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

Andrea Nicole Hammond Charged with Murder of Her Boyfriend



Andrea Nicole Hammond

Andrea Nicole Hammond, 31, of Anson County has been charged with murder in the shooting death of Rodney Smith.

Anson County Sheriff's deputies responded to the shooting that was reported at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 24. Upon their arrival at the scene on Highway 109 North in Wadesboro they found Smith lying in a driveway with a gunshot wound in his neck. It was determined that Hammond and Smith, who was her boyfriend, got into an argument while at another person's home, and this led to Hammond shooting Smith.

Hammond was charged with First Degree Murder and is being held in the Anson County Jail with no bond. Her court appearance has been set for October 14.

Four Staff Members at Lanesboro Correctional Assaulted by Inmates

Four staff members at Lanesboro Correctional Institution were injured on Thursday afternoon, September 29 after being assaulted by prisoners. It was reported that the attackers used broom handles to stab the correctional officers. Two of the victims suffered serious injuries and were airlifted to a hospital, one with life-threatening injuries. As of press time all of the victims had survived the attack.

The NC State Bureau of Investigation has joined in the investigation that has identified three inmates as suspects.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Was at 5.7 Percent in July

Anson County's unemployment rate for July was 5.7 percent. This was basically the same as June's 5.8 percent figure. Statewide the unemployment rate for July was 5 percent.

Anson's total labor force in July was 10,676. Of that number 10,068 were employed and 608 were unemployed. In June the total labor force was 10,780, with 10,157 employed and 623 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 90 of North Carolina's counties in July, increased in two, and remained unchanged in eight. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 9.0 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.8 percent. Twelve of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases and three remained unchanged. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 7.3 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 4.0 percent. The July not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 5.0 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in July by 6,056 to 4,616,358 while those unemployed decreased 7,785 to 241,175. Since July 2015, the number of workers employed statewide increased 103,448, while those unemployed decreased 60,423.

North Carolinians Encouraged to Prepare for Hurricane Matthew

Insurance Commissioner Goodwin provides insurance tips for Hurricane Matthew

With Hurricane Matthew shifting toward North Carolina as of press time on Tuesday, Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin reminds all North Carolinians to be prepared for severe weather by visiting www.NCHurriClaims.com or calling the Department of Insurance at 855-408-1212.

"It's always better to be safe than sorry," said Goodwin. "Compiling important documents and making a home inventory are simple things you can do right now to ease the insurance claims process should you suffer property damage or loss."

It is important to fill your prescriptions. Citizens are encouraged to review their prescription needs and seek an early refill if needed.

Here are tips that will help you prepare your home:

- Make sure you have adequate insurance coverage. Know exactly what your insurance policy does and does not cover. Homeowners policies do not cover flooding; you can only purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. However, there is typically a 30-day waiting period before flood policies take effect, so don't wait until a storm is approaching to purchase coverage. If you live in a rental property, your landlord's insurance only covers the building. None of your personal belongings are insured unless you purchase your own renter's policy.
- Compile important documents. Gather important paperwork, including insurance policies, medical records, prescriptions, etc. Be prepared to bring copies with you if you evacuate your home.
- Create a home inventory. Go room to room in your home and write down the brand name, description, estimated value and date of purchase of items in your home. It is also helpful to compile receipts, appraisal documents and serial numbers. Take videos or photographs of your belongings. Store your home inventory and related documents in a safe, easily-accessible place online, on your smartphone, on your computer or in a fire-proof box or safe deposit box.
- Identify potential hazards around your home. Hanging tree branches, loose shingles, patio furniture and other outdoor objects can cause damage or injuries in a storm. Make repairs or secure large objects to reduce the threat.
- Review contact information. Make sure you have up-to-date contact information for your insurance agent and insurance company, and make sure they have accurate contact information to reach you.

Learn more about preparing for a hurricane or disaster at www.nchurriclaims.com or by calling the N.C. Department of Insurance at 855-408-1212. Hurricane season began June 1 and ends November 30.



Anson Women's League Inducts New Officers

The Anson Women's League has inducted its new officers for 2016-2017. Misty Nordan is President, Bonnie Morgan is President Elect, Ross Huntley is Secretary, Arvon Edwards is Treasurer and Leanna Lee is Chaplain.

Other designations are: Betsy Watts and Brittany Gaddy - Membership Committee, Nancy Martin - Community News, Mary Beth Gaddy and Diane Capel - Projects, Terrie Carpenter and Connie Perko - Scholarship Committee, Sandra Pliescott - Program Coordinator, Beverly Getzen - Public Relations, and Helen Chewning, Beth Rogers and Betsy Watts - Special Events.

New members are welcome to join AWL which meets each second Tuesday (except in July) at noon at Twin Valley Country Club. If you are interested in learning more about our community, helping meet community needs, and working to serve the youth of Anson County, as well as enjoy good company, please consider joining the Anson Women's League! Contact Betsy Watts at 704-694-4883 for more information.

