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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

Emergency Loans Available for Anson County Farmers Due to Hurricane Matthew

On Tuesday, November 22 President Obama declared a major disaster in the State of North Carolina based on losses caused by Hurricane Matthew that occurred October 4, 2016 through October 25, 2016. As a result of this major disaster, 3 North Carolina counties were declared eligible for Federal disaster assistance, including Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers. Those primary disaster counties are Montgomery, New Hanover and Pamlico.

In addition to those three primary disaster counties, 13 additional North Carolina counties are named as contiguous counties where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance, in accordance with Section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Those counties are Anson, Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Davidson, Hyde, Moore, Pender, Randolph, Richmond, Rowan and Stanly.

Tiffany Ariel, County Executive Director of Anson County FSA, said that effective November 22 farmers in Anson County may apply for EM loans for physical and production losses. July 24, 2017 is the deadline for filing an application. Ariel said that any farmer who suffered a physical and production loss should contact her office for additional information. The local FSA office is located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Honors Auxiliaries

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and Pastor Andrew Davis honored the Usher and Missionary Auxiliaries on Sunday, November 6. The guest speaker for the occasion was First Lady Minister Christine Hall of Flakes Chapel.



Disaster Unemployment Assistance Due to Hurricane Matthew

The Division of Employment Security (DES) has announced that Anson County has been approved for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) due to the effects of Hurricane Matthew. Anson County was added on November 4, 2016 for individuals who are affected by the disaster and are unable to continue working must file an application for benefits within 30 days (December 5, 2016).

In order to assist citizens in this State that have suffered losses and are likely to suffer imminent further widespread losses, Governor Pat McCrory has directed DES to not enforce the one-week waiting period and job search requirements for individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster in the counties approved in the President's declaration.

DUA is available for weeks of employment beginning with the week starting October 9, 2016, and lasting for up to 26 weeks, as long as the claimant's unemployment continues to be as a result of Hurricane Matthew.

Other Important DUA Information Workers or business owners meeting the following criteria may be eligible for benefits:

- Individuals who are unemployed due to the disaster, and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits. If you are eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits, you must first exhaust those benefits before you are eligible for DUA.
- Self-employed individuals and small business owners who lost income due to the disaster.
- Individuals who were prevented from working due to an injury caused by the disaster.
- Individuals who have become the major supplier of household income due to the disaster-related death or injury of the previous major supplier of household income.
- Individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster.
- Individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented from doing so by the disaster.

DUA is funded entirely by the federal government. Individuals need to file first for regular unemployment insurance. If an individual is determined ineligible for regular unemployment insurance, or has exhausted their regular unemployment insurance benefits, a DUA claim can then be filed. Individuals will need their Social Security number, copies of their most recent federal income tax forms or check stubs, or documentation to support they were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. To receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be submitted within 21 days from the day the DUA application is filed.

Individuals may contact DES by calling 1-866-795-8877 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to apply for DUA benefits. Individuals are encouraged to file as soon as possible. If you are self-employed, you will be required to submit your most recent Federal Income Tax returns and/or your profit and loss statement to establish your weekly amount. If claimants have any questions, they can email des.dua@nccommerce.com or go to our website at www.ncesc.com.

'Christmas in the Park'

New Event in Lilesville December 12

The Town of Lilesville will be celebrating their first "Christmas in the Park" event at Hatcher Park on Monday, December 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. A community children's choir will open the festivities with Christmas carols. A photo booth with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be available for all kids, and a free photo will be given to each child. All the kids can also enjoy a fun train ride around the beautifully decorated park. Hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies will be served.

Following the Christmas Carols will be the tree lighting ceremony.

"We hope everyone will come out and celebrate the Christmas season with us," said Lynn Whitlock from the Town of Lilesville.

If you have a child in grades kindergarten through high school who would like to sing in the choir, please have them come to practice at Lilesville Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 8 at 6 p.m. and Thursday, December 10 at 6 p.m. Mrs. Gina Clarke will be leading the choir.

