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Anson County Added to Counties Approved for Disaster Unemployment Assistance

The Division of Employment Security (DES) has announced that Anson County, Carteret County, Chatham County, Northhampton County, Perquimans County, Richmond County, and Scotland County have been approved for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) due to the effects of Hurricane Matthew. This brings the total to 45 counties that have been approved for DUA. Additional counties may be added to the DUA availability designation at a later date.

In order to assist citizens in this State that have suffered losses and are likely to suffer imminent further widespread losses, Governor Pat McCrory has directed DES TO NOT ENFORCE the one-week waiting period and job search requirements for individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster in the counties approved in the President's declaration. Individuals from these counties who are affected by the disaster and are unable to continue working must file an application for benefits by December 5, 2016.

Workers who became unemployed as a direct result of the effects of Hurricane Matthew impacting North Carolina, may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the DUA program. Business owners affected by the storm may also qualify for benefits. Workers or business owners meeting the following criteria may be eligible for benefits:

- Individuals who are unemployed due to the disaster, and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits. If you are eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits, you must first exhaust those benefits before you are eligible for DUA.
- Self-employed individuals and small business owners who lost income due to the disaster.
- Individuals who were prevented from working due to an injury caused by the disaster.
- Individuals who have become the major supplier of household income due to the disaster-related death or injury of the previous major supplier of household income.
- Individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster.
- Individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented from doing so by the disaster.

DUA is funded entirely by the federal government. Individuals need to file first for regular unemployment insurance. If an individual is determined ineligible for regular unemployment insurance, or has exhausted their regular unemployment insurance benefits, a DUA claim can then be filed. Individuals will need their Social Security number, copies of their most recent federal income tax forms or check stubs, or documentation to support they were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. To receive DUA benefits, all required documentation must be submitted within 21 days from the day the DUA application is filed.

DUA is available for weeks of employment beginning with the week starting October 9, 2016, and lasting for up to 26 weeks, as long as the claimant's unemployment continues to be as a result of Hurricane Matthew.

Individuals may contact DES by calling 1-866-795-8877 from 8AM to 5PM to apply for DUA benefits. Individuals are encouraged to file as soon as possible. If you are self-employed, you will be required to submit your most recent Federal Income Tax returns and/or your profit and loss statement to establish your weekly amount. If claimants have any questions, they can email DES at esc.dua@nc-commerce.com or go to this website www.ncesc.com.

Anson County Farmers May Qualify for FSA EM Loans Due to Flooding

On Thursday, November 3 President Obama declared a major disaster in the State of North Carolina based on losses caused by Hurricane Matthew that occurred October 4 and continuing. As a result of this major disaster, seven North Carolina counties were declared eligible for Federal disaster assistance, including Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers.

Anson County is one of the seven primary disaster counties. The other primary disaster counties are: Carteret, Chatham, Northhampton, Perquimans, Richmond and Scotland.

In addition to those seven primary disaster counties, 26 additional North Carolina counties are named as contiguous counties where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance. Those counties are: Alamance, Bertie, Chowan, Craven, Durham, Gates, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Jones, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Randolph, Robeson, Stanly, Tyrrell, Union, Wake, Warren and Washington.

Suzanne Simpson of the Farm Service Agency said that effective November 3, 2016, farmers in Anson may apply for EM loans for physical and production losses. July 3, 2017, is the deadline for filing an application. The local office is located at 3230 A Presson Road, Monroe, NC 28112-9196 and has office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact the FSA office at 704-694-3516 for information.

Local High Schools to Participate in College Application Week Nov. 14-18

Anson High School, Anson Early College, Anson New Tech and Anson Academy will participate in the statewide College Application Week cosponsored by College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) and the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO) during the week of November 14 to 18. The goal of the program is to get more students applying to North Carolina colleges early in their senior year. During this event, students may apply to North Carolina community colleges, independent colleges and state universities, many of which will waive their application fees.

Students are encouraged to begin looking at applications in CFNC.org for schools they are interested in applying to as there may be essay questions they need time to work on. Students may begin working on applications but should not submit them without assistance from a counselor until the week of November 14-18.

For more information about events at your school please contact your school counselor.



Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Celebrates Their Terrific Kids

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School held its Terrific Kids Celebration for the first nine weeks on Tuesday, October 18. Pictured here are the students who were recognized for this honor. The Anson County School System is proud of these students for showing good character!

From left, front row: KVion Sturdivant, Levi Osborne, De'Ontae Nelson, Sarah Senko, Hanna Vu, Maddie Turner, Layla Britt, Gracin Pike, Wisdom Wilks, Trey Powell, Jamison Allen, Nyasia Jones, Trinity Foy and Devon Tucker. Second row: Nate Williams, Haleigh Honstead, Christopher Tillman, Jadaisha Smith, Brianna Ford, Genna McCollum, Grace Rickert, Brooklyn Miles, Aniyah Raley, Nevaeh Campbell, Anden Estrada, Wisdom Her, Jesse Horne and Jesse Furr. Third row: Ramiro Cruz-Zapata, Jayson Bridges, Fernando Flores Garcia, Emmanuel Chambers, DeQuan McKeever, Anniston Anastas, Jessica Turner, Dellahna Hartis, Caroline Austin, Luke Hyatt and Cainan McWhirter. Fourth row: JR Griffin, Aalysa Liles, Paige Mercer, Mac Brock, Rayne Reid, Romeo Robinson, Malasia Patton, Gracie Mills and Angie Veronica. Not Pictured: Dawson Williams, Jarvis Gainey, Jr.

