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Wadesboro License Plate Agency Contract Expires June 2014

DMV seeking contract applications by February 10

The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles announced that it is accepting applications for a Wadesboro area license plate agency. The current agency operates under a contract that will expire in May 2014.

The policy of the Division is to open applications to operate a license plate agency whenever a contract expires or ends. The current agency, located at 101 South Greene Street in the Anson County Government Building, will continue to operate during the application process and its contractor may reapply to operate the business. Routinely it takes about four months to complete the application process.

Plate agency applications (Form MVR-93 or Form MVR-93AA) are located on the Connect NCDOT website. Interested applicants are invited to download an application form for a motor vehicle LPA or call (919) 861-3332 with questions. The application must be returned to NCDMV no later than Monday, February 10, 2014.

LPAs offer vehicle registration services and title transactions, as well as vehicle license plate renewals, replacement tags and duplicate registrations. Currently about 120 license plate agencies operate across North Carolina.

New Driver Licenses Will Reduce Fraud, Better Integrate Technology

The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles is moving forward with production of a new next generation, secure driver license that will reduce the risk of identity theft, better integrate new technology for customer service and comply with the federal Real ID Act of 2005.

N.C. Department of Transportation signed a \$73,468,000 contract on Dec. 16, with MorphoTrust USA, Inc. of Billerica, Mass. to produce more than two million new driver licenses and ID cards per year, enabling NCDMV to achieve its modernization efforts. MorphoTrust is the company that currently produces North Carolina Driver licenses.

The new contract replaces a previous agreement with MorphoTrak after that company missed several key deadlines beginning in 2011, and faced a series of stop work orders before the contract was terminated by mutual agreement in December 2013.

"I really appreciate the NCDOT team effort to resolve the previous issues and secure this new agreement which will allow us to effectively complete this important project with the most efficient use of taxpayer money," said NCDMV Commissioner Kelly Thomas. "The new license and ID cards will bring us into compliance with federal and industry standards and provide secure identification capabilities for us into the future as we continue to improve customer service."

The new agreement, which expands beyond the original project scope to make NCDMV more adaptable to changes and customer needs, is expected to enter pilot production of the new driver license credentials and processes by the fourth quarter of this year, and begin full-scale production by early 2015.

The new license and ID card systems will provide real-time facial recognition capabilities, lower operational and maintenance costs, integration with smartphones and tablets, a mobile solution to expand NCDMV's ability to issue credentials to rural and outlying areas, and introduces a limited number of full-service kiosks to enhance customer convenience and service. It is also designed to further improve customer service through the deployment of multiple customer enrollment workstations rather than the single photograph stations in driver license offices today. This is expected to significantly reduce customer wait times.

The agreement integrates new system technology for secure issuances along with anti-counterfeit features to help reduce fraud and identity theft by about 80 percent.

The seamless transition to the new contract will allow the state to immediately resume its work towards the development and implementation of a contemporary secure driver license system.

Get Your Barn Blast Tickets Now Before Prices Increases!

The weather may be cold, but ticket sales for Barn Blast 2014 are hot! Don't forget that the deadline is Friday, January 17 to purchase tickets at the \$40 price for General Admission (6 to 11:30 p.m.) and \$50 for Early Admission tickets (5 to 11:30 p.m.). Ticket prices will increase by \$10 after January 17. There are still reserved tables (8 Early Admission tickets) available for \$350, but they are selling quickly. Individual tickets are also available.

Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child." All profits from the Barn Blast will be used for Partnership programs which address the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on child care, health, literacy and family support.

For more information contact Bonnie Morgan at 704-694-4036, www.ansonchildren.org.

