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NC Insurance Commissioner Stresses Safety Ahead of Fourth of July and All Summer

Ahead of the Fourth of July holiday, NC Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey is urging everyone to take extra precautions during one of the most popular water recreational times of the year.

"Independence Day is a great opportunity to celebrate our freedom on the water with friends, family and neighbors," Commissioner Causey said. "Beaches, lakes and waterways will be crowded 4th of July weekend. Many of us will be either in the water or on watercraft. It's important to remember to be safe and responsible as you head out on the boat, jet ski, kayak or as you swim during these celebrations.

"We've had far too many water deaths and close calls this year," Commissioner Causey continued. "According to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, there have been 37 boating incidents in North Carolina so far in 2024, and seven have been fatal."

Of those 19 accidents, 17 were not wearing a life jacket.

It is important to remember these boating safety reminders:

- Always wear a life jacket. Make sure EVERYONE on board has a life jacket that is serviceable, properly sized, correctly fastened, and suitable for your activity. Adults and children should always wear a life jacket approved by the U.S. Coast Guard while on boats or jet skis, around open bodies of water or when participating in other water sports. Make sure the life jacket fits snugly. Have the child make a "touchdown" signal by raising both arms straight up; if the life jacket hits the child's chin or ears, it may be too big, or the straps may be too loose.
- Don't drink and boat. It is illegal to operate a boat while intoxicated, in North Carolina or any other state. A large portion of boating accidents each year involve alcohol consumption by both boat operators and passengers. To keep you and your loved ones safe, it is highly recommended not to drink alcoholic beverages while boating.
- Learn CPR. We know you have a million things to do, but learning CPR should be on the top of the list. Especially when operating watercrafts. It will give you tremendous peace of mind - and the more peace of mind you have as a parent, the better. Local hospitals, fire departments and recreation departments offer CPR training.
- Use an engine cut-off device: An engine cut-off device is a proven safety device to stop the boat or jet ski's engine if the operator unexpectedly falls overboard.
- Use caution when towing a skier.
- Be careful when around swimmers.
- Always carry the required safety equipment, such as a first aid kit, emergency flares, beacon lights, etc.

The beaches will be crowded this summer. Remember to pay attention to the warning flags at the beach that indicate the possibility of rip currents. A rip current's force is strong enough to pull even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

- If caught in a rip current, stay calm, don't fight the current and escape the current by swimming in a direction parallel to the shoreline.
- If at any time you are unable to reach the shore, draw attention to yourself and call for help.
- Most people believe a drowning person involves flailing arms or frantic calls for help, but that is not the case. Drowning happens quietly when a helpless person is unable to take a breath.

Recently, Commissioner Causey joined the Surf City Fire and Ocean Rescue Team and Surf City Mayor Teresa Batts to highlight how to stay safe on the water this summer. The video is on YouTube, search "Surf City water safety."

You can watch a video about grilling and fireworks safety on YouTube, search "Aberdeen July 4th."

Governor Cooper Announces North Carolina Music Office

A new office to promote and celebrate North Carolina music, musicians and the music industry is being established within the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Governor Roy Cooper announced today.

The new North Carolina Music Office will facilitate a multitude of music-based programming and investments across the state; enhance economic development spurred by creative economies; further attract music industry investments; and increase awareness of the state's vibrant music heritage, culture, and education. North Carolina joins a small number of states that have a state-supported music office, including Texas, Louisiana and Tennessee. Governor Cooper made the announcement and issued a proclamation during an event for Make Music Day, a global music celebration.

"North Carolina's vibrant music industry is a key part of our state's creative economy, driving economic growth and supporting nearly 45,000 jobs," said Governor Roy Cooper. "An official N.C. Music Office will support this growing and important industry."

The N.C. Music Office will be housed in the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and it will provide an umbrella for the department's varied music assets and initiatives. A team is developing a state music strategy that will coordinate with DNCR divisions and partners including the N.C. Arts Council, the Come Hear NC initiative, the N.C. Museum of Art, the N.C. Museum of History, N.C. State Historic Sites, the N.C. Symphony, N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, Hometown Strong, the N.C. African American Heritage Commission, and the N.C. American Indian Heritage Commission. The office will also work with other state agencies and organizations including Visit NC, the N.C. Department of Commerce, and PBS North Carolina.

