



Area Teens Deliver Food

Not only are the Teen Democrats busy doing registration drives, they are also taking time to deliver food to the needy, sick and shut-in. Under the guidance of Anson County Commissioner and Democratic Party Chair Vance Sturdivant, the Teen Democrats delivered food in the Lilesville and Wadesboro neighborhoods. Both youth stated that it was a happy and sad occasion. They were glad to be able to be a blessing to the citizens, but sad to see so many citizens in need. "We want to thank Mr. Michael Wise of Wadesboro for his generous contribution of canned goods and non perishable items," Mrs. Sturdivant stated. Pictured are Megan Sturdivant, Anson County Teen Dem President and Alisha Hartley, Union County Teen Dem President.

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BBB Warns Parents and Grads about Summer Job Scams

Now that school is ending, thousands of young people in our area are looking for summer jobs. The Better Business Bureau is warning students and their parents about common job scams. The Internet is brimming with employment ads that lure in thousands of young job seekers with the promise of good-paying jobs. Often times, these offers are more likely to be scams, than actual jobs.

The BBB has 10 tips to help you tell if the job is real or a scam:

1. Full-time pay for part-time work. If the job promises to pay you a lot of money, but doesn't require experience, it might be a scam.
2. Job offers from strangers. If you send your resume on a job board and are offered a job immediately without you filling out an application or having an interview, it's probably a scam. Don't give your personal information, especially your Social Security Number or credit card information, to anyone on the Internet. This could lead to identity theft.
3. Advance payments. If someone wants you to make pay a fee to get a job, it could be a scam.
4. Wire transfers. If a potential 'employer' asks you to pay an advance fee for a job via wire transfer, it is definitely a scam. When you wire money, it's gone.
5. High pressure tactics. Don't rush to accept a job offer of work before you have thoroughly researched the company to make sure it is legitimate.
6. No written job description. Ask for information about the job in writing. Look carefully at any documentation to make sure it answers all your questions. If the business do not respond to your questions, don't do business with them.
7. Suspicious references. A real business should be able to give you professional references. You should ask for references and check them yourself.
8. Questionable business address. Be very cautious if a company lacks an established physical location with a real street address. A cell phone number and website address are not enough contact information. If there is an address, it's worth taking a moment to check it out on the Internet.
9. Purchase required. If the employer requires that you purchase "equipment, software or inventory," you should be cautious. You could pay for these materials, but never receive them.
10. Bad BBB rating. Victims of job scams often file complaints with the BBB. It only takes minutes to check a company's record out.

For more information, please visit www.bbb.org.

Report from Raleigh

From Sen. Bill Purcell: The second Regular Session (Short Session) of the General Assembly is mainly for the purpose of budget adjustment. Plans are to work quickly and adjourn as soon as possible. Eliminating the shortfall in Medicaid is on the agenda. Pressure is also on for the Legislature to find more money for K-12 public schools, which will spend the last \$258 million of their federal stimulus money. The schools are set to take another \$74 million discretionary cut next year.

Governor Perdue's budget submitted to the General Assembly states that investing in education is among the most important things we can do. Her budget reverses the education cuts that were imposed over the past year, and prevents the even deeper cuts projected for next year.

The House sent over their budget last week to the Senate. The Senate passed its committee substitute to that bill yesterday, making changes in their plan and spending less money than the House plan. This all sounds well and good; however, let me tell you of some of the good programs that are being adversely affected or downright cut out of the budget.

Money for the Quit Line has been suspended. This important program has been in place to assist people in giving up smoking. Now there will be no program. The best way to keep young people from beginning to smoke in the first place is education and awareness. We have had a program funded the past two years for tobacco prevention called TRU (Tobacco Reality Unfiltered), that has made significant reductions in teens who begin smoking. This program has provided television spots featuring former smokers and the health problems they face. One of the most effective segments featured a husband and father who was dying of cancer. Before he passed away, he filmed a video asking people to never start smoking and, if they do, to quit!! Now the Republican leadership wants to use the money earmarked for that program to help balance the state budget-- EVEN WHEN the evidence is clear: tobacco prevention and cessation programs reduce smoking, save lives, and save money. In fact, a study in Washington State showed that for every dollar invested in tobacco prevention in the last ten years, the state saved \$5 in reduced hospitalization costs.

Other than budget items, there are several bills that greatly concern me. One bill is Senate Bill 795, "Excellent Public Schools Act of 2012", which passed the Senate along party lines and now has been placed in the Senate budget, apparently to help insure that the House will pass it. I believe that most of us are for excellent public schools and having all children reading at grade level by the end of the 3rd grade, which is what this bill is supposedly about—but this bill is about a lot more than that. It represents major changes to public schools.

The second bill is Senate Bill 820, "The Clean Energy and Economic Security Act", better known as the "fracking bill" that passed the Senate on June 6th and was sent on to the House. I am concerned about the contamination of our water supplies with all the chemicals used in fracking. There are many problems with this legislation. We all want economic development and jobs but some say that most of these jobs, at least initially, will go to Texans who know how to drill and do fracking. Also, recent estimates suggest that the amount of gas in NC that can be removed by fracking is a lot less than originally thought.

The final budget for 2012 is in the next two weeks. It is presently in conference to work out differences between the House and Senate. I will be reporting more on this and other legislation next week.

It is my pleasure to represent you in the North Carolina General Assembly. Please don't hesitate to call on me if I may be of service. (919)733-5953, William.Purcell@ncleg.net

Wildlife in NC Magazine Begins Annual Photo Competition

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will hold the eighth annual Wildlife in North Carolina photo competition, with entries accepted from June 1 until Sept. 1, 2012. This year, rules require entrants to be either a current magazine subscriber or younger than 18.

"Last year, nearly 1,000 photographers entered more than 4,000 outdoor images," said Jim Wilson, editor of Wildlife in North Carolina. "To have the budget to hold such a large-scale photo competition necessitated implementing the new entry policy. Considering a one-year subscription is only \$12, entering the competition is still quite reasonable."

Photos will be judged in 10 categories: 1) Birds; 2) Mammals; 3) Reptiles and Amphibians; 4) Invertebrates; 5) Wild Landscapes; 6) Youth Photographer, 12 and younger; 7) Youth Photographer, 13-17; 8) Wild Plants; 9) Outdoor Recreation; and 10) Animal Behavior.

Entries will be judged by a panel composed of staff from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Museum of Natural Sciences and N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. All winners will be published in the January/February 2013 issue, with the grand prize image appearing on the cover. Winning photographs will be exhibited at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh and at other science museums and wildlife education centers across the state.

The grand prize winner also receives \$200. Other prizes include: First place, all categories, \$100; Second place, all categories, \$75; and Third place, all categories, \$50.

JW Photo Labs of Raleigh is sponsoring the statewide exhibits of winning photographs. Competition partners are UNC-TV and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. Corporate co-sponsor is the Great Outdoor Provision Co.

For competition rules and information on how to enter a photograph, go to www.ncwildlife.org. All photos must be entered electronically; no slides, negatives or prints will be accepted by mail.

Readers of Wildlife in North Carolina magazine enjoy exceptional color photography and great articles on hunting, fishing, natural areas, conservation and wildlife in every issue. Subscribers also receive special spring and fall outdoor guides, with the latest hunting, fishing and outdoors information. One-year subscriptions are \$12 and three-year subscriptions are \$30, which makes it a bargain and great gift idea. Subscription information can be found on the Commission's website www.ncwildstore.com/magazine.html.

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