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

## Anson Unemployment Rate Drops 1/2 Percent in November

Anson County had an unemployment percentage of 11.7% for the month of November, a full 1/2 percent drop from October's 12.2%. Statewide the unemployment rate was 9.5% in November.

Anson's total labor force in November was 9,583. Of that number 8,457 were employed and 1,126 were unemployed. In October the total labor force was 9,742, with 8,551 employed and 1,191 unemployed.

Unemployment rates decreased in the majority of North Carolina's counties in November. Rates decreased in 74 counties, increased in 20 and remained the same in six.

"Unemployment rates continued to drop across North Carolina in November," said N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll. "Over-the-year, rates have decreased in 71 counties. We remain focused on assisting our customers at our DES offices and JobLink Career Centers statewide."

North Carolina had 39 counties that were at or below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 9.5 percent. Rates decreased in all 14 of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Statewide the number of persons employed (not-seasonally adjusted) decreased slightly in November to 4,069,246. The number of people unemployed decreased by 12,528. The number of people unemployed in November was 427,141 compared to 439,669 in October.

Orange County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in November, at 5.8 percent. Once again Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate, at 16.6 percent.

## Anson Crisis Ministry, Feed My Lambs, Both Helping Those in Need

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance due to financial difficulties, Anson County has places and people who care and are willing to help. With that help comes stipulations, but if the need is there you should by all means check them out.

Anson Crisis Ministry, located on Rutherford Street in Wadesboro, is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The hours of operation are from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. for food, and 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. for the store.

"We serve relatively low income and needy families," said volunteer Margot Barnes. "In order to receive benefits you should bring with you your social security card, and the cards of family members. Also bring a proof of residence in Anson County such as a piece of mail with your mailing address printed on it, a rent receipt, etc. A government letter or disabilities check stub could provide proof of income. If you receive food stamps you can bring in the readout from the Department of Social Services showing how much you receive in food stamps per month."

Anson Crisis Ministry's main focus right now is food, but they also have clothing, household items, and at times, furniture and appliances, depending on what has been donated. Because there are so many new clients at this time, they are unable to offer help with utility payments, but can offer clothing vouchers twice per year.

If you have further questions or would like to help by serving as a volunteer, please call Mrs. Ann James, Coordinator, at 704-694-2445.

Located on Highway 74 West of Wadesboro is Feed My Lambs. They too have clothing, household goods and other donated items at very forgiving prices for needy families. Their office and store hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The food office is closed from 11:30 until 1:30 p.m. for lunch. The store located inside Feed My Lambs is open on the first Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

At press time we were unable to reach a representative, so be sure and call 704-695-1820 for further information in regards to other areas of service Feed My Lambs can provide.

By Melanie Lyon

## Bridges Out of Poverty Meeting

Everyone is invited to join in a three hour Bridges Out of Poverty/Ally Training that is being held on Thursday, January 12 at 6 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro. The program is sponsored by Hands for Hope and is supported by Anson County Circles of Hope. The session will be led by Annette Snyder of NC Circles.

You will learn the core concepts of the Circles campaign, and more about how you can participate here in Anson County. Bridges Out of Poverty opens up the different world of people in poverty, revealing how the survival-based mentality of poverty impacts learning, work habits, and decision making. You will learn the "hidden rules" of poverty, middle class, and wealth - and the assumptions which people in the middle class bring to encounters with people in poverty. You will discover what keeps many people locked in poverty. And, you will begin to explore practical, yet compassionate strategies for engagement that can have positive impact on people's lives.

For more information contact Anson County Circles of Hope's office at 118 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro or call 704-994-2333.

## BRLC to Celebrate MLK Day

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center is acknowledging Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 16th at 12 noon with lunch and a program presented by Dr. Samuel Cash, owner and dentist at Supreme Dental in Wadesboro. The community is invited to participate in this special celebration.

"As this community continues to reflect on the civil rights movement we will continue to keep King's dreams alive, said Carol Smith, Director of BRLC. "Parts of his dream continue to unfold in our lives daily as we work together in the spirit and power that all men are created equal. Mr. King and those that stood with him will never be forgotten."

