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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

## SHIIP Announces Bernice Bennett as Statewide Coordinator of the Year

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin and the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) of the North Carolina Department of Insurance, congratulate Bernice Bennett of the Grace Senior Center for earning the title of Coordinator of the Year. Through outreach efforts she and her volunteers reached nearly 102,000 people and counseled 921 Medicare beneficiaries this past year. Bennett was one of only four winners of statewide awards for her outstanding work in providing free, unbiased counseling about Medicare.

"I congratulate all of the 2015 award winners and am honored to present these awards to these deserving people," Goodwin said. "SHIIP provides a valuable service across the state, and we would not be able to reach so many of North Carolina's Medicare beneficiaries without the dedication and commitment of our coordinators and volunteers."

SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance that offers free, objective information about Medicare, Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance issues. SHIIP has nearly 1,000 trained volunteers across the state providing one-on-one counseling in all 100 counties. For more information about SHIIP or to get answers to your Medicare questions, call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 or SHIIP at 855-408-1212 or visit [www.ncshiip.com](http://www.ncshiip.com).

## Duke Energy Progress Will Begin Clearing Power Lines in Wadesboro

*This is a release from Duke Energy:* Tree work and vegetation management is being performed around power lines in Wadesboro and the surrounding area this summer in a collaborative effort by Duke Energy Progress, its contract crews and local officials. Crews are working to ensure safe and reliable electric service for citizens while striving to maintain the beauty of the local neighborhoods.

Trees growing near power lines can cause fires and be an electrical hazard to the public. During storms, trees and tree limbs can fall into power lines and cause power outages.

"We are committed to providing our customers with safe, reliable electric service," said David McNeill, district manager of Duke Energy, based in Aberdeen and serving Anson County. "Trees are part of the natural beauty of the communities we serve, and yet trees and other vegetation are also among the leading causes of power outages. We must constantly work to balance maintaining the natural beauty with our responsibility to provide a safe and reliable electric system for all of our customers."

Beginning the week of June 29, contract tree crews will be performing the vegetation management around the Duke Energy Progress power lines in Wadesboro and the surrounding area. This work will cover about 26 miles of power lines in Anson County. The work is expected to be completed by the end of August, depending on weather and other factors.

The electric utility is working proactively with customers and with community leaders throughout the company's service area to keep them informed of vegetation and right-of-way management activities in their area. Door hangers identifying the planned work to be performed in the area will be left on each customer's door (typically at least 3 days in advance) of the crews arriving for scheduled pruning.

Duke Energy Progress has statutory rights granted by the North Carolina Utilities Commission and, in most cases, has also obtained easements and agreements with local communities and property owners that allow it to build and maintain its power lines. These rights and agreements allow the company to manage vegetation, including trees that pose a threat to the reliability of the electric system.

When trimming yard trees, the company's standard approach for distribution lines is to not top or "round over" trees, but to use techniques called lateral and directional pruning. These methods are endorsed by many in the tree-care industry as being the best pruning technique for the health of the trees. Duke Energy Progress hires qualified, trained tree experts to inspect and clear electric lines on its systems. The crews use industry-approved pruning techniques.

The company's policy is to dispose of small limbs and brush that are pruned in landscaped settings and to cut larger pieces of wood into manageable lengths for use by the customer. On non-landscaped sites, pruned vegetation and wood are cut down to a low profile and left to naturally decompose. Disposal of vegetation resulting from storms and other emergency operations is the responsibility of the property owner.

## "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive Campaign" Continues Over July 4 Holiday

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will team with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the State Highway Patrol and other law enforcement agencies over the July 4 holiday weekend for the "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" safety campaign. The annual multi-agency initiative works to ensure everyone can travel safely on the road and on the water during summer holidays. In North Carolina, a driver or boat operator with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08 is subject to arrest.

If you are charged with operating a boat while impaired, you will have to appear before a judge. Penalties include a maximum \$1,000 fine and possible jail time."

The "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign is coordinated by the Wildlife Commission, State Highway Patrol and Forensic Tests for Alcohol, and supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Governor's Highway Safety Program, U.S. Coast Guard and local police and sheriff's offices, along with participating non-governmental organizations, such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Craft added that boating at night typically increases on July 4, which requires boaters to use caution and to be especially observant. Visibility is reduced and inland lighting rules are in effect. Water skiing is prohibited between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. Personal watercraft are prohibited on state waters between sunset and sunrise. Learn more about enjoying North Carolina's waterways at [www.ncwildlife.org/boating](http://www.ncwildlife.org/boating) or call 919-707-0031.



## ACEC and WPS Participate in Book Drive

State School Superintendent June Atkinson kicks off the "Give Five-Read Five" reading campaign every spring. This is the third year of the program that helps provide books to children for summer reading.

In 2013 seventy four elementary schools statewide collected 123,152 books to send home with students at the end of the school year to encourage summer reading. Last year the state more than doubled our success as 150 schools collected 257,334 books.

