

## NC Ag Star Competition Finale to be Held March 4

### 15 finalists from across the state competing

The Got to Be NC Ag Star singing competition wraps up on Saturday, March 4 when a winner will be chosen at the finale concert at 6 p.m. in the Kerr Scott Building on the State Fairgrounds.

Leading up to the finale, semi-final tryouts were held in Fletcher, Greensboro, Mount Olive and Martin County searching for up-and-coming musical performers, with 15 finalists ages 13 to 22 selected.

Got to Be NC's first musical ambassador and country singer-songwriter Paige King Johnson will be the winner of the event; emceed for the Ag Star competition. Finalists include Bryant Brixton, 20, of Durham; Chandler James, 21, of Nashville; Grace Lee, 17, of Wake Forest; Hunter Grant, 21, of Mount Olive; Carson Mac, 19, of Trinity; Kaden Thrower, 20, of Cary; Kristen Toole, 22, of Rosman; Laya Nathan, 15, of Cary; Marye Amanda McDaniel, 22, of Greenville; Nolan Reid, 17, of Coats; Olivia Jay, 22, of Charleston; Deane Clayfield, 17, of Raleigh; Scarlet Tantrun, 19, of Carthage; Sophia Cafaro, 17, of Clayton; and Trenice Atkinson, 20, of Greenville.

The NC Ag Star competition is a collaboration with Johnson. The winner will receive personalized career training from PCG Artist Development of Nashville, a Yamaha guitar, a songwriting session with a professional songwriter and studio recording time, along with opportunities to appear at Got to Be NC events. The winner of the competition will perform at the Mount Olive Ag Fest March 30, opening for country singer Drake White.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in advance through Event Brite or purchased at the door. Fairgrounds entry is through Gate 9, 4285 Trinity Road, Raleigh, with parking in the lot beside the Scott Building.

## Nominations Sought for Business Scholarship

Nominations for 2023 are being sought for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Administrative Professionals Association (NCCEAPA) through March 21, 2023. The Association is available to North Carolina residents pursuing a college degree (Associates and/or Bachelors) or a diploma program that results in a college degree (Associates and/or Bachelors) in business or a business-related field of study. Applicants must be enrolled to attend classes at a college during the 2023-2024 school year.

The scholarship is awarded to honor the work and dedication of Edith Herter and Frances O'Neal, co-leaders in forming the NCCEAPA in 1973.

Qualified applicants interested in applying for this scholarship can obtain an application packet from the financial aid office at their local community college. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Anson County Center, at 704-694-2915, or by visiting the Center at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro.

## Seniors, Review, Make Changes to Medicare Advantage Coverage by March 31

Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey and SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Open Enrollment Program, remind Medicare beneficiaries about the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period in North Carolina.

"Our health can change dramatically within a year's time," Commissioner Causey said. "If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, now is the right time to make sure you have the plan that best meets your needs."

If you're unhappy with your Medicare Advantage Plan (Medicare Part C), you have options. Each year, there is a Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period from Jan. 1 to March 31. During this time, if you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan and want to change your health plan, you can do one of these:

- Switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan with or without drug coverage
  - Go back to Original Medicare and, if needed, also join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan
- If you switch Medicare Advantage Plans or go back to Original Medicare with or without a Medicare drug plan, your new coverage will start the first day of the month after your new plan gets your request for coverage. Keep in mind, if you go back to Original Medicare now, you may not be able to buy a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy.

For assistance with Medicare questions, contact NC SHIIP at 1-855-408-1212 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to speak to a SHIIP counselor. The Medicare Plan Finder ([medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare)) can also help you find, compare and enroll in a new Medicare Advantage Plan or a Medicare drug plan in your area. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for help. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period is only for people who are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan and want to change your plan, check out your options today. Remember, the Medicare Advantage Plan Open Enrollment Period ends March 31.

(SHIIP counselors are not licensed insurance agents. They do not sell, endorse, or oppose any product, plan or company. If you have questions about your specific plan, we encourage you to contact your insurance agent or insurance company.)