The event will take place at the BRLC location on Highway 742 North, across from the Burnsville Fire Department. For more information call 704-826-8182.

## NAACP Plans MLK Day Celebration

The Anson County Branch of the NAACP has announced plans for the local Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration. The day will commence with a prayer breakfast at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, beginning at 9 a.m., and various prayers for the welfare of humankind will go up. Planners of the event say a full, hot breakfast will be served. After breakfast a commemorative march from the Lockhart-Taylor Center to the steps of the newly renovated Anson County Courthouse will take place. There Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech will be recited. After the speech, the march will proceed to the First United Methodist Church, where the conclusion of the day's festivities will take place.

You may call Donnie Lewis at 704-694-6749 for more information.

## Four Fires in the Area, Sheriff Urges Heating Safety



With four recent house fires the public is reminded this is usually the time of the year to be extra careful as the cold weather causes heating systems to be pushed to the maximum. Firemen were kept busy beginning Wednesday, January 3rd when they responded to a house fire on Sycamore Street just north of Wadesboro. The structure was unoccupied at the time and the cause is still under investigation.

Two fires occurred on Thursday, January 4th. Firemen were called to a house fire on US Highway 74 West of Wadesboro, just past Westview Memorial Park. Although the structure was unoccupied the cause of the fire was believed to be electrical.

Later that afternoon, firemen were dispatched to a house on Cedar Creek Road, in the southern part of Anson County. That fire was believed to have been caused by an electrical problem. One person was in that house and escaped when the house smoke detector alerted.

A fourth house fire occurred Saturday morning, January 7th on North Greene Street in Wadesboro. Again, a smoke detector alerted the four occupants and they were able to get

out of the house, although one was treated for smoke inhalation at the local hospital and later released.

Rodney Diggs, Anson County Emergency Management Director and Fire Marshall, noted that of the last two fires, smoke detectors probably saved the occupants from more serious injury or worse.

Marc Sessions, Wadesboro Fire Inspector, said that the house on North Greene Street had just been equipped with smoke detectors last year from a grant the City and County had received to give away free detectors.

If you do not have smoke detectors in your house you can get them by contacting Rodney Diggs at 704-994-3272 or Marc Sessions at 704-694-2167. There is no charge and they will even help you properly locate and install them inside your house.

Individuals heating with stand-alone units such as electric heaters need to avoid using extension cords and overloaded outlets. Kerosene heaters need to be kept away from flammable materials. Chimney fires are not uncommon when individuals heat with wood in chimneys that have collected creosote over the years and not been properly cleaned.

## Anson County to Hold Public Meetings for Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan

Anson County is providing its residents and the public with opportunities to obtain information and provide feedback on creating and identifying trails for the Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread). The county will host four community meetings. The meetings will be held in an open house format which will allow the public to attend the meetings at any time during the designated hours.

The meeting dates and locations are:

- Tuesday, January 17th at South Piedmont Community College in the Raye Boardroom, 680 Highway 74 West in Polkton
- Thursday, January 19th at Holla, 229 East Main Street in Morven
- Tuesday, January 24th at Lilesville United Methodist Church, 310 West Wall Street in Lilesville
- Thursday, January 26th at Ansonville Fire Department, 9145 highway 52 North in Ansonville

Each meeting will be held from 6:30-8 p.m.; a short project video will be shown at 6:45 p.m.

Before a trail for The Thread is created, local counties first embark on a planning process to identify and determine possible trail locations. Preliminary plans, identified trail locations or corridors, and public feedback are combined to create a master plan. The master plan also provides a long-term vision for the development and implementation of trails and greenways within a county and its communities. It must be adopted by county and city leaders in order to apply for grant funding to build trail for The Thread. Twelve of the 15 counties within The Thread's footprint have adopted master plans.

Representatives from the local steering committee and The Thread will be in attendance at these meetings to provide information and explain the master plan process. Maps and informational handouts will be available.

"We are looking for ideas and feedback on how we can create trail and bring the Carolina Thread Trail to Anson County," said Lawrence Gatewood, County Manager for Anson County. "We are in the initial planning stages in our master planning, so this is a perfect opportunity for us to engage the public and get their opinions on where and what locations should be identified for The Thread."

