

Gas Lease and Mineral Rights Information Meeting August 30th

NC Cooperative Extension will be conducting a Gas Lease and Mineral Rights information meeting at the Anson County Cooperative Extension Center on Tuesday, August 30th at 6 p.m. Jordan Treacle from Rural Advancement Foundation International will be presenting information developed in conjunction with Dr. Ted Feitshans, a specialist at North Carolina State University, covering negotiating a fair mineral rights lease, potential impacts on land resources, farming activities, property access and limiting land owner financial liabilities in contracts.

Landowners in other areas of the state are currently being contacted by private companies to lease the mineral rights to their land, due to the recent identification of shale resources in the area. The type of mineral extraction that will be involved with these leases has been referred to as "fracking." Many property owners are unaware of their rights, liabilities and contract negotiations. Some citizens in other counties have signed leases without enough knowledge to understand what they were signing.

This informational meeting will provide landowners with more knowledge to better equip them if they are contacted in the future. If you are interested in attending or have further questions please contact Richard Goforth at 704-283-3801.

The Cooperative Extension Center is located at located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. Registration is requested but not required.

Scholarships Available to Eligible Children of NC War Veterans

As families participate in the annual ritual of back-to-school preparedness, the N.C. Division of Veterans Affairs (NCDVA) reminds eligible students to apply for college scholarships available to children of North Carolina war veterans.

"In appreciation for the service and sacrifices of North Carolina's war veterans, these scholarships are provided to help to defray the ever-increasing costs of higher education," said NCDVA Director Tim Wiperman. "The express purpose of the funds is to provide scholastic support to help children of certain disabled, deceased, combat or POW/MIA veterans."

With the legislature's budget cuts that reduced both staff and class options at public universities and community colleges and increased costs for students, Wiperman expects requests for NCDVA scholarship support to increase this year.

The annual application deadline is March 1. Scholarships may be used at schools located in North Carolina which are (1) state-owned institutions of higher education, community colleges and technical institutes or (2) privately-owned, non-profit colleges and universities.

There are several classes of scholarship eligibility. Interested students should contact Ted Ward at the Anson County Veterans Services at 704-694-4418 or email tward@co.anson.nc.us. A list of all Veterans Services offices is available by visiting www.doa.nc.gov/vets/locations/.

To qualify, the applicant must be domiciled and resident of North Carolina at the time of application. Additionally:
 1) The Veteran parent was a legal resident of North Carolina at time of said veteran's entrance into that period of service in the armed forces during which eligibility is established; or
 2) The applicant of an eligible veteran is the natural child or adopted child prior to age 15, who was born in North Carolina and has been a resident of North Carolina continuously since birth.; and
 3) The applicant must be under age 25 at the time of application.

Most scholarships provide free tuition, certain fees and a reasonable room and board allowance in State-owned institutions and \$4,500 per academic year in private institutions. In addition, a limited number of scholarships provide free tuition and certain fees in State-owned institutions and \$1,500 per academic year in private institutions. For more information, or to submit an application, contact your local Veterans Service Office.

Department of Insurance Enhances its Efforts to Serve North Carolinians.

Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin announced the launch of Health Insurance Smart NC, a consumer assistance program from the Department of Insurance. "There is a great need for a source of accurate, up-to-date and unbiased information about health insurance for the public," said Goodwin. "I want people to know they can turn to Smart NC for assistance as they make important decisions about health insurance."

The Department of Insurance developed Health Insurance Smart NC to help North Carolinians better understand their options and rights related to health insurance. The program was established through federal grant funding provided by the Affordable Care Act, combined with existing resources from the Department of Insurance.

Smart NC can help you:
 • File complaints or appeals with health insurance companies.
 • Identify enrollment opportunities for health insurance coverage.
 • Understand your rights and responsibilities regarding health insurance coverage.
 • Request an external review if your health insurance claim was denied.
 • Learn about health insurance-related issues.

Services are provided at no cost to the consumer, and the program can assist those covered by private health insurance, group health plans, state and federal high risk pools, or any other kind of public health coverage.

Smart NC's staff of trained specialists works out of the DOI office in Raleigh, as well as from regional offices in New Bern and Asheville. North Carolinians can contact Health Insurance Smart NC toll-free at 877-885-0231. Learn more at www.ncdoi.com/smart.

