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

Anson's Standard Wage Rises 2.4%

From John Marek, Director of AnsonEDP: At the start of every calendar year, the State of North Carolina issues a listing of wage standards for each county. While these standards are derived through a complex formula that takes a number of factors into consideration, they can be thought of as the "average" hourly wage a private-sector worker in the county can be expected to earn.

These wage standards, in addition to providing a rough gauge of the economic vitality of the community, are used by the Department of Commerce to determine eligibility for a variety of different economic development programs. As a general rule, to qualify for state-level incentive programs, the new jobs created by a project must meet the wage standard for the county in which the company plans to locate. This makes the wage standards something of a double-edged sword; a lower wage indicates a less prosperous community, but could also give that community a recruiting advantage compared to neighboring counties with higher wage standards.

The best possible scenario from an economic development standpoint is a steadily rising wage standard that remains slightly below competing communities, and that is exactly what we have in Anson County. Our 2019 wage standard is \$16.04, up 2.4% from \$15.67 in 2018. Among surrounding counties, that is a solid rate of increase while still remaining competitive overall.

- Montgomery County: 2019 wage is \$17.27 +4.0% (2018 was \$16.60)
 - Richmond County: 2019 wage is \$16.35 +1.0% (2018 was \$16.20)
 - Stanly County: 2019 wage is \$15.91 +1.5% (2018 was \$15.67)
 - Union County: 2019 wage is \$21.09 +2.9% (2018 was \$20.49)
 - State of NC: 2019 wage is \$23.95 +2.5% (2018 was \$23.35)
- All things being equal, would we prefer to have a standard wage of \$21? Of course. But relatively speaking, we have a solid position among our peers and a strong story to tell the companies we are recruiting.



Pictured from left are Mrs. Brenda Bennett, Alexis Newkirk, Jazz Hemphill, Xavier Parsons, Joseph Baldwin, Trenton Jones, Mrs. Melissa Hildreth and Dr. Fannie Ratliff.

Anson Academy Students and Staff Spread Christmas Love

The staff and students of Anson Academy annually facilitate and participate in a community project entitled "Christmas Shoeboxes of Love." This is a community service project where staff and students come together, donate personal care items, and visit with the residents of Anson Health and Rehabilitation Nursing Facility, located in Wadesboro.

With a cheerful heart, both faculty and students prepared 90 shoeboxes filled with goodies. The gifts were covered and filled in love, care, and festive wrapping paper. On Wednesday, December 19 participants, as a school community, went out to share Christmas joy with every resident of Anson Health and Rehab.

The participants want to give a huge "Thank You" to Dr. Fannie Ratliff, Principal of Anson Academy, who encouraged both student and staff participation, in addition to making sure ample goods were donated so that every resident would receive a token of love during the Christmas Holiday.

Staff members stated that, "Importantly we want to thank the families and scholars of Anson Academy for being willing to serve in the Season of Giving with a spirit of cheerfulness and gladness."

Sheriff's Citizens Academy is Back

Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid has announced the dates for the next Citizen Law Enforcement Academy. The Academy will be held beginning March 21 on Thursday nights, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Sheriff's Office.

Participants will be exposed to many different aspects of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. They will hear presentations from the Sheriff, the District Attorney, Sheriff's Detectives, the SBI, FBI and other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. They will tour the Sheriff's Office, the County Jail, the Magistrate Office and the 911 Communications Center. They will see a K-9 and SWAT Team demonstration, tour the firing range, and see the Sheriff's Office Patrol and Emergency Equipment. They will also participate in the Sheriff's Office "Ride-Along" Program.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have no serious criminal record and be in reasonably good health to take the walking tours (tours are optional). Interested individuals may now pick up applications at the Anson County Sheriff's Office during regular business hours. Applications must be completed and returned to the Sheriff's Office by March 1. The class can accommodate twenty students.

Sheriff Reid said, "Applicants will be selected on a first come, first serve basis. If you are interested in what we really do in law enforcement in Anson County this will be something you will enjoy immensely."

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

January has arrived, a month where so many around have made New Year resolutions that are soon to be broken. This year, the Anson County Health Department encourages every woman to make a well-women exam the one resolution to keep.

The American Social Health Association (ASHA) and the National Cervical Cancer Coalition (NCCC) has named January Cervical Health Awareness Month. This is a special month where women encourage women to get screened for cervical cancer and receive the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine if they are eligible.

Cervical cancer is the 3rd leading cause of death amongst women in the United States and affects nearly 12,000 women a year in the U.S. alone. All women are at risk for cancer, however it occurs more often in women 30 and older. According to the statistics presented in 2014 from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Hispanic women had the highest rate of getting cervical cancer followed by black, white, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaskan Native women. Reports also revealed that black women are more likely to die from cervical cancer. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), in 2018 about 13,240 new cases of aggressive cervical cancer will be diagnosed and about 4,170 women will die from the disease.

Most cervical cancer is caused by human papilloma virus (HPV). HPV is a group of 150 or more related viruses and is contracted through sexual intercourse. Some types of HPV can cause genital warts, while high-risk HPV types are linked to cervical cell changes that lead to cervical cancer if not detected early. More than 70 percent of cervical cancer cases come from high risk HPV types. The CDC recommends all boys and girls get the HPV vaccine by age 12. The vaccine is available through the age of 26 to prevent the virus and cervical cancer.