Currently, 80 miles of The Thread are open to the public in North and South Carolina with 14 active corridors under development. For more information on The Thread, go to [www.carolinathreadtrail.org](http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org).

The Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread) is a 15-county, two state initiative designed to inspire and facilitate the creation and development of a regional network of trails, blueways and conservation corridors that would link more than 2.3 million citizens. With technical resources and catalytic funding from The Thread, local communities will plan and implement their portions of this greenway-interstate system. The 15-county Thread Trail region is Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties within North Carolina and Cherokee, Chester, Lancaster and York counties in South Carolina. Catawba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency for The Thread, which is working in partnership with Foundation For The Carolinas and many local partners. For more information, go to [www.carolinathreadtrail.org](http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org).

Informative questions and answers about the Thread Trail are on page 5 of this edition.

## SPCC's Auto Body Repair Training Approved for WIA Funding

South Piedmont Community College's Auto Body Repair and I-CAR training program have been approved for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding by the Centralina Workforce Development Board. The WIA program is intended to provide financial assistance to students who have recently become unemployed. WIA assistance may be provided for books, tuition, fees, child care, transportation and supplies. The duration of any individual WIA award is based on the availability of funds, as well as student satisfactory progress measures that may be imposed. I-CAR is the largest certifying organization in the automotive repair field. Classes are offered on the L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton and students receive in-depth training in the classroom as well as hands-on training in the lab. There are 25 different I-CAR Alliance classes available at SPCC, which offers at least two of them at a time. The cost for each class is \$225.

WIA funds are also available to supplement financial aid for some college-credit courses of study at SPCC. For information on the WIA program, contact the Union County JobLink Center at 1125 Skyway Drive, Monroe, NC 28110 or 704-283-7541; or the Anson County JobLink Center at 116 W. Wade St., Wadesboro, 28170 or 704-694-6551.

For information on Auto Body Repair or I-CAR classes, contact Bob Winfrey at 704-272-7554 or [rwinfrey@spcc.edu](mailto:rwinfrey@spcc.edu).

## Sheriff's Calendars are Available Now

The Anson County Sheriff's Office "2012 Sheriff's Calendars" are in and you may come by during regular business hours and pick up a free calendar.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said the calendars are becoming more popular each year. "Each year we have more and more requests for these calendars. But if you want one please come on in early...first come first served. We have a limited supply."

This year's calendar again features members of the Sheriff's Office, Jail and 911 Staff. If you are unable to come to the Sheriff's Office you may call 704-694-4188 and the Sheriff will see that you receive a calendar.



## Fundraiser Auction Saturday

Everyone is invited to take advantage of some great deals on great stuff...all for a great cause! This Saturday there is an auction fundraiser for Mandy Hough Thomas, a breast cancer patient, at the Ansonville Fire Department at 9 a.m.

They say they are selling everything but the kitchen sink...furniture, books, pictures, pottery, jewelry and more.

## Toys For Tots Gratitude Banquet

Anson County will host the first Toys For Tots Gratitude Banquet Friday, January 13 at Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro, beginning at 6 p.m. with a get acquainted session. The guest speaker for the hour will be Dr. Stan Sidor, President of South Piedmont Community College. Greetings will come from the Honorable Judge Amanda Wilson and other elected officials.

Vancine Sturdivant, Toys for Tots Coordinator for Anson County stated, "We have to prove to Toys For Tots that we will come together and help the less fortunate citizens in our county. We truly did this during the Christmas Holiday. We were able to bless over 2,500 kids with toys. Each child was given 3 toys and stocking stuffers. Now we ask the citizens to please come back together one more time. Please come celebrate at the Gratitude Banquet. As stated, all proceeds remain in our county. The proceeds collected will go toward our 2012 campaign."

You may pay at the door or to get the \$10 tickets or more information by contacting Vancine Sturdivant, (704 848-4412; Rosa Little (704) 848-4594; Ester Lindsey (704 848-8452; Dr. Bernice Bennett (704) 694-6616; Jennifer Tarlton (704) 694-3115; Leslie Deese (704) 694-1171; Priscilla Little (704) 694-9351 or Landric & Cassandra Reid (704) 695-7771.

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