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**MERRY CHRISTMAS FELIZ NAVIDAD MELE KALIKIMAKA JOYEUX NOEL BUONE FESTE NATALIZIE**

## Anson County's Unemployment Rate 5.5% in October

Anson County's unemployment rate for October was 5.5%. In September the rate was 5.4%. Although the percentage went up slightly, there were actually more Ansonians employed in October than in September. The unemployment rate went up because there were slightly more people in the total labor force. Statewide the unemployment rate in October was 4.9%, up only slight from September's 4.8%.

Anson's total labor force in October was 10,904. Of that number 10,299 were employed and 605 were unemployed. In September the total labor force was 10,747, with 10,162 employed and 585 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 44 of North Carolina's counties in October, decreased in 22, and remained unchanged in 34. Robeson County had the highest unemployment rate at 10.3 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.6 percent. Six of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases, three decreased, and six remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 7.2 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.8 percent. The October not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.9 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 92 counties, increased in seven, and remained unchanged in one. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and one increased.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in October by 35,611 to 4,659,304, while those unemployed increased 6,747 to 237,804. Since October 2015, the number of workers employed statewide increased 133,693, while those unemployed decreased 22,796.

## Burnsville Fire and Rescue Receives Grant Check for New Equipment

Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin announced that the Burnsville Fire and Rescue Ambulance Service, Inc. was awarded a \$6,086.00 grant through the 2016 Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund from the State of North Carolina.

The check will be mailed to Rescue Chief Josh Bowers to be used by this rescue/EMS organization to purchase needed equipment. The equipment is purchased using matching funds and must be approved by the Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal.

"Fire and rescue organizations protect our communities large and small across North Carolina, but sometimes their budgets don't grow with their responsibilities," Commissioner Goodwin said. "Our emergency service personnel should be supported with the best equipment and supplies needed to do their jobs correctly and safely."

"I know the Burnsville Fire and Rescue Ambulance Service, Inc., will use this money to serve their community even better," Goodwin added. "Thank you, Chief Josh Bowers, for all of your hard work and thanks to your dedicated staff."

Burnsville Fire and Rescue Ambulance Service, Inc. has received a total of \$107,537.99 from the Volunteer EMS/Rescue Fund in the past 27 years since the program began. The General Assembly created the Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund in 1989 to help volunteer units raise money for equipment and supplies. The grant funds must be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to an approved amount, by monies raised locally to purchase necessary equipment. Since the program's inception, the Department of Insurance has distributed \$29,628,435.63 to rescue and EMS squads across the state.

## Megan Sellers Hired as Chamber Administrative Assistant



The Anson County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors announces that Megan Sellers has been hired as the Administrative Assistant, effective December 5.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve my community," said Sellers. "The more I learn about the Chamber and its members the more excited I am to help promote Anson County. The Chamber of Commerce is here to help our local businesses, and to improve quality of life for our communities. Being a part of the Chamber is exciting and I can't wait to serve our members and community."

Sellers was previously employed by the Anson County Partnership for Children as the Administrative Assistant. She is married to Dempsey Sellers and has two four legged children. She is an avid hiker and enjoys her daily strength and conditioning workouts.

She has volunteered for the Chamber of Commerce for for years. She graduated from the Leadership Anson class in 2014, has volunteered at the Big Game Hunt Tournament for four consecutive years, and participated in the Chamber Golf Tournament as well as attended the Chamber's Annual Membership Meeting.

"I look forward to working with Megan on a day to day basis as we pull together with the Chamber Board of Directors to help promote our county," stated Chamber Director Shelby Emrich.

In addition to being the Administrative Assistant for the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, Sellers will also assist the Tourism Development Authority.

To learn more about the Anson County Chamber of Commerce visit their website at [www.ansoncounty.org](http://www.ansoncounty.org) or stop by their office on the Square in uptown Wadesboro on East Wade Street.

## Wadesboro Tree Trimming and Limb Removal Guidelines

The Town of Wadesboro provides the service to collect and dispose of tree trimmings and limb removal to the citizens of Wadesboro. The following rules apply :

- The service is intended for homeowners who trim trees and shrubbery on their property by the homeowner. The service is NOT intended for home owners that hire tree surgeons, contractors, etc. to cut trees/limbs and cuttings.
- The Town will NOT remove trees/limbs, etc. from lot clearing operations.
- Please limit the size of limbs to four inches in diameter and six feet long.
- Place the debris near the street, away from power poles or other obstacles. Do not place limbs in the ditches. Do not place debris where it blocks the view of traffic.

For further information or questions please contact Hugh James, Public Services Director, at 704-694-5171.

## Pee Dee Electric Accepting Applications for Youth Tour to Washington

### Electric cooperative to sponsor students for D.C. trip

Pee Dee Electric is sending someone the trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. with the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and is seeking applications from interested students. Delegates to the June 10-16, 2017 Tour will see democracy at work in meetings with North Carolina's congressional delegation, practice networking and leadership skills, and visit sites such as the Washington Monument, Arlington National Cemetery, and Smithsonian museums.

High school students who will be juniors or seniors during the 2017-18 school year and who are served by Pee Dee Electric are eligible to apply. Statewide, North Carolina's electric cooperatives will send a delegation of approximately 45 students who will join nearly 1,800 Tourists representing 46 states.

"Pee Dee Electric is pleased to provide this opportunity for our local youth," Ashley Haynes, Communications Specialist said. "The Youth Tour becomes what the students make it. Whether they're a history buff, an art prodigy or a budding politician, the Youth Tour has something for every single student. We are happy to invest in our young members and help them find a path to accomplish their dreams and seek new opportunities."

