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

## Store Robbed, Community Asked to Help with Information

On Saturday, November 7 at approximately 4:50 p.m. an unknown person robbed Wadesboro Discount Grocery. This was an armed robbery. Thankfully no one was injured in the incident.

Wadesboro Police are asking anyone who might have information identifying the suspect to contact them at 704-694-2167. The suspect is described as a dark skinned black male, approximately 5'7" possibly with facial tattoos.



## Anson High School Animal Science Class Takes Field Trip

The Anson High School Animal Science class visited Southeast Poultry Health Services where they gained knowledge about the poultry industry.

Pictured from left, are, front row: Savannah Ponds. Back row: Barbra Ratliff, Gene Knight, Mahogany White, Caitlyn Benson, Karmen Dawkins, Ragein Bright, Shavarrick Dunlap-David and Shirleen Hall.

## Health Insurers to Rebate \$8.5 Million in North Carolina

Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin announced that almost \$8.5 million in rebates is to be issued to approximately 162,000 health insurance policyholders in North Carolina as a result of the federal 80/20 rule.

The 80/20 Medical Loss Ratio Rule requires insurers in the individual and small group markets to spend at least 80 percent of premium dollars on health care and activities that improve the quality of health care, and no more than 20 percent on administrative costs. In the large group market, insurers must spend at least 85 percent of premiums on health care and quality improvements.

Insurance companies that fail to meet this standard owe policyholders a refund. Refunds are paid directly to consumers who purchase their own insurance as a check in the mail, a reimbursement or a direct reduction in future premiums. For consumers who bought insurance through their employer, the rebate is usually paid to the employer, who must provide the employee's share as a check, reimbursement or reduction in future premiums, or apply it in some manner that benefits employees.

This chart shows the three companies issuing the most in rebates in North Carolina by market for plan year 2014.

Individual Market	Amount of Rebate
Golden Rule Ins Co	\$756,673
Connecticut General Life Ins Co	\$541,299
Mid-West National Life Ins Co of TN	\$530,631
Small Group Market	Amount of Rebate
UnitedHealthcare Ins Co	\$4,118,018
Coventry Health and Life Ins Co	\$411,587
Madison National Life Ins Co	\$116,543
Large Group Market	Amount of Rebate
UnitedHealthcare Ins Co	\$777,386
CIGNA HealthCare of NC	\$588,765
Coventry HealthCare of the Carolinas	\$421,192

A full list of companies owing rebates by state can be found at [www.cms.gov/CCIIO](http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO). Detailed medical loss ratio information by company is available at [www.cms.gov/apps/mlr/mlr-search.aspx](http://www.cms.gov/apps/mlr/mlr-search.aspx).

## Chamber of Commerce Events Deadlines

Two important events sponsored by the Anson County Chamber of Commerce are coming up soon, and the deadlines are close.

- **The Big Game Hunt Tournament** will be held this weekend, November 27 and 28. Entry forms must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25 at the Chamber of Commerce to be eligible for the hunt. Entry fee is \$35 for the Big Game Hunt or \$20 for the Youth Division. Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets as well! This year's prizes are: 1st place - Remington 783 Bolt Action Rifle 308 Caliber, 2nd place - Yeti Tundra 35 Cooler & 3rd place - \$100.
- **The Wadesboro Christmas Parade** will be held on Thursday, December 3 in Uptown Wadesboro. The deadline for parade entries is Wednesday, November 25. The Chamber has professional floats available to rent. After the parade enjoy hot cider with carolers and a Tree Light Ceremony on the Square. For details of rentals or other information contact the Chamber at 704-694-4181 or visit [www.ansoncounty.org](http://www.ansoncounty.org).

## NC's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program gives families a one-time vendor payment to help pay their heating bills. To be eligible, families must meet all of the following: an income test, be responsible for its heating bills and include a US citizen or an eligible alien.

To apply for the program the following information is needed: name, date of birth, and social security numbers for each household member; household's income; savings and checking accounts; and property, stocks, bonds, and other assets. Applications will be taken for disabled persons receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services or households containing a person age 60 and above from December 1 through 31 of each year or until funds are exhausted. Applications on all other households will be taken from January 1 through March 31 or until funds are exhausted.

For more information contact Anson County Department of Social Services at 704-694-9351.

## Make Hunting Safety a Priority this Holiday Season

For many North Carolinians, hunting is as much a holiday tradition as carving the turkey and wrapping presents. With this in mind, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Home From The Hunt campaign reminds anyone planning a hunting trip during the holiday season to make safety the top priority.