Farm Transition Conference for Farmers and Landowners

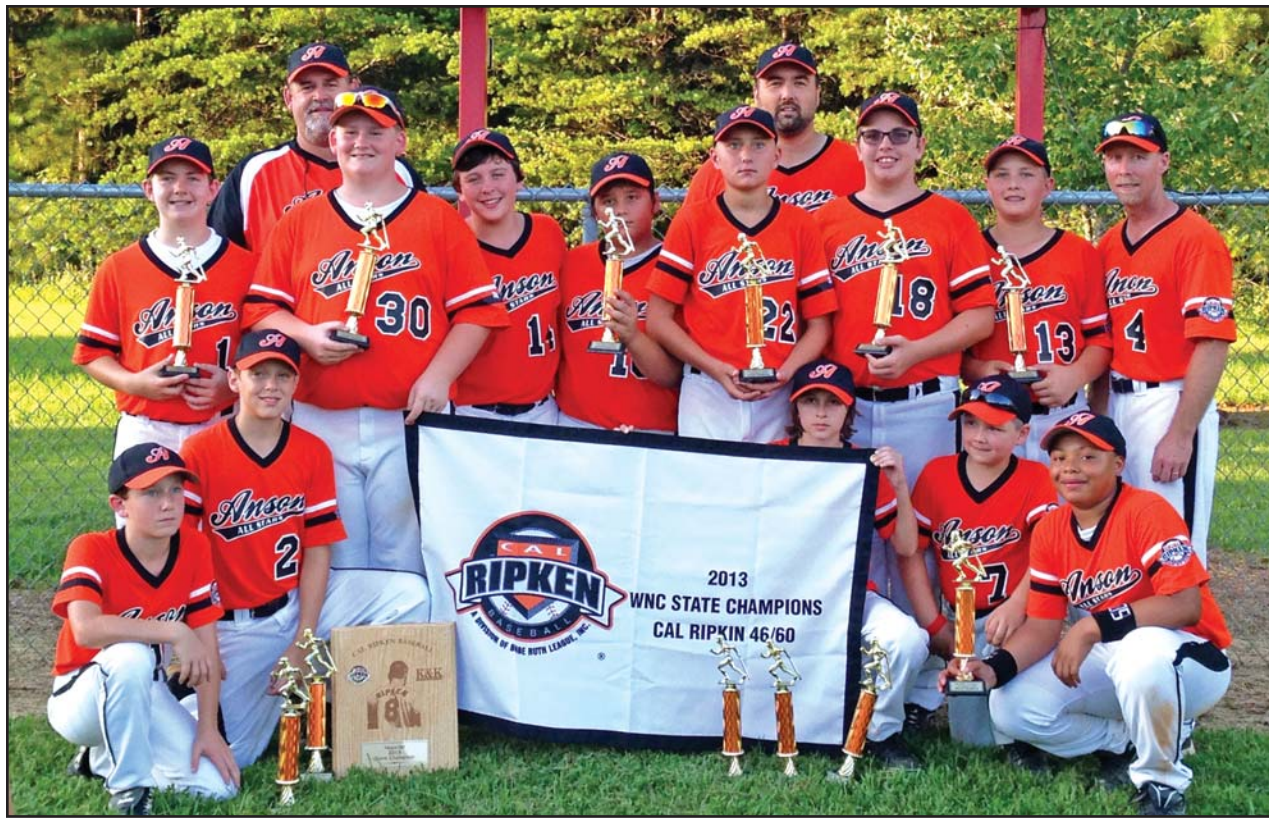
Farmland loss is an extremely important issue in North Carolina. For example, Moore County lost 20,000 acres in farmland in the five year period ended in 2007. Richmond and Moore County Cooperative Extension Offices are teaming up with Mount Olive College to deliver tools to help farm families hold onto their farms in succeeding generations.

Mount Olive College's Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center will partner with NC Cooperative Extension Centers across central North Carolina to conduct a farm transition conference for area farmers and landowners. Mount Olive College and Cooperative Extension have conducted farm transition regional events and educational workshops in eastern North Carolina and are now working to respond to the need in the central part of the state as well.

This effort will be a comprehensive review of farm transition and the tools and resources that are available to assist landowners with farm transition and estate planning. Dr. Ronald Hanson, a nationally recognized farm succession specialist from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as well as several state and local estate planning specialists will be on the agenda. The workshop topics will include:

- Farm Transfer Issues • Family Farm Business Ownership Succession • Estate Planning Tools • Present Use Value • Transferring Forest Assets.

For more information, such as the time and location, please contact Paige Burns, Richmond County Extension 910-997-8255.



AAYA 2013 12U Are All Star State Champions

The Anson Athletic Youth Association's 12 U All Star's competed in the Cal Ripken 46/60 State Tournament July 12-15 in Newton, NC. The All Stars first game was against the host team of Startown with Anson winning 6-5. The second game was against Upper Cleveland County, with Anson winning 9-5. With winning the first 2 games Anson was automatically in the Championship game awaiting the winner from the loser bracket. The championship game was a rematch of Anson's first game against the host team from Startown. Anson won this one as well with a final score of 11-1 in 5 innings.

After winning the State title, the 12 U advanced to the South East Regionals held in Holly Springs, NC. July 18-21. The 12 U All Star team faced other teams from NC as well as teams from Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. The experience for these young men as well as the coaches was priceless. It proves that if you come together as a team you can do great things.

The AAYA and 12 U All Star team would like to thank all of those who sponsored the team, both businesses and individuals. Without your help, achieving these goals would not have been possible.

Pictured here are from left, front: Jake Thomas, Justin Lee, Nathan Tucker, (Bat Boy) Sam Davis and Jamison Lindsey. Back row: Grayson Preslar, Zack Sikes, Charlie Wallace, Logan Locklear, John Ingram, Alex Walsh and Carson Davis. Not pictured are Allen Dale McRae and Evan Byars.

The coaches are Roger Davis, Billy Sikes and Chris Tucker.

