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COMMUNITY MEDICAL, PA OF MARSHVILLE

Community Medical, PA of Marshville and Dr. Gary Henry would like to announce the addition of Brandi Thomas, FNP-C, Family Nurse Practitioner to the practice.

As a Union County native, Brandi looks forward to meeting the healthcare needs of her community. Dr. Henry will continue to serve his community, providing the same quality care he has for over 26 years.

Brandi's background is in primary care, chronic disease management, diabetes management/education, hypertension, long term care and aesthetics. She is a Business Management graduate of Wingate University, and has a Masters in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner from UNCC.

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Dr. Gary Henry



Brandi S. Thomas, FNP-C

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Deer Harvest Report Shows
7.8 Percent Decrease from Previous Season

During the 2016-2017 hunting season, hunters across the state reported harvesting 149,811 deer, a 7.8 percent decrease from the previous season. The amount of deer harvested was 11.2 percent below the 10-year average. The survey showed that harvests declined across all districts, ranging from 1.2 percent in District 9 to 14.1 percent in District 5.

"We expect to see annual variations in harvest for various reasons, including weather, mast crop, disease, hunter effort and hunter selectivity," said Jonathan Shaw, the Commission's deer biologist. "Our mast crop was spotty, but some areas had good mast which can lead to declines in deer movements and a hunter's ability to harvest deer. The largest decline in harvest this year occurred in the northern piedmont area, which saw some scattered hemorrhagic disease activity."

The number of active deer hunters in North Carolina has remained relatively stable, but fluctuations at a local level can impact harvest numbers.

"We tend to focus on trends rather than annual variations," said Shaw. "We have observed declining trends in harvest and deer numbers in some parts of the state."

- Causes for deer declines:
- Hunter harvest - Doe harvest opportunities have increased over the years, which could lead to declines in deer numbers.
 - Disease - Outbreaks of hemorrhagic disease have contributed to declines in some areas, and significant outbreaks occurred in 2012 in Districts 7 and 8, and in 2014, primarily in District 3. Hemorrhagic disease, which is transmitted by gnats and midges, is a common virus that occurs in deer in the southeastern United States.
 - Habitat - The quality of habitat may be in decline due to land use practices, including development and increased efficiency in land management, such as farming and forestry practices.
 - Predators - Coyotes and other predators have increased in numbers over the last two decades. They can have significant impacts on fawn recruitment, but these impacts are highly variable across time and the landscape. Predators alone will not decimate deer populations, but their impacts may be additive with other factors that cause declines.

"There are some possible solutions to address concerns about deer numbers in areas where they are declining," said Shaw. "These solutions include promoting hunting and trapping of coyotes, habitat improvement, doe harvest management and overall harvest timing. Of course, we will continue to research and monitor data and trends."

Visit www.ncwildlife.org to view the summaries for this year's deer harvest report. For more information on deer hunting in North Carolina visit www.ncwildlife.org/hunting.

NC Treasurer Folwell Reports
First Quarter Pension Fund Returns

Fund earned 4.1 percent for 1st quarter of 2017

NC State Treasurer Dale R. Folwell, CPA, has reported state pension fund (the Fund) returns for the first quarter of 2017 ending March 31, 2017. The fund, comprised of the retirement plans the Department of State Treasurer manages, reported gains of 4.1 percent for the quarter. Pension fund assets were valued at \$92.2 billion, up from \$89.1 billion at the end of the fourth quarter of 2016. This report reflects the first earnings statement during the Folwell administration.

"Our public equity portfolio did especially well during the first quarter of this year, but fixed-income continues to lag due to historically low interest rates," said Treasurer Folwell. "We are focused on reducing complexity and fees in the state pension plans. We also want to gradually lower the expected rate of return to more accurately reflect historical gains."

For the last 12 months ending March 31st, the Fund earned 9.6 percent. Public equity (stocks), which makes up more than 40 percent of the total fund, gained 14.9 percent. Private equity rose 6.6 percent while Non-Core Real Estate and Opportunistic Fixed Income returned 12.1 percent and 12.9 percent respectively. The Multi-strategy portfolio rose 11.8 percent for the twelve month period. Inflation-sensitive and Diversifier investments also increased by 10.9 percent. Finally, Investment-Grade Fixed Income returned 0.9 percent for the same period.

Since entering office in January of this year, Treasurer Folwell has contacted more than 150 money managers representing 99 percent of the pension plans' assets and asked them "who they are, how much money they manage, how well they perform, and how much they charge in fees." As a result of this process, he has been able to cut \$25 million in fees making substantial inroads to his pledge to cut \$100 million before the end of his first term.

"The fees cut so far are the floor, not the ceiling," added Folwell. Treasurer Folwell also pledged to gradually reduce the pension plans' expected rate of return. Just last month, he announced that the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) and Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LGERS) Boards of Directors, under his leadership, voted to lower the investment return assumption for the Fund from 7.25 percent to 7.20 percent beginning with the December 31, 2016 valuations.

All of the reported performance figures are reported net of all fees and expenses. A full reporting of all asset classes is available for download at www.nctreasurer.com.

The North Carolina Retirement Systems, the formal name for the pension fund, is the tenth largest public pension fund in the country. It provides retirement benefits and savings for more than 950,000 North Carolinians, including teachers, state employees, firefighters, police officers and other public workers. For more information visit www.nctreasurer.com.

Storytime Every Wednesday at Partnership for Children

The Anson County Partnership for Children offers Storytime in the Early Childhood Resource Center each Wednesday, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3 to 8. For more information call 704-694-4036.

THE TOWN OF MORVEN IS ACCEPTING BIDS

The Town of Morven is accepting bids for patching the Pot Holes on the following streets in town:

Church Street • Cox Street
Martin Street • Parson Street • Short Street

Submit a written bid to:
Town of Morven
PO Box 295
Morven, NC 28119

Submit bid in person at:
Town of Morven
301 East Main Street
Morven, NC 28119

Completed and final bids should be submitted by 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. For any questions please feel free to call the Morven Town Hall at 704-851-9321.

THE TOWN OF MORVEN IS ACCEPTING BIDS

The Town of Morven is accepting bids for
Cutting and Maintaining the Sewer right away

Interested parties should

Submit a written bid to:
Town of Morven
PO Box 295
Morven, NC 28119

Submit bid in person at:
Town of Morven
301 East Main Street
Morven, NC 28119

Completed and final bids should be submitted by 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. For any questions please feel free to call the Morven Town Hall at 704-851-9321.



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