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



## Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets February 6

The Anson County Board of Commissioners now meets two times per month. The first meeting takes place on Tuesday, February 6. The second regular meeting for February will be held on Tuesday, February 20 at 6 p.m. The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201. The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

## Now Available Online: NC 1099-G Tax Forms for Unemployment Benefits

**Division of Employment Security also mailing hard copy forms if previously requested**

People who were paid unemployment benefits in 2023 can now view or download their 1099-G tax statements through their secure, online account accessible from the N.C. Division of Employment Security's website. A paper copy will be mailed by January 31 to those who requested it, with an expected delivery date in early February. The Division of Employment Security (DES) prepares an IRS Form 1099-G for each person who received unemployment benefits. The form reports the total amount in unemployment benefits a person received in the previous calendar year, plus any state or federal taxes that were withheld. This amount is based upon the actual payment dates and may include the total of benefits from more than one claim. Individuals need the 1099-G form to complete their state and federal tax returns. Unemployment benefits are counted as part of a person's income and must be reported on federal and state tax returns. DES generated nearly 84,000 forms this year. To access the 1099-G form electronically:

- Log into your Claimant Account, online at [des.nc.gov](http://des.nc.gov).
- Click on "View My 1099G" in the menu on the lefthand side.

People who believe the information on their 1099-G form is incorrect can contact the DES Customer Call Center at 888-737-0259. If you receive a 1099-G tax statement but did not file for unemployment benefits, you may be the victim of identity theft. If you suspect unemployment benefits fraud, you should report it using the online fraud reporting form or contact DES at 919-701-3543. DES must investigate and confirm fraud to correct the 1099-G. For more information about the 1099-G tax form, visit: [des.nc.gov/need-help/faqs/tax-information-and-1099-gs](http://des.nc.gov/need-help/faqs/tax-information-and-1099-gs).

## NC's December Employment Figures

The state's seasonally adjusted December 2023 unemployment rate was 3.5%, unchanged from November's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 3.7%. North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased 0.3 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed decreased 1,622 over the month to 5,093,994 and increased 131,769 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 3,085 over the month to 185,281 and decreased 12,762 over the year. Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 2,100 to 4,951,900 in December. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 2,500; Education & Health Services, 1,500; Professional & Business Services, 1,100; Government, 800; and Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 800. Major industries experiencing decreases were Other Services, 2,100; Information, 1,000; Financial Activities, 800; Construction, 600; and Mining & Logging, 100. Manufacturing employment remained unchanged. Since December 2022, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 99,400 with the Total Private sector increasing by 82,400 and Government increasing by 17,000. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 35,000; Professional & Business Services, 23,100; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 21,000; Government, 17,000; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 11,300; Financial Activities, 2,700; and Mining & Logging, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 4,000; Construction, 3,700; Other Services, 2,100; and Information, 1,100.

## Anson School Board Recognizes Women's League and International Teachers

During the Board of Education's regular meeting on Monday, January 29 the board recognized the Anson Women's League and the international teachers. School Board Chair George Truman said, "On behalf of the board, I want to thank the Anson Women's League for their generosity and support of the international teachers upon their arrival to Anson County." Pictured are the international teachers and representatives from the Anson Women's League.

## \$82 Million in New Investments to Connect Thousands of North Carolinians to High-Speed Internet

**One program, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), offers discounts on internet service and devices to eligible citizens. Must apply by February 7.**

Governor Roy Cooper joined President Joe Biden in Raleigh on Thursday, January 18 to announce \$82 million in new investments from the American Rescue Plan's Capital Projects Fund that will connect at least 16,000 North Carolina homes and businesses to high-speed internet as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda. This \$82 million award will fund Governor Cooper's Stop-Gap Solutions Program aimed at delivering reliable high-speed internet access to the state's hardest to reach locations.

"We are grateful for the Biden-Harris Administration's unwavering commitment to closing the digital divide here in North Carolina and across the nation," said Governor Cooper. "Accessing the internet is a necessity in today's world, and President Biden has continued to be an invaluable partner in our efforts to not only connect North Carolinians to reliable, high-speed internet, but also ensure that they can afford it."

Overall, the Biden-Harris Administration is investing over \$3 billion in North Carolina through the American Rescue Plan and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help connect families and businesses to reliable and affordable internet. Using \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act funding, North Carolina will connect over 300,000 homes and businesses to high-speed internet by 2026. The state has already put this funding toward nearly \$350 million in Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grants to connect 137,646 households and 4,441 businesses in 92 counties, along with \$22 million in Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) program awards that will connect 6,012 more households and 164 businesses in 14 counties to high-speed internet. American Rescue Plan funds are also supporting efforts to increase access to devices and digital literacy and skills training.

North Carolina is also receiving more than \$1.5 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program that will be used to connect all North Carolinians to affordable, reliable high-speed internet service.

In addition, Governor Cooper has joined the Biden-Harris Administration in urging Congress to continue funding the Affordable Connectivity Program that helps millions of U.S. households, including nearly 900,000 in North Carolina, afford reliable high-speed internet. Without Congressional action, 22.6 million U.S. households will see a significant spike in their internet bill and potentially lose service entirely when current funding is projected to end in mid-2024.

Learn more about Governor Cooper's plan to close the digital divide in North Carolina at [ncbroadband.gov](http://ncbroadband.gov). You can also find details about the ACP at [ncbroadband.gov](http://ncbroadband.gov).

## David Kiser Hands of a Sportsman Event is February 10

Hands of a Sportsman is hosting the 4th annual David Kiser Memorial Pheasant Hunt on Saturday, February 10 at Devil's Rib Preserve, located at 2466 Peachland Polkton Road in Peachland. This free event is open to the public. Youth and any life challenged hunter may register. Lunch will be served around 12 noon accompanied by music by the Gospel Plowboys, and will be followed by an auction. All funds raised will go to furthering the mission of Hands of a Sportsman who provide outdoor adventures to anyone who might not otherwise get the opportunity, including youth, disabled youth and adults, and veterans.

More information is available at: [handsofasportsman.org](http://handsofasportsman.org). Hands of a Sportsman and the Kiser family would like to thank all of the sponsors, volunteers and donors who have worked to make this day possible.

## Las Amigas Selects 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Winners

Four students from Morven Elementary School were awarded financial gifts and certificates in recognition of their essays in the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest sponsored by the Morven Chapter of Las Amigas. All students in the 4th through 6th grades at Morven Elementary School could compete in the essay competition. This year's theme was "What Can I Do to Bring About Positive Change that I Would Be Known for in Years to Come?"

Fourth Place winner was Harper Bennett. In Third Place was Kryston Price, and the Second Place essayist was Hazel Lemus. The winner, 12 year old Serenity Smith, is a 6th grader. Serenity is the daughter of Jessica Garris and the granddaughter of Mrs. Rosa Nivens. She is an AIG student who loves her family and loves to read. Reading and math are her favorite subjects. Her ambition is to study to be a lawyer. Serenity read her award-winning essay at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration held on January 15 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Other students participating in the Essay Contest were Ngan Nguyen, Ava Kelly and Abigail Mendoza. All students received a Certificate of Participation.

The Morven Chapter of Las Amigas sponsors an annual essay contest in honor of Dr. King's birthday. Las Amigas is a local, civic organization which works to improve the Anson County community through educational, social, and other kinds of activities.



Pictured above are, from left, Serenity Smith, (essay contest winner), Winnie Bennett (Las Amigas), Hazel Lemus, Dr. Dionnya Pratt (MES Principal), Kryston Price and Harper Bennett.