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

## “Wannabe” Thugs in the Slammer After Reckless Shooting Spree at Little Park

Anson County Sheriff’s Deputies investigated a shooting that occurred at Little Park Sunday evening, August 28th. It was reported at 8:14 p.m. Officers found three individuals shot with small pellets from a shotgun. All three were treated and released at the Anson County Hospital. The victims shot were identified as Robbie Rakim Harris, 25, with pellets in his legs; Cedrick Obyrant Pratt, 23, with one pellet in right arm; and Marquis Jermaine Bennett, 27. All three subjects were in a car driven by Mario Deon Pratt, 22, who was not injured.

Officers arrested Edward Antonio Hudson, 21 and Thomas Maye, III, 20. Hudson was charged with four counts each of: 1) Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill; 2) Shooting into an Occupied Vehicle; 3) Assault with a Deadly Weapon; 4) one count of Possession of a Firearm by a Felon; 5) and one count of Going Armed to the Terror of the Public. Maye was charged with four counts of Assault with a Deadly Weapon and 2) Going Armed to the Terror of the Public. Bond information was not available at press time.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said that there was a large crowd playing football at the park and the shooting occurred after a game was over. There were children there as well he said. “There seems to be an ongoing feud between some of these individuals. This is not the first time some of this group has shot at each other. These are some of the same individuals involved in the shooting at the courthouse several months ago. These are individuals who act like “wannabe” gang members and they have total disregard for innocent bystanders who may be around when they decide to start shooting. We’ve been very fortunate that some child or innocent person has not been injured or killed. These shootings basically stopped when we made a number of arrests following the courthouse shooting, but since some have recently gotten out of jail on bond they have started again,” Allen said.

Detectives were continuing the investigation early this week.

## Armory Demolition Makes Way for Anson County Emergency Services Base

Demolition has begun on the Old Armory building, located on Country Club Road across from Ambassador Health (formerly Heritage Hills), to make room for the new Anson County Emergency Services and Transportation Base. Crews from D.H. Griffin Wrecking Company started work on Monday, August 22nd, and stated that they expected to finish the job by the end of this week. According to County Manager Lawrence Gatewood, the building has stood empty for over 20 years and had become increasingly dilapidated. He said, “This eyesore that has tarnished the Country Club Road landscape is now history.”



There used to be a building there! Many Ansonians remember the old armory building that stood vacant on Country Club Road for many years. It was torn down last week to make way for a new facility.

“Everything with the demolition is on schedule and should be completed by September 1st,” according to Building and Maintenance Director Jeff Waisner. “We have taken every possible step to ensure that this is a clean and safe project and one that the citizens of Anson County will take pride in. Once the debris is removed, the lot will be graded, reseeded and maintained on a regular basis.”

With the demolition work soon to be completed, the county is moving forward with plans for the future Emergency Services and Transportation Base to be built on the 2.9 acre site. This year’s budget included \$225,000 to cover design work, site preparation and the laying of the buildings foundation. In addition, the county will be aggressively seeking public and private grants to cover a portion of the building’s cost.

The new state-of-the-art facility will include a crew area, parking garage for the ambulance fleet, training/meeting room and the 9-1-1 call center. With the anticipated increase in traffic on Country Club Road, the County has requested that the NC Department of Transportation install a caution light at the intersection of Highway 52 and Country Club Road. According to the Clerk to the Board, Bonnie Huntley, this safety precaution is long overdue.

The County has formed a team of department heads to lead the planning and design of the new base. Members include Sheriff Tommy Allen, Senior Accounting Officer Cathy Baxter CPA, Fire Marshall and Emergency Services Director Rodney Diggs, Information Technology Director Rita James, ACTS Transportation Director Scott Rowell, EMS Director Ryan Teal, Bonnie Huntley and Lawrence Gatewood. They held an initial meeting on Thursday, August 25th to discuss their respective visions for the future Anson County Emergency Services and Transportation facility.

“We are very excited to be turning the vision of a new emergency services base into a reality by July 2013,” concluded Gatewood.

## Anson Singers Begins September 13

The Anson Singers, a community chorale co-sponsored by the Anson County Arts Council and First United Methodist Church, will begin fall rehearsals on Tuesday, September 13th at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro. All singers from Anson and surrounding counties are invited to become a part of the choral group which is beginning its second season this year.

