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

Mt. Croghan Man Dies in Gunfire Exchange with Deputies at Blewett

After receiving a call late Wednesday night, March 16 concerning the welfare of a woman who was camping at Blewett Falls Lake, Anson County Sheriff's deputies investigating the situation ended up exchanging gunfire with a Chesterfield County man who later died. The deputies were not injured.

According to Linda Jones, 53, she was camping with her boyfriend, Dennis Penny, 40, at the lake and the couple was fasting for a week in observance of the Passover. She reported that Penny became violent - choking her and threatening to kill her. She called a friend who reported the incident to 911. Anson Sheriff's deputies responded, and Deputies Josh Martin and Kyle Beam encountered Penny in the parking lot of the main boat landing. Gunfire was exchanged, and Penny was shot. Martin and Beam were uninjured. Penny was taken to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte where he later died.

Information has not been released as to whether drugs or alcohol were involved. The SBI is assisting in the investigation.

March 15 Primary Election Results

• COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 - DEMOCRAT
Ross Streater 411 65.34%
 Sylvester Bennett 218 34.66%

• SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 1 - DEMOCRAT
Mike Turner 296 55.33%
 Patty Williams 127 23.74%
 Shane Drake 112 20.93%

• SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 6 - DEMOCRAT
Frank Liles 259 68.88%
 Michael A. Livingston 117 31.12%

• CONNECT NC PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BOND
Anson County (Statewide)
For 3,172 70.63% (1,402,414 65.55%)
 Against 1,319 29.37% (736,924 34.45%)

In the following races, the Anson County results are given first, and the statewide results are in parenthesis.

• US PRESIDENT - DEMOCRAT
Hillary Clinton 2,325 65.96% (616,861 54.59%)
 Bernie Sanders 926 26.27% (460,507 40.75%)
 No Preference 210 5.96% (37,205 3.29%)
 Martin J. O'Malley 51 1.45% (12,027 1.06%)
 Roque Rocky De La Fuente 13 0.37% (3,351 0.30%)

• US PRESIDENT - REPUBLICAN
Donald J. Trump 617 50.08% (458,480 40.24%)
 Ted Cruz 444 36.04% (418,978 36.77%)
 John R. Kasich 72 5.84% (144,409 12.67%)
 Marco Rubio 66 5.36% (87,912 7.72%)
 Ben Carson 11 0.89% (10,922 0.96%)
 Mike Huckabee 5 0.41% (3,077 0.27%)
 Jeb Bush 5 0.41% (3,843 0.34%)
 No Preference 4 0.32% (6,026 0.53%)
 Rand Paul 3 0.24% (2,708 0.24%)
 Rick Santorum 2 0.16% (656 0.06%)
 Chris Christie 1 0.08% (1,245 0.11%)
 Carly Fiorina 1 0.08% (919 0.08%)
 Jim Gilmore 1 0.08% (261 0.02%)

• US PRESIDENT - LIBERTARIAN
 Gary Johnson 1 100.00% (2,390 41.61%)

• US SENATE - DEMOCRAT
 Deborah K. Ross 1,431 44.06% (607,974 62.37%)
 Kevin Rey 1,162 35.78% (160,745 16.49%)
 Chris D. Griffin 385 11.85% (114,266 11.72%)
 Ernest T. Reeves 270 8.31% (91,778 9.42%)

• US SENATE - REPUBLICAN
 Richard Burr 827 73.91% (622,140 61.41%)
 Greg Brannon 171 15.28% (255,053 25.17%)
 Paul Wright 78 6.97% (85,957 8.48%)
 Larry Holmquist 43 3.84% (50,017 4.94%)

• NC GOVERNOR - DEMOCRAT
 Roy Cooper 2,644 79.14% (703,401 68.76%)
 Ken Spaulding 697 20.86% (319,548 31.24%)

• NC GOVERNOR - REPUBLICAN
 Pat McCrory 1,009 85.15% (869,575 81.76%)
 C. Robert Brawley 101 8.52% (112,660 10.59%)
 Charles Kenneth Moss 75 6.33% (81,345 7.65%)

• NC LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR - DEMOCRAT
 Holly Jones 1,032 31.08% (278,187 28.75%)
 Linda Coleman 973 29.31% (494,626 51.13%)
 Robert Earl Wilson 966 29.10% (101,529 10.49%)
 Ronald L. Newton 349 10.51% (93,101 9.62%)

