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Sheriff Warns of Tax Refund Scams

Over the next month or so many of our citizens will receive "tax refund" checks. Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen warns the public to be alert to scams from individuals wanting to trick you out of your refund check.

The Sheriff warns of possible scams either by mail, email or telephone. Callers may identify themselves as IRS agents and ask for the person's bank account number for the direct deposit, warning the tax payer that they cannot receive their refund check unless they give the caller this information. The IRS or any other agency will not ask for this information. The Sheriff advises that if your caller ID identifies where the call is coming from report that to your local law enforcement agency. Otherwise hang up on the caller.

The email scam may ask the receiver to click on a link to complete a personal information sheet to receive the refund check. Never give out your personal or banking information over the telephone or email.

Remember, the IRS will not send unsolicited emails or make unsolicited telephone calls. If you believe you have been the target of a scam, you may also contact the IRS Hotline at 1-800-366-4484. The Sheriff reminds you to be informed. An informed citizen is a much safer citizen.

Go Tigers Go! Wadesboro High School Cheerleaders, 1955



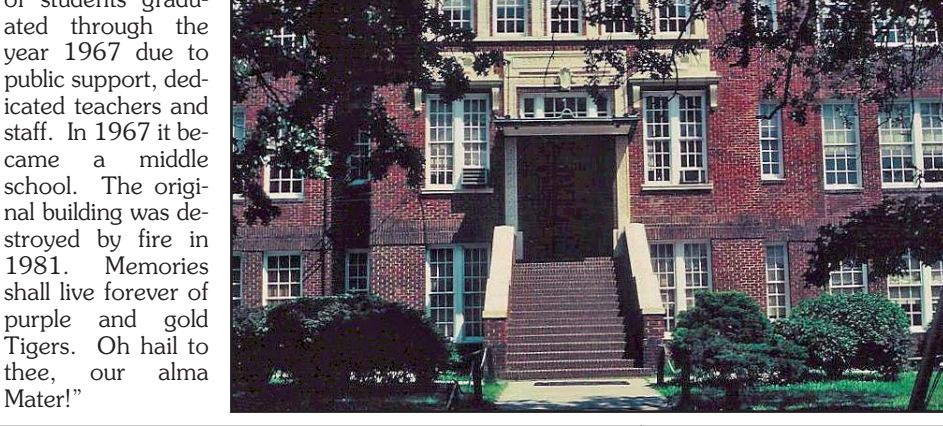
Pictured here are the Wadesboro High School Cheerleaders in 1955. These girls revved up the Tigers and the crowds during football games held at what is now known as Ray Shelton Field. Of course the cheerleaders got everyone going during pep rallies and other games too.

Who are these lovely gals wearing purple and gold? They are, from left, front row: Hazel Horne and Farrior Ashcraft. Second row: Harlene Howell, Carolyn Carter, Glenda Allen, Missy Allen and Sylvia White.

Wadesboro High School was located on Camden Road where Wadesboro Elementary School is located now. The beautiful building burned on December 17, 1981.

A plaque stands now commemorating the old Wadesboro High School building. It reads, "Wadesboro High School A modern three story, red brick building erected in 1922, contained a science lab, library, spacious auditorium, cafeteria, and gym in addition to classrooms for grades 5 through 12. New structures included 1938 vocational department, wing 1950,

detached cafeteria 1953, and gym 1961. Thousands of students graduated through the year 1967 due to public support, dedicated teachers and staff. In 1967 it became a middle school. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1981. Memories shall live forever of purple and gold Tigers. Oh hail to thee, our alma Mater!"



Wadesboro High School building, a large red brick structure with many windows and a central entrance with steps. The building is surrounded by trees and a lawn.

Medicine Drop Collects Over 14,700 Doses of Medications

The recent "Operation Medicine Drop" conducted by the Anson County Sheriff's Office, and in partnership with the Wadesboro Police Department and Anson County Partnership for Children, was a great success. Officers collected 14,719 doses of various medications turned in by citizens. The Sheriff's Office has now collected over 60,000 doses of prescription and over-the-counter medicines over the past few years of this program. Many of these medicines were a type of narcotic drug such as oxycontin and hydrocodone that are responsible for many accidental drug overdoses and deaths.



