

On Saturday, June 10, 2023, the North Carolina Wildlife Commission (Commission) was contacted regarding a black bear suffering from injuries due to a collision with a motor vehicle on I-240 East near Montford Avenue in Asheville. The most humane option given the extent of injuries it sustained was to euthanize the bear.

In the case of vehicle collision or other situations where a bear is injured, Commission staff will investigate and exercise one of the following options:

- If injuries are minor and bear can leave the scene, bear will be left undisturbed and allowed to leave on its own.
- Bears suffering from injuries that obviously will lead to death or an inability to function normally in the wild (e.g., broken leg significantly limiting mobility, severe bleeding, unconsciousness, severe head trauma, bleeding from mouth or nose, etc.) will be humanely euthanized.
- Commission personnel or designated representatives (e.g., local law enforcement) may also humanely euthanize bears if public safety is a concern due to injury of the bear.
- If a cub (defined as a bear 12 months old or younger) is injured, Commission personnel may capture it for rehabilitation or humanely euthanize the cub based on the extent of the injuries.

The Commission encourages the public to report injured and/or vehicle-struck bear by calling the N.C. Wildlife Helpline at 866-318-2401 or hwi@ncwildlife.org. This is contact information for any wildlife-related situation, not just bears.

Black Bear Rehabilitation The capture and attempted rehabilitation of subadult (defined as a bear 24-36 months old) or adult black bears is not something any state wildlife agency in the United States does outside of very special circumstances. This is for several reasons:

- Black bear populations in the United States are thriving and the rehabilitation of subadult and adult black bears is not needed to restore or supplement black bear populations.
 - Wild-born subadult and adult bears do not readily adapt to captivity:
 - Black bears have large ranges of 5-60+ square miles and can be active for 18 hours a day, spending that time foraging and exploring their surroundings. Even the most spacious captive enclosure would be a fraction of the size a bear is used to roaming. Bears in captivity require mentally challenging and physically stimulating environments, which still would not compare to what they encounter in the wild.
 - Captive bears show signs of stress, often by not eating, pacing, swaying repetitively, and mutilating themselves.
 - Injuries heal much more slowly than would occur in the wild due to the stress of captivity, as well as the stress introduced by the caretakers through repeated handling to care for the injury.
 - Due to the stress and relatively small size of any rehabilitation facility compared to a natural home range, these wild-born subadult and adult bears will make repeated attempts to escape and will either get injured in the process or will be successful.
- Wild-born subadult and adult bears are solitary by nature, except during breeding season. Bears can be territorial, including both female and male bears. As such, placing wild-born bears in a captive environment together, coupled with the additional stress of captivity, would likely result in injury or death of a bear due to fighting.
- Injured subadult or adult bears put in captivity for rehabilitation may become habituated and dependent on people for survivorship, and upon release may cause human-bear conflicts and potentially injure people.

Requests for a Black Bear Rehabilitation Facility

- Despite public claims to the contrary, the Commission has not received a license application to rehabilitate adult black bears in Western North Carolina.

Rehabilitation of Black Bear Cubs

- Rehabilitating black bear cubs (<12 months old) for eventual release in the wild is a common practice among state wildlife agencies, including in North Carolina.
- The Commission has licensed two wildlife rehabilitators to rehabilitate bear cubs, based on their experience, facility, and demonstrated success in rehabilitating challenging wildlife species.
- Cub rehabilitation is possible because:
 - They are of an age in which they have great behavioral plasticity/adaptability to cope with temporary or permanent captivity.
 - Their behavior also makes them vulnerable to becoming habituated and dependent on people if great care is not taken during the rehabilitation process, such as minimizing contact between cubs and caretakers, caretakers disguising themselves (e.g., ghillie suits, minimal talking), as well as allowing cubs to socialize with other orphaned cubs.
 - Their tolerance for being with other captive bears is high at this young age, as they would normally be with other litter mates and use play and interactions with their siblings to learn survival skills.
- On occasion, the Commission will place a yearling bear (defined as a 12- to 24-month-old bear) in temporary captivity due to extreme malnutrition, but not due to injury. This can be done as these bears may be small enough to safely rehabilitate, still have some behavioral adaptability to a captive environment, and many steps are taken to ensure the bear does not become habituated.

