

# Need to Know

## WILMINGTON

### African-American history on display

Students are getting a discount on African-American History Day, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Bellamy Mansion Museum, 503 Market St.

Guided tours will focus on topics of African-American life as they pertain to the historic home, built before the Civil War. Sulnora Spencer of Kenansville will give an interpretive program on cooking and slave life in the 1800s. Visitors can also see the museum's current exhibit on African-American builders in North Carolina.

Regular admission is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children ages 5-12. (Younger children get in free.) Students with valid IDs will be admitted for \$3 on Saturday. For information, call 251-3700.

- Staff reports

## BACK THEN

CONTINUED FROM 1B

site to watch the drama unfold.

**APRIL 23, 1959:** The Star reported that "in an almost carnival atmosphere," the hearing on assault charges against the 67-year-old janitor of Southport School was continued. The man, "who has been a janitor at the school so long he has become an institution in the seaport town," was charged with two counts of felonious assault on a minor.

Have questions or suggestions for the Back Then column? Contact Scott Nunn at [starnewsonline.com](mailto:starnewsonline.com) or write to Scott Nunn care of the Star-News.

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## MURDER

CONTINUED FROM 1B

front row of the courtroom, wiping away tears as Assistant District Attorney Lee Bollinger gave his closing statements to the jury before deliberations.

"We as a society have a right to walk up the steps of our house and feel safe after a hard day's work," he said.

Cook's son, Steve Cook, said after the trial he and his brother would not comment on the case until after Caudill's

trial, which has not been set yet. Martin's mother also declined to comment.

In a videotaped interview with police, Martin admits to hitting Cook in the head with a bedpost and says Caudill hit him once or twice.

Defense attorney Sam Randall argued Martin was coerced by police into changing his previous statement that Caudill alone was responsible for the murder and robbery.

Randall also pushed for a mistrial, saying Martin's rights were violated in the arrest process.

But Hooks denied a mistrial and said Martin was read his rights repeatedly and given options.

After Martin's sentencing, Randall made known his intent to appeal.

Bollinger said the jury did the right thing, acknowledging it was hard for them to look at a young man and sentence him to life in prison.

Bollinger said, however, "He got exactly what he deserved."

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STAFF PHOTO | MATT BORN

Some residents along North 11th Street and throughout Wilmington are upset that Progress Energy has cut down trees under its transmission lines.

## TREES

CONTINUED FROM 1B

lion taking down 50,000 trees across the Carolinas. Spokesman Jeff Brooks said the company is about halfway through the work and should wrap it up in 2010.

Locally, he said crews are pretty much finished conducting "vegetation management" operations around the downtown area and over the next few months will be working in the Port City's leafy South College Road and Greenville Loop corridors.

Not all Wilmington residents, however, have been against the trees coming down.

In the 1100 block of North 11th Street, nearly a dozen trees have been chopped in recent weeks, including a massive oak tree on either side of the block. Several people there said the removals mean less yard maintenance and fewer air problems.

But many residents, livid about the loss of their green canopy that adds character and provides welcome shade during the hot and humid Carolina summers, don't understand why trees that used to be trimmed

are suddenly being turned into firewood and mulch.

Brion Capo, Wilmington's urban forester, said he's received more than a dozen calls from folks upset about the trees coming down.

But he said the city's hands in this matter are largely tied.

"It's definitely sad to see them go," said Hayword LaBoo, a New Jersey resident visiting his mother on North 10th Street. "I remember playing around those trees as a kid, and now they're gone. And they added so much to this neighborhood."

As Smith wheeled the trash can full of mulch back to his house, he paused by the segmented trunk of the oak tree in his backyard.

"Look at those (tree) rings," he said. "There were a lot of years, a lot of history on this tree."

Pausing while he poured the stump shavings onto his small front garden, Smith said he was happy that the wood was being used as firewood or mulch and not just going to waste.

"But I'd really, really rather have those trees," he said.

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## POLICE BLOTTER

### Head-on collision sends 2 to hospital

A head-on collision in morning traffic injured two men on Masonboro Loop Road on Friday.

A 2000 Honda driven by Theodore Mullins Jr., 55, was traveling south on Masonboro Loop Road when it crossed the yellow line and struck a 1992 Nissan driven by Ronald Creamer II, 29, which was stopped in traffic facing the opposite direction at 7:20 a.m., according to Sgt. T.T. Daniels of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Both men were rushed to New Hanover Regional Medical Center. There is no information available on either man's condition, Daniels said.

### 5 students hurt in bus fender bender

Five students were taken to the hospital after a fender bender between two New Hanover County school buses on U.S. 421, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol.