Wadesboro Primary and Anson County Early College participate annually in this campaign. WPS had a successful year, collecting and distributing 3,134 books to the school's 510 students.

Pictured right are Hailey Brock and Bethany Castejon donating books for WPS students.



## July 4th Celebration in Uptown Wadesboro is Friday

You can celebrate Independence Day a day early in Wadesboro, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 3 at the Plank Road Realty parking lot on the corner of Wade and Washington streets. The event features Gary Covington and The Mixx, a popular local band playing a variety of music. Activities for kids include beach balls, tie-dye painting, glow bracelets and chalk to draw in the pavement. You will need lawn chairs or blankets for seating. The evening will conclude with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. is sponsoring the event with support from the Town of Wadesboro and sponsors. Don't forget to bring the kids and your dancing shoes!

For more information, contact Uptown Wadesboro at (704) 695-1644 or [uptown-wadesboro@windstream.net](mailto:uptown-wadesboro@windstream.net). The website is [www.uptownwadesboro.com](http://www.uptownwadesboro.com).

## Anson Ag. Expo and Fair Updates

*This is a release from Roshunda Terry, 4-H Agent:* Plans are already under way for this year's Ag. Expo and Fair. The rules and regulations for the 4-H Livestock Show are now available and can be viewed on the website [anson.ces.ncsu.edu](http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu). Also organizers have been working diligently to complete the fair book. There are new categories with some revisions to old categories this year.

Fair books should be available at the Extension Office in August. The website to find the fair book, event line up and livestock show rules and regulations is [anson.ces.ncsu.edu](http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu). As more things are finalized more items may be added to this website so please go to it often.

## North Carolinians Will Continue Receiving Affordable Care Act Subsidies Following US Supreme Court Ruling

**Free, expert assistance available from NC navigators**

The nearly half-million North Carolinians who are receiving health insurance subsidies under the Affordable Care Act will continue to do so following Thursday's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The court's ruling in the case of King v. Burwell rejected a challenge to the health care law that sought to eliminate subsidies for residents of certain states, including North Carolina, which did not set up their own state-based "exchange" – an online marketplace for insurance plans – and instead relied on the federal exchange at [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov).

"We want everyone to know that nothing has changed, and that we are here to provide free, expert help if people have questions about the Marketplace," said Jennifer Simmons, an attorney with Legal Aid of North Carolina in Raleigh, who heads up the North Carolina Navigator Consortium, a coalition of Affordable Care Act navigators that helps consumers enroll in health insurance plans.

"If you've been getting subsidies, you will continue to get them, and you should continue to pay your premiums just as you've been doing," Simmons said. "Today's ruling by the Supreme Court upheld the status quo – nothing will change for you."

Legal Aid of North Carolina and the other organizations of the NC Navigator Consortium have received federal funding since 2013 to train and deploy a corps of health care navigators who work one-on-one with consumers to help them understand the financial help that is available and enroll in affordable health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act. "Health insurance can be complicated, especially for people who've never had it," Simmons said. "In North Carolina, consumers can get free, expert help by calling 1-855-733-3711, so they can make the best decision about health coverage for themselves and their families." More information about the Supreme Court's decision is available at [www.healthcare.gov/decision](http://www.healthcare.gov/decision).

## 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 website ([www.ncwildlife.org](http://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 are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 7 days a week;
- Go to [www.ncwildlife.org](http://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/Fishing](http://www.ncwildlife.org/Fishing).

## Parks and Rec Pool is Open

The Anson County Parks and Recreation swimming pool at Little Park is now open for the summer season. It will be open only on the weekends until Tuesday, June 16. Starting then the schedule will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, from 2 to 5 p.m. The pool is closed on Mondays and Fridays for maintenance. The cost is \$1 per person.

Swim lessons will be offered, with three different classes during the summer. The lessons are \$18. The schedules are:

- Class #2 July 6 - 16; Class #3 July 20 - 30
- Beginners 9:30-10 a.m.;
- Advanced 10:15-10:45 a.m.;
- and Parent & Child 11-11:30 a.m.

Call Wendell Small at 704-694-5868 or 704-695-2782 for information.

## Celebrating The Color Purple Paint Party

There will be a paint party celebrating the movie *The Color Purple* at Twin Valley Country Club. Everyone is invited to come out for an evening of fun while painting and reminiscing about the filming of the movie in this area in 1985. And, you will leave with your own creation too!

This event will take place on Thursday, July 8 at 6 p.m. It will be hosted and taught by Wanda Maness, a certified art instructor. Wanda is an actress and has appeared in many movies. Supplies and snacks will be provided, and the cost is only \$35. Please call 704-690-2810 to reserve your spot.

## Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market is Now Open

The Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. Farmers Market is open every Thursday, from 4 to 6 p.m. Come the Square (corner of Wade and Greene Streets) and you will find a variety of produce and other food items from the area.

If you would like to participate as a vendor, please contact UWI at 704-695-1644.