Joan Baez to Visit Wingate Batte Center During 2011-12 Performance Series

Tickets are on sale to the public for Wingate University's 13th Annual Performance Series featuring a diverse array of legendary performers, regional collaborations and cultural adventures during the 2011 - 2012 Season. "From Broadway to bluegrass and from The Beatles to The 5 Browns, we've got something for everyone at the Batte this season," said Laura Kratt, Wingate's new Director of Cultural Events.

Beginning in September, The Batte Center Presents series will feature a rare visit by the iconic singer Joan Baez, and Rolling Stone Magazine's "Best Ukulele Hero," Jake Shimabukuro, the tight bluegrass harmonies of Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver and Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway.

An evening of Russian piano music with The 5 Browns will mark the Batte Center's contribution to the Charlotte Tchaikovsky Festival; a collaborative celebration of Russian culture spearheaded by Opera Carolina, the Charlotte Symphony and N.C. Dance Theatre this March. Audiences can ring in the holiday season with a special performance of classic secular and sacred Christmas music by The Priests on their very first US concert tour.

The Batte Center Presents its 2011-2012 Season:
 • Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway - Sat., Sept. 10
 • The Return: The Ultimate Beatles Experience - Sat., Sept. 24
 • Faye Lane's Beauty Shop Stories - Fri., Nov. 11
 • An Evening with Joan Baez - Sat., Nov. 19
 • The Priests: A Holiday Concert - Thurs., Dec. 1
 • Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver - Fri., Dec. 2
 • Jake Shimabukuro - Thurs., Jan. 26
 • Ladysmith Black Mambazo - Fri., Feb. 17
 • The 5 Browns - A Tchaikovsky Festival Event - Tues., Mar. 6
 • Roger McGuinn - Fri., Mar. 23

Tickets are on sale to the general public via the Batte Center Box Office. Tickets will be available online August 23 via the CarolinaTix website. Tickets will be mailed out in August. Visit Wingate University's Batte Center website at www.battecenter.org for a complete schedule of events, ticket prices, as well as subscriber and membership information or call 704-233-8316 or 704-233-8300.

Opened in 1999, the George A. Batte, Jr. Fine Arts Center presents events in the McGee Theatre, Plyer-Griffin Recital Hall and Austin Auditorium. Located just a short, five minute drive from Monroe, The Batte is just two blocks off of Highway 74. At 30 miles east of Charlotte, it may be closer than you think. Free parking is plentiful and all three performance spaces offer full wheelchair accessibility.

Home From The Hunt Advises Tree Stand Safety Important Now and Later

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Home From The Hunt™ safety campaign is reminding hunters to be cautious when setting up tree stands prior to deer season. "Unfortunately, we have tree stand incidents that involve injuries and sometimes deaths before deer season even opens," said Travis Casper, state assistant hunter education coordinator. "We need hunters to practice tree stand safety at all times, not just during hunting season."

If you are scouting a location, trimming shooting lanes and putting up your tree stand, even on a trial basis, use the same precautions you would during hunting season:

- Wear a full body safety harness
- Maintain three points of contact when climbing
- Follow manufacturer instructions
- Have an emergency signal and tell someone where you plan to go

As with any piece of equipment, tree stands need inspection before use. Long-term placement (leaving your tree stand up from one season to the next) has some inherent problems that outweigh any convenience. Exposure to the elements will damage straps, ropes and attachment cords, and potentially lead to breakage and failure. Also, trees are living, growing things and alter over time, affecting stability.

"If you or someone you know has had a tree stand up for an extended length of time, take it down," Casper said. "Inspect it. Replace rusted bolts, frayed straps or, if needed, buy a new tree stand. Your life could depend on it."

In North Carolina, all first-time hunting license buyers must successfully complete a Hunter Education Course, offered free across the state. Go to www.ncwildlife.org to consult the online version of the 2011-2012 N.C. Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest or call 919-707-0031 for more information.



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What are the benefits of a Hospitalist program to your primary care doctor?

Hospitalists help your primary care doctor to be more available to you. Because Hospitalists are in the hospital during the day, your doctor can be with you in the office with fewer delays and interruptions. Your primary care doctor will be able to devote more time to keeping you and your family healthy.



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