



Pi Day at Lilesville Elementary School

Sixth grade students at Lilesville Elementary School enjoyed two full days of math lessons surrounding the mathematical term "pi" in March. Using literature, videos and hand-on activities, students discovered that "pi" is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, always calculating to be approximately 3.14. After realizing that mathematicians have never been able to terminate the exact true

answer of "pi," the students began creating a chain that represented the first digits of "pi." Each piece of the chain was color coordinated to a specific number. The students hoped to create the first one million digits of "pi" with this chain, but had to stop due to time. "pi" Day 2015 was especially unique because the first ten digits of "pi," 3.141592653, represented the date and times this year of 3/14/15 at 9:26:53am and 9:26:53pm. This will not occur again for one hundred years!

The Lilesville Elementary School sixth graders are pictured holding their color coordinated paper chain representing the first digits of "pi."

Blood Drive is April 29

There will be a Blood Drive held on Wednesday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at South Piedmont Community College in Polkton. There are free t-shirts for all donors. Please note CBCC's minimum weight

requirement for blood donors is 120 pounds. For blood donations made in March and April, the Community Blood Center will make a contribution to the Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte to help provide free night stays for out-of-town families with children in the hospital. More public drives can be found at Community Blood Center of the Carolinas' website www.cbcc.us. CBCC has donation centers in Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia, Hickory, and Greensboro. Call 704-972-4700 or go to www.carolinadonor.org to make an appointment at any location.

Warm Weather Brings Black Bear Sightings and Advisories

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission advises that black bear sightings will become more common across the state as weather becomes warmer. While black bears are not inherently dangerous and rarely aggressive toward people, the Wildlife Commission advises caution and using common sense to reduce the potential for problems.

If left alone, most transient bears will find their way quickly out of town and back to natural habitat. People are urged not to approach or follow bears, or put themselves between a bear and its possible escape route.

"Seeing a bear passing through a neighborhood can cause a lot of excitement," said Ann May, the Wildlife Commission's extension wildlife biologist. "But folks need to give a bear plenty of room and allow it to move out of the area freely. To prevent a dangerous situation, crowds should not gather nearby."

The Wildlife Commission advises people to not feed bears, whether intentionally or inadvertently. Bears accustomed to feeding on pet food, table scraps, garbage and birdseed can lose their fear of humans resulting in property damage or other more serious problems. Suggested ways to avoid problems: Use bear-proof garbage cans or trash containers with a secure latching system. • Keep trash inside as late as possible on pick-up days - don't put trash curbside the night before. • Take down birdfeeders, even those advertised as "bear-proof." • If you feed pets outside, make sure all food is consumed and empty bowls are promptly removed.

"It's a good idea to clean food and grease from barbecue grills after each use," May said. "Bears are attracted to food odors, so you don't want to dispose of grease or cooking oil nearby. Be careful with food and food odors in vehicles, as well."

The Wildlife Commission rarely traps and relocates bears. Relocation can be dangerous to personnel and the bear, and generally proves unsuccessful. Relocated bears often return to where they were originally captured. Additionally, there are few remote areas remaining in the state to which bears can be relocated. For more information, go to www.ncwildlife.org/bear or call 919-707-0050.

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