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

## Third Man Charged with Church Vandalism

A third suspect has been arrested in association with the November 14th vandalism of Cedar Hill AME Zion Church. Jacob Andrew Schrimpsher, age 18, from Oakboro, NC was arrested early Monday morning, April 9th in Stanly County and is now in the Anson County Jail. On Monday, April 2nd deputies arrested Bryan Matthew Balsler, age 21, of Albemarle, and as of last week officers expected to bring charges against Daniel Tyler Huneycutt, age 19, who was already in the Rowan County jail. The three men are facing charges that include Breaking and Entering a Place of Worship, Felony Larceny and Burning a Church Building, and Damage to Property.

Schrimpsher's bond has been set at \$500,000. Balsler's bond was set at \$1,000,000.

The men are believed to have been involved in numerous church and business property vandalism in Anson, Stanly and Rowan Counties. Eventually all the suspects will be brought to Anson County to stand trial after their charges in Rowan County have been disposed.

Damage to the Cedar Hill church was in the tens of thousands of dollars. All repairs have been made and a rededication of the church was made last month.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said, "All three suspects have been charged and are in custody. At this I don't expect further arrests in this matter."

## Unemployment Rate 11.2% for February

Anson County's unemployment rate in February was 11.2%, almost one percent lower than January's 12% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate for February was 10.1%, January's rate was 10.5%.

Looking back at February 2011, the rate then for Anson County was 12.8%. This February's rate of 11.2% reflects a continually improving situation locally.

Anson's total labor force in February was 10,862. Of that number 9,648 were employed and 1,214 were unemployed. In January the total labor force was 10,912, with 9,608 employed and 1,304 unemployed.

Unemployment rates fell in 84 counties of North Carolina's 100 counties in February. Rates increased in 10 counties and were unchanged in six. Unemployment rates declined in 81 counties when compared to the same month last year.

"A majority of North Carolina's counties have lower unemployment rates compared to last year," said N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll. "While the over-the-year numbers are positive, we must continue our focus on job growth across the state. We have employment service offices statewide to assist customers with job search opportunities and other workforce related programs."

North Carolina had 34 counties that were at or below the state's seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate of 10.1 percent. Unemployment rates decreased in 13 of the 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Statewide the number of workers employed (not seasonally adjusted) increased in February by 17,939 to 4,184,386 and those unemployed decreased 13,965 to 472,573. Since February 2011, the number unemployed decreased 27,787 and the number employed increased 82,956.

Orange County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in February at 6.3 percent. Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 20.7 percent.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted series.

County and other local area benchmarked labor force statistics are still under review by the Bureau of Labor Statistic and may be subject to revision.

### Anson County Board of Commissioners Approve Plan For New Healthcare Facility in Anson County

**Estimated cost to develop and build the new facility is about \$20 million**

The Anson County Board of Commissioners last night approved a plan submitted by Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS) to develop an innovative, comprehensive healthcare delivery model in Anson County. The new facility will offer residents superior access to healthcare including unique services designed to better address both inpatient and outpatient needs.

"We're extremely pleased that the County Commissioners have approved our plan. We regard their action as a vote of confidence in our ability to address the changing healthcare needs in Anson County and our commitment to addressing those needs today and well into the future," said Dennis J. Phillips, Executive Vice President for CHS.

The approval of the Commissioners paves the way for CHS to proceed with filing a Certificate of Need application in June with the state of North Carolina for the new facility. The Anson Centennial Project will focus on building strong relationships between patients and primary care providers and partnering with other local organizations to improve the overall health of residents through coordinated and enhanced access to targeted health services.

The project proposed by CHS includes replacing the existing hospital with an innovative new facility at a new location that includes:

- Multi-purpose patient rooms
- 24-hour emergency services
- Surgery and imaging
- Pharmacy and laboratory
- Better access to primary care that features a "patient-centered medical home approach"

In addition, CHS plans to develop and implement creative community partnerships in Anson County that, among other things, may result in a mobile dental clinic, comprehensive patient navigation to assist patients who need a broad array of medical services, transportation assistance, faith-based community health programs and wellness services to the community.

In his presentation to Commissioners Tuesday evening, Phillips conveyed Carolinas HealthCare System's passion for this inventive initiative.

"Like so many communities across the country, the vision we have for Anson County is really a vision for community-based care where the changing needs of the population are outpacing existing models and outmoded facilities," Phillips said. "We are committed to improving the community's health through a delivery system that encourages collaboration among health professionals and a cost-effective new facility."

Phillips also presented the timeline for completion of the project, including design and construction. If the CON is granted by the state, CHS anticipates the new facility will be completed in mid to late 2014. The Lillie Bennett Nursing Center will remain in operation as it is now.

More information at [www.carolinashealthcare.org/centennial](http://www.carolinashealthcare.org/centennial).

## Wadesboro Rotary Club Hosts Another Successful Shoot Out!



Pictured here is First Place Team W&W Farms along with Rotarians receiving their \$500 prize.

In a release from the Wadesboro Rotary Club: Buchanan Shoals was a beautiful setting on Saturday, March 31 for the second Wadesboro Rotary Club Shoot Out Sporting Clays Competition. Despite the morning downpours, by noon the sun was shining and the 52 competitors had great shooting conditions.

The event raised nearly \$4,000, and proceeds will be used for scholarship and community projects.

Winners included: First Place (\$500) W&W Farms - Buddy

Waddell, Brian Allen, Mike Preslar and Chris Moore; Second Place (\$400) Jordan Lumber - Doug Richardson, John Epps, Levi Epps and BJ Hill; Third Place (\$300) Kiker Resource Management - Hunter Leary, Ryan Morgan, Austin Kiker and Ryan Phillips; and Flurry Competition (\$350) W&W Farms.

A big thank you to our sponsors Anson Bank & Trust, Anson Family Optometric, PLLC., Covington Optometric Eye Clinic, Hornwood, Pee Dee Electric, Jordan Lumber, Kiker Resource Management, LLC, and R. E. Burns & Sons, Inc.

## Forest Service Provided Wildland Fire Control Trucks to Three Anson County Fire Departments

Recently the NC Forest Service delivered three military 2 1/2 ton trucks to Wadesboro, Ansonville, and Lilesville Fire Departments. These trucks are to be used for wildland fire control in Anson County. They were obtained by the NC Forest Service from the Department of Defense for local fire departments.

These trucks were provided at no cost to the local fire departments through the Federal Excess Personnel Loan Program. They will be painted to match the rest of the departments' fire engines, and will also be fitted with fire fighting equipment in the upcoming months.

Ansonville Fire Department already has their new truck in service and it has responded to several fires this spring. Wadesboro and Lilesville should have their trucks ready to respond in the upcoming months.

The trucks came newly refurbished by the United States Army. All of them have new diesel engines with less than 10,000 miles on them. Vehicles like these trucks are screened from military bases across the eastern US and the best trucks are brought back for use here in North Carolina. Fire Department Training Specialist Marshall Humphries of the NC Forest Service screens these vehicles and makes them available through each County Ranger's office in the state.

Along with these trucks, the Wadesboro Fire Department also received a portable light tower that can be towed behind a truck and set up on a fire scene to provide illumination at night. This tower was put into service in January.

More information about the Forest Service's Grant and Assistance Programs can be obtained at [www.ncforestservice.gov](http://www.ncforestservice.gov) or by calling Robby Perry at the County Ranger's Office in Lilesville at 704-848-4705.



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## Library Forgives Overdue Book Fines this Week

In recognition of National Library Week which is this week, through April 14, the Hampton B. Allen Library is forgiving overdue book fees. Please bring any overdue library books for "Forgiveness Days" on Thursday and Friday, April 12 and 13 and the fees will be waived.

