South Piedmont to Celebrate Opening of Renovated HVAC-R Lab with Community Event

“The Coolest Night in Anson” will feature free barbecue, live music, prizes and tours of the new training facility

South Piedmont Community College will host “The Coolest Night in Anson” on Thursday, September 3, celebrating the opening of the college’s newly renovated HVAC-R lab at the L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton.

The free community event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. and will give attendees an opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art training facility, meet South Piedmont faculty and staff, explore careers in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration industry, and learn about the college’s workforce training programs.

In addition to showcasing the new HVAC-R facility, the evening will feature a live concert by Weekend Friend, along with free barbecue provided by Jon G’s Barbecue and prizes.

“The Coolest Night in Anson” will be held at South Piedmont Community College’s L.L. Polk Campus, located at 680 U.S. 74 in Polkton. The event is free and open to the community. Free barbecue, prizes and the concert are available while supplies last.

Community members are encouraged to register in advance by scanning the QR code.

Local Author Sandy Bruney to Visit Library

Bruney will discuss her new book, “To Love A Liar”

The Hampton B. Allen Library will welcome local author Sandy Bruney as its special guest on Monday, August 17, at 10:30 a.m.

Bruney will talk about her new book, “To Love A Liar,” giving local readers an opportunity to hear directly from the author about her latest work.

Everyone is invited to attend the program, meet Bruney and show support for a local author. Copies of “To Love A Liar” will be available for purchase at the event.

The program will be held at the Hampton B. Allen Library in Wadesboro. For more information call the library at 704-694-5177.

Fresh Seafood Awaits on Senior Center Outing

Grace Senior Center plans Aug. 26 trip to popular Monroe restaurant

If you've been craving fresh seafood without making the drive yourself, the Grace Senior Center has the perfect outing. Area seniors are invited to travel to Mayfair Seafood Restaurant in Monroe on Wednesday, Aug. 26, for a day of delicious seafood, fellowship and relaxation.

Family-owned since opening in 1991, Mayfair Seafood has built a loyal following by serving traditional North Carolina seafood-house favorites in a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere. The restaurant is known for its generous portions of hand-breaded fried seafood, fresh-broiled specialties, char-grilled steaks and made-to-order meals. Seafood lovers can choose from favorites such as crab legs, shrimp, fish and other coastal classics, all prepared with the Southern flavor that has kept customers coming back for more than 30 years.

The group will depart from the Grace Senior Center, located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, at 10 a.m. and is expected to return at approximately 3 p.m. Round-trip transportation is included, allowing participants to relax and enjoy the day without worrying about driving. Participants will purchase their own meals, giving everyone the opportunity to order exactly what they're hungry for.

A non-refundable transportation fee of $5 is required to reserve a seat on the bus. Registration will remain open through Aug. 21, but seating is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

For more information or to reserve a seat, contact the Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616. Organizers invite seniors to come hungry and enjoy a day of fresh seafood, good conversation and lasting memories with friends.

You Decide: How Will Social Security Be Fixed?

By Mike Walden: In nine years, Social Security will celebrate its 100th birthday. An estimated 69 million people receive monthly Social Security checks.

Full disclosure: I am one of them.

Of course, people can save for their retirement while they are working. But what was discovered during the 1930s was not everyone did, either because some had other financial goals or they didn’t earn enough income to accumulate sufficient savings for retirement. Hence, many senior citizens had to continue working and never retire, or live with financial stress in retirement.

Social Security addressed this problem in two ways. First, it requires workers to save for retirement by applying a Social Security tax to their earnings. Second, Social Security deposits the tax revenues into one account, and then uses a formula to distribute money to retirees. While higher-income people generally receive more from the collective Social Security account, there is some redistribution from savings of higher-income individuals to lower-income individuals embedded in the formula. There’s another important element of Social Security. It is a “pay as you go system.” This means the contributions of current workers are not saved for their retirement, but instead are used to help current retirees. This happened because when Social Security was started, existing retirees were immediately helped. Hence, Social Security began with each generation depending on previous generations for funding.

This “pay as you go” system can periodically set up Social Security for a funding problem. This happens when the generations funding Social Security are not able to generate enough money for retirees. Forty years ago, during the 1980s, this happened when the number of retirees was increasing faster than the number of workers. We are seeing the same situation happen today, although, fortunately, not to the degree as in the 1980s. Still, today’s demographics will require adjustments to Social Security to allow the program to continue operating. It is estimated that 2032 will be the year when Social Security will not have enough funds to prevent cuts in payments to retirees.

