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South Piedmont Now Offering Spanish Interpreter Program

South Piedmont Community College is now offering a Spanish Interpreter program, an ideal choice for anyone interested in languages and helping others. It is the only program of its kind in western North Carolina.

"Spanish interpreters are in high demand across a variety of settings, from schools to hospitals. Whether they're assisting parents in enrolling their children in school or communicating life-saving information, Spanish interpreters bridge the communication gap between English and Spanish speakers — and make a meaningful difference for both sides of the conversation," said Program Lead Natalie Korda.


South Piedmont's Spanish Interpreter program was created as a direct response to the increasing number of Spanish speakers in our community as well as a surge of student interest in the career.

Students in the program will learn about the basics of being a community Spanish interpreter, including the career outlook, cultural and linguistic understanding and competency, ethics and specialized terminology. They will take part in role-play and service-learning activities, while assessing and developing their own bilingual interpreting skills.

"We're providing a comprehensive program focused on real-world interpreting skills. Students will receive a rigorous Spanish interpreter education, complete with real-world, service-learning experiences. They will feel more than prepared for the next steps after leaving this program," Korda said.


South Piedmont is offering certificate, diploma and degree options in Spanish interpreting, ranging from two semesters to two years. Options are also available for high schools students.

Learn more at spcc.edu/areas-of-study/business/spanish-interpreter.



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S.TONEY LAW, PLLC

Grace Senior Center to Host a Volunteer Fair

Would you be interested in helping Anson senior citizens?

This is a release from Grace Senior Center: Calling all retirees, county employees, churches, civic groups, and local providers. Anson County Council on Aging Grace Senior Center provides a wonderful program for seniors 60 years of age and older who have mental and/or physical disabilities which make them homebound and unable to prepare their own meals. Our agency provides a hot, well-balanced, home-delivered meal to those seniors who qualify.

To keep this wonderful program going our agency needs volunteers like you. If you want to make a difference and see the joy you bring to our seniors in the county, please join us at Grace Senior Center on Tuesday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for our Volunteer Fair.

The Fair will consist of talking with the nutrition program supervisor to learn about how our program operates and the benefits of becoming a volunteer, the areas we serve, how often we serve, the area you want to deliver to, the days, and how often you want to deliver.

We want you to understand how important you are to our agency, but, most importantly, how important you are to our seniors.

For more information you can contact Mary Lindsey-Jones, ACCOA Nutrition Program Supervisor at Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

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State Lottery Commission Releases March Sports Wagering Activity Report

The North Carolina State Lottery Commission on Tuesday, April 16 released its first monthly sports wagering activity report. The report compiles the sports wagering activity in March as submitted by the eight licensed interactive sports wagering operators.

Between the start of sports wagering in North Carolina at noon on March 11 through March 31, North Carolinians wagered \$659,308,541 on sports events, including paid wagering revenue and promo wagering revenue. From those wagers, North Carolinians won \$590,750,303.

State law places an 18 percent tax on the gross wagering revenue generated by sports wagering 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 March, the gross wagering revenue was \$66,496,213.

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

The March activity report is available at ncgaming.gov/about/reports.



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\$6.2 Million in Funding Available Through NCDA&CS to Bolster the Food Supply Chain

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is offering \$6.2 million in funding through a new grant program geared toward small agribusinesses and designed to strengthen the middle of the food supply chain.

Grants of up to \$100,000 for equipment only purchases and up to \$2 million for infrastructure projects will be available through a competitive application process. These grants will better position produce, dairy products, eggs, aquaculture and value-added products produced in our state to improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency including additional opportunities for profitability.

Grants distributed through this program will fund projects that expand capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distribution of targeted agricultural products. Applications for the program will be accepted May 1 through June 15.

"Over the past three years, North Carolina has been able to successfully capitalize on funding to strengthen our food supply through a pioneering series of grants that have increased local production and processing capacity for meat and seafood. This program will expand on that mission," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

"Consumers saw the importance of local food production during the pandemic when supply chain challenges disrupted the availability of some products. So, strengthening our food supply chain will greatly benefit consumers and producers long-term. We'll be better prepared for the future."

Funding for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program comes through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service and is authorized by the American Rescue Plan.

A series of information sessions about the program are being planned and dates and locations will be posted on the NCDA&CS website at ncagr.gov. More program details and the application form can also be found at the RFSI Grants site: ncagr.gov/divisions/small-farms/grants/rfsi.

UNAUTHORIZED HYDRANT USE



The use of Anson County Water Department fire hydrants for obtaining water for agricultural or any other purpose without written consent of the Anson County Water Department is a violation of state and federal law.

Hydrants are for use by written-permitted users, water company or fire department personnel only.

The Anson County Water Department will take legal action against any individual or business that unlawfully obtains water from the Anson County water system. **PLEASE REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** to the

- Anson County Sheriff's Office 704-694-4188, or the
- Anson County Water Department 704-694-5208.

Hydrant use permit information is available from the Anson County Water Department. Information is available at 704-694-5208.

Ignore Phony Banking Texts and Phone Calls

"Attention. Fraudulent activity has been detected on your account. Act Now." Should you? Banks nationwide have reported these types of scam calls and text messages to their customers nationwide. In many of these cases, these alleged messages claim to be from the individual's actual financial institution, causing people to panic. Then, they believe their bank account is in jeopardy and they need to correct the problem immediately. Little do they know, the ploy to get personal information is just beginning.

In another version, the text implies that changes have been made to the account, like a phone number, email or password, and to call a number "if you did not make this request."

Scammers urge consumers via text message or voicemail to call an unfamiliar phone number provided or send a fake link to login to their online account. If called, thieves request that consumers repeat back personal bank information, such as account number, PIN number or even social security number to verify their identity. In some cases, the scammers already know the account number, which lends a false sense of trust.

In both cases, people are falsely believing their accounts have already been compromised.

How the scam works: You receive a text message or phone call from a bank, alerting you to a hold, fraudulent activity, or an update to a financial account. Take a close look at the message, you may or may not have an account at that bank. The scammer may even know your account number.

The scammers use a variety of messages and techniques, but the desired outcome is the same. Scammers will use the opportunity to obtain your banking information. For example, a website may prompt for an ATM card number and PIN under the guise of "reactivating your ATM card." Other times, the link may download malicious software that gives scammers access to anything on the phone. A scammer on the phone may demand personal information such as your social security number.

What can I do? Verify that there is an issue. If you get a call or text message from your bank, claiming your account has been compromised, hang up and call back. Find your bank's phone number online or on a statement to ensure you're calling the bank and not a scammer.

- Never give personal information to unsolicited callers. Regardless if your bank, cable provider or utility company calls your home, never give your personal information to "verify" your identity. If it doesn't seem right, hang up and call the company back at the number you know is right.
- Be cautious of links sent via text. The link could be a look-a-like site, mimicking the consumer's online banking portal. After entering the login information, the scammers then have access to your accounts online. Check the URL or visit your bank's website from another source—not by clicking through a link sent via text.
- Ignore instructions to text "STOP" or "NO" to prevent future texts. This is a common ploy by scammers to confirm they have a real, active phone number.
- If you think your text message is real, be sure it's directing to a web address like "yourbank.com" not "yourbank.otherwebsite.com."
- Call the bank or check out their website.