

What's Up Be wary of privacy statements, N.C. warns

Campaign Kick-Off

The Mooresville-South Iredell United Way will hold its 2001 Campaign Kick-Off and Day of Caring on Friday, Aug. 24 at 8 a.m. at the new site of Care/HeadStart, 116 E. McNeely St., Mooresville. Continental breakfast will be served. If interested in attending, RSVP by Wednesday, Aug. 22 at (704) 664-2284. Parking is limited, so attendees are asked to car pool.

Diabetes fundraiser

Mooresville High School's Naval JROTC will hold a car wash on Saturday, Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Advanced Auto on N.C. 150. All proceeds from the event will be donated to efforts to treat and cure juvenile diabetes.

Renaissance Festival

The 8th Annual Carolina Renaissance Festival and Artisan Marketplace will be held every weekend between Oct. 6 and Nov. 18, just east of Huntersville on Poplar Tent Road. The festival, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., will include a medieval amusement park, theatrical performances, a circus, a jousting tournament, and more. Advance tickets are available at Harris Teeter. For more information, call (704) 896-5544.

Partners in Parenting

Beginning in September, Piedmont Mediation Center will offer a seminar that teaches divorced or separating parents how to remain a stable force in their children's lives. The classes will be held in Mooresville the first Saturday morning of even months. For more information, call (704) 873-7624.

Safe boating course

Lake Norman Power Squad, Inc. will begin its fall safe boating course on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at the West Dormitory Conference Room on Glasgow Street at Davidson College. Registration will begin at 7 p.m., and the class will begin at 7:30 p.m. The class will be held every Wednesday for six weeks. Teenagers must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information, call (704) 663-7102 or (704) 483-9146.

Community sale

A community yard sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon at the War Memorial. A space can be reserved at the yard sale for \$5, payable at the War Memorial prior to the yard sale. Set up begins at 7 a.m., and vendors must provide their own table. For more information, call (704) 663-7026.

SIHS Crafts Bazaar

The PTO at South Iredell High School will present its annual Arts and Crafts Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the school. Vendor booths are available on a first come, first serve basis for \$50 and \$55. For details, call Joanne Moser at 704-892-7750, or write to the following address for a registration form: South Iredell High School PTO, 631-407 Brawley School Road, PMB 146, Mooresville, N.C. 28117.

Early deadlines

All advertising deadlines for the Sept. 5 Mooresville Tribune, Davidson Gazette and Lake Norman Shoppers Guide will be at noon on Friday, Aug. 31. The Tribune office will be closed Monday, Sept. 3, for Labor Day.

RALEIGH — Consumers are cautioned to look through "junk" mail carefully, the opportunity to stop solicitors may be in the pile, says Insurance Commissioner Jim Long.

Long's caution follows passage of a new privacy law that prevents insurance companies and agents from sharing medical information without a policyholder's written permission. The new law also requires insurance companies to let consumers "opt out" if they want non-medical information to remain confidential.

The bill that became law was initiated by Long and sponsored by Senator Allen, Wellons (D-Smithfield) and Representatives Bill Hurley (D-Payetteville) and Jerry Dockham (R-Denton).

The invitation for individuals to contact a company and "opt out" if

they don't want their information shared will be included in privacy statements mailed by insurance carriers. A company can release non-medical

information if there is no response from the policyholder. Privacy statements explain how companies collect and share information about consumers, and they list consumers' rights under the privacy law.

"North Carolina passed the strongest insurance privacy legislation in the nation," announced Long. "Consumers have the opportunity to tell insurance companies not to share details about their private habits; however, the chance to speak up may be buried among ads and other mail."

By July 1, financial institutions were required to send similar privacy

statements allowing consumers to "opt out" from having their information shared, but studies have shown that the majority of individuals did not realize the chance to say no to solicitors was among the mounds of mail they receive. When the chance to say no to insurance companies comes along, Long wants citizens to realize their chance.

"Some citizens may not mind their information being shared for marketing purposes," Long said. "But North Carolinians who do object to this practice can say so. I want them to know they have that legal right — especially since so many other states are not offering this protection."

Beginning Jan. 1, 2002, insurance companies will be required to send the privacy notice annually to policyholders with insurance for per-

sonal and household purposes. The Department of Insurance expects the first wave of mailings to begin soon despite the effective date of the new law.

Even if consumers do not take advantage of the "opt out" upon receiving a policy statement, they can still contact a company directly at any time to state their opposition to their information being shared. This

right pertains to both insurance and financial companies.

Consumers wanting more information on their rights may contact the Department of Insurance hotline at (800) 546-5664, or access the Department of Insurance's web site: www.ncdoi.com

Seen' NC

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Carolina's most breathtaking waterfalls, it cascades down the mountain nearly 250 feet. It's 5 miles past Dry Falls and roadside viewing is possible. A beauty rating of 9. Cullasaja is a Cherokee name meaning "honey locust place."

