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Lawrence Gatewood

Lawrence Gatewood  
"Run Lawrence Run"  
County Commissioner

ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING MY TIME AS COUNTY MANAGER

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- RENOVATED THE HAMPTON B. ALLEN LIBRARY
- RENOVATED THE BELK BUILDING
- RENOVATED AND EXPANDED FACILITIES AT LITTLE PARK
- RELOCATED BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO 402 MORVEN ROAD
- PARTNERED WITH CAROLINAS HEALTHCARE TO SUPPORT THE NEW HOSPITAL
- CONSTRUCTED THE EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER AFTER SECURING \$949,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FROM THE NC 911 BOARD
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NC Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey Calls on Congress to Preserve SHIIP Funding

According to North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey an effort is underway in Congress to eliminate \$47 million that goes to programs like North Carolina's Seniors Health Insurance Information Program. "Such an effort fits the old adage of being penny wise and pound foolish," said Causey. North Carolina's SHIIP office gets about \$1.4 million a year from the federal government, making up about 65 percent of the program's budget. The remaining 35 percent comes from state sources. The SHIIP program saved \$60 million for the state's senior citizens last year alone. These are actual dollars that we can account for, not some number pulled from thin air. The program saved seniors more money in North Carolina alone than the cost of the program nationwide. SHIIP saves senior citizens money by sitting down with senior citizens one-on-one, or talking to them individually by phone, and help them decide which prescription coverage plan is right for them, or which supplemental plan will save them the most money. Causey continued, "SHIIP trains 960 volunteers across the state's 100 counties. Those volunteers, along with our dedicated staff in Raleigh, counseled more than 102,000 Medicare beneficiaries across the state last year. In addition, SHIIP served almost 17,000 Medicare beneficiaries with disabilities. It counseled more than 28,000 people with incomes below 150 percent of the federal poverty level." Medicare is confusing. There's Medicare Part A, Part B, Part C, and Part D. Then there are Medicare supplement plans. There are a lot of companies out there vying for senior citizens' health care premium dollars. This can leave many seniors on fixed incomes wondering what they should do. SHIIP provides unbiased information to help clear up this confusion, allowing them to decide for themselves which plan works best for them. It only makes sense that the federal government, which created this complicated system, would continue to pay for a proven program that helps senior citizens make sense of that same system. "The people in Washington pushing to eliminate SHIIP funding say the program is duplicative. In reality, it isn't," said Causey. "Sure, the federal government operates a 1-800-MEDICARE call line which seeks to answer citizens' questions about the federal health program. However, if consumers' calls get too detailed or complicated, the federal call center usually refers the consumer back to state SHIIP programs for answers to their questions. If Congress eliminates SHIIP funding, the calls to the federal call line would likely quadruple. The federal government would most likely have to increase its staff to handle the cost, most likely wiping out any savings associated with ending the program." Causey concluded, "I encourage North Carolinians to reach out to their U.S. senators and members of Congress and encourage them to preserve SHIIP funding. SHIIP is a program that pays for itself many times over and shouldn't be eliminated."

Obituaries

Mr. John Patrick Hildreth, III

Mr. John Patrick Hildreth, III, 43, died Friday, March 23, 2018, at Car-

olinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Anson Memorial Park.

The family will greet friends from 1:30 until 3 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home and other times at the home.

John was born February 17, 1975, in Chesterfield County, SC, a son of John Patrick Hildreth, Jr. and Hazel Cowick Hildreth. He was employed with Addison Moore and Sons Painting Contractors. He was preceded in death by his wife Sherry Ann Winfree Hildreth.

Surviving are his sons, John Steven Hildreth and Shane Patrick Hildreth, both of the home; his parents, Johnny and Hazel Hildreth of Wadesboro; his sisters and brother, Deloise Lisa Hildreth, Anese Lorriane (Raymond) Bridges and Donny Ray (Robin) Hildreth, all of Wadesboro and Sarah Ann (Clyde) Jarrell of Peachland; his grandmother Dorothy Anese Simpson of Wadesboro; his nieces and nephews, Aylisa Faye Lett, Amber Lynn Bridges, Raymond Douglas Bridges, III, Chloe Michelle Bridges, William Patrick Bridges, Emily Rose Hildreth, Donny Ray Hildreth, Jr. Chassity Faye Jarrell, Clyde Lee Jarrell, Jr., Jessica Leann Jarrell and Charlie Ray Jarrell.

The arrangements are in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at [www.leavittfh.com](http://www.leavittfh.com).

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