

Anson County Grandmother Wins \$200,000 in Lottery

Polkton woman calls her good fortune “a blessing”

When Nora Huntley of Polkton first started scratching her \$5 lottery ticket, she thought her win was much smaller than the \$200,000 top prize. “I saw a two and zero so I thought I won \$20,” she recalled. “I was stunned.”

Huntley bought her 5 Times Lucky ticket from Marathon Food Center on U.S. 74 East in Polkton, where she works. She said she bought her ticket during a break. “This is really going to come in handy,” Huntley said. “It’s a blessing.”

She arrived at lottery headquarters last Wednesday to claim her prize and, after required state and federal tax withholdings, took home \$143,501.

“I just got lucky,” she said.

Huntley, a grandmother of 15, plans to share her winnings with her family.

The 5 Times Lucky game debuted in July with five \$200,000 top prizes. Two \$200,000 prizes remain to be claimed.

The N.C. Education Lottery’s Play Smart program helps North Carolinians make the most of their lottery play. Visit ncplaysmart.com to learn about all things lottery, from tips on how odds work to how to enter bonus drawings.

Lilesville’s Spooktacular Trunk-or-Treat is Oct. 28

Forget haunted houses - this year, the action is in the parking lot. The Town of Lilesville is inviting ghosts, goblins, superheroes, and probably a few cowboys to gather at Hatcher Park on Tuesday, October 28, for a Trunk-or-Treat event from 6 to 8 p.m.

If the weather doesn’t cooperate, the event will go on, but with a drive-thru and plenty of candy being handed out!

Families can expect a fang-tastic lineup: decorated trunks filled with candy, plenty of tricks, and food trucks dishing out treats that may or may not be scarier than the costumes. Organizers also promise photo ops galore - because nothing says “fall family memory” like Dad in a Dracula cape holding a taco.

The event, sponsored by the town, boasts “terrifyingly good vibes,” which means fun for kids and plenty of opportunities for adults to secretly steal candy under the guise of “checking it.”

Lilesville leaders are also calling on volunteers to pitch in. Anyone who wants to join the spooky fun behind the scenes can sign up at Town Hall. “It’s a great way to be part of the magic,” said organizer Jamie Varela, who is bravely fielding questions at 321-202-3465.

So, bring your costumes, your sweet tooth, and your best pumpkin-carving puns. Just be prepared - the scariest thing at this year’s Trunk-or-Treat might be how fast the candy disappears.

Wadesboro Receives Grant for Downtown Revitalization

Governor Josh Stein has announced more than \$9.8 million in state grants to support rural economic growth, with Wadesboro and Marshville among the latest communities to benefit.

The Town of Wadesboro will receive \$847,605 through the Rural Downtown Economic Development Grants program for a Streetscape Project covering about 1,400 feet along Wade, Rutherford, and Martin streets. The project includes new tree grates, streetlights, pavers, electrical upgrades, and ADA accessibility improvements, all designed to beautify downtown and encourage business activity. The project is expected to leverage an investment of \$62,374.

Nearby Marshville will receive \$250,000 for sidewalk and infrastructure improvements along 385 feet of downtown. The upgrades will expand sidewalks, enhance lighting, and improve accessibility for residents and visitors. The project is expected to leverage an investment of \$860,379.

“These investments help strengthen the heart of small-town North Carolina,” said Governor Stein. “When we invest in rural communities, we’re investing in opportunity and in the future of our state.”

The Rural Infrastructure Authority, part of the NC Department of Commerce, approved a total of 21 grants statewide, expected to attract more than \$179 million in public and private investment and create over 260 new jobs across rural counties.

Adventure Awaits (But Please Don’t Pocket the Salamanders)

Location, location, location - it matters whether you’re buying a house or choosing where to lace up your hiking boots. That’s why Outdoor NC has rolled out its new Trail Town Guide, a handbook to more than 80 communities across the state that not only promise great adventures but also politely ask you not to wreck the place while you’re at it. (outdoornc.com/trail-town-guide)

Take South Mills, for instance. Nestled beside the 113,000-acre Great Dismal Swamp, the town invites paddlers and hikers to enjoy the scenery and, in the nicest Southern way possible, says: “Y’all leave it like you found it.” With its 20 miles of bikeable logging roads and the historic Dismal Swamp Canal (oldest manmade waterway in the country), it’s proof you can have an adventure and a history lesson in the same afternoon.

Or try Southern Pines, which has been luring folks since the 1800s with the belief that pine-scented air was basically spa treatment. Today, you can still breathe deeply at Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, visit the oldest longleaf pine in the state, and then reward yourself with a food-truck feast at Red’s Corner. Because nothing says “healthful forest therapy” like following it up with tacos.

Then there’s Wilkesboro, the “town where the mountains begin.” With 45 miles of mountain biking trails and the Yadkin River to paddle, it’s basically the outdoor buffet line of the foothills. Bring your bike, your kayak, and maybe an extra set of legs - you’ll need them.

But being an adventurer comes with responsibilities. Trail Towns encourage stewardship, like the folks in Waynesville who remind you that Great Smoky Mountains National Park has more than 30 species of salamanders. They’re charming, but please, don’t relocate them to your bathtub. The motto is simple: “Keep Wildlife Wild.”

The guide offers maps, tips, and clickable links for every Trail Town, so you can find everything from scenic drives to rowdy singletrack without relying on your cousin’s “shortcuts.”

So, pack your bags, grab your gear, and remember: North Carolina’s Trail Towns are here to give you the adventure of a lifetime. Just leave the rocks, pine needles, and salamanders right where you found them—they don’t fit well in carry-on luggage anyway.

Trail Etiquette 101: How Not to Be “That Hiker.” Because salamanders don’t need new roommates and nobody likes a trail hog

When you hit the trails in one of North Carolina’s celebrated Outdoor NC Trail Towns, the goal is simple: have fun, take in the scenery, and avoid starring in someone else’s cautionary tale. Here are a few tongue-in-cheek reminders to keep our outdoors as pristine as the brochure promised:

- Take only pictures, leave only footprints. And please, no taking salamanders. They don’t want to live in your shower, and your landlord won’t approve the pet deposit.
- Share the trail. Remember, you’re not auditioning for NASCAR. If someone behind you is moving faster, let them pass before they attempt an off-trail detour around your backpack.
- Snack smart. Yes, trail mix is delicious. No, the black bear doesn’t want to “just try a handful.”
- Respect the quiet. Nature sounds include birdsong, rushing water, and the occasional squirrel argument. They do not include your Bluetooth speaker’s greatest hits playlist.
- Pack it in, pack it out. If you can carry a six-pack of sodas up the mountain, you can certainly carry six empty cans back down.



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FOOD TRUCKS

PICTURE PROPS

HATCHER PARK

NORTH COWAN STREET

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DECORATE TRUNKS & PASS OUT CANDY FOR TRUNK OR TREAT

CONTACT JAMIE VARELA 321-202-3465

IN CASE OF RAIN, THE EVENT WILL BECOME A DRIVE-THRU AT THE PARK.

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