

THE NEWS HERALD



Saturday, December 13, 2025

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ECONOMY

STAGNANT MARKET



JOE RAEDLE, GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA, TNS

Job seekers attend the JobNewsUSA.com South Florida Job Fair on June 26, 2024, in Sunrise, Florida. The N.C. Commerce Department reported Thursday that North Carolina's unemployment rate remained at 3.7% for the 14th consecutive month during September, reflecting a stagnant market for both job seekers and employers.

NC unemployment rate stuck at 3.7% in September

RICHARD CRAVER
Winston-Salem Journal

The state's unemployment rate remained at 3.7% for the 14th consecutive month during September, reflecting a stagnant market for both job seekers and employers, the N.C. Commerce Department reported Thursday.

It is the first monthly state-level employment report from Commerce since the federal government shutdown began Oct.

1 and ended Nov. 13. The report is based on data collected and analyzed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The fact that North Carolina's unemployment rate was unchanged may ease concerns expressed before and during the shutdown by economists that the Trump administration may attempt to alter the data at the bidding of President Donald Trump.

"I understand the recent questioning of

federal statistics," said Michael Walden, a retired economics professor at N.C. State University.

"While the raw data mostly come from federal surveys, I am confident the state Commerce Department exercises due diligence over the data's use and application."

Commerce reported an overall 3,974 increase in the state's labor force from

Please see **MARKET**, Page A7

Valdese looks to build fire, police station

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The Valdese Town Council plans to build a combined fire and police station on Massel Avenue near the town hall.

Monday night, the council approved getting environmental work done at the

site, which includes a topographical survey and soil samples.

The move comes after years of back and forth on where to house its public safety teams. In 2018, extreme cold weather caused the walls of the former public safety building on Faet Street to crack, and

existing cracks got bigger. Since then, various iterations of the council have debated the best way to resolve the issue of where to house the two departments. The council has spent thousands of dollars buying property and hiring engineers, realtors and other professionals to determine the best

route to take.

On Monday, Bob Rawson, senior project developer with D.R. Reynolds Company, told the council the company recommends building a combined station at the town's

Please see **STATION**, Page A7

Tips for getting started with meditation. **LIVELY, D1**

Inside

360	C1	Comics	D3-6
Advice	D8	Sports	B1
Business	C5	Travel	D7
Classifieds	B6	What to Watch	D8

Weather

Clouds and sun
High 60
Low 35
FORECAST • A8



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