"The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is uniquely positioned to support the new North Carolina Music Office thanks to our already robust cultural and educational programming centered on North Carolina music," said DNCR Secretary Reid Wilson. "We are excited to expand our resources and opportunities for the state's thriving music industry - one that creates jobs and improves quality of life in all 100 counties."

"A Call to Join Us in Changing Lives and Writing History"

This is a release from Carol Smith, Director of Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center: Dear Community and BRLC Supporters, I hope this message finds you well and filled with the spirit of generosity and compassion. I write to you today with a story of hope, resilience, and the transformative power of community support - a story that I believe will resonate deeply with your kind heart and generous spirit.

Imagine for a moment that you are a parent, looking into the hopeful eyes of your child, wishing for nothing more than to provide them with a future filled with opportunities, dreams, and the chance to thrive. Now, picture facing challenges beyond your control - financial hardships, limited resources, and the constant struggle to make ends meet. It's a reality that many families in our community face every day.

Yet, amidst these challenges, there shines a beacon of hope - the Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center (BRLC). For over two decades, BRLC has been a lifeline for families, offering essential services like computer skills classes, food Pantry, Kids Cafe / homework / snacks, Summer Camp, Nexgene Careers for youth, Care Corner Thrift Store, Red Cross Blood Drives, community awareness information sessions, a supportive community where everyone is welcomed with open arms, even warm hugs and listening ears.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of supporters like you, we have been able to raise \$40,000 towards our latest endeavor - a historic museum that will celebrate our community's rich heritage and ensure that the stories of our past are preserved for generations to come. It's a testament to what can be achieved when hearts unite for a common cause, and it's a testament to the impact we can have when we choose compassion over indifference.

But our journey is not yet complete, and we need your help to reach our goal. We are reaching out to kind-hearted individuals like you, inviting you to be part of something truly special, something that will leave a lasting legacy of kindness, generosity, and hope.

Your support, no matter the amount, will make a world of difference. It will help us secure the remaining \$50,000 needed to purchase the land for our historic museum, ensuring that future generations have access to our shared history and the inspiration to dream big, no matter where they come from.

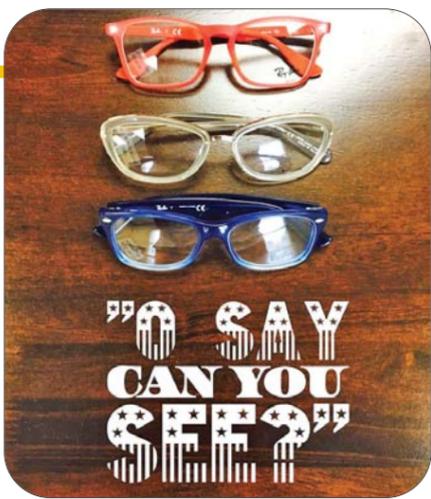
Imagine the joy on the faces of those who will benefit from your support - children exploring their heritage, families discovering the stories of their ancestors, and a community coming together to celebrate its identity. Your generosity will be remembered not just in the pages of history but in the hearts of those whose lives you touch.

To those who will benefit from your kindness, you will be seen as angels, sent to bring light into their lives, hope into their hearts, and opportunities they never thought possible.

Thank you for considering this heartfelt invitation to be part of something truly extraordinary. Together, we can be the miracle that changes lives, writes history, and inspires a brighter tomorrow for all.

The deadline to raise the balance is June 30, 2024, for this project. Will you help us with this extraordinary project? All supporter / donor names will be placed on a star design by students and placed throughout the historical facility along with your saying. Dedicated to, in honor of, or however you desire it to be as history continue to unfold. All donation are tax deductible. You may contact us on Facebook for more information.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information you can call 704-826-8737, check their Facebook page or visit www.burnsvillelc.org.



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