## Got to Be NC Festival Seeks Antique Tractors and Vendors

### Festival to be held May 19-21 at state fairgrounds

Space is still available for farm-equipment hobbyists and vendors wanting to take part in the Got to Be NC Festival May 19-21 at the State Fairgrounds. Organizers are on the hunt for collectors of antique tractors and farm equipment to join a display of more than 1,000 pieces of machinery. Tractors in working order also can participate in the daily tractor parade through the fairgrounds. Participation is free, but pre-registration is required.

There also are booth spaces available for N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Got to Be NC members, independent vendors and concessionaires at the festival. Applications for all vendor locations are due by April 1.

Registration forms and vendor applications are online at [www.gottobenfestival.com/Vendors.htm](http://www.gottobenfestival.com/Vendors.htm).

The Got to Be NC Festival is a family-friendly event that highlights the best of North Carolina agriculture. Visitors can roam through the antique farm equipment, sample and purchase locally made products at the Food Lion Local Goodness Marketplace, enjoy the excitement of the carnival and relax to live music on an outdoor stage.

## Your Tax Refund Can Support Endangered Wildlife in North Carolina

Officials with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission request that anyone filing a 2022 North Carolina state tax return consider donating a portion of their refund to the N.C. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund. Contributions will support research and conservation management projects for the state's most vulnerable wildlife populations.

"The tax-check off program is the most significant source of non-federal funding for projects that support our state's nongame and endangered wildlife species," said Sara Schweitzer, assistant chief of the Wildlife Commission's Wildlife Management Division. "Songbirds, salamanders, frogs and other wildlife species without a designated hunting and fishing season all benefit. The funding benefits game species too because they often live in the same habitats."

Taxpayers can participate by checking line 30 on their North Carolina state income tax form, or by telling their tax preparer they would like to donate. If using tax preparation software, e-filers simply enter the amount they'd like to contribute to the N.C. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund when prompted.

"Any amount goes a long way toward outreach activities and programs. When the Wildlife Commission can match grants using donations, it increases the dollars it can spend on programs."

For example, a \$100 tax refund donation results in an additional \$250 for wildlife diversity initiatives through grants," explained Schweitzer.

If you do not expect a refund but want to support nongame wildlife, direct donations can be made to the N.C. Wildlife Diversity Endowment Fund: [ncwildlife.org/Donate#Diversity\\_Fun](http://ncwildlife.org/Donate#Diversity_Fun). Info: [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)

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Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-3185



## Seniors, Review, Make Changes to Medicare Advantage Coverage by March 31

**A Matter of Balance**

**A workshop for people concerned about falls**

You will learn how to:

- ✓ View falls as controllable
- ✓ Set goals for increasing activity
- ✓ Make changes to reduce fall risk at home
- ✓ Exercise to increase strength and balance

**IN PERSON**  
Offered at no cost

**DATES**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
March 7 to March 30

**TIME**  
10:00am to 12 noon

**PLACE**  
Grace Senior Center  
199 Highway 742  
Wadesboro

**CENTRALINA**  
Area Agency on Aging

*"A Matter of Balance was most helpful - it made me more aware of what can be done to ensure safety at home. The class provided a definite time each week to meet and discuss concerns with others." - Former Participant*

All participants are welcome, respected, and valued. Please contact us to request accommodations. All participants are welcome, respected, and valued. Please contact us to request accommodations.

**Call Mary Lindsey-Jones or Tonja Smith at 704-694-6616 for more information**

## Anson County Tax Collector

# PROPERTY TAX REMINDER



## NOTICE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT OF UNPAID ANSON COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES

**IN COMPLIANCE WITH GENERAL STATUTE 105-369(C) THE ANSON COUNTY TAX OFFICE WILL ADVERTISE ALL UNPAID 2022 REAL PROPERTY TAXES ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023.**

**TO AVOID ADVERTISING COST PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 17, 2023.**

*Please pay your taxes immediately. Mail your payment to:*

**Anson County Tax Collector  
101 South Greene Street  
Wadesboro, NC 28170  
Telephone 704-994-3220**

**Or visit the office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**We accept cash, check or credit / debit card.**

**An after hours drop box is available too. Thank you.**

**You may call 704-994-3220 for total taxes owed.**