This gorge was part of the trail used by DeSoto's expedition in 1540. As you look at its beauty try imagining the soldiers in their heavy armor making their way over this rough terrain. Because U.S. 64 is narrow and dangerous, for safety's sake it is best to drive past the "pull off" to park and walk back to the falls.

You can combine the Highland waterfalls with a tour of fall colors, or just make a quick day trip to see these unique falls.

If you're going:

The Highlands Plateau is located in the southern Blue-Ridge Mountains about 65 miles southwest of Asheville. From Mooresville, Highlands is approximately 200 miles. Take I-77 S. to I-85 S. in Charlotte, then exit 70 onto I-26 toward Asheville. Exit at U.S. 64 West in Hendersonville and continue on U.S. 64 to Highlands and the waterfalls.

SIHS picks Dec. 1 for crafts bazaar

The PTO at South Iredell High School will present its annual Arts and Crafts Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the school.

Vendor booths are available on a first come, first served basis for \$50 and \$55. For details, call Joanne Moser at 704-892-7750, or write to: SIHS PTO, 631-407 Brawley School Road, PMB 146, Mooresville, N.C. 28117.

On Wednesday, Sept. 19, the Tribune will hold a retirement celebration for Juanita from 4 to 6 p.m. The public is invited to drop by the newspaper, at 147 E. Center Ave., to visit with Juanita.

lutions spotted from the 17 buses in the Mooresville Graded School District.

However, reporting violations is easier said than done. In the past, bus drivers have hesitated to report motorists who illegally pass them because it means a day out of work to appear in court, said Emmett. "It's just such a pain to report," she said. "Most people realize that a lot of drivers won't report it, but," she vowed, "ours are going to now."

The police plan to work right alongside them. "Motorists illegally passing buses" is what we're going to crack down on," said McDaniels. "We're not going to cut any breaks on that at all. It's something that will not be tolerated."

"With Brawley School Road as populated as it is, it causes a big hazard for our children getting on and off buses," he said, adding that there have already been a couple of incidents this

school year when motorists have passed a bus when children are loading or unloading. "We're lucky no child has been hurt because of it," Emmett said while the COPS officers have been busy controlling congested traffic — the most expected transportation issue only three weeks into the school year — now, they're having to drive up and down the road, monitoring careless motorists who can't seem to follow the rules of the road.

Along with the problems near The Point, Emmett said bus drivers also report that incidents are common in neighborhood areas. "We have a bus that picks up a handicapped little girl in a wheelchair (on McKendree Road), and it takes us four or five minutes to load her," said Emmett. "They (motorists) really get impatient with that one. That's our worst one."

McDaniels offers a simple solution: "People get so upset, but all they'd have to

do is leave their house five or ten minutes earlier in the morning. That would prevent a lot of hassle," he said, adding that "a few people have already realized that."

And a little piece of advice from McDaniels: "Don't take any chances going around a bus."

"It's just not worth it," added Emmett.

A boost for My Sister's House

Tommy Poovey and Shelley Overcash, organizers of the recent rodeo to benefit My Sister's House, Iredell's only shelter for abused women, present a check for \$1,518 to Patti West, West, program director for Fifth Street Ministries, accepted the money for the capital fund for My Sister's House, which will be moving to the Troutman area from Statesville. About 900 people attended the rodeo, held at the Iredell County Fairgrounds.

G-W's Iredell campus opens doors

By DONNA SWICEGOOD

There are still a few boxes to be unpacked and some computers that have to be hooked up, but Gardner-Webb University's Iredell campus is ready for students.

Approximately 400 students hit the new Statesville campus last Wednesday night for the first round of classes, said Norman Harris, the campus' dean.

Beginning the first year of classes here is what Harris had been working towards since he was hired as director in June. "It's something I'm really excited about," he said.

For the first time in the 20 years the university has been serving Iredell County, Gardner-Webb will have all of its programs under one roof. The campus is housed in a 10,000-square-foot facility on N.C. 115 near the intersection with Chipeley Ford Road.

Having a centralized cam-

pus in Statesville will offer opportunities that did not exist before for students, Harris said.

"Young adults can stay at their job, or stay at home with their families, and get an associate's degree at Mitchell," Harris said. "Then they can come right here and pick up a bachelor's degree in two years."

The Statesville campus is gearing itself toward working adults and students, Harris said. "Eighty percent of the classes are night classes," he said.

Most students will attend classes from 6-10 p.m. Some classes, particularly in the nursing curriculum, will meet during the day, but the vast majority of students will attend classes between Monday and Thursday, he said.