According to the NC Child Fatality Task Force "deaths from prescription drug overdoses are growing at an alarming rate and could eventually overtake motor vehicle accidents as the most common cause of accidental fatalities in North Carolina." Since 2011, there have been more accidental over-dose deaths from prescription medications than from all the illegal drugs combined.

Another reason for encouraging citizens to bring in their no-longer used or needed medicines is to properly dispose of them and discourage citizens not flushing them down toilets or putting them in trash bids to go to landfills. They eventually get back into the environment and can cause environmental damage.

Sheriff Tommy Allen, the Wadesboro Police Department and Anson County Safe Kids wishes to thank the many individuals who participated in this event. A second Medicine Drop will be scheduled this fall and a notice will be published in the local papers.

Pictured above (left to right) are Erik Johnson, Wadesboro Police Department; JR Horne, Anson County Sheriff's Office and Rozetta McCray from Anson County Partnership for Children.

Nancy Huntley Retires After 50 Years

After 50 years of dedicated service, beloved Wadesboro Town Clerk Nancy Huntley worked her last day on Thursday, March 28, 2013. Members of the town council and staff held a small ceremony showing appreciation for Huntley's 50 years of dedicated service. Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Usrey spoke about Huntley's tireless efforts on behalf of the Town of Wadesboro, and several participants fought back tears.

Huntley joined the town in 1962 and became Town Clerk in 1964. She has held the position ever since. She has seen numerous mayors and town managers throughout the years.

Town Manager Alex Sewell commented, "The Town is so thankful for Ms. Nancy's decades of service. She is the epitome of what we strive for in our Town government: kind, fair, and responsive. I have learned so much from Ms. Nancy in my brief time here and she will be missed greatly. However, I know she is looking forward to spending more time with her family. The real winners are her pets Benny the cat and Sabbath the dog."

General Sign-Up for the Conservation Reserve Program

NC Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Cindy Kernoodle announced that the NC FSA will conduct a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up beginning May 20 and ending on June 14.

"It continues to be our goal to ensure that we use CRP to address our most critical resource issues," said Kernoodle. "In 2012, NC experienced the worst drought in 60 years. CRP protected environmentally sensitive lands from washing or blowing away. It gave ranchers extra grazing land when they needed it. I expect there will be strong competition to enroll or re-enroll acres into CRP, so I urge NC producers to maximize their environmental benefits and make sure their offers are cost-effective."

In addition to erosion control, CRP provides significant water quality benefits including reduced nutrients and sediment loadings and adverse consequences associated with floods as well as expanded and enhanced wildlife habitat.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP nationwide, 106,640 acres in North Carolina. CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. Contracts on an estimated 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013, 7804 of those acres in North Carolina. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance for planting covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis. Continuous sign-ups often provide additional financial assistance. Those sign-up dates will be announced later.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit your local FSA county office, 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro, call 704-694-3516 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Third Annual Catfish Stew Cook-Off in Lilesville

The Town of Lilesville hosted their 3rd Annual Catfish Stew Cook-Off on Saturday, March 16 at the Hatcher Park with a good turn out. The wind was very brisk and unmerciful on some of the vendor's wares, but everyone adapted and improvised with painters blue tape, scotch tape and of course the all-American duct tape to keep their tablecloths and displays from taking flight! The temperature was on the mild side early in the morning with the sky very overcast and cloudy, but it turned into a wonderful and beautiful Carolina blue sky with the temperature reaching around 78 degrees by 2:30 p.m.



There were six entries in the catfish stew cook-off with four making a red or tomato base and two entries with the white or milk base. Without any real effort I got around to sampling about all the catfish stews, and one entry had enough Texas Pete incorporated and/or jalapeno pepper to be a hazard

to the local forestry service since it would about self combust without any oxygen present. To reiterate what I said about the Hatcher Park last year, my hat is off to the Town of Lilesville's maintenance staff for doing such an outstanding job keeping the park well maintained in top notch shape.

