Homeowners Should Prepare for Bat Roosting Season

Wildlife officials say to check for bats before May 1

If you suspect bats may be living in your home, biologists at the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission ask that you relocate them responsibly before pup rearing season begins on May 1. Bat scat, called guano, is the most obvious indication that bats may be living in the gable vents, behind a shutter or in another nook around the outside or inside your home. If they're getting inside, a licensed Wildlife Control Agent can safely evict them for you. You can find a list of licensed professionals on the Wildlife Commission website, ncwildlife.org.

Bats hibernate or migrate south during the winter, which is why you may only start to see them now. They are ecologically and economically valuable, providing free pest control as they nearly devour their own body weight in insects nightly. Their appetite increases even more during pup-rearing season, which runs May 1 – July 31 across North Carolina.

"Eviction methods rely on a bat's ability to fly out of the roost, then measures are taken to prevent reentry. Young bats are initially flightless and are totally dependent on their mothers, so when adult bats are evicted, the young perish because they can't yet leave the roost or survive on their own. To make matters worse, mother bats may end up in the living space of a building trying to seek alternate ways to get to their pups. By August 1, young bats are mature enough to fly, so eviction methods are safe to resume at that point," stated Katherine Etchison, wildlife diversity biologist with the Wildlife Commission.

If you are unable to remove bats from your home before rearing season, it is best to leave them in their roost until the end of July. However, you can still ask a Wildlife Control Agent to seal off entryways that lead into your living space to minimize the chance of human interaction. If a bat does enter your living space and human exposure occurs, or might have occurred, contact your county health department immediately.

Bats return to the same roost each spring, so it's important to maintain your home after evicting them. You can provide alternative roosting space by installing bat boxes 12 to 20 feet high in a place with at least seven hours of direct sunlight in the summer. For tips on building, buying or installing bat boxes, visit: batcon.org/about-bats/bat-houses.

If you have questions about interactions with bats, contact the Commission's NC Wildlife Helpline, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., at 866-318-2401 or email HWI@ncwildlife.org.



Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 6 pm

Saturday 9 am - 12 pm 102 South Rutherford Street • Wadesboro, NC

704-694-6342

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.

source: energy.gov



Cotton Referendum Vote on March 31

North Carolina cotton growers will vote March on whether to continue a checkoff program that supports their industry. The referendum would authorize an assessment of up to \$1.20 per bale of cotton, however, the North Carolina Cotton Producers Association Board of Directors plans to continue the assessment at the current rate \$1 per bale. If approved the assessment would be in effect for another six years.

The checkoff program supports improvements cotton production, marketing and research, and also promotes the general interests of North

All North Carolina cotton producers who planted the crop in 2021 are eligible to vote in the referendum their countv Cooperative office Extension March 31. Polling hours will be from 9 a.m. to

If the referendum is approved, the assessment nonprofit

4 p.m.

Carolina's cotton industry.

would continue to be collected by the gin and sent to the N.C. Cotton Producers Association, a organization based in Nashville.

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Program

At Morning Star Redeemed Church of God in Lilesville, 1pm with Pastor Jakeem Bowman of New Life Church in Bennetsville, SC **ONGOING**

In Home Prayer

Meetings Offered by Life Ministries Pentecostal. Call Pastor Randy Brooks 704-690-4900 or Sister Linda Mitchell 704-270-4071

Bible Study

At Christ Chapel of Truth on Hwy 74E in Wades

Bible Study

Every Wednesday at Poplar Springs MBC, 6-7pm

Events

MARCH 25 **BBQ** Fundraiser Anson County Violence Domestic Coalition, 10am-5pm at Calvary Episcopal Church, 304 E. Wade St. in Wadesboro. Take-out & deliveries only. Call in 704-694-4499 or fax 704-694-4515. Sandwiches \$5, pints \$12, quarts \$22, plates include bbq, slaw, baked beans, roll & dessert. **MARCH 26**

Vaccination Clinic Free for dogs & cats, 9am-12 noon at the Anson Animal Shelter. Free microchips will be available (2 per household - \$5 for additional chips). Info & questions call 704-994-2738 or email mlett@ansoncountync.gov. **Operation Medicine**

Drop at Food Lion parking lot, 9am-12 noon. Bring your unused or expired prescription & over-the-

counter medicines for safe disposal. Info LeAnn Melton 704-694-4036. **MARCH 28**

Board of Education Regular Meeting to be livestreamed on YouTube, Closed Session 4pm, Open Session 5:30pm. View at Anson County School's YouTube page. (Search YouTube for Anson County Schools.) Meeting takes place in Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. Masks required. For public comment sign up in-person. Sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting.