The Statesville campus will offer students who have an associate's degree the opportunity to obtain their bachelor's degree in two

period of time, we grow so much that we need another building this size," he said.

"Our big attraction is, we promise you if you come here with an associate's degree, and attend classes two nights a week from 6-10 p.m., you'll end up with a college diploma in two years," Harris said.

The programs offered at the Statesville campus include teacher education, agency counseling, the Graduate School of Business, School of Nursing and the undergraduate night school.

Master's degree programs are offered in business, accounting and nursing.

Based on the response the Statesville campus has received, the program offerings are sorely needed, Harris said. "Right now, we're at near capacity." That's OK with Harris. He hopes the campus will someday have at least as many students as the main campus in Boiling Springs.

"My goal is that in a short

MCC's Mooresville Center: Fall lineup

The Mooresville Center of Mitchell Community College announces its fall Continuing Education classes.

Registration for all classes is at the Center, 219 N. Academy St., on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m.

The class lineup includes: PCs & Windows, Windows 98, (Beginning), Conversational Spanish I, Word 2000, Keyboarding, Building Contractors License Prep, Notary Public, Real Estate Appraisal, Serving Safe Food,

Watercolor & Acrylic Painting. For class days, times and fees, call 704-663-1923.

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Tribune's 'queen' to retire

Continued from page 1A

she has. "When I first started working at The Mooresville Tribune, I could have never dreamed that I would remain here for all these years," she says.

"But I've really enjoyed working at the Tribune" — from watching the old news office (a four-room house) torn down and turned into the current Tribune parking lot, to seeing the press building transform into what's now the main office, to adjusting when typewriters were replaced with high-tech computers.

Before she started working at the Tribune, Juanita was a receptionist/switchboard operator for Mooresville Mills. On the side, she dabbled a little with directing weddings.

The only experience she had in journalism was periodic articles she undertook for the Mooresville Mills plant newspaper that was inserted into the Tribune as a way to "spotlight and give special recognition to the mill employees," she recalls.

But when Tom McKnight, the Tribune's editor at the time, approached Juanita about a job in the newspaper's Women's Department, her career took a turn.

"Being a new mother, I was really anxious to spend more time at home with my daughter, and Mr. McKnight's job offer was for only 24 hours a week," Juanita remembers. "After my husband and I talked it over, I accepted Mr. McKnight's offer."

And 45 years later, Juanita is holding down a 40-hour-a-week job at the same place, now as Lifestyles Editor. Over the years, she says, the people at the Tribune have become her "second family."

Her "first" family consists of two daughters, Vicki who is a fourth grade teacher at Mooresville Intermediate School, and Lew Ann, a teacher's assistant at Park View Elementary. Juanita is also a proud and devoted grandmother of six, four of whom are in college. The other two attend schools in the Mooresville Graded School District.

Amid many happy memories, probably the lowest point in Juanita's life came when Lewis, her husband of 50 years, passed away in 1997. "That was a really hard time for me," she remembers, "but the support was there from my own family, my Tribune family and my church family, and that's what kept me going."

School buses

Continued from page 1A

Emmett, "That's when they really do it. They think it's safer or something..." I don't know.

"It's a new school year, and there's a new batch of drivers. They're just getting impatient."

But that impatience, if caught passing a bus illegally, will land them five points on their driver's license — the maximum number of points allowed for any traffic ticket.

North Carolina law states that a motorist approaching a stopped school bus from any direction must come to a complete stop while the bus is displaying its mechanical stop arm and flashing red stoplights. The motorist must remain stopped until the stop arm has been withdrawn, the flashing red stoplights have been turned off and the bus has moved on.

Every school day in North Carolina, approximately 1,600 motorists illegally pass a stopped school bus, according

to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. In 1997, a special task force initiated an annual one-day count of stop-arm violations. Since then, school bus drivers have consistently counted between 1,500 and 1,900 violations on the one-day count.

The most recent count, held March 14, reported 1,744 stop-arm violations spotted from 13,062 school buses. Violations most often occurred in the afternoon (55 percent), from the front of the bus (78 percent), on two-lane roads (61 percent), by passenger cars (68 percent), and on the left side of the bus (97 percent). It is especially alarming to safety officials that 3 to 4 percent (62-70) of the reported violations occurred on the right side of the bus; near the bus door where students are entering or leaving the bus.

Locally, the March 14 single-day count totaled 19 violations spotted from 161 buses in the Iredell-Statesville system and 3 violations spotted from the 17 buses in the Mooresville Graded School District.

However, reporting violations is easier said than done. In the past, bus drivers have hesitated to report motorists who illegally pass them because it means a day out of work to appear in court, said Emmett. "It's just such a pain to report," she said. "Most people realize that a lot of drivers won't report it, but," she vowed, "ours are going to now."

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