Support your local library by visiting them and checking out all of the resources that are available.

If you have any questions or need more information please contact Donald Perkins, Manager of the library, at 704-694-5177.

## Writers Conference is this Weekend

The fourth annual Carolinas Writers Conference will be held from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. this Saturday, April 14 at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Featured presenters are Margaret Maron, *Coming Home with the Bootleggers Daughter* and Anthony Abbott, *Poetry and Secrets of the Heart*. The cost is \$25.

In addition to the two main addresses, the conference attendees will have a choice of 13 sessions led by writing and publishing professionals. These will be repeated in the afternoon to give attendees a choice of three to four workshops or readings. The conference will conclude with a panel discussion on "How to Get Published."

A kick-off event on Friday, April 13, will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro. Four NC storytellers will entertain with folk tales, ghost stories and memoirs. Back Porch Stories is free to the public, but tickets must be obtained from the Anson County Arts Council (ACAC) by calling 704-694-4950.

For details, go to [www.ansoncountywritersclub.org](http://www.ansoncountywritersclub.org) and click on "Carolinas Writers Conference."

## Five Candidates Considered to Fill Commissioner Seat

The Anson County Democratic Executive Committee met on Thursday, April 5 at the Lilesville Town Hall to begin the process of filling the vacant county commission seat for Lilesville District #2. The seat had belonged to the late Claude "Fats" Spencer. Five resumes were considered by the committee: Stephen Lear, William "Billy" Lee, Robert J. Smith, Dannie M. Montgomery and Vancine Robinson Sturdivant.

At the regular scheduled monthly Democratic Party meeting that will be held on April 19 the voting members of the Executive Committee will cast their votes for the new commissioner.

The five candidates will attend the Anson County Democratic Convention that takes place this Saturday, April 14. Each of them will be given space to greet the attendees. The convention will take place at 9:30 a.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library with guest speaker Sen. Bill Purcell and other notable Democrats in attendance.

## Huntley Transitions to Wadesboro Motors

As you've probably already noticed, what was Huntley Chevrolet and Buick is now Wadesboro Motors. Company President Don Jordan said, "We are still the same full service facility we've always been, but now we will be selling pre-owned and late model program cars."

Wadesboro Motors would like to thank their local clients and tell them that there are great deals to be found, so come visit and check it out.

Wadesboro Motors will house a NAPA service department, which will operate Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Why the change you ask? According to Jordan, "General Motors has required that every GM dealership undergo a \$300,000 to \$500,000 facility upgrade which is strictly cosmetic. The dealership building would be no bigger, but the ceilings would be one foot taller, the tiled floor blue and white rather than black and white, and the brick exterior would be hidden. I am a businessman and a businessman needs to stay in business. It was a business decision not to continue the GM franchise."

Many surrounding GM dealerships are facing the same situation and have made the same decision as Wadesboro Motors. Locally, Wadesboro Motors will continue with the same friendly, knowledgeable staff in all areas, including office, sales and service.

Wadesboro Motors is located on Highway 74 West in Wadesboro. *By Melanie Lyon*

## Rotary Scholarship Applications Accepted Until April 20

The Wadesboro Rotary Club will continue to accept applications for college scholarships until April 20, 2012. Applications were given to all college guidance counselors in March. They will be awarding six scholarships this year, two in the amount of \$1,500 and four in the amount of \$1,000.

The scholarships recognize success and achievement in academic studies, extracurricular activities, and community service. They will be awarded to a senior from Anson County for use at an accredited college or university.

Applications are still available from each high school guidance counselor, or can be obtained by contacting Holly Kiker, the Rotary Scholarship Committee Chair, during weekly business hours, 704-694-3618.

## New Beginnings Cancer Support Group

The New Beginnings Cancer Support Group will meet on Monday, March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro. Shanton Smith, an Anson native who is a writer and inspirational speaker, will be the guest speaker.

For more information call 704-694-3988.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA Capt D's