

Burnop receives recognition for service to DAV



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Commander Zeb White (left) of the Avery County Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans presents a plaque to outgoing Commander David Burnop in recognition of distinguished and loyal service from 2014 to 2019 on August 1. The DAV offers disaster relief grants and a helping hand to those needy veterans who face hurdles in their everyday lives. If you know of an Avery County veteran, veteran's widow or widower in need, Avery County DAV Chapter 87 can be informed by emailing averycountydav@gmail.com or calling (828) 387-5417.

Collision on 19E results in injuries, slows traffic

STAFF REPORT
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ELK PARK — A collision on U.S. Hwy. 19E near Time Square Restaurant in Elk Park slowed down traffic on the evening of July 31.

N.C. State Trooper D. Boone said one driver crossed over the center line while attempting to make a left turn and collided with the other vehicle's front-left quarter panel.

Boone said the van driver was transported to Cannon Memorial Hospital in Linville with non-life threatening injuries.

Avery County Sheriff's Office deputies provided traffic control in the aftermath of the incident.

The responding agencies were NCSHP, Avery County Sheriff's Office and Avery County EMS.



PHOTO BY JAMIE SHELL

One of the vehicles damaged in the incident in front of traffic being controlled by ACSO officers.

Unemployment increases in 97 counties in June

BY CARL BLANKENSHIP
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RALEIGH — Unemployment rates climbed across the state in June, with almost all counties experiencing an unemployment rate increase. This follows an unemployment rate increase across 95 counties in May.

A total of 64 counties experienced a rate of five percent or less, a drop from 79 counties in May. Scotland County experienced the highest rate at 7.4 percent, overtaking Hyde County's totals from the previous month, while Buncombe County once again experienced the lowest at 3.4 percent, a .3-percent increase from May.

Avery County had a rate of 4.1 percent, a .3-percent increase from May, when the county had a 3.8-percent rate. The state as a whole also experienced a 4.4-percent unemployment rate, a .4-percent increase from the previous month.

Avery had the lowest unemployment rate when compared to its bordering counties. Mitchell experienced the highest rate at 5.5 percent while Watauga and McDowell experienced the same 4.2-percent unemployment rate.

AVERY: 4.1 PERCENT
Burke: 4.3 percent
Caldwell: 4.8 percent
McDowell: 4.2 percent
Mitchell: 5.5 percent
Watauga: 4.2 percent

North Carolina experienced the highest unemployment rate out of all bordering states. Virginia experienced the lowest at only 2.9 percent. The Tar Heel State came in with a worse unemployment rate than the nation

as a whole by .7 percent, and the gap widened between N.C. and bordering states when compared to May.

NORTH CAROLINA: 4.4 PERCENT

Georgia: 3.7 percent
South Carolina: 3.5 percent
Tennessee: 3.4 percent
Virginia: 2.9 percent
U.S. rate: 3.7 percent

Rates increased in 95 counties compared to the same period of time last year.

The amount of employed workers in the state increased by 30,301, translating to 4,916,851 in the state overall. The state unemployment figures for July, not including county figures, will be released on Aug. 16.

All figures collected from the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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