

Enjoy this Remembering column from 2009

Fall Girls Softball

Anson County Parks and Recreation is not accepting registration for their 2014 Fall Girls Softball. This program is for girls aged 4 to 18, with six possible age divisions. They are: Sweetees, 4-6yrs, Darlings, 7-8yrs, Angels, 9-10yrs, Ponytails, 11-12yrs, Belles, 13-15yrs, and Debs, 16-18yrs.

Home games will be held at Little Park in Wadesboro. Away games are in Stanly and Montgomery Counties.

Registration is open now, and runs until August 8. The cost is \$25 per person, and you must come to the office at Little Park to register. For more information call Wendell Small at 704-694-5868 or email usmall@co.anson.nc.us.

Report from Raleigh

From Sen. Gene McLaurin: All too often we read about the inability of our elected leaders to reach compromise and work together. Since being elected to serve as your state senator in

Raleigh, I have reached across the aisle to do what I believe is best for our 5-county district and for our state. In fact, as a member of the Rural and Agricultural Caucus in the General Assembly, I recently had an opportunity to work with my friend, Senator Brent Jackson a Sampson County Republican, and others on a bill that seeks to cut through unnecessary regulations to promote our agricultural economy and to protect our farmers from frivolous or unnecessary lawsuits. As the bill was headed to the Senate floor, I heard from several citizens and journalists in our district who expressed concern that the bill might not provide sufficient public notification of potential environmental risks to food supply. Senator Jackson, staff, and I worked together to amend the bill to increase transparency and ensure the public's right to know.

NC Senate and House budget conferees continue to meet to negotiate a balanced state budget and this week - reached consensus on the Medicaid portion of the budget. These funds will provide care for senior citizens, residents of assisted living facilities, and the disabled. However, the education budget, which accounts for 55% of our state budget, hangs in the balance. As school is slated to begin in 2 months, we need to assure passage of a budget that treats our educators and state employees with dignity and respect. As I have said many times, our teachers in NC deserve to be paid better than 46th in the nation.

Senate Bill 793, the Charter School Transparency bill has been back and forth between the two Chambers. One issue of concern is whether charter school teachers' salaries are public information. I support public disclosure of public salaries and benefits. If someone is paid with public taxpayer funds, the public deserves to know the details of their compensation. In my view, we should never waver in our need for transparency with regards to taxpayer dollars.

Last week we celebrated our nation's independence, and I am reminded of the unique freedom that we have as Americans. I attended several parades and events around the district. God bless America! (919) 733-5953, Gene.mclaurin@ncleg.net

Wildlife Commission Offers Motorized, All-Terrain Wheelchairs

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission recently worked with disabled sportsmen to field test nine new all-terrain wheelchairs, or "track chairs," at the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center in Fayetteville. Disabled sportsmen tested the Action TrackChairs™ at four activity stations - fishing, archery, air rifle range and wildlife watching - to assess the chairs' capabilities and provide input on user guidelines and an operational manual that the Wildlife Commission is developing for the general public. In addition to testing the track chairs at activity stations, disabled sportsmen test drove the chairs on different terrain and at different speeds to evaluate the chairs' maneuverability.

"With treads instead of wheels and a top speed of 5 mph, the track chairs are designed to go just about anywhere - on loose soil, over woody debris, over gravel and across muddy terrain, which increases outdoor opportunities for the disabled," said Kristopher Smith, the director of the Pechmann Center. "After trying out the chairs for a couple of hours, participants let us know how well the chairs performed under different circumstances to give us input on user guidelines that we are developing for the track chairs to be used at Wildlife Commission game lands and education centers across the state."

Eleven sportsmen with varying levels of experience and expertise at fishing and hunting attended the evaluation on Saturday. While they said they felt safe in the chair and it worked well over different types of terrain, the majority of participants recommended a trial run before first-time users take track chairs into the field.

"We'll definitely have sportsmen review user guidelines with Commission staff and then take the track chairs for a test drive around the education center before they travel across our compound where all of our ponds are located," Smith said. "One of our field testers told me that the track chairs are very stable and extremely maneuverable, but practice in the parking lot will make users more comfortable in the field."

After the Commission has completed its user guidelines and operational manual later this summer, it will distribute the track chairs to its four education centers and some game land depots across the state. The battery-operated chairs will be available at no cost on a first-come, first-serve basis by this fall when the Commission anticipates increased user requests from disabled hunters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Remembering.....

By Ed McBride



Huntley Buick, Inc.

The above wrecker is the first one that I did for Huntley Buick back on August 9, 1957.

Harry was a young man of "twenty five," back home from the Air Force to help his dad, Mr. Henry. This was a time when you did "multiple jobs" - not just sit around!

I designed and lettered this wrecker by hand on both doors. No plastic, decals or whatever!

This was back when the telephone system here had just "gone dial," and had letters (MY4) instead of all digits.

Many of you do not remember that prior to this era of time we talked to our local operator who answered, "Number please."

This also was back when car dealers specialized in only one or two makes of cars.

Well, so the auto industry, the telephone, electric - you name it - were quite different than today...and some maybe not for the better?

Oh, I forgot to tell you, my charge for both doors was 8 dollars!!



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