These Pretty Pets are Waiting Anxiously for You!

This pretty sensational one-year old female needs to be adopted soon from the Anson County Animal Shelter. Her name is EZ Go, and she would be so pleased to meet you. She is very friendly but puts her paw down when it comes to being the only dog in your family. So if you are committed to having a one dog home and you enjoy giving rescue pups the extra special attention they deserve then EZ Go is for you!



EZ Go needs a new home & name!

EZ Go is just one of many animals who need quick rescue. At the shelter you will also find Buddy who is a great dog. Buddy is friendly and gets along well with other dogs and people. He would love to become your best "bud" for life. Head on over and check out this very loving soul.



Buddy smiles hello!



Coco gives TLC too!



Pretty & sweet Becca!

Coco is a sweet gal too. Coco can get a bit excited but just needs a little attention and care. Wouldn't you love to give a little TLC to this sweet as pie little girl? Go on and check Miss Coco out today.

Becca is wearing a purple collar and is so sweet, gentle and loving. Becca is dog friendly and people friendly so you can't beat her attitude for getting along well with everyone! She is ready to go home with you today!

Please plan a trip soon to the shelter, which is located at the entrance to Field of Dreams on Highway 74 in Polkton, and adopt an adorable pet. There are plenty to go around and there is sure to be one to suit your particular household. Come on and adopt before it's too late for these wonderful loving animals who want desperately to have a happy home. Call Maureen Lett, Director, at 704-994-2738 for more details. *By Melanie Lyon*

Schools Dismiss Early this Thursday, October 6

Anson County schools will dismiss early on Thursday, October 6 for district-wide Parent/Teacher Conferences. Here are the times:

- Elementary schools dismiss at 12:30 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences are 1 to 6 p.m.
- Middle & high schools dismiss at 1:30 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences are 2 to 7 p.m.

Revised Date: Board of Education Meets October 13

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular board meeting on Thursday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Office, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. This date replaces the originally scheduled regular meeting for October 24.

Closed Session will begin promptly after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open Session to the public should begin around 6:30 p.m.

Shop with a Cop Motorcycle Ride is Saturday

The Wadesboro Police Department is sponsoring their annual Shop with a Cop Motorcycle Ride this year on Saturday, October 8. This fun event raises money for the Shop with a Cop program that provides Christmas gifts for less fortunate children in Anson County. You are invited to share in the fun while helping make some children happy on Christmas day. Lunch will be served.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. at the new Wadesboro Police Department, located at 212 South Rutherford Street. The ride will commence about 11 a.m. The cost is \$15 for single riders, \$20 for two up.

For more information contact Chief Thedis Spencer at 704-475-2695.

Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop is October 13

Kesler Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church will host a Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop on Thursday, October 13 at 6 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend this free and informative event. The presenter is Latoya Mallard from Carolinas HealthCare System.

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers that a woman may face in her lifetime. Here are some facts:

- 1 in 8 women will get breast cancer
- Breast cancer can happen at any age
- Your chances of getting breast cancer increase as you get older
- A mammogram can find breast cancer at an early stage that makes treating it easier

Kesler Chapel is located at 708 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. To find out more about breast cancer and to see if a free screening test is right for you, call Latoya Mallard at 828-446-6344 or email: Latoya.Mallard@carolinashealthcare.org.

Uptown Wadesboro Fall Festival Set for Saturday, October 22

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. will hold its Annual Fall Festival on Saturday October 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Square in uptown Wadesboro. The activities include trick-or-treating at uptown businesses, games with prizes, storytelling, costume judging at noon with prizes, pumpkin painting with prizes from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and fortune telling. The Anson County Partnership for Children will be providing free books to the children. For further information call 704-695-1644 or visit www.uptownwadesboro.com.

Seminar for State Health Plan Retirees

A seminar for State Health Plan Retirees will be held at Grace Senior Center on Tuesday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m. The seminar facilitators will be Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) Counselors Joanne Clark and Thomasina Spencer.

Persons interested should call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register.

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Country & Gospel Music

The Hampton B. Allen Library 50+ Club will meet on Monday, October 10 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Jim Hinson, David Napier, Harold Carpenter, Sandy Drye, Bobby Perry and Ronnie Jarman will present a program of country and southern gospel music. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the program.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

Business After Hours with Brown Creek Creamery

Brown Creek Creamery and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce cordially invite you to attend a Business After Hours on Thursday, October 13, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The event will be held at 4747 Brown Creek Church Road in Wadesboro.

Chamber Director Shelby Emrich said, "Please come by and enjoy refreshments, tour the Creamery or purchase some of their wonderful dairy products!"

For more information call the Chamber at 704-694-4181.

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.

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