One bus was halted at a stop sign when the second hit its rear bumper on U.S. 421 near Silva Terra Road at 3:53 p.m., said Sgt. T.T. Daniels.

More than 80 students were on board the two buses at the time, ranging from 6 to 15 years of age. Five were taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. The rest of the students were taken home by parents, who were contacted shortly after the crash.

Daniels estimated the buses sustained about \$2,000 of damage.

- Chelsea Kellner

### Two robberies reported in city

Wilmington police are looking for one man in a robbery on Market Street and several men in a robbery on Ringo Drive.

The first robbery occurred about 9:10 p.m. Thursday, when

a woman reported she was walking to her car at 4240 Market St. when she saw a man walking quickly toward her, according to police department spokeswoman Lucy Crockett. The victim said she tried unsuccessfully to get into her car before the man reached her and tried to grab the wrist wallet on her arm, Crockett said. When the wallet fell into the victim's car, the man tried to pull her out, but she kicked him several times in the leg and was able to close the door and drive away, Crockett said.

Crockett said the man is described as black, about 6 feet tall and 150 pounds, wearing a dark gray T-shirt and dark pants.

The second robbery occurred about 4:44 a.m. Friday, when a man reported he was standing in a parking lot at 5208 Ringo Drive waiting for friends. The man said he was approached by three or four men who demanded his money, Crockett said. The victim said the men hit him in the face a couple times, then rifled through his pockets and stole his wallet that contained about \$180, Crockett said.

- Nicole Chittenden

### Man tracked down after hit-and-run

A police K-9 officer and his dog tracked down a suspect in a hit-and-run early Friday morning, police reported.

Christopher Scott Lee, 22, was charged with driving while impaired and hit-and-run. He is being held at the New Hanover County jail on a \$3,000 bond, according to a news release from the Wilmington Police Department.

Police investigating a reported hit-and-run near Eastwood Road and Hillsdale Drive at 2:20 a.m. Friday found the suspected vehicle in the driveway of a residence. Lee was standing with two others in the driveway and ran into the residence and out the back door, the release says.



Lee

As officers spoke to the other two people outside the residence, Lee returned and locked himself in his room, then fled again through an open window, over a tall wooden fence and then over a second fence, the release says.

Police lost sight of the suspect, but the K-9 officer and his dog found Lee hiding in bushes near a school on Oriole Drive. When he refused to surrender, the dog was sent into the bushes to get him, the release says.

It was the second reported hit-and-run this week.

On Wednesday, Travis Montgomery Rivenbark, 30, was charged with felony hit-and-run and habitual DWI after a witness reported seeing him hit several vehicles.

- Shannan Bowen

### Man arrested in city office break-in

A suspect was arrested on charges of breaking into a city of Wilmington office Thursday night and taking computers and cell phones, according to the Wilmington police.

A Wilmington police officer discovered a broken window on the east side of the building at 315 Chestnut St. at the city's information technology office, according to a news release from Lucy Crockett, the police department spokeswoman.

Spotting someone inside who wouldn't come out, the officer called for backup. Two officers, including a K-9 officer, arrested Larry Darnell Miller, 29, of Wilmington, on the roof. Police said he had a backpack containing city cell phones and computers for use in police vehicles.

Miller, who had outstanding warrants for first-degree burglary and failure to appear, was being held at the New Hanover County jail on \$42,000 bond.



Miller

- Stacie Greene Hidek

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## Lottery Numbers

The numbers picked Wednesday in the Powerball drawing were 16-22-26-27-59. Powerball: 5. Multiplier: 2. There were no jackpot winners. The estimated top prize for Saturday night's drawing is \$31 million.

**ON THE WEB:**  
[www.powerball.com](http://www.powerball.com)

**N.C. LOTTERY**  
Friday Midday Pick 3: 4-2-6  
Friday Evening Pick 3: 8-6-8  
Friday Pick 4: 9-4-4-1  
Friday Cash 5: 4-13-16-22-34

**Thurs. Midday Pick 3:** 0-7-2  
**Thurs. Evening Pick 3:** 0-9-5  
**Thurs. Cash 5:** 12-21-25-28-38  
**ON THE WEB:**  
<http://lottery.nc.gov>

**S.C. LOTTERY**  
Friday Pick 3 Midday: 7-6-0  
Friday Pick 4 Midday: 8-9-2-2  
Friday Pick 3 Evening: 0-6-0  
Friday Pick 4 Evening: 2-5-8-1  
Palmetto Cash 5: 6-8-30-33-35  
Multiplier: 2

**ON THE WEB:**  
[www.sceducationlottery.com](http://www.sceducationlottery.com)

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★ Contact Carolyn at 910-343-3066 for more information ★

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Sunday, April 19 - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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