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The State Fair also offers numerous livestock competitions, with junior and open divisions featuring classes based on an animal's species, breed, age and weight.

Most competitions are free to enter, and the deadline for entering most categories is Sept. 15. Complete rules, entry forms and competition information are available at www.ncstatefair.org under the "Competitions" section. Participants seeking prize money may also be required to submit a digital W-9 form.

"We're excited to see what people will enter and we wish everyone the best of luck," Yelverton said. "Let's make the 2026 N.C. State Fair a story worth telling and set a record for competition entries."

The 2026 N.C. State Fair will be held October 15-25 in Raleigh. Advance tickets are available at www.ncstatefair.org.

Commissioners Meet July 21

The second July meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners takes place on Tuesday, July 21 at 6 p.m.

Meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Government Center, 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. (A little advance notice goes a long way - surprise speeches are better suited for family dinners.)

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 and search for Anson Commissioners.

Christmas in July Event this Thursday
Offers Vaccines, Physicals and Family Fun

Health department combines back-to-school needs with a festive twist

The Anson County Health Department is bringing a little holiday cheer to the middle of summer with its upcoming "Christmas in July" Immunization Party, offering back-to-school vaccines, sports physicals and family-friendly activities all in one stop.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, July 16, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the health department, located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

Designed with both health and convenience in mind, the event aims to ensure children receive required and recommended immunizations before the school year begins - helping families avoid the last-minute scramble (and those dreaded "you can't start school yet" surprises).

Students and families can take care of important back-to-school requirements, including vaccinations and sports physicals, which will be offered for \$25.

Walk-ins are welcome, and organizers promise fast and easy service.

In addition to medical services, the event will feature free school supplies, refreshments, educational resources and even photos with Santa - who appears to be swapping snow boots for flip-flops, at least for the day. Health officials say the goal is not only to keep children healthy, but also to create a welcoming environment that connects families with valuable community resources.

Health Director Brian Ellerby expressed appreciation for the community's continued support, noting that efforts like this help ensure every child begins the school year healthy, prepared and ready to succeed.

NC Ranks No. 2 for Business, No. 1 for Economy

Governor calls for continued investments to lower cost of living

North Carolina has once again been recognized as one of the nation's top states for business, earning the No. 2 overall ranking in CNBC's 2026 America's Top States for Business report.

In addition to its No. 2 business ranking, North Carolina was ranked No. 1 for its economy and No. 3 for workforce. The state ranked No. 35 in cost of living.

Governor Josh Stein said the recognition marks the sixth consecutive year North Carolina has finished among the nation's top two states for business.

"North Carolina's got a good thing going," Stein said. "This year, we're the No. 1 state for the economy, the No. 2 state for business, and the No. 3 state for workforce. I'm proud that we announced a record-breaking number of jobs in 2025, expanding opportunity to every corner of the state."

Stein said the rankings also demonstrate the need for continued investments in infrastructure and affordability to keep North Carolina competitive with other states.

He called for additional efforts to reduce the cost of housing, child care, health care and utilities while continuing to invest in infrastructure and quality of life.

The governor also urged the General Assembly to adopt a new state budget, noting that North Carolina has gone more than 1,000 days without passing one.

"North Carolina is growing and thriving, and remaining in the top two is just another reminder of all our state has to offer," Stein said. "Let's keep building our success story by investing in people and lowering the cost of living so that we can build a safer, stronger and more prosperous North Carolina."

State Fair Adds New Competitions

Entry deadline for most categories is Sept. 15

North Carolinians are invited to showcase their talents by entering one of the many competitions at the 2026 N.C. State Fair, including several new categories making their debut this year.

Among the new competitions are Plein Air art, country ham, egg grading, diamond art, amateur wine, fruit leather, freeze-dried foods, agricultural products art displays, taco salad vegetable displays, hops, wreaths, paper flowers and several new Folk Festival events, including a cappella, poetry, storytelling, monologues, duo scenes, musical theater and show choir performances.

"Our competitions highlight the talents of the residents of North Carolina," said N.C. State Fair Director Kent Yelverton. "Whether your talent is growing giant vegetables, raising champion goats, cross-stitching, crocheting, painting rocks, scrapbooking, photography, flower arranging or something else, the fair likely features a competition for you."

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