Pictured here is First Place Overall winner Ben Smith (center) of Lilesville. Ben, who won \$250, has won the Overall Catfish Cook-Off competition three years in a row. Lilesville Mayor Richard Harrington (right) presented the cash awards. Courtesy Bill aka Mickey Porter

Ordinance Before County Commissioners Would Ban Fracking in Anson County for 5 Years

Anson County's Board of Commissioners were expected to vote on an ordinance to ban fracking in Anson County for a period of five years at their meeting that took place Tuesday, April 2. (This meeting took place after The Express went to press.) County Attorney Scott Forbes expected the ordinance to pass.

The five year ban would offer time for county officials to learn more about fracking which will help them to determine the potential danger of this controversial procedure. After the five year ban, a permit from Anson County will be necessary for drilling.

Fracking, also known as induced hydraulic fracturing or hydrofracking, is a process to extract petroleum or natural gas from rock layers. Deposits of gas are located deep down in shale layers and are not accessible by drilling. Fracking involves pumping water and sand at extremely high pressure down into the shale layer, and blasting the rock into small pieces to release the gas. The wastewater (flowback) is pumped back out and stored in large tanks. The released gas is no longer trapped in the rock and can be pumped out. The water is usually mixed with sand or small particles of ceramic which functions to keep the fractures open. Various types of chemical additives are also used.

Opponents of fracking say it causes severe environmental damage, pollution of groundwater and air, and presents a risk to human health. Proponents of fracking maintain it is safe and is a good method to extract large amounts of gas which would otherwise be inaccessible.

The State of North Carolina appears poised to allow fracking in the state, and Anson County may be the first county to go against the tide by enacting the ban. In February the state Senate passed a bill to allow fracking as soon as 2015. The bill has not yet passed in the House.

Geologists think most of the fracking in North Carolina will take place in the Dan River Basin, which runs through Anson County and central North Carolina. It has been estimated that there is enough natural gas contained in the basin to meet North Carolina's demand for at least five years.

Free Income Tax Assistance Available

Circles of Hope and Parsons Grove Missionary Baptist Church are offering free income tax preparation assistance to individuals who earned less than \$51,000 in 2012. All returns are prepared by Internal Revenue Service certified volunteers. The service is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3 to 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro, and Tuesdays at Parsons Grove, from 3 to 7 p.m.

Please call Brenda Bennett to schedule an appointment, 704-294-3655. This service is being offered until April 15, 2013.

What to bring: 1) Photo ID; 2) Social Security Cards & birth dates for you, spouse & all dependents listed on return; 3) Wage & earnings statements; 4) All itemized deductions; 5) Payment info for child & dependent care, including provider ID or Social Security number; 6) Qualified expense document (1098-T) for education tax credits; 7) Prior year tax return; 8) If filing jointly, both spouses must sign. Schedule C-EZ and Schedule C will be prepared (limited to \$5,000 expenses) and must meet the VITA income requirement.

You may be eligible for up to \$6,000 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Storytime at the Library

Every Tuesday the public is invited to enjoy storytime at the Hampton B. Allen Library. The program begins at 10 a.m. More information is available by calling 704-694-5177.

50+ Club Meeting Features Musical Program

The Hampton B. Allen Library's 50+ Club will meet on Monday, April 8 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Pam Thomas and her daughter Erin will be presenting a musical program of piano and vocals. Everyone is invited to attend this special program.

For more information please call 704-694-5177.

Women's League Meets April 9

The Anson Women's League will meet on Tuesday, April 9, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Twin Valley Country Club. A representative from the Department of Energy will present a program on fracking.

Lunch is \$8.50 and is paid at the event. Any woman who lives or works in Anson County is invited to attend. If you would like to attend please RSVP by Thursday, April 4 before 5 p.m. to Angela Smith at ansonwomensleague@gmail.com.

Upcoming Anson County Board of Education Meetings:

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a Budget Workshop followed by the regular monthly board meeting on Monday, April 22 at 4 p.m. in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center.

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, April 23 at 3 p.m. in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center followed by the Joint Meeting with Anson County Commissioners at 6 p.m. at the Grace Senior Center in Wadesboro.

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