

SAT, APRIL 2 8AM-1PM



YARD SALE

Come out to support a local family and a great cause.

Info: Olivia Edwards
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In Support of Anna Hammonds Gillespie's Walk for MS (Multiple Sclerosis)

All funds raised go towards Walk for MS (Multiple Sclerosis)

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Gratefully accepting donations of money or items for the yard sale.

Man Sentenced to Minimum of 43 Years for Gun Violence

During the March 29 session of Scotland County Criminal Superior Court, defendant Desmond Jakeem Bethea was convicted of 3 counts of Attempted First Degree Murder, 2 Counts of Assault with Deadly Weapon on Government Official, Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury, and Carrying Concealed Handgun. Bethea was 18 at the time.

The State was represented by Mrs. Jamie Adams and Mr. Brian Chapman. During the trial the State presented evidence that the Laurinburg Police Department responded to a call for shots fired at the Laurinburg Food Mart. The defendant shot a civilian and opened fire on law enforcement while they were securing the crime scene. The Honorable Stephan Futrell presided over the case and ultimately sentenced Defendant to a minimum term of 520 months to a maximum term of 672 months in the Department of Corrections.

In response to the verdict, District Attorney Reece Saunders said, "Gun violence in Scotland County happens all too frequently. Multiple individuals could have been seriously injured or killed as a result of the defendant's actions. A jury of the defendant's peers expressed the community's sentiment about senseless gun violence. It needs to stop and those that participate in such activity will be aggressively prosecuted."



Desmond Jakeem Bethea

Anson County Homes of Hope's First Annual Community EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday April 9th

10:00 AM

Calvary Episcopal Church
308 East Wade Street
Uptown Wadesboro

Prizes & Raffle

Raffle Tickets \$2 Each or 3 for \$5

ALL ARE WELCOME

You Decide: Are There Good Answers to Your Inflation Questions?

By Mike Walden: According to polls, inflation is the number one issue in the country. This is understandable. The most recent data show the inflation rate during the past year was 7.5 percent. In the 21st century, the annual inflation rate was above three percent only four times, and it never rose more than four percent until last year. In this column, I will answer several questions about inflation. Hopefully my answers will help you understand what inflation is, how it impacts you, and what can be done to moderate inflation's impacts.

What is inflation? Inflation is the average increase in the prices of common products and services we purchase. Price changes of products and services that are more important to our budgets receive greater weight on the average. Inflation is usually expressed as an annual percentage. So, a 7.5 percent inflation rate means the average weighted price of products and services rose 7.5 percent over the year.

Why are we concerned about inflation? Inflation increases the cost of living. If your income rises less than the inflation rate, then your standard of living falls. Hence, if your income rose less than 7.5 percent in the last year, then economically, you fell behind.

When was the last time the inflation rate was as high as today? In 1981, the inflation rate was 10.3 percent. In 1980, it was 13.5 percent.

Are there other countries experiencing a high inflation rate today? Yes, several countries are enduring higher inflation rates, such as Germany and the UK at near 6%, Mexico at seven percent, and Russia at almost nine percent. But, at least we're lower than Cuba's 77 percent inflation rate and Venezuela's recent 472 percent inflation rate.

What's caused the jump in the inflation rate? There are two reasons. First is continuing problems with the "supply chain." This simply means it's taking longer to get many products to sellers' shelves. Also, the ongoing shortage of workers is adversely impacting the availability of some services. Lower supply of many products and services means those that are available are worth more, which results in their prices being higher.

The second reason has resulted from the generous federal stimulus programs during the past two years. In 2020 and 2021, the federal government appropriated over \$5 trillion in a variety of programs to help households, businesses and institutions survive in the pandemic. The result is that there is money to spend. As consumers attempt to spend the money on a limited amount of products and services, their actions put further upward pressure on prices.

Can't the government simply control price changes? Forty years ago, price controls were imposed by the federal government to deal with a similar inflation situation. There were two problems that emerged as a result. Changes in prices serve as signals to tell firms how to adjust production to eliminate both surpluses and shortages. Controls on prices eliminate this important function. Also, some firms used schemes and even fraud to get around the controls. When the price controls were removed, the inflation rate tripled.

Some argue increased government spending would decrease the inflation rate. Is this true? Government spending that increases the supply of products and services, encourages more people to work, and makes workers more productive would moderate price increases. However, many of these programs take time to work, so the effect on inflation is not immediate. A good example is educational and training efforts designed to improve the productivity of current and future workers.

Then what can the government do to curtail inflation? The government agency that can have the quickest impact is the Federal Reserve (the "Fed"), which is the central bank of the country. To reduce the inflation rate, the Fed will want to moderate consumer spending. The Fed will do this by raising interest rates – thereby making it more expensive for people to borrow and spend – as well as by pulling cash out of the economy.

Are these actions by the Fed guaranteed to work? The Fed certainly has the tools to slow the economy and reduce the inflation rate. The problem is their actions can put the economy in reverse – meaning a recession. This is what happened forty years ago when the inflation rate was in double digits. The Fed was able to reduce the inflation rate from 13% to 3% within three years, but the cost was two recessions in those three years.

How will these actions impact investments? Typically, the stock market reacts negatively to increases in interest rates. An exception is if equity investors expect the interest rate hikes will quickly subdue inflation. However, if stock market investors expect the Fed's actions will bring on a recession, stock prices would likely fall.

Inflation hasn't been a big worry in the economy for four decades, so many individuals are witnessing the debates about inflation for the first time. Hopefully my questions and answers will help you decide how to respond to the ongoing inflation battle.

Walden is a Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

Don't let leg pain slow you down.



One in every 20 Americans over the age of 50 suffers from PAD - a condition caused by plaque or fatty deposits in the arteries that limit blood flow to the legs and feet. This puts them at greater risk for heart attack, stroke and limb loss.

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While registration in and of itself is no guarantee against fraud, not being registered is a very big red warning flag.

The NC Secretary of State Securities Division urges you to take five minutes to call their NC Investor Hotline at 1-800-688-4507 to see if the person you have been dealing with – perhaps even for years – is properly registered and/or has a disciplinary history. You can also check to see if the actual investment itself is properly registered.

Pick up the phone and call them. You owe it to yourself and your family to check. And, please also consider sharing this information with your contacts or your social networks. Doing so will help keep your friends and loved ones safe, too. More information can be found at www.sosnc.gov/divisions/securities_for_investors.

Addiction Recovery Support Group Meets Online on Wednesdays

The Virtual Addiction Recovery Support Group has resumed meetings, and they are now conducted online. The meetings are available to anyone who is interested each Wednesday, from 5 to 6 p.m.

For information on how to participate contact Kelly Kirk, NC Certified Peer Support Specialist, Registered Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor, Certified Recovery Coach at the Richmond County DHHS Peer Support Program. Her office number is 910-997-8424, email is Kelly.kirk@richmondnc.com.

Wadesboro AA Meeting Schedule

- Monday Anson Group meets 7 to 8 p.m.
- Wednesday Harmony Group meets 12 to 1 p.m.

Anyone who thinks they may have a problem with drugs or alcohol, AA wants to help.

The Alcoholics Anonymous building is located at 2177 Country Club Road in Wadesboro, across from the EMS building. For more information call: 704-294-4468.

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