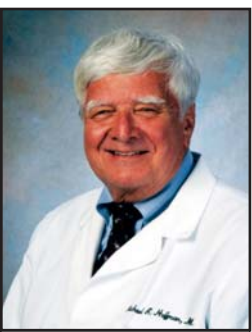


McLeod Health Cheraw Welcomes New Obstetric and Gynecological Care Doctor



Michael R. Hoffman, MD

McLeod Health Cheraw welcomes Dr. Michael R. Hoffman, MD to the medical staff. Dr. Hoffman will be providing obstetric and gynecological care at McLeod Cheraw. Alongside Dr. David Bersinger, Dr. Hoffman will see patients at both McLeod OBGYN Cheraw and the newly opened office McLeod OBGYN Bennettsville.

There will be a Ribbon Cutting ceremony to welcome Dr. Hoffman to McLeod OBGYN. This event is free and open to the public as a way to meet Dr. Hoffman and other team members. It will take place this Thursday, June 23 at 4 p.m. at McLeod OBGYN Bennettsville. McLeod OBGYN Cheraw staff will be in attendance as well.

A native of Ohio, Dr. Hoffman has over 30 years experience serving the health care needs of women in South Carolina. He comes to McLeod after private practice in Greenville and serving in multiple leadership roles for St. Francis Medical Center. Dr. Hoffman is passionate about the care of expectant mothers, confronting infertility challenges, and creating "family friendly" new birth experiences.

"I want the women of our area to choose McLeod for an exceptional experience in the birth of their children," said Dr. Hoffman. "We are dedicated to providing that experience and I am honored to be a part of the team at McLeod here in Cheraw and Bennettsville."

Dr. Hoffman welcomes new patients in both Bennettsville and Cheraw. To schedule an appointment, please call (843) 777-9140.

McLeod OBGYN in Bennettsville is located at 1040 Marlboro Way, Suite 7, Bennettsville, SC 29512-2494. The Bennettsville office number is (843) 777-9140. McLeod OBGYN in Cheraw is located at 721 Chesterfield Highway, Cheraw, SC 29502. The Cheraw office number is (843) 921-1211.

Free Movie is *Max: Best Friend. Hero. Marine*

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie for Monday, June 27 at 10 a.m. in the Pritchett Room. The movie is *Max: Best Friend. Hero. Marine*. When Kyle Wincott is killed in the war, his war dog Max suffers from stress. Max is to be put down because he has trouble listening to anyone else, until he meets Justin, Kyle's brother. Justin adopts and saves Max. Then both of their lives will never be the same again. Starring in the movie are Thomas Haden Church, Josh Wiggins, Luke Kleintank and Lauren Graham. It is rated PG. Everyone is invited to come, bring a friend and enjoy this wonderful story.

For more information you can call the library at 704-694-5177.

State Prison System to End Solitary Confinement for Inmates Under 18

New Youthful Offender Program puts focus on education, behavioral health and treatment needs

The North Carolina state prison system is ending the use of solitary confinement for its youngest inmates and introducing a new youthful offender program to focus on the needs of young people serving sentences in the adult prison system.

"The mental health, medical, educational, social, spiritual and emotional needs of these youth are numerous and complex," said W. David Guice, Commissioner of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. "It is important that while these youth are in our care, their unique needs are accurately identified and addressed in the most effective way possible."

The new Youthful Offender Program is effective September 1, 2016 to allow time for appropriate staffing and staff training. Its mission is to identify the risks and needs of each youth and effectively address each area of need. By doing so, personal outcomes for youth are enhanced through education, behavioral health treatment, life skills development and family/community reunification services. The multidisciplinary approach to treatment is aimed at assisting the youthful offender in making a positive adjustment to prison and a successful transition back to the community.

There are currently about 70 inmates under age 18 housed at Foothills Correctional Institution in Morganton, where the facilities are structured to maintain required sight and sound separation from the adult population.

These youth are housed in a variety of categories including:

- Regular youthful offenders – regular population inmates under age 18 sentenced to state prison for their crimes
- Safekeepers – pre-trial inmates who would normally be housed in a county jail but are admitted to the state prison system, usually due to medical, mental health or security-related factors, or the lack of appropriate facilities in the county jail for housing young offenders
- Confinement in Response to Violation (CRV) - probationers sentenced to a 90-day period of incarceration as a result of repeated technical violations of supervision
- Pre-sentence diagnostic – Convicted, but not sentenced, offenders who are housed briefly in the state prison system while a diagnostic study is conducted and a pre-sentence investigation report is prepared to assist the court in properly sentencing the individual

Discipline for youthful offenders who violate prison rules is handled through loss of privileges and, if necessary, placement in modified housing. Food, visitation or telephone calls are not withheld. Placement in modified housing does not involve use of restraints and provides access to programs, recreation, education, health care and religious services equal to the access given to the regular population. Pro-social interactions occur in smaller groups and modified housing is used for the least amount of time necessary to achieve behavioral correction.

The full document describing the new Youthful Offender Program can be found at www.ncdps.gov/document/youthful-offender-program.

Home Ownership Month: North Carolina Offers Help to Citizens Facing Foreclosure

June is National Home Ownership Month, and while an increasing number of North Carolinians are celebrating by purchasing homes, families who are facing foreclosure have little to cheer. In 2015, there were 29,201 foreclosure filings statewide. But hope exists. The NC Foreclosure Prevention Fund, administered by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency and funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund®, has resources to help North Carolina homeowners keep their homes while they recover from a temporary financial hardship.

"Foreclosure doesn't just impact homeowners, it affects the whole state," said A. Robert Kucab, executive director of the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. "Foreclosures can lower property values, disrupt the state's economy and impact job creation."

The NC Foreclosure Prevention Fund, created in 2010, helps homeowners who have lost their jobs, re-employed homeowners who are earning less than before and military veterans transitioning to a civilian career.

Homeowners struggling to make their mortgage payments due to a no-fault job loss or other temporary hardship may be eligible for mortgage payment assistance—zero-interest, deferred, forgivable loans up to \$36,000 for 36 months to cover mortgage and related expenses while they look for work or complete job training. This assistance is also available for military veterans looking for work—eligible veterans who are enrolled in certain educational programs receive the full \$36,000 to bridge them through school and finding a new job.

Homeowners who are re-employed after a job loss or other temporary hardship but earning less than before and unable to make mortgage payments as a result may be eligible for a forgivable, no-interest, deferred loan to reduce the principal loan balance so mortgage payments are affordable. This assistance is also available for homeowners who have transitioned to a fixed income after a job loss or other qualified hardship.

"So far, the NC Foreclosure Prevention Fund has kept more than 22,000 homes out of foreclosure, preserving about \$3.9 billion in property value," Kucab said. "A temporary setback doesn't have to be a permanent loss. We can help keep North Carolinians in their homes to improve the economy and provide a better future for all North Carolina citizens."

All assistance is forgiven after 10 years in the home at a rate of 20% per year starting in year five. Homeowners do not have to be in foreclosure to seek help. For information, consumers should visit www.ncforeclosureprevention.gov or call 1-888-623-8631.

The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency is a self-supporting public agency that finances affordable housing opportunities for North Carolinians whose needs are not met by the market. Since its creation in 1973 by the General Assembly, the Agency has financed more than 241,000 affordable homes and apartments, totaling \$17.2 billion.



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