Wadesboro Christmas Parade is Thursday

It's that time again to plan for the Wadesboro Christmas Parade. This year's parade will be held this Thursday, December 1 at 4 p.m. The uptown parade route will remain the same as in previous years - starting on Morven Road for the line-up and concluding at the Ray Shelton Ball Field for breakdown. The parade will move down Washington, Martin and Greene Streets. Call the Chamber of Commerce for information at 704-694-4181.

Anson County Schools Will Have Early Dismissal on Thursday for Christmas Parade

It's time for the annual Christmas Parade in uptown Wadesboro. It will be held this Thursday, December 1 at 4 p.m. Schools will dismiss early for the parade. Here are the dismissal times:

- Elementary Schools will dismiss at 12:30 p.m.
- Middle & High Schools will dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

Location Change for Visit with Santa after Christmas Parade

Visit with Santa, sponsored by Anson County Partnership for Children (ACPC), will be held immediately following the Christmas Parade on Thursday, December 1, at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, located at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. This is near the end of the parade route, across the street from Uwharrie Bank.

Please note that this event will NOT be held in the Early Childhood Resource Center at ACPC. This location will give a warm, dry place for children and parents to wait to see Santa Claus.

Children will be able to choose a Christmas/winter-themed book from Mrs. Claus's basket of books before they leave. In addition, each child will receive a personalized letter from Santa at his/her home address within a few days of the visit.

Parents are welcome to make photos of their children as they share their Christmas wish list with Santa.

Santa and Mrs. Claus look forward to this special time in Wadesboro away from the snow at the North Pole.

Free Groceries - Mobile Food Pantry is December 7

The Mobile Food Pantry will be offering free groceries to those in need who qualify and the Carolinas HealthCare System Mobile Health Unit will be at Bethel Community Center on Wednesday, December 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Directions are below.

- Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food.
- Arrive between 9 and 10:30 a.m.
- If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445.
- If you have not yet done so, bring proof of your income to register.
- You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

This event is sponsored by Anson Crisis Ministry and local United Methodist & Baptist Churches.

Interested in volunteering? Call Rev. Davi Trotti, Bethel Coordinator at 704-690-3554 or Rev. Cindy Lunsford (828) 891-2753.

Bethel Community Center is located at 5180 Highway 742 South. It is located approximately 4.5 miles from IGA, across the street from Bethel Church

Stress Management & Parenting Styles Workshop

A Stress Management & Parenting Styles Workshop will be held on Tuesday, December 13 at the Anson County Partnership for Children, located at 117 South Greene Street in Wadesboro, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Karen Gerald with Partnership for Children and Suzanne Maness with NAMI-NC in collaboration with Sandhills Center, will be the guest speakers. Dinner and materials will be provided free.

Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995, or by email at connectionsfp@gmail.com to register. Space is limited to 25 participants. The deadline to register is Friday, December 9.

Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They have distributed coats to several of the churches and schools in Anson County.

Blankets for the elderly are also available.

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church is the pick up site, or you can deliver donated items there too. Just call to schedule it.

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Ester Lindsey at 704-848-8452.

Zimmer Friends to Meet Friday

The Zimmer Friends will meet on Friday, December 2 at 1 p.m. at Bojangles Restaurant in Wadesboro.

For more information you can call Betty Huneycutt at 704-694-4213.

Christmas 'Back 'n Time' by the Ansonville Historical Society

The Ansonville Historical Society invites you to attend a program called Christmas 'Back 'n Time' on Saturday, December 3. It features live musicians, candlelight, natural decorations and reading of the Christmas Story by Rev. Robert Burr.

The program will take place at Cedar Hill Methodist Church in Ansonville. There are two presentations, at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Admission is by donations only.

Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon is December 7 and 8

Anson County's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, December 7 and 8 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Because of limited seating capacity the luncheon will be held on two days, serving 250 seniors each day with festivities beginning at 11:00 a.m.

A scrumptious meal of turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, rice, green beans, dessert, roll and tea will be served. There will be fun games and wonderful fellowship to be enjoyed by everyone.

Persons who are interested in attending should call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register their preferred day. The registration deadline is December 2.

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