• NC ATTORNEY GENERAL - DEMOCRAT
 Marcus W. Williams 2,239 70.61% (439,839 46.56%)
 Josh Stein 932 29.39% (504,908 53.44%)

• NC ATTORNEY GENERAL - REPUBLICAN
 Buck Newton 632 63.65% (499,884 54.92%)
 Jim O'Neill 361 36.35% (410,360 45.08%)

• NC COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE - REPUBLICAN
 Steve Troxler 742 71.69% (629,107 68.81%)
 Andy Stevens 293 28.31% (285,210 31.19%)

• NC COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE - REPUBLICAN
 Mike Causey 381 40.71% (338,224 41.20%)
 Joe McLaughlin 357 38.14% (270,481 32.95%)
 Ronald (Ron) Piercer 198 21.15% (212,156 25.85%)

• NC COMMISSIONER OF LABOR - DEMOCRAT
 Mazie Ferguson 1,879 59.97% (403,055 43.39%)
 Charles Meeker 1,254 40.03% (525,909 56.61%)

• NC SECRETARY OF STATE - REPUBLICAN
 Michael LaPaglia 482 53.38% (495,673 61.57%)
 A. J. Daoud 421 46.62% (309,330 38.43%)

• NC SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - DEMOCRAT
 June Atkinson 1,662 51.74% (768,521 79.85%)
 Henry J. Pankey 1,550 48.26% (193,980 20.15%)

• NC SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - REPUBLICAN
 Mark Johnson 612 63.42% (438,341 53.38%)
 Rosemary Stein 234 24.25% (269,678 32.84%)
 J. Wesley Sills 119 12.33% (113,184 13.78%)

• NC TREASURER - DEMOCRAT
 Dan Blue III 2,325 72.66% (547,613 58.46%)
 Ron Elmer 875 27.34% (389,082 41.54%)

Pee Dee WALL Meets March 24

The Pee Dee WALL (Water, Air, Land and Lives) organization will meet on Thursday, March 24 at 6 p.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library. The meeting agenda will include updates on coal ash and gas fracking. The meetings are free and open to the public. For more information contact Denise Lee at 704-826-6324 or visit www.peedeewall.org.



"Biggest paddle race in America" Returns to NC April 19-24

"I look forward to the Carolina Cup paddleboard race each year," said Travis Grant of Australia, 2015 male champion in the Cup's elite and punishing 13.5-mile Graveyard race. "It's the first big race of the season, and I think it's great that the biggest paddle race in America is held on the East Coast." The 6th annual West Marine Carolina Cup presented by Surftech will be the first major stop on the 2016 world SUP race circuit April 19-24, in Wrightsville Beach. All races begin and end at host hotel Blockade Runner Beach Resort.

"The Graveyard race is a very fitting name," Grant said. "It is just that: a tough one. Anyone can potentially win," he continued. "There are a lot of different elements to get right - surf, flatwater, inlet currents, wind - and there's always a slight bit of luck involved."

Last year Grant beat three-time winner Danny Ching, ranked number three in the world, from Hermosa Beach, California. Grant is second in the world rankings (SupRacer.com). Ching and Grant will be back, along with internationally ranked competitors from roughly twenty countries including New Zealand, Australia, France, Canada, Spain, and Mexico.

Eight hundred paddlers are expected to start in three different races on Saturday, April 23 - the 3.5-mile Harbor Island race, 6-mile Money Island race, and 13.5-mile Graveyard race. Competitors include Olympians, world-record holders, and champions in the disciplines of standup, prone, surfski, and outrigger canoe paddling.

New on the race calendar for 2016, the six-man Hawaiian outrigger canoes (OC-6) will take center stage and compete at noon on Sunday, April 24. "We believe this is the first ever OC-6 race in Wrightsville Beach," said Mark Schmidt, Carolina Cup race director. "One of the things we try to do with the race each year is to make it more inclusive to all of the different watercraft." Outrigger competitors will paddle Bradley Lightning canoes, commissioned by Reggie Barnes of Eastern Surf and Skate Supply, in heats around Harbor Island. "This will be a chance for spectators to watch some of the biggest names in Hawaiian outrigger paddling," said Schmidt. "To see an event like this would typically require traveling to California or Hawaii. It will be a great show." Schmidt said. Outrigger designer Johnny Puakea, Danny Ching's paddle coach and founder of Puakea Designs, will teach an outrigger clinic during the Carolina Cup giving paddlers the chance to learn from one of the top pros in the industry.