Applications for Youth Tour are available by contacting Ashley Haynes at Pee Dee Electric at 704-694-2114, or [AHaynes@pdemc.com](mailto:AHaynes@pdemc.com). Applications are due on January 6, 2017.

A leadership development tradition more than 50 years old, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and electric co-ops nationwide.

Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. Pee Dee's service area consists of Anson, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly and Union counties. For more information about Pee Dee Electric, please visit [www.pdemc.com](http://www.pdemc.com).



## Harvest Ministries Hosts Annual "Community Christmas Blessing" Event

Sunday December 18 marked the 14th year of the annual Community Christmas Blessing event hosted by Harvest Ministries Outreach Center in Wadesboro. Like previous years, this event proved to be a great blessing and benefit to hundreds in attendance.

Founding Pastor of Harvest, Pastor Tim Adams, shared this, "Once again the partnerships and compassion of so many people in our county makes this possible. Being able to be a blessing to families for Christmas truly is the highlight of our year."

This year Harvest received various donations from local businesses, elected officials and many others. The law office of Poisson, Poisson and Bower was the headlining sponsor. In addition, Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant and the Toys for Tots Campaign also partnered with Harvest to reach as many children and families as possible. Toys for

Toys held their raffle of items such as a brand-new television, a cash prize and other prizes. Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid was on hand to take part in the day with the large crowd.

The day featured performances, song, dances and a stirring Christmas sermon by Lead Pastor Steve Adams. Adams commented, "To see nearly 400 folks pack this auditorium to take part in a day of giving just makes the outreach efforts and programs we try to offer that much sweeter. What is even better is to know that about 50 in attendance could leave with the greatest gift ever, a relationship with Jesus Christ."

Every child left with two new toys for Christmas, and families received gift bags and more. Some guests left with cash money, Charlotte Hornets tickets, new tablets, turkeys for Christmas and more holiday treats. A special added prize this year provided by Martin Furniture of Wadesboro was a brand-new living room lounge chair.

To conclude the program Harvest Founders Pastors Tim and Brenda Adams presented Commissioner Sturdivant with an award for her dedicated service to Anson County children, families and senior citizens.

Pastor Adams would like to thank the following for their generosity this year: Mayor Bill Thacker, Parsons Drug Store, Sheriff Landric Reid, C&M Auto, Huntley Oil, Wadesboro Lumber, Lady Bug Restaurant, Tractor Supply of Wadesboro, Leavitt Funeral Home, Smith Funeral Home, Martin Furniture, Arby's of Wadesboro, Subway of Wadesboro, McDonalds of Wadesboro, Burger King of Wadesboro, KFC of Wadesboro, Wendy's of Wadesboro, Sonic of Wadesboro, Pizza Hut of Wadesboro, JJ Haines, John Deere of Wadesboro, Badcock of Wadesboro, Forbes Jewelers, Pinkstons, The Express Newspaper, the congregation of Harvest Ministries and all who played a part in making Christmas possible for so many.

A very special thanks to Attorney Fred Poisson and Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant for their generous support to Community Christmas Blessing 2016. For more information on the programs and outreaches of Harvest call 704-695-2879.



Pastor Steve Adams, left, with Sheriff Landric Reid at the Community Christmas Blessing.

## Christmas Blessing Event is Thursday

Faith Based Center of Hope and Harris Chapel AME Zion Church Pastor Dr. Bernice Bennett will host their annual Christmas Blessing this Thursday, December 22, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Grace Senior Center in Wadesboro. This event blesses less fortunate families with canned goods and fruit provided by Wadesboro Elementary School to supplement their Christmas dinner.

Organizers will also pass out coats, sweaters, gloves, clothes and hygiene bags.

Anson County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant, CEO of Faith Based Center of Hope, stated, "It feels good to give. We are here to help our brothers and sisters."

## Town of Wadesboro Holiday Schedule

Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Monday, December 26, and there will be no trash pickup. Regular trash pickup will resume on Tuesday December 27, with Monday and Tuesday routes serviced that day.

Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed for the New Year's holiday on Monday, January 2, and there will be no trash pickup. Regular trash pickup will resume on Tuesday January 3, with Monday and Tuesday routes serviced that day.

## Free Groceries for Families in Need Jan. 4

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Mobile Food Pantry and CHS Mobile Health Unit will be at Austin Grove Baptist Church in Marshville on Wednesday, January 4, from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon. The address is 5919 Austin Grove Church Road, Marshville, NC 28103.

- Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food.
- Arrive between 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. to be sure you can receive food.
- 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 and Baptist Churches. Interested in volunteering? Call Steve Little, Austin Grove Baptist Church at (704) 320-6535 or Rev. Cindy Lunsford at (828) 891-2753.

## Wadesboro Leaf Collection Has Begun

Fall has arrived and the Town of Wadesboro has started the annual collection of leaves.

The Town's leaf collection equipment will only pick up leaves and pine straw. Please keep this in mind when putting your leaves out to be picked up. Do not mix any objects such as limbs, bricks, rocks or building debris with the leaves. Town employees can be seriously injured and equipment can be damaged by objects mixed with the leaves. Please place these items in separate piles for collection. Mixed debris in with the leaves will not be picked up.

The leaf truck follows the same route as the garbage truck follows. Please be patient, as it usually takes approximately two weeks to complete the entire town once. When the leaves really begin to fall, it will take even longer to complete the routes.

Remember to have all of your leaves out for pickup before February 1. Leaf collection will stop on this date.

For more information contact Hugh James, Public Works Director, at (704) 694-5171.