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Lucky Ticket in North Carolina Wins \$2 Million Mega Millions

A quick stop at a Randolph County grocery store turned into a multimillion-dollar moment after a lucky Mega Millions ticket won a \$2 million prize in last Friday's drawing. The winning ticket was purchased at H&M Grocery on U.S. 311 South in Sophia, proving once again that big dreams sometimes come with a shopping cart.

The \$5 ticket matched all five white balls, earning a \$1 million prize that was instantly doubled to \$2 million thanks to the game's built-in multiplier. No gold Mega Ball was needed—just five perfect picks and a little lottery magic.

Only two tickets nationwide won \$2 million in Friday's drawing, making it the largest prize claimed anywhere in the country that night. The other winning ticket was sold in Texas, which means North Carolina and Texas briefly shared bragging rights and probably a few happy dances.

The odds of matching all five white balls are 1 in 12.6 million, which makes this Randolph County win feel even sweeter. The winner has 180 days to come forward and claim the prize, hopefully after taking a deep breath and maybe a long look at their calendar.

Mega Millions tickets can be purchased at lottery retail locations statewide, through Online Play, or using the NC Lottery Official Mobile App.

Church

FEBRUARY 7 Men's Breakfast

At New Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 10am. All males, any age are invited. It's a call to be saved, to be renewed in the Lord. Come fellowship & hear inspiring words.

FEBRUARY 8

February Birthday Celebration

At Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 2pm with Apostle Annette Ross. Everyone is welcome.

Family & Friends Program

At Madison Grove Church, 11am with Pastor Leak & 2:30pm with Min. Carlos Melton from Johnson Chapel Church.

Lay Council Program

At Rocky Mount AME Zion Church, Grassy Island Rd in Ansonville, at 2pm with Rev. Donnie Bennett of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Rockingham.

Appreciation Service

For 1st Man Bro. Robin at New Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 2:30pm with Rev. Terry Little of West Deep Creek Church.

FEBRUARY 11 - 13

Women of Fire Revival

At Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 7pm nightly. Wed-Min. Renita Leak Smith; Thu-Pastor Anita Scott; Fri-Apostle Frances Hardison.

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FEBRUARY 22

11th Annual Family

& Friends Day Program At Henry Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 2:30pm with Rev. Christian Hall of Flake MBC in Wadesboro.

Appreciation Service

For Elder Pandora Little at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 3pm with Pastor Sandra Ellerbe. All are welcome.

Events

JANUARY 29

Board of Education

Regular Meeting - Revised Date Closed Session begins 5pm to discuss matters related to personnel & property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5). Open Session begins at 6pm. View at Anson County School's YouTube page. (Search YouTube for Anson County Schools.) Meeting takes place in Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. For public comment, sign up in-person. Sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting.

ONGOING EVENTS

Free Food Distributed by Anson Crisis Ministries

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 8am-1pm. It is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. Telephone is 704-694-2445.

Free Food Distribution

at Feed My Lambs every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 1-4pm. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820.

Writers' Club Meets

Fourth Sunday each month at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, 3pm (except July & Dec). Open to public, new members of all ages invited. Info 704-694-5211 or sandybruney@gmail.com.

North Carolina's December Employment Figures

North Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2025 was 3.9 percent, unchanged from November's revised rate. The national unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.4 percent.

The state's unemployment rate increased 0.2 of a percentage point compared to Dec. 2024. The number of people employed rose by 9,802 over the month to 5,104,078 and increased by 14,611 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased by 683 over the month to 204,751 and rose by 8,543 compared to a year earlier.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment, as measured by the monthly establishment survey, increased by 3,300 jobs in December to 5,125,000. Industries posting gains included Leisure and Hospitality Services with an increase of 2,900 jobs; Financial Activities, up 1,900; Private Education and Health Services, up 1,700; Construction, up 1,100; Government, up 900; Professional and Business Services, up 800; Other Services, up 600; and Mining and Logging, up 100. Industries experiencing job losses during the month were Trade, Transportation and Utilities, which declined by 5,900 jobs, and Manufacturing, down 800. Employment in the Information sector remained unchanged.

Since December 2024, total nonfarm employment in North Carolina has increased by 80,700 jobs. The private sector accounted for 78,800 of those gains, while government employment increased by 1,900. Over the year, major job increases were reported in Private Education and Health Services, up 19,400; Professional and Business Services, up 18,200; Construction, up 14,400; Leisure and Hospitality Services, up 13,100; Financial Activities, up 9,100; Trade, Transportation and Utilities, up 7,300; Other Services, up 4,900; Government, up 1,900; and Mining and Logging, up 300. Manufacturing employment declined by 7,200 jobs over the year, while Information employment fell by 700.