What is the Wildlife Commission doing to address vehicle-animal collisions?

- Wildlife Commission and Department of Transportation Renew Focus on Wildlife Passages to Reduce Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions
- According to NC Department of Transportation, 20,331 wildlife-vehicle collisions were reported across the state in 2019, and 18,607 such collisions were reported in 2020 - a decrease the NCDOT largely attributes to reduced travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A 2021 release from the department estimated that 7 percent of all reported vehicle crashes in the state involve animal strikes, with almost half occurring in the twilight hours or at night, between October and December.
- NCWRC and NCDOT have collaborated for decades during project planning to address these road safety impacts related to wildlife, resulting in 26 wildlife crossing structures across the state successfully providing wildlife passage.
- These wildlife crossing structures can include overpasses, underpasses, and fencing along roads and highways. Examples include a passage corridor along Cold Springs Creek and Harmon Den Road under Interstate 40 in Haywood County as well as three underpasses on Interstate 140 south of Wilmington in Brunswick County.
- NCDOT and NCWRC are currently collaborating on 11 additional projects in various stages of planning, with several awaiting construction while others are still in the design phase.
- For the first time ever, Congress made a major investment in wildlife crossings in the recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, allocating \$350 million for a Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program that will help fund projects in all 50 states. The North Carolina General Assembly is considering allocating resources to wildlife passages that could be leveraged to match the available federal funding within the pilot program.

Hand Painting Event at Grace Senior Center on July 27

Hands Up! A Hand Painting Event will be held at Grace Senior Center this Thursday, July 27, from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m. Painting without brushes, only using our hands. It's FUN!
The event is free, but registration is required. Please call 704-694-6616.
Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA.

Class of 1971 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman Senior High School Class of 1971 will hold a reunion meeting on Saturday, July 29 at the Hampton B. Allen Library, from 2 to 4 p.m.
For informaton contact Winnie Brown at 704-475-0755 or Patricia Little at 704-848-8165.

Gospel Benefit Program for Class of 1973

The Bowman High School Class of 1973 is hosting a gospel benefit program this Saturday, July 29 at the White Pond Community Center, located at 2549 Sandy Ridge Church Road in Morven. Doors open at 4 p.m. and the concert begins at 5 p.m.
Classmates and everyone else are invited to attend and join in the fun.
For information contact Brenda S. Rorie at 704-695-5196 or Rev. Jasper Powe at 704-244-1297.

Artist Reception for Elizabeth Schafer-Oliver

The Anson County Arts Council is hosting an Artist Reception for Elizabeth Schafer-Oliver entitled "The First Fifty." This event takes place on Sunday, July 30, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Drake Gallery, located at 108 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro.
The public is invited to this retrospective art show and sale reflecting the first half of Elizabeth's life.



Church

THE CHURCH CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE SPONSORS

JULY 23 - 26

Revival At White Oak Grove Baptist Church, White Oak St. in Morven. Pastor Dr. Johnny Campbell. Sun-11am service followed by dinner. Mon-Wed at 7pm nightly. All are welcomed!

Revival At Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Sun-11am. Mon-Wed at 7pm **JULY 29**

Free Household Items & Paper Products during the Lamb of God Community Outreach Tent Meeting, 11am at the Wadesboro IGA parking lot. Words of inspiration from Pastor Antonio Patterson. 1st come, 1st served. Info 843-623-3777.

Celebrating 10 Years In the Gospel Ministry Rev. Quatavis Liles at New Life Christian Faith Church, 641 Johnson Melton Rd, Morven, 5pm with Pastor Jakeem Bowman. Carry out dinner after service. All are invited.

Missionary Conference At Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church teaching & training on missionary & missions, focusing on community missions. 9am-12noon with classes for adults, young adults & youth 3 & up.

JULY 30

Live Concert The Cameronian Quartet at Shiloh Christian Community Church, 1752 Shiloh Church Rd in Morven, 11am, followed by fellowship dinner. Band members, Mike Snead, Tommy Criscoe, Dan Allen & Kenneth Lynch invite you to come and worship our Lord Jesus in song and testimony.

