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

Vacation Warnings and Preparations

From the desk of Sheriff Tommy Allen: It's that time of the year that people are planning their vacations as July and August are big vacation months for many of our citizens. When you plan your vacation there are several things you should and should not do to make your time away and your return home a lot happier.

The number one thing you should never do is to post on the social network sites such as Facebook or Tweeter that you are going to be out of town. I know it's hard to believe but individuals will post their vacation plans on these social networks and let everyone know they are leaving an empty house for burglars to visit. Friends can have friends or relatives who will scan sites to see who is not home. People away from home leave an inviting target for burglars.

A good neighbor is a great crime deterrent. Let a trusted neighbor know you will be away; for how long and who if anyone may be coming or going from your home while you are away.

You want your home to look like you are there. A couple of timers on lights inside that will turn on and off is a good investment. Stop mail and newspaper deliveries or have the trusted neighbor or relative pick up these for you daily. Have someone mow the lawn if you are away for more than a week.

The local Police Department and your Sheriff's Office will check your home daily while you are away if you will call and ask them to do so. Be sure to leave them with contact information if they find something out of place or suspicious.

Just a little common sense and preparation can help make your return from vacation safe and happy.

Anson County 14U Babe Ruth Softball Tournament Champions...The Lady Cats!



Tournament Champions are pictured here, from left, front: Taylor Pace, Alexis Tice, Kelsey Harris, Lindsay Haire and Katelyn Howell. Back row: Coach Adam Emrich, Kristin Emrich, Caitlin Bunce, Mallory Gathings, Taylor Huntley, Amber Thomas, Ava Thuleen and Coach Eric Howell.

Endowed Scholarship Established in SPCC President McKay's Honor

An endowed scholarship has been established in honor of retiring South Piedmont Community College President John McKay. With \$26,755 already contributed and more coming in, the scholarship was revealed to a surprised McKay during a reception in his honor Monday at the Jesse Helms Center. "I was speechless," McKay said. "It was a total surprise, both the scholarship and the amount. I'm really appreciative of the individuals and businesses who donated to it."



SPCC President John McKay holds his grandson Joshua McKay and holds an SPCC badge that was made for Joshua with the title "Future President" on it.

"One of my goals has been to help increase our scholarship amount, because we know our students need more help," McKay said. "This just fits in with that. It's nice that they decided this was the way to remember me, because I have a strong feeling that we need more scholarships to help our residents come to school."

"We knew that he was going to be pleased with it," said SPCC Foundation Executive Director Hayne White, noting that keeping it a secret from McKay was the hardest part. "We've had a scholarship endowment campaign going on for some time. We knew it was near and dear to his heart."

McKay also received a framed resolution honoring him from the SPCC Board of Trustees, a plaque from Anson County Early College, a shield from the Monroe Police Department, season tickets to the Broadway Lights Series at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center from the college and several other gifts.

McKay has been SPCC's president for eight years. His last day will be June 30.

This Week in Raleigh

From Senator Bill Purcell: This has been a very busy week in the General Assembly. We finished our work at 12:45 am today and will reconvene at 9 pm tonight to try to close down the session. This will probably involve staying after midnight to vote on bills that must be voted on over a three-day period.

We will reconvene the session on July 13 to deal with redistricting, and sometime after that we will come back to deal with a number of Constitutional Amendments that have been proposed.

As you may know, redistricting of the State Senate Districts, the State House Districts and the Congressional Districts are done by the General Assembly every ten years after the population census. Since North Carolina has grown by over a million people since the 2000 census we can expect a lot of changes in voting districts. We expect some preliminary maps to be released in the near future. The Senatorial district that I represent (25th Senatorial District-Anson, Richmond, Scotland and Stanly Counties) needs about 20,000 more people and this will require considerable adjustments.

There have been a number of bills that have passed through the General Assembly this week. The Voter ID bill will require a photo ID for voting. We do not have evidence of significant voter fraud in NC, and many believe that this is a solution for a problem that doesn't exist. There were 487 unsubstantiated reports of voter fraud to the NC Board of Elections in the past 10 years out of 33,687,000 votes cast or 0.001%. Having to have a photo ID will be a deterrent to many of our elderly who don't drive and to many of our minorities who don't have photo IDs. None of us want fraud in our voting but it just isn't a significant problem, and we should be encouraging people of all parties to vote, not discouraging them or putting unnecessary restraints between them and the voting machine.

We also passed legislation that will prevent straight party voting, which many believe will result in people taking much longer to vote, and the resulting long lines will discourage people of both parties from voting.

There have been numerous other bills and a lot of local bills. Probably the main vote that was taken this week was a vote to override the Governor's veto of the budget which was along party lines, except for 5 Democrats in the House who voted with the Republicans.

As I have said on many occasions this budget has major cuts to education that most people believe will set education in North Carolina back many years. There are also major cuts to Health and Human Services that will have major effects on mental health services and other services for our elderly and lower income people throughout North Carolina. We all agree that cuts had to be made, but not the drastic ones that are in this Republican budget.

The Anson 14U Babe Ruth Lady Cats had a great season this year! Overwhelming every opponent in their path, their offense scored 152 runs as their defense stuffed their opponents to only 45 runs. They won every game of the regular season and finished off the season tournament in their district undefeated.

Coach Adam Emrich stated, "I am so proud of each

and every one of these girls because they were truly a "team" and not just individuals with great talent. They came together more in each game to give us a great shot at the State All-Stars."

Come see them as they work hard in Marion, NC for the 14U North Carolina State All-Stars in July. Congratulations Anson Lady Cats!

Tuesday, The First Day of Summer?

