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No Fishing **License Needed** to Fish on July 4

July 4 is free fishing day in North Carolina. From 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m., everyone in North Carolina can fish in any public body of water without purchasing a fishing license or additional trout fishing license. Residents and non-residents can fish for free in public, inland waters, as well as coastal waters, although they will need to abide by all other fishing regulations, such as size and creel limits, as well as lure restrictions.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission stocks a variety of fish in public, inland waters across the state throughout the year to give anglers a better chance of catching fish. Staff stocks cool mountain waters with brook, brown and rainbow trout, as well as walleye and muskellunge. In warm waters, staff stocks largemouth bass, American shad, striped bass, channel catfish and sunfishes.

The agency also provides access to free fishing sites across the state, including public fishing areas and boating access areas. The interactive fishing and boating maps on the Commission's e b s i t e (www.ncwildlife.org) list more than 500 fishing and boating areas, most of which are free, that are open to the public.

Authorized by the N.C. General Assembly and enacted in 1994, North Carolina's annual free fishing day always falls on July 4. On all other days of the year, a fishing license is not required for anglers 15 years and younger, but anyone age 16 and older must have a fishing license to fish in any public water in North Carolina, including coastal waters. To purchase a license:

- Call the Commission at 1-888-248-6834. Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 7 days a week;
- Go to www.ncwildlife.org using a computer or mobile device; Visit a local Wildlife
- Service Agent. For more information on

fishing in public, inland waters, visit the Fishing page www.ncwildlife.org/Fish-



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Enjoy this Remembering column from 2007

Remembering..... By Ed McBride



Bill's Shell Service

Some years downtown Wadesboro had not only a number of grocery stores, but also several service stations. Bill Smith operated this station on the corner of South Rutherford and West Morgan Streets, at the present location of Smith's Cleaners.

This was a time when you could fill up with a \$5 bill (or less) - instead of a \$50 bill!!

I did this sign on March 29, 1963 - all by hand, before

back, this "computer stuff" came along.

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There are so many changes now in this area - next door was Lowe's Printing, across the street were several businesses, which are "not anymore" - plus there are no downtown grocery stores. Fortunately there is still a service station downtown, East Wade Gulf run by Alan Jackson.

Bill ran his service station a number of years. He also worked with Huntley Buick for 23 years. He is now deceased.

New Debit Cards for Unemployment Benefits

In an effort to better serve customers, the Division of Employment Security (DES) is changing its debit card provider to Bank of America beginning August 1, 2015. Unemployment claimants will continue to choose either direct deposit or debit card to receive their benefits. This change will only affect those claimants who have elected to receive unemployment benefits via debit card.

From June 15 through late July, those eligible to receive unemployment benefits via debit card will receive a transition package from DES. This package will outline what they should do with their old MasterCard debit card in preparation for receiving their new VISA card from Bank of America.

"By switching to a new debit card provider, our customers will benefit by incurring fewer and lower fees associated with the new card and enjoying more access points, said Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary of Employment Security Dale Folwell. "The main reason we made this change was due to the state master service agreement negotiated by the Office of State Controller on behalf of all state agencies. The state volume-buying got the lowest fees.'

Beginning in mid-July, Bank of America will issue a new card to each claimant who meets three criteria: 1) they are paid by debit card, 2) their benefit year has not ended, and 3) their benefits are not exhausted. Although they should activate their new cards immediately, no payments will be posted to the new cards until after August 1. The old cards should not be thrown away. Claimants should continue using their old MasterCard debit cards until the balance is zero. No new funds will be put on the old cards after August 1.

More information will be made available on the DES website at www.ncesc.com as

the transition continues

Jill Allison Greene Earns Doctor of Optometry Degree

Jill Allison Greene, O.D. of Peachland was among 130 students recently awarded the Doctor of Optometry degree from Southern College of Optometry (SCO) in Memphis, Tennessee. Greene was selected to receive the Johnson and Johnson Award of Excellence.

A native of Wadesboro, Jill is the daughter of Charles and Marilyn Allison of Peachland. She is a graduate Anson High School and North Carolina State University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. Jill's sister Holly Allison Kiker is an optometrist in

Wadesboro. Kiker owns and operates Anson Family Optometric Center. Optometrists are independent, primary health care

providers who specialize in the examination, diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases/disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures, as well as the diagnosis of related systemic conditions.

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