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Wildlife Officers Gear Up for Operation Dry Water This Weekend

Boating fatalities nationwide at highest levels since 1998

Wildlife officers with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission will be reaching out to as many people as possible this weekend about the hazards of boating while impaired as part of Operation Dry Water 2012. The annual nationwide campaign will have law enforcement officers from local, state and federal agencies out in force June 22-24 to remind boaters that it is unsafe, as well as illegal, to operate a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In North Carolina, penalties upon conviction include a maximum \$1,000 fine and possible jail time.



Recreational boating fatalities last year jumped to their highest levels since 1998 and operating while impaired was the leading contributing factor, according to the U.S. Coast Guard's report, 2011 Recreational Boating Statistics.

"We intend to reach out to as many people as possible about the hazards of boating while impaired," said Sgt. Jeremy Harrill, a wildlife officer with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission based in Iredell County. "Boating is a safe and enjoyable pastime when people stay alert and follow the rules. We want boaters to understand the added risks and to avoid being impaired and boating. Our goal is to promote safe, responsible boating. Ultimately, it's about saving lives."

Operating a boat while impaired continues to be a major problem in the United States. Boat operators or even passengers with a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit run a significantly increased risk of being involved in a fatal boating accident.

Operation Dry Water was launched in 2009 by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety, in partnership with the US Coast Guard to provide high profile law enforcement on waterways prior to the July 4th holiday. In North Carolina, Operation Dry Water is incorporated into the state's "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign.

Wildlife officers with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission are charged with enforcing the boating laws and regulations on public waterways. They can routinely stop vessels for safety checks or violations. The goal of this enforcement is always safety. For more information on recreational boating in North Carolina, visit www.ncwildlife.org/boating.

Sandhills Farm Tour

In a release from Aimee Rankin: Do you like buying local? Do you enjoy visiting farms? If so be sure to take your family on the 2012 Sandhills Farm Tour this month! Local farms in Montgomery, Anson, Moore and Richmond counties will be hosting their second annual farm tour Saturday, June 23rd, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The seven participating farms last year were phenomenal - this year the number of farms has increased to 17! This year we are starting the event at the 517 acre Sandhills Research Station located at 2148 Windblow Road in Jackson Springs, NC. The event will feature hayrides, music from local potter Will McCannless, and many opportunities to learn about the diversity of NC agriculture, the top industry in the state. This is a perfect family day-trip where you can tour farms, sample great locally grown food, and have a day of excitement!

Each farm has a specialty whether it is with local food or history of times past. Some of the farms will have cooking demonstrations and family fun activities. If you are interested in attending, tickets are \$15 per carload before June 22nd, and will be available for purchase by check or cash at the Anson Cooperative Extension Service at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. Extension offices in Moore, Montgomery, and Richmond counties will also have tickets available.

Also, tickets can be purchased at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 23 at the Sandhills Research Station for \$18 per carload. For more information please contact Aimee Rankin at the Anson Cooperative Extension Service, 704-694-2415 or visit anson.ces.ncsu.edu.

SPCC Trustees Sworn In

Four reappointed South Piedmont Community College trustees and the school's Student Government Association president were sworn in during the SPCC Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, June 12, on the Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe.



SPCC Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Jarvis Woodburn, left, administers the oath of office to, from left, Kenny Horne, Ben Starnes and Jerry Thomas.

The SGA president, Ben Starnes, is an ex officio member of the board. The reappointed members are Ken Collins (reappointed by the Union County Board of Commissioners), John Hendley (Union County Board of Education), Kenny Horne (Anson County Board of Commissioners) and Jerry Thomas (Gov. Beverly Perdue).

Anson Senior High Class of 1992

The Anson Senior High School Class of 1992 will hold their reunion on Saturday, August 18 at Twin Valley Country Club. For more information, such as the time of the event, contact Kelly Horne at 704-851-9466.

Wadesboro Primary School Recognizes Students for Positive Character Traits

Wadesboro Primary School recently recognized their Terrific Kids for displaying the character traits of Respect and Honesty. The students are pictured here:



Wadesboro Primary School students who earned the award for displaying the character trait of Respect are pictured above, from left, front: Anthony Hough, Quamaine LeGrande, Jayla Nickson, Jayshawn Stewart, Steven Taylor, Daniel Figueroa, Jayson Bridges, Will Gathings, Stephon Young and Dasia Lindsey. Back row: Noah Goodwin, Shayla King, Teanna Davis, Destiny Owens, Erin Lookabill, Maniah Thomas, Jaybreyona Parsons, Jaylin Coleman and Cage Rostad.