"Thanksgiving and Christmas are traditional times for family and friends to go hunting," said Darrin Ball, the state's southern mountain district hunter education coordinator. "With all the excitement surrounding the holidays, it's important to make safety a big part of your planning."

- Ball advised:
- Go back to basics — review hunter education training and equipment instructions.
  - Know the rules — read all applicable regulations before going afield.
  - Inspect all equipment — repair or replace equipment, especially tree stands, before use. "A full-body safety harness is recommended anytime you use a tree stand," Ball said.
  - "Always maintain three points of contact when climbing up and down, and never carry anything as you climb."

- When hunting with a firearm, Ball advised:
- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
  - Treat your firearm as if it's loaded at all times.
  - Be certain of your target and what is beyond.
  - Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Blaze orange that is visible from all sides must be worn when hunting bear, feral hogs, deer, rabbit, squirrel, grouse, pheasant or quail with a firearm. Anyone hunting deer during a deer firearms season, regardless of whether a firearm or archery equipment is used, must wear hunter orange visible from all sides every day of the week, including Sundays.

## Woodmen of the World Christmas Dinner

The annual Woodmen of the World Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 5. The event will take place at the WOW Lodge, located Highway 74 West in Wadesboro, at 6 p.m. The dinner will be catered and there will be live entertainment. For tickets and information call Diane Shackelford at 704-694-4107.

## North Carolina Employers Set to Save More Than \$550 Million in Taxes in 2015-2016

The Division of Employment Security (DES) today is mailing out 2016 tax rate notices to over 200,000 employers in North Carolina. This tax notice mailing will include information alerting employers of a combined unemployment insurance tax savings of more than \$550 million in 2015-2016. The savings are the result of the state paying off a \$2.8 billion debt to the federal government and a provision in state law that allows for the removal of a 20% state reserve tax when a \$1 billion surplus is reached.

"North Carolina employers have shouldered the financial responsibility in repaying this \$2.8 billion debt and \$283 million interest to the federal government since 2011," said DES Assistant Secretary Dale Folwell. "In the last year we have made tremendous progress and have reached a reserve balance of over \$1 billion in the state unemployment trust fund. Building this fund to more than \$1 billion saved employers millions of dollars more."

On April 30, 2015, the NC Unemployment Trust Fund paid back to the U.S. Treasury the remaining balance on a \$2.8 billion loan used to pay unemployment claims during the last economic recession. As a result North Carolina will no longer be classified as a "Credit Reduction State" by the IRS. This means employers will be entitled to take the full, 5.4% credit for all Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) payments made for 2015. It's estimated that this will save North Carolina employers over \$300M in FUTA taxes this year.

On September 5, 2015, Governor Pat McCrory signed into law a provision to N.C.G.S. 96-9.7 that allowed for the suspension of the 20% state reserve tax if the unemployment trust fund balance equaled or exceeded \$1 billion as of March 1, 2016. On November 12, 2015, Governor Pat McCrory announced that the state had reached that \$1 billion goal four months ahead of projections. This will bring certainty to North Carolina employers and save them over \$250 million in State Unemployment Tax Act (SUTA) taxes in 2016.

"We care about the success of all business across North Carolina," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla III. "This tax relief is an important milestone that could lead to more jobs and business growth in our great state."

## Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They have distributed coats to several of the churches and schools in Anson County. Blankets for the elderly are also available.

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church is the site for pick ups or delivery. Just call to schedule it.

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

## Dancercise Class Offered at Grace Senior Center

Dancercise, which is exercising while dancing, is being offered at Grace Senior Center. Dancercise is a blend of aerobics and dance moves, something that many people find to be lots of fun. Participants enjoy great music and learn actual dance moves. The class being offered is a beginners class.

The class is ongoing. So, if you didn't make it to the first class there is still plenty of opportunity to join in later. Each month the schedules will be given out with class dates and times.

For more information and to register call Findey Knotts or Eva Diggs at 704-694-6616.

## Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon

Anson County's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 3 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. Because of limited seating capacity the luncheon will be held on two days, serving 250 seniors each day. The festivities will start at 11 a.m. each day. The luncheon is free of charge.

Anyone interested in attending should call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register their preferred day. Registration deadline is November 30.

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)



## Help for South Carolina Flood Victims

The Wadesboro Police Department partnered with Ambassador Health and Rehab of Wadesboro and American Red Cross to collect items for the flood victims in South Carolina. Some of the items collected included bottled water, cleaning supplies, blankets and clothes.

Captain Brandon Chewning of the Wadesboro Police Department said, "This is an unfortunate situation the people of South Carolina have to deal with and we would like to show our support by sending them needed materials to help them overcome their loss."