The 1980s fix for Social Security was multifaceted and included reducing benefits and generating more revenues. For example, on the benefits side, the age for receiving full Social Security benefits was increased, thereby lowering payouts. On the revenue side, the Social Security tax rate was increased. Also, federal employees became eligible for Social Security Social and therefore started to pay Social Security taxes.

As happened in the 1980s, a federal commission will likely be appointed in a few years to develop a solution for Social Security. The big debate will be over the type of adjustments that will be needed to save Social Security. One approach is to maintain the current structure of Social Security, and require tax increases for those paying into the system and enact decreases in Social Security checks to those receiving payments. These changes could apply to all workers, or they may be adopted only for higher-income workers.

An alternative approach is to significantly change the Social Security system, primarily by giving workers more control over how their Social Security payments are invested. This is called “privatizing Social Security.” Currently Social Security revenues are required to be invested in U.S. Treasury securities, which are totally safe and repaid when the term of the security ends. Privatizing Social Security would mean workers would control where their Social Security taxes are invested, which could even include stocks. The idea is most investments pay higher earnings than Treasury securities, which would mean the retirees would receive a bigger retirement check.

But there are important questions about privatization. What if the investments lose money? In the “pure” version of privatization, the retiree would lose. There could also be fees for private investing. But perhaps most importantly, if retirees have to rely only on their earnings to generate retirement funds, will retirees who had modest earnings while working be much worse off than with the current system? There’s also the issue of what happens to existing retirees if all workers’ Social Security taxes and earnings go to themselves. The current “pay as you go” system would no longer exist. There would likely be a challenging transition for several years, as countries that have privatized their retirement system have discovered.

In essence, the question is, do we want to keep Social Security with some changes, or replace it with a required private retirement system?

So, get ready for “Round Two” of the fight to save Social Security. It will be here soon. It’s a real fight that will need real answers, just as in the 1980s. The big question is, what will those answers be? You can help decide.

Mike Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

ID Card for People Aged 60+ Provides Free or Reduced Admission to High School Sporting Events

The Senior Tar Heel Athletic Card is a FREE discount card meant for individuals aged 60 years and older to gain reduced admission or free admission to many regular-season high school sporting events. The Senior Tar Heel Athletic Cards are now available at Grace Senior Center. Come and get yours today!

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA. For more information call 704-694-6616. The hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

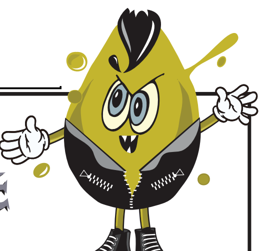
Town of Polkton

FATS, OILS, AND GREASE (FOGS) EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

In an effort to reduce the potential for Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO), the Public Works staff of the Town of Polkton has compiled the following information to help educate our water and sewer customers concerning the best management practices for the disposal of household Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOGs).

How to dispose of Fat, Oil & Grease

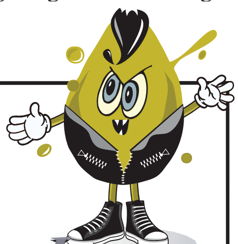
1) Allow to cool 2) Use a container with a lid.
3) Pour the cooled grease or oil into a container 4) Place lid on container
5) Scrape or wipe cookware using paper towels or spatula into the garbage before washing.



Don’t Feed the Grease Goblin!

DO
- Put oil and grease in collection containers
- Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment and food preparation areas with scrapers/towels/brooms
- Keep grease out of wash water
- Place food scraps in collection containers

DO NOT
- Pour oil and grease down drains
- Wash fryers/griddles, pots/pans and plates with water until oil and grease are removed
- Use hot water to rinse grease off surfaces
- Put food scraps down drains



¡No Alimente a el Duende de Grasa!

SI
- Ponga la grasa en contenedores apropiados
- Remueva el aceite y la grasa de utencilios de cocina, equipos, y areas de preparación de comidas con espatulas/toallas/escobas
- Mentenga la grasa fuera de el agua de lavar
- Ponga los desperdicios de comida en contenedores adecuados

NO
- No tire aceite o grasa en los drenajes
- No lave con agua freidora/planchas, ollas.cacerolas y platos hasta que el aceite y la grasa hayan sido removidos
- Noe use aua caliente para limpiar la grasa de las superficies
- No tire desperdicios de comida en l os drenajes