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Town of Wadesboro Announced Water and Sewer Rate Increases

This is a release from the Town of Wadesboro: The Town of Wadesboro announces Water and Sewer Rate Increase Due to Revenue Shortfall from the Wade Mill Business Closure and higher county wholesale rates.

The Town of Wadesboro Utilities Department announced an increase to its water and sewer rates, effective August 30, 2024. This decision is due to several factors, the most significant being the revenue losses stemming from the closure of local businesses, specifically the Wade Mill manufacturing company. Additional financial pressures on the Utilities Department include an Anson County Wholesale rate increase and new debt service related to 3.1 million, 2.5-mile force main water project designed to improve system reliability.

As a community focused utility provider, the town of Wadesboro understands the financial challenges many residents and businesses have faced during these unprecedented times. The impact of these 3 factors, the closure of a major business, the County's rate increase and costs associated with system reliability improvements have affected Utilities Department ability to maintain critical services and infrastructure without replacement revenue.

Key Reason for the Rate Increase:

- **Revenue Shortfall:** The closure or reduced operation of local businesses has led to a \$554,000 or a 20 % drop in water and sewer revenue. With a large portion of the Utility customer base being commercial, these changes have directly influenced the Utility's income, making it challenging to fund basic water and sewer operational and maintenance expenses.

- **County Rate Increase:** The town of Wadesboro contracts with the County for the treatment of sewer and the purchase of water. The County increased its wholesale rates for these services by \$138,000.00 or 11%.

- **Additional Debt Service Associated with Water System Improvements:** The town recently completed a 3.1 million, 2.5-mile force main water project designed to improve system reliability. The town was able to secure a 40-year loan at 2.375% to finance a portion of the costs. The annual debt service is \$85,000.00 or about 3.5% impact on water rates.

- **Maintaining Service Quality:** in order to continue delivering reliable utility services to our customers, we must ensure that our operational and maintenance costs are covered. This rate adjustment will help us sustain the quality of service that our customers expect and deserve.

- **Investment in Infrastructure:** To keep pace with the growing demand on our Utility systems and to ensure safety and efficiency, we must continue investing in the utility infrastructure. This includes upgrades to equipment, technological improvements, and regular maintenance which is critical to providing uninterrupted services.

While the utility strives to keep rates as competitive as possible, the simultaneous challenges presented by these financial impacts unfortunately requires an increase in water rates of 23.875% and sewer rates of 33.425%

We encourage customers to visit the town's website (www.wadesboronc.gov) or contact a customer service representative at 704-694-5171 for further information.

The town of Wadesboro Utilities department appreciates the understanding and support of our community during this challenging period. Together, we can work towards a future where local businesses thrive, and our utility services continue to meet the needs of our residents.

Gold Star Game/Military and First Responders Appreciation Night

The Anson County School District in partnership with WoodmenLife is thrilled to announce a special event dedicated to honoring and recognizing the bravery and dedication of our military service members and first responders. On Friday, September 13, the District will host the Gold Star Football Game during the Varsity Football match, celebrating our local heroes and their families. The evening will be filled with heartfelt tributes and individual recognitions throughout the game, spotlighting the valor and dedication of our honored guests. This special night is a token of our appreciation for the immense contributions of those who serve and protect our community.

The Gold Star Game is an annual tradition where we pay tribute to the extraordinary service and sacrifices made by our military and first responders. This year, we extend our deepest gratitude by offering free admission to all military service members, veterans, and first responders with valid ID. To ensure a convenient and accessible experience, please use the handicap-accessible gate located directly behind the baseball center field.

Additionally, WoodmenLife will host a tailgate party on the highway side of the football stadium for all military and first responders and their families starting at 5:30 p.m. Prior to kick off, WoodmenLife would like to invite all first responders and military to join them on the field as they present the 100 foot American Flag. They would like to encourage all to stay for the game as the Gold Star families will be honored during halftime of the game.

We encourage all members of the community to join us in celebrating these remarkable individuals. Your support and participation will make this event a memorable and impactful tribute to our heroes.

Event Details: Friday, September 13 at 7:30 p.m. Anson High School Stadium Admission is FREE for military service members, veterans, and first responders with ID

Author Event with Michelle Blair and Maggie Cavallaro at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will have an author event featuring local authors Michelle Blair and Maggie Cavallaro Lott on Monday, September 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Pritchett room. The authors will be sharing their writing journeys and information on getting published.

Michelle's book *Turn the Page: a Southern Chick's Memoir* and Maggie's book *The Stones* will be available for purchase. Everyone is invited to come, meet the authors and enjoy the program.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.



Anson High School Volleyball Team Shows Strong Start to the Season

The Anson High School Volleyball Team is off to an impressive start this season, boasting a 7-2 overall record and a solid 3-1 mark in the Rocky River 2A/3A conference. Under the guidance of head coaches Patty Livingston and Lenora Chambers, the Lady Bearcats have demonstrated remarkable skill and determination on the court, positioning themselves as a strong force in their league.

The team's early success can be attributed to a combination of strong teamwork and standout performances from key players. Their impressive record reflects a well-rounded approach to the game, where each match is a testament to their hard work and dedication during practice.