Free Admission to Christmas in November Art & Crafts Sale

Dust off your shopping shoes, it's time for holiday shopping! This year find one-of-a-kind gifts and avoid those crowds at the mall.

On Saturday, November 12, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., the Anson County Art Council's Christmas in November Art & Crafts Sale offers the opportunity to find unique gifts while you support area artists and craftsmen. South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro, will be filled with treasures!

Wonderful items created by people who live and work right in this area of North Carolina will provide a huge array of ideas for gift-giving and decorating and for that special something you can't live without. You'll find holiday and decorative items, jewelry, pottery, stained glass, folk art, horseshoe décor, wood crafts, birdhouses and feeders, fairy houses, crocheted items, and much more by talented vendors from Anson County to Albemarle, Mt. Gilead to Oakboro, and from Pinehurst and Greensboro.

This time of year Americans spend millions of dollars on cheaply-made goods produced in foreign countries. Why not buy American this year?

Admission is free, so come out and find the perfect gift to surprise someone you love and something wonderful for yourself as well. The Anson County Arts Council offers this event as a service to area residents and the creative community. Vendors keep 100% of their sales. Don't miss out on this fun day!

Pictured here, this quilted holiday wall hanging by Maggie Gibson is part of the gift basket to be auctioned at the Christmas in November Art & Crafts Sale.



50+ Club Meeting to Feature Bluegrass, Country and Gospel Music

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, November 14 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. The Harvard Street Band will present a program of bluegrass, country and gospel music. Band members are Robbie Griffin, Brady Green, Rick Hanson, Don Shell and Jerry Sullivan. Everyone is invited to come, bring a friend and enjoy the music of these talented men.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

Blood Drive at SPCC Nov. 15

The Community Blood Center of the Carolinas (CBCC) will hold a Blood Drive at South Piedmont Community College at the Polkton campus on Tuesday, November 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CBCC's 12th Annual 'Puppies for Patients' program kicks off in November. Join CBCC in bringing joy to children this holiday season. CBCC is hosting its 12th Annual 'Puppies for Patients' program whereby donors who give blood during November and December will be able to sign a gift tag that will then be attached to a stuffed toy puppy and delivered by CBCC to children in area hospitals and care facilities during the holidays.

More public drives can be found at Community Blood Center of the Carolinas' website www.cbcc.us. CBCC has donation centers in Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia, Hickory, and Greensboro. Call 704-972-4700 or go to www.cbcc.us to make an appointment at any location.

Storytime Every Wednesday at Partnership for Children

The Anson County Partnership for Children offers Storytime in the Early Childhood Resource Center each Wednesday, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3 to 8. For more information call 704-694-4036.

Affordable Care Act Open enrollment Kicked Off Nov. 1

North Carolinians can enroll or re-enroll in health insurance plans through the Health Insurance Marketplace through January 31, 2017

North Carolinians can enroll or re-enroll in quality, affordable health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace when the fourth open-enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act begins on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

During the open-enrollment period, which runs from Nov. 1 to Jan. 31, uninsured North Carolinians will be able to enter the Health Insurance Marketplace and select plans that fit their needs and budgets. People who currently have coverage through the Marketplace should check the website to learn about new options and ensure they are getting the correct amount of financial help for 2016.

For many North Carolinians, affordability is a real concern in their health care decision-making. In the past, high premium costs have forced many to go without health insurance simply because they could not afford it. The good news is that financial assistance is available to help people pay for plans – in fact, 92% of North Carolinians who signed up for Affordable Care Act coverage received financial assistance to make their plan more affordable.

The NC Navigator Consortium and Enroll America are urging North Carolinians to check out Affordable Care Act plans. In the last enrollment period, over 613,000 N.C. residents enrolled in health coverage through the Marketplace, providing them with the peace of mind that comes with protecting themselves and their families. This coming open-enrollment period is the next opportunity North Carolinians have to take advantage of the coverage options available through the Marketplace.

"We encourage North Carolinians to check out their health care coverage options in the upcoming enrollment period," said Jennifer Simmons, director of the NC Navigator Consortium. "We have in-person assisters in all counties across North Carolina who can sit down face-to-face with consumers for free to answer questions and help them make the best coverage decision for them and their families."

North Carolinians can find free in-person assisters available in their communities by calling 1-855-733-3711 or using the Get Covered Connector tool at www.getcoveredconnector.org. In-person assisters in Eastern North Carolina will accommodate scheduling needs of people affected by Hurricane Matthew.

Enroll America's North Carolina State Director Sorien Schmidt said North Carolinians who are losing coverage because their insurance providers are leaving the Marketplace should take advantage of the available in-person assisters and review plans that are still available to them. "There are still many health insurance options for North Carolinians through the Marketplace and we encourage those who need to re-enroll to review plans available to them," said Schmidt. "We will continue working as a team to reach out to the uninsured wherever they are with the information they need to get covered and make them receive the most up-to-date financial package available to them."

While the fourth open-enrollment period provides an opportunity for North Carolinians to gain access to quality, affordable health care, it also gives people a chance to avoid paying a fine when they file their taxes. Those who do not enroll in a plan by Jan. 31, 2017, could face a fine of \$695 or 2.5% of their yearly income, whichever is greater.

Veterans Day Ceremony Set for Thursday at 11 a.m.

Anson County Veterans will be honored at a ceremony to be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 10 in front of the Anson County Courthouse. All citizens are invited to attend. This year there will not be a parade or festivities after the 11 a.m. ceremony.