Other clinics and demonstrations scheduled throughout the five-day event will feature many of the top paddle experts in the paddle world, including Larry Cain, Travis Grant, Lina Augaitis, Dan Gavere, Dr. Bob Arnot, Fiona Wylde, and Zane Schweitzer.

Visitors to the event will have the opportunity to try boards, canoes, and a variety of equipment at the Demo Zone. Sixty vendors will have the latest equipment, boards, and boats on display. Zone sponsor Carolina Paddleboard Company will feature a rare, unlimited, six-man outrigger canoe from Puakea Designs.

All races will be visible from Blockade Runner Beach Resort and the causeway bridges in Wrightsville Beach. The West Marine Carolina Cup presented by Surftech is organized by the Wrightsville Beach Paddle Club and sanctioned by the World Paddle Association. Organizers expect over 1,000 registrations for races and clinics in 2016. A portion of event proceeds will benefit The Ocean of Hope, a team of paddlers dedicated to the sea of people affected by cancer. More information is available at wrightsvillebeachpaddleclub.com.

Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center Expresses Thanks

This is a release from the Anson County Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center: Anson County Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center would like to recognize the generous sponsors of our 2016 Annual BBQ Fundraiser, held on Friday February 26. We couldn't have done it without your support!

Our sponsors include: First Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Wadesboro IGA, Brown Creek Animal Hospital, Anson Family Optometric, Streater Grove, Pee Dee Electric, Paula & Alex and John & June Witherspoon.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to everyone who came out to volunteer their time to help and the generous monetary donations we received for the event. ACDVC is a non-profit organization funded solely by grants and fundraisers, such as this one. All proceeds will be used to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Anson County. We are overwhelmed by the support received from the community and appreciate your help in making this event a success!

Anyone who would like more information on volunteering with our agency or to make a donation can call our office at (704)694-4499 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Carolinas Writers Conference is April 16

The Anson County Writer's Club is sponsoring the 8th Annual Carolinas Writers Conference on Saturday, April 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Among the guest speakers are North Carolina Poet Laureate Shelby Stephenson, Michelle Buckman, Amy Clipston, Karen MacMurray, Robert Macomber, Kay McSpadden, Chris Roerden and Terry Roueche.

The annual storytelling event, Backporch Stories, will be held the day before, Friday, April 15, at the Ansonia Theatre at 7 p.m. This event features nationally-known storyteller Mitch Capel, aka Gran'daddy Junebug, Linda Goodman and Jadie Fuson. It is hosted by J. A. Bolton. Tickets are only \$5 at the door.

Details and registration information are available at www.carolinaswritersconference.org.

BRLC Kids Café Good Friday Celebration

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center after school students will host their annual Easter Egg Hunt this Friday, March 25, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Two new adult bicycles will be raffled off during the celebration at 5 p.m. Raffle tickets are available from any BRLC volunteer. The Easter Egg Hunt is for children ages 3 to 11 years old. The three children who find the most eggs, plus the child who finds the Golden Egg will be awarded special gifts. Girls are encouraged to wear their Easter bonnets if they like. The child who wears the prettiest bonnet will also be awarded a special prize.

"She She" the Bunny will be on hand to color and have fun with all children that attend this event. Parents are asked to accompany their smaller children. Food will be provided by BRLC volunteers and others. The community is invited to take part in this celebration. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo games are held every third Tuesday of the month at Grace Senior Center at 1 p.m. All seniors are invited to attend for fun and fellowship. For more information or to register to play call the center at 704-694-6616.

Anson Animal Shelter Needs Volunteers - Would You Like to Help?

The Animal Shelter depends on the help of volunteers to ensure that animal residents receive love and care. More volunteers will also help relieve the workload on staff which can result in more time for resident animals to be adopted before they are euthanized (put to sleep). Please consider volunteering. For more information on helping, call 704-694-4832.

Anson County Animal Shelter is listed on Petfinder.com. This is a searchable national database of pets available for adoption that includes a description and photo. All the animals that are up for adoption are listed and have a picture. Just go to Petfinder.com and search for any Anson County town or zip code.

A rescue from Animal Shelter can bring lots of happiness and love into any home...and you will make the animal happy too! It's a win-win.

And remember, older animals need a home and love too!

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com