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

## Dr. Maria Pharr Named New President of South Piedmont Community College



The Board of Trustees of South Piedmont Community College has unanimously selected Dr. Maria A. Pharr as the new president of the college, contingent on State Board approval. Pharr has extensive experience in a variety of roles at community colleges, including faculty, staff and administration, as well as state-level positions. She currently serves as Executive Director of BioNetwork and Life Science Initiatives, a statewide workforce development program within the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) that supports the bioscience industry sector.

In her remarks to SPCC faculty and staff during a "meet and greet" event last week, Pharr said she was seeking an opportunity "to create positive and meaningful change in a community that I could call home," and that she was looking forward to helping the college seize opportunities and "leading it to becoming the integral partner it should be in economic and workforce development, community and cultural engagement and in service to the entire region."

Pharr will begin work in her new role on January 2.

Prior to her position with the NCCCS, Pharr was the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at Pitt Community College in Greenville, NC. She also served in a number of roles at Craven Community College (New Bern, NC), including Biology Instructor, Department Chair, Director of Planning and Assessment, and then Dean of Liberal Arts and University Transfer. Pharr began her professional career as a Field Chemist with the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Pharr holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from St. Andrews University and earned her Master of Arts in Science Education and Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration from East Carolina University.

She succeeds Dr. Jerry McGee, who has served as Interim President of the college since March. Dr. Stan Sidor, who served as SPCC President beginning in 2011, accepted the same position at a community college in Florida in January.

• **About South Piedmont Community College** South Piedmont Community College, the newest of the 58 colleges in the NC Community College System, offers a wide variety of educational and career-based training opportunities for Union and Anson counties, including college transfer, career and technical education, GED, Adult Basic High School, industry training, and lifelong-learning opportunities. SPCC offers classes on its campuses in Monroe and Polkton, as well as at the Tyson Family Center for Technology in Monroe, the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro and other sites throughout the service area and online. The College Transfer Program at South Piedmont parallels the freshman and sophomore years of a four-year college or university degree.

## 2017 Ag Cost Share Funding Available

The major cause of water quality problems in North Carolina and in much of the United States is nonpoint source pollution. In many cases, damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excessive fertilizer use, animal waste contamination, and improper use of agricultural chemicals. The North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program helps to address nonpoint source pollution by providing technical and financial assistance to landowners.

Some services include pasture improvements, waste/mortality management, stream protection, and many more practices to help protect soil erosion and water quality in agriculture operations.

If you are a landowner or renter of an agriculture operation that has been operating for three years or longer, then you are eligible to participate in the NC Ag Cost Share Program. Anson County has been allocated \$73,278 in funds for fiscal year 2017.

To apply for cost share, please come to Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro (the USDA Building). If you are unable to come to the office to apply, please contact Resource Conservationist Jake Barbee to make arrangements to apply 704-694-3516 ext.3.

## Pee Dee Electric and CoBank Award Sharing Success Grant to Lilesville Fire Department

This is a release from Pee Dee Electric: Pee Dee Electric is proud to award the Lilesville



Pictured from left are Lilesville Assistant Fire Chief Ricky Dawkins, Lilesville Fire Chief Marty Morton, Jr. and Donnie Spivey, CEO of Pee Dee Electric.

Fire Department with the CoBank/Pee Dee Electric "Sharing Success" matching grant.

Lilesville Fire Department will receive two checks totaling \$10,000. There will be a \$5,000 check from Pee Dee Electric and another \$5,000 check from CoBank. These funds will be used to build a fully stocked Rehab trailer for firefighting scenes.

"Currently there is not a trailer of this type in Anson County," said Fire Chief Marty Morton. "This much needed piece of safety equipment will be an available resource throughout Anson County."

Lilesville Fire Department Station #3 is a full volunteer municipal fire department. Lilesville serves the largest fire district in the county, covering approximately 105 square miles. Lilesville Fire Department provides fire protection for several major state facilities throughout the region.

The new Rehab trailer will be housed with ice filled rehab chairs, liquid misting fans, rehab tents, and will have needed supplies for firefighters used while fighting a fire. Studies show a firefighter working at a fire scene for one hour, can expend the energy normally used in an 8 hour workday.

According to Chief Morton, "The need to hydrate and replenish spent energy is a key factor to firefighter safety and stamina on the fire scene. This towable trailer will be available for use by other fire departments throughout Anson County in the event of a large scale incident."

Morton continued, "On behalf of the Lilesville Fire Department I would like to thank Pee Dee Electric and the Sharing Success Program for their contribution and continued support of our department's vision's and goals. This grant and donation will allow us to purchase the equipment needed to put this much needed resource into service, and allow Lilesville Fire Department to better serve the citizens of Lilesville, as well as surrounding areas."

The Sharing Success grant opportunity is a joint grant in partnership with CoBank, a national cooperative bank. The matching grant program is designed to support individual communities across the country. "Thanks to CoBank and our board of directors, the Sharing Success Grant allows Pee Dee Electric to give back to the communities we serve," said Pee Dee Electric CEO Donnie Spivey.

Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. Pee Dee's service area consists of Anson, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly and Union counties. For more information about Pee Dee Electric please visit [www.pdemc.com](http://www.pdemc.com).

## BRLC Free Groceries for this Saturday is Cancelled

Due to an unforeseen problem with the food delivery that was scheduled for the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, they have had to cancel their free groceries distribution that was scheduled for this Saturday, December 17. The Express will publish information about the next distribution when it is made available.



## Ugly Sweater Contest 2016...YIKES!

Show your Christmas spirit...with a really ugly sweater!

All Chamber of Commerce businesses and citizens of Anson County are invited to participate in the first annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest! Drag out your weirdest, ugliest most ridiculous Christmas sweater and prepare to take tacky to a whole new level.

To enter, simply email a photo of you or your group in your Ugly Christmas Sweaters to [ansonchamber@windstream.net](mailto:ansonchamber@windstream.net). The deadline for entry is December 19.

The photos will be posted to an album on the Chamber Facebook page, and the photo with the most likes will win a \$50 gift card! Voting will end on December 22.

Pictured here in their regular sweaters are, from left, Megan Sellers, John Marek and Shelby Emrich.

Participants are required to "like and share" the Chamber page. Good Luck!

## Wildlife Resources Commission to Hunters: Be Safe on Your Holiday Hunt

For hunters, opening presents and sharing family dinners are just one part of the holidays. As North Carolinians head outdoors for their annual holiday hunt, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Home From The Hunt campaign reminds hunters to follow basic hunting safety guidelines.

"Christmas is a great time for friends and family to plan hunting trips together," said Carissa Shelton, the Commission's western outreach manager. "It's important to remember, particularly during the excitement of the holidays, to practice safety in the field."

- Shelton advised:
- Take time to review hunter education training and equipment instructions.
  - Familiarize yourself with all applicable regulations before going afield.
  - Repair or replace faulty equipment, especially tree stands, before use.

"Tree stand injuries can almost always be avoided," said Shelton. "We recommend that all hunters wear a full-body safety harness and maintain three points of contact while climbing."

- When hunting with a firearm, Shelton advised:
- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
  - Treat your firearm as if it's loaded at all times.
  - Be certain of your target and what is beyond.
  - Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Hunters must wear blaze orange that is visible from all sides when hunting bear, feral hogs, deer, rabbit, squirrel, grouse, pheasant or quail with a firearm. Anyone hunting deer during a deer firearms season, regardless of whether a firearm or archery equipment is used, must wear hunter orange visible from all sides every day of the week, including on Sundays.

## Ribbon Cutting for New Police Department is December 20

Wadesboro has a new Police Department building, located at 212 South Rutherford Street.

Police Chief Thedis Spencer said, "We would like to invite the public to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at our new Wadesboro Police Department building. The event will be held on Tuesday, December 20 at 12 noon."



## Christmas Dinner for Homeless, Sick and Shut-ins is Saturday

Can you help brighten the day for someone less fortunate with a food or monetary donation?

Faith Based Center of Hope will host their annual Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 17 at 11 a.m. at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church on Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. This event welcomes those who are homeless, sick or shut-ins to come and enjoy a delicious dinner...and receive gifts too!

CEO Vancine Sturdivant said, "Each year during the Christmas dinner, each attendee receives gifts, but they are instructed not to open their presents until Santa comes! In addition to their dinner and presents, each guest is also given fruit and bags containing hygiene products."

Sturdivant continued, "We are asking for the community's support, whether monetary or food. All contributions are greatly appreciated."

If you can help, or if you would like to attend and need more information, call Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

## Wadesboro Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at the Papa Joe's Restaurant the second and fourth Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about these meetings or becoming a member, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

## Christmas Movie Week at the Library

To celebrate the Christmas holidays, the Hampton B. Allen Library will show two movies a day during the week of December 19 through 23. The movies start at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day, except for Wednesday, December 21 there will only be a 10 a.m. movie. The movies will be screened in the Little Theatre, and they are free. For more information call 704-694-5177.

- Monday, December 19: 10 a.m. *Mickey's Magical Christmas* & 2 p.m. *Eloise at Christmas*
- Tuesday, December 20: 10a.m. *Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas* & 2 p.m. *The Search for Santa Paws*
- Wednesday, December 21: 10 a.m. *Classic Holiday Stories*
- Thursday, December 22: 10 a.m. *Bah, Humduck!* & 2 p.m. *Santa Buddies: The Legend of Santa Paws*
- Friday, December 23: 10 a.m. *Merry Madagascar* & *Whacked-Out Holiday* & 2 p.m. *The Polar Express*

## Dancercise Class Offered at Grace Senior Center

Dancercise, which is exercising while dancing, is being offered at Grace Senior Center. Dancercise is a blend of aerobics and dance moves, something that many people find to be lots of fun. The class being offered is a beginners class. There is no registration and no charge for the class.

The class is ongoing. Each month the schedules will be given out with class dates and times.

The Dancercise class will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays, and 1 to 2 p.m. on Mondays.

This class is open to anyone who wants to exercise! For more information and to register call 704-694-6616.