Emily Litaker Privette, director of the Anson Singers, states that there is no audition process and that any interested adult singers may come to the first rehearsals to get a feel for the group. There will be a cost of \$25 for each singer which is used to purchase music and other necessary items. All are welcome.

For more information call 704-694-4950.

## Local Men Organize Shoe Giveaway for Students



Pictured at left are just a few of the many kids who benefited from new tennis shoes thanks to the efforts of Landric Reid, Cecil Meachum and many generous donors. Meachum and Reid are pictured with some of the shoes at right.

State Highway Patrol Trooper Landric Reid and businessman Cecil Meachum sponsored their 2011 Stride With Pride Shoe Donation recently. Trooper Reid said, “Our collection period ran from August 1st to 23rd, and our goal was to collect 50 pairs of new tennis shoes for kids in grades K through 8. With the help of the good people of Anson County the event was very successful.” Reid and Meachum met and exceeded their goal, collecting 83 pairs of new shoes for the kids.

A hot dog lunch was provided at the Wadesboro Police/Fire

Department on Tuesday, August 23rd for the recipients of the shoes. After the lunch the smiles began as the shoes were passed out. “I want to give a special thanks to the Wadesboro Police and Fire Departments for allowing this event to take place in their facilities,” Reid said.

Reid concluded, “We look forward to helping more students start their school year with pride, by making this an annual event. We would like to give our thanks to the people of Anson County for their support with the good cause.”

## Anson County Schools’ Performance Rated

In a release from Anson County Schools: The Anson County Schools released the 2010-2011 school performance results under the No Child Left Behind requirements. The performance results indicate many positive results – indicators of success. They also indicate inconsistency of implementation, inconsistency of instructional effect, and inconsistency in learner effect.

**What Is Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?** AYP measures the yearly progress for each of 10 NCLB-defined student groups toward the NCLB goal of all students being at or above grade level (proficient) in reading and math by the end of the 2013-14 school year.

How Does A School Make AYP? For a school to make AYP, each of the 10 student groups in the tested grades (3-8,10) must meet proficiency targets in reading/language arts and math and each student group must have at least 95 percent of its students taking tests in both subjects. This represents four targets (proficiency and participation in reading/language arts and math assessments) for each student group. In addition, the School as a Whole (all students) must show progress on the Other Academic Indicator (attendance rate or cohort graduation rate). If just one target goal is not met, the school does not make AYP for that year, with some exceptions (safe harbor, confidence interval, AYP growth standard).

**What Are The NCLB - Defined Student Groups?** The student groups are: 1) the School as a Whole (all students); 2) White; 3) Black; 4) Hispanic; 5) Native American; 6) Asian; 7) Multiracial; 8) Economically Disadvantaged students (students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch); 9) Limited English Proficient students; and 10) Students With Disabilities. Each student group must have at least 40 students across the tested grades to be included in AYP calculations at the school level. Most schools have several of the groups, but not all 10. A student must attend a school 140 days by the first day of spring testing to be included in AYP calculations at the school level. However, students who are part of groups smaller than 40 or who attend a school fewer than 140 days contribute to AYP calculations at the district level. Each student is represented in at least two groups—the School as a Whole and her/his racial group.

**What Tests Are Used To Determine AYP?** Participation and proficiency in reading and math end-of-grade (EOG) assessments for grades 3-8 determine if elementary and middle schools make AYP. Proficiency and participation in Algebra I and a combination of the English I end-of-course (EOC) assessments and the Grade 10 Writing Assessments determine AYP in math and

reading/language arts at the high school level. Alternate assessments are used for a small percentage of students.