With the season well underway, the Lady Bearcats are focused on maintaining their momentum and building on their strong start. As they continue to navigate the competitive Rocky River conference, the team's sights are set on securing a top position and making a solid run in the playoffs.

The Lady Bearcats' next game is Thursday, September 12 at Montgomery Central High School. JV plays at 4:30 p.m. and Varsity plays at 6:00 p.m.

The team is currently 7-2 overall and 3-1 in the conference. **7 Wins:** Montgomery Central (3-1), South Stanly (3-0), Albemarle ((3-0), Forest Hills (3-0), Piedmont (3-1), Central Academy (3-1), and Cheraw (3-0). **2 losses:** North Stanly (0-3) and Parkwood (2-3).

- **Kills Leaders** #1 - Brooklyn Miles - 62, #2 - Eva Hyatt - 39, #3 - Lauren Lomax - 33.
- **Total Blocks Leaders** #1 - Eva Hyatt - 10, #2 - Brooklyn Miles - 5, #3 - Alena Baxter - 3
- **Digs Leaders** #1 - Hannah Austin - 118, #2 - Allie Steagall - 75, #3 - Brooklyn Miles - 65
- **Assists Leaders** #1 - Allie Steagall - 162, #2 - Hannah Austin - 23, #3 - Sophia Yang - 8



A Night to Remember: Bearcats Celebrate Coach Allen's First Victory

During the Friday, September 6 Varsity Bearcat Football Game against North Rowan High School, the Bearcats delivered a spectacular performance, marking Coach Landon Allen's first win as head coach with a strong statement and a score of 44-15. The game was a testament that success is built on a foundation of attention to detail, as the Bearcats exhibited a flawless display of teamwork and execution.

From the opening whistle it was clear that Coach Allen and his staff's influence were making an impact. The team executed a game plan that emphasized doing the little things right. The Bearcats played with precision and discipline, recording no turnovers and committing only one penalty. This level of control and focus is often the sign of a well-coached team, and it was evident that Coach Allen's emphasis on fundamentals was paying off.

The running game was the centerpiece of the Bearcats' offensive game. The trio of Jazear Griffin, Kendrick Maye and Dallas Lilly combined for an astonishing 472 yards rushing. Griffin was a standout performer, bulldozing through the opposition with three touchdowns to his name. Not to be outdone, Maye made a significant impact, scoring four touchdowns and showcasing his ability to find the end zone from anywhere on the field. Lilly's contributions were equally crucial, providing a consistent and powerful presence in the backfield.

Crucial to the success of the run game was the steady management of the offense by quarterback Dock Hyatt. Hyatt played a key role in ensuring the smooth execution of the running plays. He was 3-of-5 passing for 72 yards, which was enough to open up the lanes for his running backs. His ability to manage the game effectively and make timely throws when needed kept the offense in rhythm and allowed the running game to flourish.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Bearcats' performance was equally impressive. The defensive unit, led by Dequan McKeever, Daron Harrington, Aiden Purser, Tasean Harris and Lawson Treadaway, was relentless. They amassed a considerable number of tackles, showcasing their tenacity and discipline. The defense's ability to stop the opponent's offense and maintain pressure throughout the game was a key factor in securing the victory.

Coach Allen's first win as head coach is not just a personal milestone but a collective triumph for the team. The game was a showcase of how effective game management and a focus on fundamentals can lead to success. Coach Allen's philosophy of focusing on the simple things – such as minimizing mistakes and maximizing efficiency – was clearly evident in the Bearcats' performance.

As the team celebrates this well-earned victory, Coach Allen remains focused on the future. His aim is to build on this momentum and continue instilling the values that led to this win. The emphasis on doing the little things right, maintaining discipline, and playing as a cohesive unit will be central to the Bearcats' approach going forward.

The Bearcats play at home on Friday, September 13 against Albemarle High School. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Photo courtesy of Jacqui Smith Watson

State Lottery Commission Releases August Sports Betting Revenue Report

The North Carolina State Lottery Commission on Monday released its sports betting revenue report for August. The report compiles the sports betting revenue for the month of August as submitted by the eight licensed interactive sports betting operators.

Between Aug. 1 and Aug. 31, account holders in North Carolina bet \$370,484,774 on sports events, including paid wagering revenue and promotional wagering revenue. From those bets, account holders won \$333,707,885.

State law levies an 18 percent tax on the gross wagering revenue generated by sports betting activity. Gross wagering revenue is a total of amounts received from sports wagers less the amounts paid as winnings before any deductions for expenses, fees, or taxes.

In August, the gross wagering revenue was \$33,751,015. After the 18 percent tax rate is applied, the estimated tax proceeds for the month would be \$6,075,183.

The N.C. Department of Revenue is responsible for collecting the tax proceeds from sports betting revenue.

The August revenue report is available on the Commission's website at: ncgaming.gov/about/reports.

NAACP Meets September 23

The Anson Branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) will be held on Monday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. They welcome you to come. "Each one reach one."

For more information contact Anson NAACP President Sinic Marsh at mrs6@yahoo.com or 704-254-0630.