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John Witherspoon, Wadesboro Town Manager, Resigns at Council Meeting

During the Wadesboro City Council Meeting held on Monday, June 4, Town Manager Mr. John Witherspoon resigned the position he has held for nearly nine years. In a telephone interview with Witherspoon he advised that the word retirement was closer to the truth. "I loved working here and feel we did a lot of good things," stated Witherspoon. "Those involved in Wadesboro town government are excellent public servants," he expressed with sincere appreciation to those he has worked alongside. Witherspoon's resignation comes during an ongoing disagreement between the Town of Wadesboro and the Anson County Arts Council over grant funds. *By Melanie Lyon*

Gunshots Fired in Uptown Wadesboro

On Monday evening, June 4th several Wadesboro citizens made calls to the Anson 911 Emergency Communications after gunshots were fired at a rental house located on West Morgan Street near Rutherford Street. The house, a known trouble spot with the Wadesboro Police Department, had been the scene of a loud and boisterous party for much of the day and late into the evening on Monday. At about 10:20 p.m. the four gunshots were fired off in rapid succession. Two patrol units from the Wadesboro Police responded immediately, but found that the crowd had dispersed. There was no sign of activity at the house upon their arrival. There were no reports of injury or property damage. No arrests were made. Later, about 11:15 p.m. that same evening, several people gathered at the location again, and it was reported that an argument commenced. The commotion lasted until after midnight and was so loud that a resident of West Wade Street, a block away, reported hearing the noise. That resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "Basically it sounded like a group of obnoxious, inconsiderate people who have no regard for their neighbors and the peace of the neighborhood." She added, "Regrettably we hear blaring music and loud lewd language coming from there often." The same house was the scene of a drive by shooting several years ago. The Wadesboro Police Department has been dispatched to the location numerous times.

Anson High School Athletic Banquet and Awards Night

The Anson High School Athletic Banquet and Awards Night was a time for many young athletes to be recognized for their athletic ability and talent. The night's biggest award winners were: Agnes Wall Award-Neil Huntley and Devin Smith; Newkirk Award-Diondre Pratt and Kailee Cole; Lightning Gaddy-Jaquan Bullock and Keyara McKnight; and Coaches Award-Brad Hayes and Jill Murray.

- Wrestling: MVP-Brandon Smith; George Gaddy Award-Jaquan Bullock; Most Improved-Vern Rorie; and Bearcat-Terrence Dumas.
- Varsity Softball: MVP-Taylor Bates; Most Improved-Kailee Cole and Mallory Gathings; Bearcat-Devin Smith and Elizabeth Tarlton.
- JV Softball: MVP-Katelyn Howell and Bearcat-Janica Horne.
- Boys Soccer: MVP-Martin Alonzo; Bearcat-Aaron Parker; Most Improved-Seth Ricketts.
- Girls Soccer: Bearcat-Mcalah High, Sirina Ingo and Catlyn Jackson.
- JV Cheerleading: MVC-Aaleyah Robinson; Bearcat Spirit-Jasmine Taylor.
- Varsity Volleyball: MVP-Kailee Cole and Devin Smith; Bearcat-Elizabeth Tarlton; Most Improved-Carey Maner.
- JV Volleyball: MVP-Abbey Hutchinson; Bearcat-Tracey Brewer.
- JV Baseball: MVP-Scott Kendall; Bearcat-Grant Harward.
- Varsity Baseball: MVP-Dylan Dowdy; Highest Batting Average-Dylan Dowdy; Bearcat-Jordan Tarlton, Luke Turner; Most Improved-Quatavious Allen; David Poe Memorial Award-Seth Gullede
- Varsity Cheerleading: MVP-Kristin Little; Bearcat-Jamonica Smith; Most Improved-Latavia Robinson.

Congratulations to each award winner on their fine accomplishments during the 2011-2012 athletic seasons. *By Melanie Lyon*