North Carolina targets these proficiency goals:

- Grades 3-8, reading and mathematics proficiency percentages**
- 2007-8 43.2% & 77.2%
  - 2008-9 43.2% & 77.2%
  - 2009-10 43.2% & 77.2%
  - 2010-11 71.6% & 88.6%
  - 2011-12 71.6% & 88.6%
  - 2012-13 71.6% & 88.6%
  - 2013-14 100% & 100%

- Grade 10, reading and mathematics proficiency percentages**
- 2007-8 38.5% & 68.4%
  - 2008-9 38.5% & 68.4%
  - 2009-10 38.5% & 68.4%
  - 2010-11 69.3% & 84.2%
  - 2011-12 69.3% & 84.2%
  - 2012-13 69.3% & 84.2%
  - 2013-14 100% & 100%

The District-Wide AYP results have been released. The results were approved by the State Board of Education on August 4th. Two schools out of 11 schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (that equals 18.3%). The school-by-school listing is:

- Anson County Early College made Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 3 (or 100.0%) out of 3 target goals
- Anson Academy did not make Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 2 (or 66.7%) out of 3 target goals
- Anson High School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 13 (or 76.5%) out of 17 target goals
- Ansonville Elementary School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 12 (or 70.6%) out of 17 target goals
- Anson Middle School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 15 (or 71.4%) out of 21 target goals
- Wadesboro Primary School made Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 13 (or 100.0%) out of 13 target goals
- Lilesville Elementary School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 12 (or 70.6%) out of 17 target goals
- Morven Elementary School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 12 (or 92.3%) out of 13 target goals
- Peachland-Polkton Elementary School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 16 (or 76.2%) out of 21 target goals
- Wadesboro Elementary School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 10 (or 58.8%) out of 17 target goals
- Anson New Tech High School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress. School met 2 (or 66.7%) out of 3 target goals

For more information contact Anson County Schools at 704-694-4417.

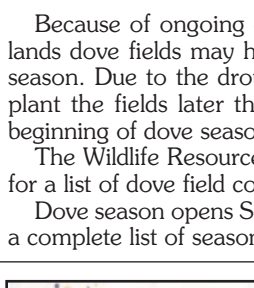
## Drought May Affect Hunting Conditions on Game Lands Dove Fields

Because of ongoing drought conditions, some of the N.C. Wildlife Commission’s game lands dove fields may have less-than-optimal hunting conditions for the beginning of dove season. Due to the drought, some crops failed and wildlife management personnel had to plant the fields later than usual. Because of that, some fields may not be mowed at the beginning of dove season.

The Wildlife Resources Commission is encouraging hunters to check [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) for a list of dove field conditions before heading out to hunt.

Dove season opens September 3. Visit the migratory game bird page on [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) for a complete list of season dates and bag limits.

## Watercolor Workshop by June Rollins



In a release from June Rollins: Less Is More Watercolor Workshop - Learn to simplify and loosen up. Students will be asked to bring still life items (flowers, fruit, pottery, etc.) to class they are comfortable sketching. We will practice contour drawing, direct painting and letting colors mix on the paper, while working at a 20 to 45 degree tilt. Previous watercolor experience required.

Date & Time: Sat., Oct. 1, 1pm-4pm. Location: Olde Mill Galleries, 514 N. Washington St., Wadesboro, NC 28170. Cost:

\$35 ACAC Members, \$45 Non-members (Does not include supplies) ACAC Membership Info at [www.ansoncountycouncil.org](http://www.ansoncountycouncil.org). Pre-registration required. Min. 8 - Max. 10. To register or for more info: email [artbyjune@yahoo.com](mailto:artbyjune@yahoo.com). Supplies list furnished when tuition received. See video of Less Is More painting method at [www.junerollins.com](http://www.junerollins.com).

## SPCC Massage Therapy Department Is Taking Appointments

The Massage Therapy Department at South Piedmont Community College is taking appointments for one-hour massages on Thursdays and Fridays at noon and 1:30 p.m. during the fall semester. The supervised sessions provide an opportunity for students to practice massage techniques they learn during class. The cost is \$20 per hour, and an appointment is required.

Free chair massages will be offered at no charge on Thursdays and Fridays, noon-3 p.m. No appointment is required for the chair massages, which are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact Massage Therapy Instructor Mary Berger at 704-290-5865.

## Continuing Education in Category V Pesticide Credits

The Anson Cooperative Extension office is hosting two continuing education hours of category V pesticide credits on September 8, from 9 to 11 a.m. To register call 704-694-2415.

## Conway Twitty to Perform at 50+ Club Meeting

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club will meet September 12 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Tribute artist Tony King will be performing hit songs by Conway Twitty. The public is invited to attend.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

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