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Back To School with Pride Event Needs Your Help

Organizers asking the community's help with donations for Anson students

The Faith Based Center of Hope will host their 14th annual Back to School with Pride event on Saturday, August 15 at Hatcher's Park in Lilesville, beginning at 11 a.m. Each year Anson County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant, CEO and Founder of Faith Based Center of Hope, hosts the annual "Back to School with Pride" project

to help parents obtain school supplies and uniforms.

Mrs. Sturdivant stated, "Each year the needs grow greater. During our 2014 project we were able to supply school supplies and uniforms to over 300 kids and to every school in Anson County. Through the contributions of great friends, businesses, officials, pastors and churches and community leaders, I know we will be able to bless more families this year.'

The Back to School with Pride program is open to everyone, especially the less fortunate youth of all diversities. Also, community leaders, officials, pastors, ministers and medical advisors are invited to please come. Entertainment will be rendered by Little's Trucking Inc. (Tracy and Hattie Little, owners) and DJ Phatt (Jasper Evans) of Richmond County.

"I humbly ask for your support as we endeavor to do God's will and help our kids go back to school with the supplies needed," concluded Sturdivant. "All contributions, whether monetary, school supplies or uniforms will be greatly appreciated. All proceeds with be used for supplies and given out in OUR county.

For more information or to contribute, please contact Vancine Sturdivant 704-848-4412; Dr. Bernice Bennett 704-848-4085; Jennifer Tarlton 704-694-3115 or Tracy Little 704-695-2959.

Wildlife Commission Seeks Public **Comment on Draft Wildlife Action Plan**

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is seeking public comment on its draft 2015 North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan - a comprehensive document that identifies Species of Greatest Conservation Need and other priority fish and wildlife species as well as their habitats.

The document is available for public review and comment from July 20 until August 18, 2015. It is posted on the Commission's website www.ncwildlife.org.

The Commission is updating its 2005 Wildlife Action Plan with the assistance of numerous state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and citizen stakeholders. The 2015 draft describes the threats facing Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their habitats, and recommends measures to address current and emerging threats over the next 10 years. The plan also provides information about ongoing efforts to protect and conserve the state's fish and wildlife species and their habitats - from mammals to fish, crustaceans, and reptiles and amphibians.

Wildlife Action Plans are the result of a Congressional mandate that each state develop a comprehensive conservation strategy to be eligible for federal funding under the State Wildlife Grants Program. Each year, North Carolina receives around \$1.5 million to support implementation of conservation actions laid out in the plan. Among those projects are survey and monitoring efforts that help fish and wildlife biologists understand the status of nongame species as well as enhancement and restoration efforts that involve propagation of rare aquatic species that are released into native habitats.

For more information about the plan or the comment process, contact Cindy Carr by email or call 919-707-0227. Comments also may be mailed to N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Attn: Cindy Carr, 1721 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1721.

Wildlife Commission Offers Tips on Coexisting With Black Bears

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is offering advice on avoiding conflicts with black bears. The Commission is cautioning people to take care not to feed bears that wander into camp sites, yards, parks, sidewalks or other residential areas. Feeding a bear rewards it for coming close to people and their homes, and makes it more likely to approach again.

While black bears are rarely aggressive toward people, they can become bold when they become accustomed to feeding on human-provided foods, such as garbage and bird seed. Often, they may lose their fear of people.

Contrary to popular belief, wildlife employees will not trap and relocate bears, because this would simply relocate the problem, rather than solve it. The solution is to modify habits, such as how you feed your pets or where you store

your garbage, before a problem begins. Residents can prevent problems by:

• Securing bags of trash inside cans stored in a garage, basement or other secure area, and placing the cans outside, as late as possible, on trash pick-up days — not the night before. Purchasing bear-proof garbage cans or bear proofing your existing garbage container with a secure latching system.

• Discontinuing the feeding of wild birds during spring and summer, especially in areas close to bear habitat or if residents are aware of bear activity in the vicinity. Even if bear feeders are removed at night, bears are still attracted to seed that spills on the ground.

 If you live in an area with bear activity, don't leave home with windows or doors open and nothing but a screen to prevent an animal from gaining access to the house.

 Avoiding "free feeding" pets outdoors. If you must feed pets outdoors, make sure all food is consumed and empty bowls are removed.

 Cleaning all food and grease from barbecue grills after each use. Bears are attracted to food odors and may investigate.

For more information and more tips on black bears in North Carolina, read "Coexisting with Bears" on

www.ncwildlife.org.

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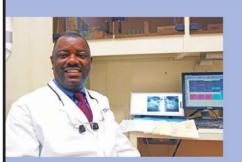
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