Yesterday, Tuesday, June 21st, was the official first day of summer, 2011. But, if the truth were known, you probably thought summer arrived weeks ago. It has been pretty hot and humid around the country and in these parts we've seen high temperatures and humidity aplenty. Already accustomed to those characteristics, which make summer a season of her own, maybe the next few months will be easier to deal with.

Remembering back to the days when very few were equipped with air conditioning, it's hard to fathom the idea of living without it. Or, taking it a step further, it's even harder to think of those who slept with their doors and windows wide open, while enjoying the "night air" as they called it. There are probably lots of people who do not have air conditioning today and who may even sleep with their doors and windows open. I just don't know of many personally, and can't imagine the open door, open window concept nowadays.



During the afternoons of years past I remember front porches filled with family members and neighbors, sitting around with nothing more than good conversation and a big wooden churn of their favorite ice cream in the make. With rock salt, a bag of ice and the ingredients for home churned ice cream, that's all it took for many to have what's known as a glorious summer day. Vanilla was typically the taste of summer and was

usually scooped out of a metal cylinder after the wooden dashers were removed, tasted by each child in the group and placed aside so the serving could begin.

When mom brought out the big dipping spoon and bowls, you knew it was at last, time for the summertime treat you had been waiting for so long, usually 20 to 30 minutes. In kid-time, an eternity, but well worth the wait. If the friends and kinfolk outnumbered the single churn, then often we went for a double, with fresh strawberries or bananas to even out our supply and demand and it was like a summer coolant in a bowl.

So if the summer heat leaves you feeling frazzled maybe a big dish of homemade ice cream can help cool you off. Let's hope our summer here in Anson County will be filled with cool breezes, ice cream freezes and low humidity teases. Happy summer to you all! *By Melanie Lyon*

Is the Heat Making You Sweat?

Advice for Air Conditioning Emergencies and Utility Bill Assistance

Although summer doesn't officially start until next week, the Southern Piedmont area has been baking in 90 degree days. As the heat wave continues, many people are having problems with their air conditioning units and they are contacting the Better Business Bureau for advice.

In the previous 36 months, consumers checked out 294 local air conditioning and heating companies with the BBB 36,996 times. The BBB grades for these contractors range from A+ to F. Of the 294 contractors, 10 companies have a BBB grade of F.

"Air conditioning units can be the most expensive equipment in your home," said BBB President Tom Bartholomy. "Given the large number of contractors and companies that provide air conditioning service, it is important to distinguish between the good and the bad."

Emergency service - If your air conditioning breaks and you need emergency service, the BBB has this advice:

- Check out air conditioning contractors with the BBB at www.bbb.org. It only takes a few minutes to find a company with a good track record for service.
- Make sure that the contractor is licensed, bonded and insured.
- Be wary of unsolicited offers and high pressure sales pitches for air conditioning systems, windows and roofing.
- Don't fall for devices and products that promise drastic reductions in home cooling costs.

High utility bills - The high temperatures also mean high utility bills. "Many people go without air conditioning because they can't afford it," said BBB President Tom Bartholomy. "Unfortunately, extreme heat can be deadly."

If you cannot afford to pay your air conditioning bills, the BBB has this advice:

- Ask your utility company about an annualized billing plan to avoid spikes in your bills during extremely hot or cold months.
- If you are on a fixed income and have trouble paying your utility bills, contact your utility company to find out about emergency assistance plans.
- Get help. Nonprofit organizations like Crisis Assistance Ministry help low-income individuals pay their utility bills.

Year-round home maintenance - The BBB has advice for how you can make your home more energy-efficient year round:

- Have your central air conditioning system inspected and serviced each year.
- Check your attic, garage and basement to make sure your home is well-insulated.
- Clean or replace air conditioning and furnace filters on a regular basis.
- Install a programmable thermostat and keep your home at a set temperature.
- Close curtains, shades or blinds during the day to block the sun and the heat.
- Install ceiling fans.
- Prune back shrubs that may block the air flow to your air conditioning units.
- Shade room air conditioners from direct sun to reduce their workload.
- Apply a reflective coating to your roof or windows to reflect heat away from your home.

For more information, please visit www.bbb.org or call the BBB toll-free in N.C. and S.C. at 1-877-317-7236.

Artists and Crafters Meeting Every Thursday

Artists and crafters...and aspiring artists and crafters...you are invited to join the weekly arts and crafts session held on Thursdays at the Arts Council (next door to Ansonia Theatre). The free sessions are held from 1 to 4 p.m. If you are interested you are encouraged to join in on the fun. Also, remember, Christmas is approaching.

Diabetic Support Group Meets Thursday

The Diabetic Support Group will meet at Calvary Episcopal Church on Thursday, June 23 at 10:30 a.m. The speaker is Dawn Carpenter, and her topic is Aerobics and Exercise.

For more information call Ruth Hildreth at 704-694-3979 or Beth McLendon at 704-694-4291.

Parks & Rec Movie is The Tale of Despereaux

Anson County Parks and Recreation will be showing *The Tale of Despereaux* on Tuesday June 28th at 2 p.m. in the Hampton B. Allen Library. The movie is free, so please come and bring a friend.

Call 694-5868 for more information.

Board of Education Meets June 30

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting will take place at the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Town of McFarlan Business Meeting Rescheduled

The Town of McFarlan has rescheduled their business meeting that was originally scheduled for July 4th. The new meeting date is Monday, July 11 at 7 p.m.

Town Council Meetings in Wadesboro

The regular Town of Wadesboro Town Council meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on Monday, July 11 instead of July 4 due to the holiday.

The regular Town of Wadesboro Town Council meeting in September will be held at 5 p.m. on Monday, September 12 instead of September 5 due to the Labor Day holiday.

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