APRIL 2

In support of Anna Hammonds Gillespie Fundraiser: Walk for MS (Multiple Sclerosis) 8am to 1pm at 13015 Hwy 742 North, Polkton, in the Burnsville Community. Clothing. furniture, toys & much more! Baked goods. Would you like to donate items or funds? Please contact Olivia Edwards 704-826-6212 or godwinsbs1@yahoo.com.

<u>APRIL 11 - MAY 4</u> A Matter of Balance

Free class to reduce the fear of falling & increase activity levels of older adults. Mondays & Wednesdays, 2-4pm at Grace Senior Center. Info & register 704-694-6616

ONGOING EVENTS

Free Food Distribution at Feed My Lambs every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 1-4pm. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820

Kesler Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church Selects Woman of the Year 2022

This is a release from Kesler Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church: Kesler Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church proudly salutes and congratulates Dr. Takeda LeGrand as their 2022 Woman of the Year. Each year a woman at Kesler Chapel is selected and voted on by the women of the church as the Woman of the Year. This individual is usually someone who has worked tirelessly in a variety of ways in support of the church's ministries. This year, Dr. LeGrand's outstanding commitment, faithfulness, and selfless devotion to her church make her a most suitable candidate for this recognition. Dr. LeGrand is an active member of Kesler Chapel. She has served as the Director of the Christian Education Department, Assistant Class Leader, Youth Choir, Youth Delegate, Children's Hour Leader, Usher Parish Nurse Ministry, and Co-Chair of the 140th Anniversary Committee. She is also a member of



the Stewardess Board and Woman's Home and Overseas Missionary The theme for the Woman's Day program was "Godly Women: 50 Years of Healing

and Hoping!" The program was held on Sunday, March 13 at Kesler Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church, which is located at 708 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. Minister Barbara Thomas of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church of Wadesboro was the speaker for the program. Minister Thomas has been employed as a Deputy Clerk for the Superior Court system of Anson County since 2008 and became Assistant Deputy Clerk on December 2018. She became a licensed minister on August 30, 2015. Thomas is married to the Honorable Judge, Deacon Weaver Thomas and they are the parents of four, and she is grandmother of eight children.

Dr. LeGrand is a professional educator with over eighteen years of experience in education at the classroom, building, district, and State levels. She holds a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Gardner-Webb University, an Executive Juris Doctorate in School Law from Concord Law School at Purdue University Global, a Master of Arts in Teaching from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and a Bachelor of Science in Health Education from the

University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Currently, Dr. LeGrand serves as the Superintendent for Scotland County Public Schools, as an Adjunct Professor of Education, and as Contributing Editor for the Journal of the Alliance of Black School Educators. Upon starting her tenure at Scotland

County Schools, she became the first African-American female to serve in the post. She was formerly the Chief Operations Officer at Diversified Comprehensive Solutions (DCS), LLC. an education development focused company that she co-founded in 2013. Dr. LeGrand is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Dr. LeGrand is the daughter of Pamela Knotts Rorie and Roger Rorie, Sr., and the late Horace Huntley, Jr. (Madie). She is the proud wife of Mr. Thomas LeGrand, Jr., an Anson County native and Town Commissioner for the Town of Wingate,

and mother of Trinity, a Junior Biology/Pre-Med major at Wingate University and Taylor, a 5th grader at Fairview Elementary. Dr. LeGrand is a lifelong member of Kesler Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church where her Pastor is Reverend Rodney O. Moore. Her favorite Scripture is Isaiah 26:3: "Thou wilt

Rocky Carpenter keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee."