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# **ARMS PROVIDES DENTAL CARE**

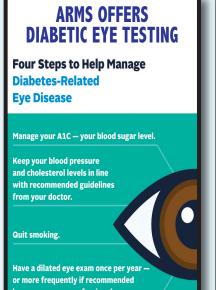




**CALL** 704 694-6700

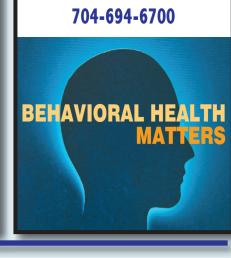
**Emergency visits** are available.

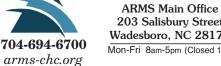
Ask about our **Sliding Fee** Scale **Program!** 











203 Salisbury Street

Wadesboro, NC 28170 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm (Closed 12-1)

**ARMS Union Office** 1328 Patterson Street Monroe, NC 28112 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm (Closed 12-1)

#### THE EXPRESS • July 23, 2025 • Page 2 Veterans Information Fair is Saturday

All Anson County Veterans are invited to the Veterans Information Fair that will take place this Saturday, July 26, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at North Wadesboro Baptist Church, located at 1211 North Greene Street in Wadesboro.

A free lunch is included, because every hero deserves a hearty meal!

#### Why Attend?

- Your questions about Veterans benefits are answered.
- We help file disability claims.

• We give claim and benefits support.

No hassle, just answers. They are there to help you! Rain or shine - Anson County Veteran Services has your back! Come connect with fellow Veterans, and enjoy a hearty, free meal.

## Funny, Random & Weird Holidays

- July 24 Thursday Pythagorean Theorem Day
- July 24 Thursday Cousins Day • July 25 Friday - Culinarians Day
- July 26 Saturday Uncle and Aunt Day
- July 27 Sunday Take your Pants for a Walk Day
- July 28 Monday Milk Chocolate Day
- July 29 Tuesday Lasagna Day
- July 30 Wednesday National Cheesecake Day

### **Grace Senior Center Has It Going On In July!**

Grace Senior Center is an excellent resource for Anson County's senior citizens. They provide programs, services, activities and fellowship that are beneficial... ALL FREE...AND ALL FUN & INFORMATIVE!

Be sure to check the Express Events Calendar to keep up with more activities at Grace Senior Center.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA. For information call 704-694-6616.

- Tuesdays & Thursdays Exercise Class 10-11am
- Friday, July 25 UNO & Spades Card Games 2-3pm
- Monday, July 28 Chair Volleyball, 2-3pm
- Tuesday, July 29 National Hot Dog Day 10am-12 noon. Join us for a free hot dog with all the trimmings while supplies last. • **Wednesday**, **July 30** Anson Arts Council / Ansonia Theatre Visit 1-3pm. Come
- and learn more about the arts.
- Thursday, July 31 Visit by Anson Animal Shelter 12-2pm. Pet care and education.

### "Wood' you look at that?" Forestry Sits Atop North Carolina's Manufacturing Sector

Forests provide a never-ending list of benefits to humans, wildlife and plant habitat. In many cases, trees provide necessities that each of us require daily. To name a few from the low hanging fruit, trees purify the air we breathe, the water we drink, and their canopy casts shadows that help regulate temperatures, a bonus as we enter the dog days of July and August. Aside from what trees do for humanity, forests act somewhat of a headquarters for a broad and diverse range of animal, plant and insect species. It's probably not a stretch to say that trees and forests might offer additional value that we've yet to discover. However, ecosystem services are also public goods that can be monetized to better guide land management decisions.

North Carolina's naval stores industry, the state's first major industry, refers to

products harvested from longleaf pine trees during colonial times. The Royal Navy relied on many of these products such as lumber, turpentine, pitch and rosin used for merchant vessels, warships and other needs throughout the shipping industry. While present day tar is petroleum based, tar used as a naval store product was also derived from resinous wood produced by the longleaf pine. Following manufacturing, it was painted on sails, ropes and riggings, helping to preserve these assets by acting as a weatherproofing agent. The ability to produce tar in significant quantities helped contribute to North Carolina's "tar heel state" nickname. In addition to its products. the industry provided a need for additional craftsmen including barrel and rope makers along with blacksmiths. Colonial America's booming forest sector, now centuries old, resembles that of North Carolina's present day forest industry, forest product manufacturing and forestry jobs.

Forestry's pivotal role in North Carolina's economy continues to thrive. Helping to maintain a robust forest sector, woodlands blanket more than 18 million acres of the state's total land area, roughly 61%. More than 15 million of those acres are in nonindustrial private ownership, capable of producing marketable timber and supporting forestry and logging operations, sawmills, furniture mills, and pulp and paper industries. Located throughout the state, mills and manufacturing businesses produce a multitude of products from our bountiful and sustainable forests. Common products include pine and hardwood lumber, plywood, poles and posts, barrel staves, shavings, pulp, paper and packaging, wood pellets, furniture, millwork, cabinets, containers and pallets,

flooring and firewood.

The state's woodlands are also the source of thousands of "other" forest products that are harvested for medicinal, recreational and food value. Aside from the fruits, nuts and seeds produced and harvested from trees, consumable products can also be extracted from wood. Now before the image of people foraging through the forest in search of edible tree bark to gnaw on enters your thoughts, allow me to clarify. Gums, which are found in the sap of trees, can be used as thickening agents and to provide a creamy texture and act as a binding agent to prevent ingredients from separating. For example, in ice cream and other frozen desserts, gums prevent the formation of crystals or a condition commonly referred to as "freezer burn." Additionally, lumber mill sawdust is liquified, refined and used as smoke flavoring in Doritos. At any given moment, half the folks attending your Super Bowl party could be enjoying tasty treats somehow derived from trees. Wood also contributes to the production of various cosmetics, soaps, perfumes, cleaning products, laundry detergents, crayons, paints, polishes, photographic film, and more. A sampling of such products is available in kits, known as Goods from the Woods, offered to North Carolina educators by the North Carolina Forestry Association. Goods from the Woods kits contain more than a dozen products derived from trees which includes a description of each product.

The forests of the southern U.S. are often described as the "wood basket of the world" as they generate more than 55% of U.S. timber harvests by volume. Additionally, the southern region produces more wood products than any other nation, except the U.S. itself. Southern U.S. forests are our nation's greatest renewable natural resource and are a major economic driver on the world stage. The forest sector is also a major contributor to North Carolina's overall economic well-being and supports communities across all 100 counties. In 2023, the forest sector contributed \$25.1 billion in industry output -- nearly 2% of the statewide total economic output -- and directly employed nearly 70,000 people, remaining the top manufacturing sector in the state.

There are more than 5,000 wood and paper products that we use and enjoy each day. Unlike fossil fuels, metal and plastics, wood can be grown, harvested, put to good use and regrown and harvested again continuously. With proper forest management, North Carolinians and beyond can enjoy thousands of products and still have plenty of trees for wildlife habitat, clean air and water and recreation that are visually pleasing for future generations.

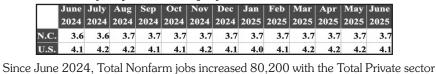
#### North Carolina's June Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted June 2025 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, unchanged from May's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.1 percent. North Carolina's unemployment rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point from a year

ago. The number of people employed decreased 3,023 over the month to 5,089,852 and decreased 6,560 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 464 over the month to 197,019 and increased 5,610 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 5,000 to 5,099,200 in June. Major industries experiencing increases were Private Education & Health Services, 3,600; Construction, 2,300; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 2,100; Professional & Business Services, 1,400; Financial Activities, 800; and Government, 400. Major industries experiencing decreases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 4,000; Manufacturing, 1,300; Information, 100; Other Services, 100; and Mining & Logging, 100.

#### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since June 2024



increasing by 66,600 and Government increasing by 13,600. Major industries experiencing increases were Private Education & Health Services, 26,600; Professional & Business Services, 19,200; Government, 13,600; Construction, 10,200; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 7,900; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 4,900; Other Services, 4,100; and Financial Activities, 1,800. Major industries experiencing decreases over the year were Manufacturing, 7,100; and Information, 1,000. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the year.