SPCC Selected for Humanities Project

South Piedmont Community College has been selected to participate in the Community College Humanities Association's "Advancing Humanities: A National Endowment for the Humanities Bridging Cultures Project." SPCC was one of 18 community colleges, and the only one from North Carolina, selected from among 70 applications from 30 states. The purpose of the project is to advance cultural and civic understanding in introductory humanities courses. The 18 colleges will receive day-to-day guidance from humanities scholars and experienced community college humanities mentors as they strengthen their curriculums and engage in faculty development and scholarship in one of five disciplines: literature, history, philosophy, religion or civic engagement. SPCC will participate in literature. Its three-person team will consist of Dean of Arts and Sciences Valerie Jones and English Instructors Sherri Breitigan and Tammy Frailly. The project will pay travel expenses for two of the team members to attend the National Bridging Cultures Conference on Sept. 27-29 in Washington, D.C., and for one to attend the same conference in December 2013 at a location yet to be determined. The project will provide stipends for Breitigan and Frailly to pursue project tasks and independent scholarship to strengthen preparation and enrich their teaching. At the conference in September, SPCC's team will work with mentors and scholars there to begin developing a plan to advance cultural understanding toward building a community and begin developing an action plan for implementation during the project's 18-month period. The impetus for SPCC to apply for the program was a course that will be new at SPCC next spring. English 262 (World Literature II) will introduce selected works from the Pacific, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas from the 18th century to the present. Many of these are works that SPCC instructors have not taught before and the college wanted to ensure that faculty could help its students - many of whom have had little exposure to diverse religions, socioeconomic classes and ethnicities - gain an appreciation for the importance of intercultural understanding. This will also benefit many of these students who later transfer to four-year universities and move farther out of their comfort zones.

Team Wins Field Of Dreams Regular Season, Tournament Championships



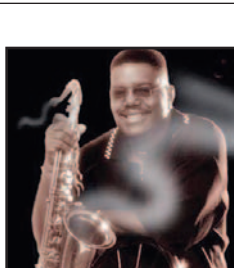
The AAYA 10-U regular pitch champions are pictured front, from left: Brayden Hill, Craisen Martin, Zach High, Cameron Lockhart and Jake Thomas. Second row: Austin Burns, Kameron Rorie, Rnez Little, Rnik Little, Trace Ricketts and Garrett Sikes. Back row: Coaches Tony Ricketts, Charlie Lockhart and Nathan High.

McCollum Trucking, Field of Dreams AAYA 10-U regular pitch baseball team won both the In-Field Regular Season Championship and the end of the year Tournament Championship. During the Field of Dreams closing ceremonies on Monday night the team received their regular season trophies. On Sunday, June 3, the team received trophies for winning the tournament. In the tournament McCollum Trucking played back-to-back games on Saturday, defeating Anson's Southern Fabricators, 4-1 and Prospect Pirates 12-3. In the championship game they would face the Prospect Heat and enjoyed a 6-4 win for the championship title. Coach Charlie Lockhart said, "I've coached a lot of ball and

a lot of teams, but this team came together and just jelled right from the start. They played as a team and not as individuals and I'm proud of these guys." Coach Tony Ricketts added, "That's why there are no names on their backs because it was all about the team and not just one player." The coaches will begin practice for All Stars right away and the players will be comprised of the best players from all Anson teams. The All Stars would appreciate any support you can give toward uniform and travel expenses. If you would like to make a donation, please call 704-475-2667 or email tthuleen8@yahoo.com. *By Melanie Lyon*

Annual Butterfly Count at Wildlife Refuge this Saturday

For those of you who are curious about the colorful butterflies that can be seen fluttering about the fields, yards and roadsides in North and South Carolina, you are invited to attend a butterfly count this Saturday, June 9 to help document the quantity of species at the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge in Anson County. These mid-summer annual counts are submitted to the North American Butterfly Association as part of a volunteer effort to survey the abundance of butterfly species around the country. Beginners and nature watching enthusiasts are welcome to join in to help spot butterflies and learn to identify their species. Please bring binoculars if you have them, along with a bag lunch, insect repellent and sun protection. Participants will be driving around the Refuge, and walking on the Refuge roads and fields. Please meet at the parking lot by the restrooms near the Refuge office at 9:30 a.m. The counting will take place until early afternoon. The Refuge is located on Highway 52, approximately seven miles north of Wadesboro, on the right. For more information please call the Refuge office on weekdays at 704-694-4424.



Jazz Concert at Ansonia Theatre

Get ready to enjoy a smooth evening out as HOLLA! and Super Bee Productions present a Smooth Jazz concert featuring jazz saxophonist Stanley Baird this Saturday, June 9. Stanley Baird is a renowned jazz musician. He has played alongside the likes of Gladys Knight, Kirk Whalum, Patti LaBelle, Najee, Richard Elliott and Donald Byrd to name a few. He is currently gearing up for a world tour in support of the new Saxony release Traffic Jam. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7 at the Ansonia Theatre on South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The \$20 donation can be paid at the door or purchased in advance by calling 704-851-3228.