Men's Day Service

At Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 11:45am with Elder Gaddy. All are invited!

JULY 30 - AUGUST 3

Homecoming & Revival At Rocky River Baptist Church. Homecoming Sun with Rev. Johnnie McCullers at 10:30am followed by covered dish meal. Revival: Mon-Johnny Williams of Brown Creek Baptist Church; Tue-Kevin Ricketts of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church; Wed-David Ross, Associational Mission Strategist; Thu-Jerome Cash of Peachland Baptist Church, all at 7pm.

AUGUST 6 - 8

Homecoming & Revival At Parsons Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Homecoming Sun with Pastor Rev. Dr. J.W. Parsons at 11am & Rev. Donnie Bennett of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church of Rockingham at 3pm. Revival Mon & Tue with Bishop John Baldwin of Living Water Worship Center of Laurinburg, 7pm nightly. Come out and be blessed!

AUGUST 6 - 9

Homecoming & Revival At East Rock Missionary Baptist Church. Homecoming Sun with Pastor Taylor at 11am followed by dinner. Revival Mon-Wed with Rev. David Gaddy of East Macedonia Baptist Church in Norwood at 7:30pm nightly.

Homecoming At New Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 1782 Poplar Hill Church Rd, Polkton. Sun-morning service 11am followed by lunch. Mon-Rev. Tobias Wall, Tue & Wed speakers to be announced, all at 7pm.

AUGUST 6 & 9-11

Homecoming & Revival At Savannah AME Zion Church. Homecoming Sun with Rev. Dr. Linwood Carver at 10am & Rev. Dr. Margo Gaddy at 2pm. Revival Wed & Thu-Rev Ricardo Leak. Fri-Rev. Joletha Dockery, all at 7pm.

AUGUST 20 - 24

Homecoming & Revival At Garris Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Homecoming Sun with Dr. R.A. Lisenby at 11am followed by dinner. Revival Mon-Thur with Rev. Samantha Bowen, Pastor of Red Hill Baptist Church at 7pm nightly. All are invited.

ONGOING

HOPE Grief Support Group at Harmony Community Church, meets Tuesdays at 5:30pm offering help for anyone suffering from grief, like death, sickness, divorce, separation from family, job, etc.. Free & confidential, everyone welcome. Come join others experiencing grief. We will pray with you. Info 704-272-7127. Located at 1984 Pulpwood Yard Rd in Peachland

JULY 29

Gospel Benefit For Bowman High School Class of 1973 at White Pond Community Center, 2549 Sandy Ridge Church Rd, Morven. Doors open 4pm, program 5pm. The public is invited. Info Brenda S. Rorie 704-695-5196 or Rev. Jasper Powe 704-244-1297.

Reunion Meeting Bowman Senior High School Class of 1971, 2-4pm at the Hampton B. Allen Library. Info Winnie Brown 704-475-0755 or Patricia Little 704-848-8165.

JULY 31

Board of Education Regular Meeting Closed Session begins 4:00pm. Open Session begins at 5:30pm. View at Anson County School's YouTube page. (Search YouTube for Anson County Schools.) Meeting takes place in Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. For public comment sign up in-person. Sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting.

AUGUST 1

Board of Commissioners Meet 6pm in Board Room, Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. This is the regular monthly meeting. Meeting available online at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

ONGOING EVENTS

After School Program Kid Cafe Mon-Fri from 2:30-5:30p.m. at the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, 704-826-8737

Free Food Distributed by Anson Crisis Ministries Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8am-1pm. It is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. Telephone is 704-694-2445

Bridge Club 2nd Thursday each month, 1-3pm at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

Senior Cafe 4th Thursday each month, 2:30-3:30pm at Grace Senior Center, 199 Hwy 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

Free Food At Feed My Lambs Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 1-4pm. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro.

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Polkton FUN DAY

VENDORS RESERVE YOUR SPOT

Polkton Fun Day is now accepting vendor applications

The Town of Polkton will host its annual Polkton Fun Day on Saturday, October 21, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All interested vendors can call to request an emailed application or pick up an application at:

**Polkton Town Hall
35 West Polk Street
Polkton, NC 28135**

For any questions regarding Polkton Fun Day, please call:
Jerricka Napier 704-690-3729