Wadesboro Primary School students who earned the award for displaying the character trait of Honesty are pictured above, from left, front: Gage Lookabill, Maliki Martin, Shaniyya Polk, Dustin Goodwin, Chloe Scarborough, Tyshaun Little, Caleb Goodwin, Timothy Howard, Kahliq Jackson and Noah Ratliff. Back row: Dexter Jones, Janikie Ervin-Lennon, Shawn Thomas, Toney Gainey, Madalyn Martin, Noah Carpenter and Zackary Wall. Adil Hassan is not pictured.

Library Legislative Day and Advocacy by SRLS

In a release from Donald Perkins of Hampton B. Allen Library: Several Ansonians traveled with Sandhill Regional Library System staff, trustees and friends to celebrate Library Legislative Day. From Anson County four people attended, Peggy Hildereth, Jonnie Pettiford,



Peggy Hildereth, Jonnie Pettiford, both Regional Library Advisory Board members, and Donald Perkins, Hampton B. Allen Library Manager, pose with other library advocates in the NC legislative building during library legislative day 2012.

Donnie Lewis and Donald Perkins. Carol Walters, Sandhill Regional Library System Director, Chaired the event. Over 150 attended, visiting their Representatives and Senators advocating for Libraries.

Carol Wilson, President of the NC Directors Association served as Emcee. Kicking off the event was State Librarian Caroline Shepard and Cultural Resources Secretary Linda Carlisle.

On the Halifax Mall, storytelling by Anson County's Donnie Lewis, Moore County's Clara Bryson and Wake County's Susan Adams delighted pre-schoolers from Wake. Ice cream, popcorn and NC Cheerwine was on the mall for attendees to take a break during festivities.

Libraries all over North Carolina's 100 Counties are suffering from the two million dollar cut they took last year and were hoping to at least get some of it back to put back books, hours, staff in our 100 counties. The two million dollar cut affects our five county region with a loss of \$100,000.

NC Libraries are approximately .0007 of 1% of the State budget so getting just some of those funds back would hardly affect the state budget and it would certainly be a shot in the arm to Libraries who are helping people get connected to jobs and resume ideas as well as the research they need for health and home issues.



Anson County's Children's services coordinator, Donnie Lewis, prepares to tell stories to children outside the state legislative offices during library legislative day 2012.

Free Movie is Journey to the Center of the Earth

Anson County Parks & Recreation will host a free movie on Friday, June 22 at 10 a.m. The movie is *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. It will be shown in the Little Theatre at Hampton B. Allen Library.

Please pre-register with Parks & Recreation by calling Wanda Chappell at 794-694-5868.

Anson County Cub Scout Twilight Camp

This year a Twilight Camp program has been planned for Anson County Cub Scouts. This camp will be filled with great summer fun like swimming, archery, BB marksmanship, crafts and much more! The camp will take place June 25 to 29 at Little Park, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Central NC Council on Scouting Activities would like for your son to attend this camp.

Registration will include a week of fun and classes, a t-shirt, event patch, insurance, crafts and a cookout on Friday. The total cost of the camp is only \$25 if you register before June 20.

Please contact the Central NC Council office for information or to register at 704-982-0141. Also you can call Chris Sanford locally at 704-694-5937 or Devin Canup at 980-621-4915.

Blewett Falls Public Fishing Area to Close for Event Thursday

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission will close access to the public fishing area on Blewett Falls Reservoir in Anson County from 12:01 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 21 for a special event. Progress Energy is celebrating its 100th year of operating the Blewett Hydroelectric Plant. The company plans to erect tents, tables and chairs for the event so parking and fishing access will need to close until after the event.

Anglers who would like to fish nearby on June 21 can visit the Commission's Public Fishing Area at Arrowhead Lake and Sullivan's Pond located on the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge or a number of public fishing areas near Hoffman, NC.

A list of all areas available for public fishing can be found on the Commission's Where to Fish webpage at www.ncwildlife.org/Fishing/Wheretofish. For general information on fishing in public, inland waters, visit www.ncwildlife.org/fishing.

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