Fishing Platform at Blewett Falls Public Fishing Area Closed Temporarily

The fishing platform at the Blewett Falls Reservoir public fishing area closed on June 4 and remain closed through 4 p.m. on June 8. The platform will reopen at 4 p.m. that Friday for fishing over the weekend, but will be closed again from 7 a.m. on June 11 through 4 p.m. on June 15. Progress Energy will be performing required maintenance on the dam during this closure. While the platform is closed anglers can fish from the bank below the parking area. Alternately, anglers can visit the Commission's public fishing areas at Arrowhead Lake and Sullivan's Pond located on the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, or a number of public fishing areas near Hoffman. A list of all areas available for public fishing can be found on the Commission's Where to Fish webpage. For general information on fishing in public, inland waters, visit www.ncwildlife.org/fishing.

On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive Campaign

The "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" safety campaign saw fewer alcohol-related boating arrests and accidents during Memorial Day weekend than the same holiday period last year. The 2011 Memorial Day weekend saw 50 operating-while-impaired arrests, compared to 42 this Memorial Day weekend. Total boating violations also were down, 1,568 in 2011 versus 1,176. "That makes it a success," said Wildlife Officer Kim Knight, with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "When people hear the message and heed it, whether at the wheel of a car or at the helm of a boat, it keeps all of us safer when we travel." Any driver with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08 or is appreciably impaired by alcohol and/or drugs is subject to arrest in North Carolina. The "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign combines law enforcement resources to increase awareness of the dangerous consequences of impaired operation. Leading the campaign are the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, responsible for enforcing boating regulations; the State Highway Patrol, providing for highway safety; and the Alcohol Law Enforcement division, enforcing "Be 21!" underage drinking laws. The campaign is joined by local police and sheriff's departments and supported by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. "There is still much to be done to reduce North Carolina's alcohol-related injuries and fatalities," Knight said. "But this weekend's statewide waterway patrol results are encouraging." There are more than 200 sworn, full-time wildlife officers across the state who patrol 5,000 square miles of inland streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waterways and instruct certified boating safety education courses. The public can assist them by reporting boating violations to 1-800-662-7137. Memorial Day weekend citation totals:

- Wildlife Resources Commission: Operating While Impaired - 42; Careless and Negligent Operation - 8; Other Boat Violations - 343; Other Boat Warnings - 783. Total: 1,176
- State Highway Patrol: Driving While Impaired - 328; Provisional License Violation - 35; Other Implied Consent Violation - 91; Drug Violations - 12; Drug Paraphernalia - 7; Seatbelt Violations - 1,869; Child Restraint Violations - 206; Equipment Violations - 706; Driver License Violations - 1,301; Registration Violations - 1,253; Other Violations - 3,806. Total: 9,614

Wildlife officers routinely stop vessels for safety checks or violations. The goal of this enforcement is always safety. For more information on recreational boating in North Carolina visit www.ncwildlife.org/Boating.aspx.

Early Dismissal Times for Anson Schools

Anson County Schools will have early dismissal for students on Thursday, June 7.

- Wadesboro Primary School and Wadesboro Elementary School dismiss at 12:30 p.m.
- Ansonville, Lilesville, Morven and Peachland-Polkton Elementary Schools will dismiss at 1 p.m.
- Anson Middle, Anson High, Anson New Tech & Anson Early College dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

Toys for Tots Kick-Off

The Toys For Tots Kick-Off will be held at Harris Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Morven at 2:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Jerry Tyson of Flat Rock Missionary Baptist Church in Wadesboro. Each business and church is asked to send a representative. For more information please contact Dr. Bernice Bennett at 704-694-6616, Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Jennifer Tarlton at 704-694-3115.

Joint Meeting of Commissioners, School Board

There will be a joint meeting of the Anson County Commissioners and the Board of Education on Monday, June 11. The meeting will take place in the boardroom located on the second floor of the Government Center at 6 p.m.

Free Groceries!

The Mobile Food Pantry is coming to the Ansonville United Methodist Church in Ansonville on Wednesday, June 13 at 10:30 a.m. Please bring bags or carts with you to carry your food. Do not arrive before 9:30 a.m. If it is raining significantly the day of delivery, it will be canceled. If you have not yet done so, you must bring proof of your income. Please note you can no longer pick up food for more than one household.

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