

Free Movie is *The Longest Ride*

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie for Monday, May 23 at 10 a.m. in the Pritchett Room (please note location change to 1st floor). Based on the bestselling novel by master storyteller Nicholas Sparks, *The Longest Ride* centers on the star-crossed love affair between Luke, a former champion bull rider looking to make a comeback, and Sophia, a college student who is about to embark upon her dream job in New York City's art world. As conflicting paths and ideals test their relationship, Sophia and Luke make an unexpected and fateful connection with Ira, whose memories of his own decades-long romance with his beloved wife deeply inspire the young couple. Spanning generations and two intertwining love stories, *The Longest Ride* explores the challenges and infinite rewards of enduring love. Everyone is invited to come, bring a friend and enjoy the film. For more information call 704-694-5177.

Exercise Prescription for Mental Health Challenges Workshop

The Exercise Prescription for Mental Health Challenges Workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 25 at the First United Methodist Church in the Bynum Building at 400 East Washington Street in Rockingham, from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. Robert David, Sr. with Richmond County Department of Juvenile Justice and Founder of Huge in Spirit, a non-profit in Hamlet that mentors youth through athletic training, will be the guest speaker. Lunch will be provided free. Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995, or by email at connectionsfsp@gmail.com to register. The deadline to register is Friday, May 20. Space is still available and the registration deadline is approaching soon. Don't miss out!



This is Final Weekend for Play *Lone Star & Laundry and Bourbon*

The play features a terrific cast of area actors. Get ready for lots of laughs!

This weekend, May 20-22 is the last chance for you to see the Ansonia play *Lone Star & Laundry and Bourbon*. This play is something special as it was adapted by the Ansonia's own Tommy Wooten, and features a talented cast of area actors.

Some reviews from local attendees: "It was fabulous! Another wonderful production. The Ansonia Theatre never disappoints!" "This was so good!!! I just didn't want it to be over!! Loved, loved, loved it!!! Amazing!" "Great play! Very funny! Everyone did an outstanding job! 5 Stars!" "It was wonderful! Tommy Wooten, you proved to me again how amazing you are. Thank you for sharing your talent with Union and Anson Counties. I loved it!!!" "Y'all!!! Get ya tails down to the Ansonia Theatre and check out this play. Hilariously funny and spot on acting. Bravo!" "Great show! I laughed and even cried a little but it was fabulous I hope to see it again!" "This play is amazing! I can't wait to see it again and again!!! If you don't have tickets yet, hurry up! You've gotta see this show!!!" "Every time I go to the Ansonia Theatre I know it's going to be good, but this play was amazing! The whole cast and crew did a fantastic job. I am so proud that Anson has this theatre! If you want to have a great time right here in town and have a big laugh, please go see this play and support our community theatre. They definitely deserve our support!"

Adapted from a story by James McClure, the characters leapt off the page for Wooten when he first read it in 2001, and one appealed to him in particular. "I play Roy, a character who reminds me a lot of my father," Wooten said.

The show takes place in 1972, two years after Roy Caulder, once the hero of his high school class in Maynard, Texas has returned from the Vietnam War to find everything he knows has changed. About all he has left are memories of his glory days, his adoring younger brother Ray, his wife Elizabeth and his now crumbling 1959 pink Thunderbird.

Wooten and Co-Director Gina Clarke have assembled an incredible cast of local actors including Lisa Tarlton of Marshville, Connie Thomas of Ansonville, Jason Price and Steve Adams of Wadesboro and Lindsay Melton of Rockingham.

This is one of the funniest nights of theatre that you will ever experience!

The play runs this weekend, May 20, 21 and 22. The Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday show is at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and \$12 each for groups of 10 or more. They are available at the Arts Council, located beside the Ansonia, weekdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information call the Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or visit www.ansoniatheatre.com. The show is rated PG-13 for adult language and situations.

NC Zoo Stories

• NC Zoo Deploys Cutting Edge Technology to Fight Wildlife Poaching The North Carolina Zoo helped develop Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART) to measure, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement patrols in protected areas around the world. SMART puts cutting edge technology and analysis in the hands of those fighting on the frontlines of the wildlife poaching crisis.

• Satellite Tracking saves African Vultures North Carolina Zoo scientists are tagging African vultures to better understand their biology in order to counter the threats to their survival. Vultures play an important role in the ecosystems where they occur by removing carrion which could otherwise be a vector for disease. Unfortunately, vulture populations have been negatively impacted by poisoning and many are now endangered. Using satellite telemetry to study their movement and identify threats, the North Carolina Zoo is helping to protect these important birds.

• Drones help the endangered Cross River Gorilla The North Carolina Zoo and the Aeronautical Engineering department at NC State have partnered to develop a drone that will be used to map wild gorilla habitat in Nigeria and Cameroon. This will enable us and our partners to regularly map the distribution of the gorillas' forest habitat and quickly identify when habitat destruction is occurring.

• Pine Barrens Tree Frog are the Best Dressed Amphibians in N.C.

The North Carolina Zoo monitors the Pine Barrens Tree Frog (the state frog of North Carolina), by radio tracking. Radio transmitters are placed on the tree frogs as backpacks to track them in order to determine their habitat needs and response to habitat disturbance.

• Polar Bear Care is a Science and an Art at the N.C. Zoo The North Carolina Zoo is currently introducing a male and a female polar bear to each other. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums recommended that Nikita and Anana be paired for breeding purposes according to the Polar Bear Species Survival Plan. In AZA institutions, the polar bear population is less than 60. Of those, only 35 are of reproductive age.

• The doctor's in the house, every day The Veterinary staff do routine check-ups of the animals at the North Carolina Zoo. From doing blood analysis to physical exams, the Veterinary staff use state-of-the-art equipment to ensure the health of the animals at the North Carolina Zoo.

The North Carolina Zoo is located about an hour away in Asheboro. The address is 4401 Zoo Pkwy, Asheboro, NC 27205. The telephone number is 336-879-7000. The website is nczoo.org.



Holly Allison Kiker, OD

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