance Coming in February

Put on your dancing shoes and come with an appetite! Art and Soul, one of the Anson County Arts Council's most popular events, is coming to the Lockhart-Taylor Center on Saturday, February 16, from 6:30 until 10 p.m.

The Bobby Plair All-Stars, with Morven native Carl Ratliffe on saxophone, will provide soft tunes to dine by before breaking out the dance music. Bobby Plair has played all over the Southeast and has opened for artists such as Lionel Richie and the Commodores, Mother's Finest, Kool and the Gang, and the Ellington Orchestra.

Anson County's newest caterer, Jammin' Collards and Co., will serve up a mouth-watering buffet of fried chicken, ham biscuits, pinto beans, collards, cornbread and more of your favorites.

Advance tickets are \$25 and are available at the Arts Council, Lacy's, and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. No tickets will be sold at the door. Get yours today and be part of one of the most enjoyable events of the year. Information at 704-694-4950.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA Family Dollar