Protect Yourself from Medicaid Card Mix Up

Families whose Medicaid cards were sent to the wrong addresses can take steps to guard against possible identity theft and health care fraud, Attorney General Roy Cooper said. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services recently announced that it mailed 48,752 Medicaid cards for North Carolina children to the wrong addresses. According to DHHS, the cards include children's names, Medicaid identification numbers, dates of birth and the names and addresses of their primary care physicians but do not contain Social Security Numbers.

Misusing a Medicaid benefit card is a felony, and Cooper's Medicaid Investigative Division has prosecuted people in the past for such crimes.

"Parents of children whose health insurance cards wound up in the wrong hands are understandably concerned," Cooper said. "Taking a few simple steps can give families peace of mind that their child's information isn't being misused."

Parents and legal guardians of children whose Medicaid cards went to the wrong address should:

- Contact the three credit bureaus to see if your child has a credit report. In most cases, children under 18 will not have a credit report: Equifax 1-800-525-6285; Experian 1-888-397-3742; and TransUnion 1-800-680-7289. If your child has a credit report, request a fraud alert from the credit bureau.
- Freeze your child's credit report, if your child has one. A security freeze prevents anyone with your child's personal information from taking out a loan or credit card in his or her name. Security freezes are free online for North Carolina consumers. Check ncdoj.gov for step-by-step instructions.
- Monitor statements of medical services you receive to make sure someone hasn't used your child's Medicaid number to get medical treatment.

Mattie Spencer to Celebrate Her 100th Birthday

Mattie Dixon Spencer will celebrate her 100th birthday at Rock Hill Baptist Church on Saturday, January 25 at 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Mattie was married to the late George Spencer, Sr. Together they had six children: Andrew, Lily, Mitchell, Minnie, George, Jr. and Marshall Lee. She has two grandchildren, Barbara A Thomas (Weaver) and Marshall Lee Spencer, Jr.

Mattie was a homemaker most of her life. Mattie had three brothers and two sisters, all of whom are deceased. She gave up her life unselfishly to take care of her mother, brothers and sisters so they could get a good education. They all were able to become successful because of her acts of kindness.



Free Food at BRLC January 28

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center's Emergency Food Pantry has received a large shipment of TEFAP Products. They will be offering this free food on Tuesday, January 28.

The food commodities are provided by the United State Department of Agriculture. The federal income guidelines will be the determining factor for each individual's eligibility. Canned beef stew left from December's Commodities will be available until it is all given out. The food items will be made available only to Ansonians who qualify. BRLC does not discriminate for any reason.

The foods will be distributed on Tuesday, January 28. All individuals who plan to take advantage of these items will need to register promptly at 9 a.m. in order to be served. Each family will only be provided these commodities once a month, to one adult per family. Information 704-826-8182.

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program

Are you an adult age 55 or older with any type of diagnosed arthritis? The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program will help those who have joint and/or muscle problems. Achieve improved joint mobility, muscle strength and endurance in order to improve the performance of your daily activities. Join Grace Senior Center's free 1-hour Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, held twice a week for eight weeks.

- Learn basic arthritis self-management from a certified instructor.
- Learn basic principles of exercise and of joint protection.
- Learn tips for managing stress and pain, and how to make exercise a daily routine.
- Exercise and strengthen your body, educate yourself.
- Become more active and stress free.

Classes will begin February 3 and run through March 26. They are held Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. at Grace Senior Center. Please call Wanda Talbert at 704-694-6616 to register or for more information.

Special Commissioners Meeting Called

Anna Baucom, the chairman of the Anson County Board of Commissioners, has called a special meeting of the board for Thursday, January 16 at noon in the board room of the Anson County Government Center. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the recommendations of award for administrative services for the EPA Brownfields Grant Project, the Scattered Housing and Catalyst Grants.

Reunion Meeting

The next Bowman/Anson 1968, 1969, 1970 Reunion planning meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 18 at 2 p.m. at Ladybug Restaurant in Wadesboro. Classmates are urged to please attend.

Healthy Living & Eating Seminar

Pathway to Peace Ministries presents ANEWSTART, healthy living seminar and cooking class this Sunday, January 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. Learn how to cook plant-based foods that will heal you. Learn how to lose weight, have more energy, reduce cholesterol, reverse diabetes, lower blood pressure, and much more.

Interested? Come! Seminar and cooking class is FREE! It will be held at 11775 Highway 109 South in Peachland. For more information call 704-695-1441.

Town of Wadesboro Closing for MLK Day

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 20 due to the Martin Luther King Holiday. There will be no garbage pickup that day. Normal routes will resume on Tuesday, January 21.

Relay for Life Kickoff

The official kickoff for the Anson County Relay for Life will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center on Tuesday, January 21 at 6 p.m. For information contact Carrie Bunn at 704-294-0071.