To prevent and detect cervical cancer, a Pap test is recommended every 3 years for women between the ages of 21-60. A Pap test can find cell changes to the cervix caused by HPV. HPV tests find the virus and help healthcare providers know which women are at highest risk for cervical cancer. An abnormal Pap test may require a detailed follow-up.

The Anson County Health Department provides the HPV vaccine to both boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 26 and accepts most major insurances. Young uninsured women under the age of 19 can receive the vaccine free of charge. The Health Department also provides the Pap test. The health department is providing a free educational session on cervical cancer on Tuesday, January 29, from 3 to 4 p.m. Feel free attend. Info 704-694-5188. The health department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

Events Set for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

Members of the Planning Committee for the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Remembrance have set the following activities and events for Dr. King's Birthday. Monday, January 21 is the official holiday.

• On Thursday evening, January 17, for the first time this year, each community will hold a "Mountaintop Fellowship Experience." Each community will host an Experience where members of the Anson County community can come together to reflect and fellowship on the impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on their lives and in the communities in which they live.

Wadesboro hosting ministers are Rev. Rodney Moore (Kesler Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church) and Rev. Tim Hushion, (Calvary Episcopal Church). Location: Calvary Episcopal Church.

Ansonville hosting ministers are Rev. Jeff Glenn (Ansonville Baptist Church) and Rev. Antonio Smith (Pleasant Hill Baptist Church). Location: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Morven hosting ministers are Rev. Iris Tillman (Church of God of Prophecy) and Rev. Tommy Threath (Morven Baptist Church). Location: Church of God of Prophecy.

Peachland/Polkton hosting ministers are Pastor John Green (Polkton Baptist Church) and Co-Host TBA. Location: TBA

Lilesville hosting minister is Rev. Jamison Quick (Parson Grove Missionary Baptist Church) and Co-Host TBA. Location: Parson Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Deep Creek hosting ministers are Rev Terry Little (Deep Creek Missionary Baptist Church) and Rev. Mark Perko (Deep Creek Baptist Church). Location: Deep Creek Baptist Church.

Each Mountaintop Fellowship Experience will convene at 6:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served at each location.

• HOLLA! of Morven is hosting an MLK "Night of Jazz" featuring Carl Ratliff on Friday evening, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the HOLLA! Center. Tickets are \$10 each. If you are interested in attending this event the contact person is Leon Gatewood, HOLLA! Director, at 704-851-3144.

• On Sunday, January 20 the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast will be held at Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro. The Breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. All members of the community are invited to attend and participate.

• The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial March will begin on Monday morning, January 21 at 8:00 a.m. Preloading for transportation to the Anson County Department of Social Services (DSS), located at 118 North Washington Street in uptown Wadesboro, from Harvest Ministries (HMOC) will take place at 7:30 a.m. HMOC is located on Highway 74 behind Pizza Hut. The march will begin from the DSS parking lot.

• The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program will begin at 9:00 a.m. following the march, and it will be held at Harvest Ministries. The keynote speaker for this program will be Rev. Alban Burney, the newly installed Pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Wadesboro.

Planning is still going on, and if you would like to assist or participate in any activity please contact a member of the committee or those persons listed below.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information about any event contact Winnie Bennett at 704-851-9269, Marlene Richardson at 704-694-2337 or Dannie Montgomery at 704-694-8326.

Moving Forward to Fulfill Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Dream

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) will host their annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event at the center on Monday, January 21. Kids Café after school students, under the direction of Treamenda Caple and Joyce Ledbetter with the after school volunteers' help, will provide special entertainment to commemorate Dr. King's life.

Guest speakers for this annual occasion are Mr. Nelson Jackson and Mr. Jewel Brewer. They are both from the Burnsville Community and each work diligently with the BRLC Annual God Glorious Bike Ride.

Lunch will begin at 12:00 noon, followed by activities at 1 p.m. The menu will consist of homemade beef stew and beans and chili.

BRLC Director Carol Smith said, "We are inviting each of you to come and participate."

For more information call 704-826-8737. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

Toys for Tots Valentine's Father/Daughter Dance

The public is invited to attend a special event presented by Anson County Toys for Tots. On Friday, February 8 they will host a Valentine's Father/Daughter Dance. This event is for daughters ages 2 to 18, and the attire is Sunday's best. Refreshments will be served.

The Dance will take place at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per father/daughter and \$5 for each additional child. All proceeds will go to Toys for Tots to be used to provide presents to less fortunate children at Christmas.

Tickets are available at the Anson County Clerk of Court's office, located in the Anson County Courthouse. Ask for Milea Gullede, Barbara Thomas or Erica Greene. For more information call 704-848-4412.

Winter Clothing and Hygiene Items Offered to Those in Need

Faith Based Center of Hope will pass out coats, blankets, gloves, socks and bags with hygiene products this Thursday, January 17 at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. It will begin at 11:30 a.m. The church is located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro.

For more information call Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

Town of Wadesboro's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Schedule

The Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 21 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. There will be no garbage pickup that Monday. Garbage collection will be shifted a day the entire week. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday, January 22. Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday, etc. The normal collection schedule will resume on Monday, January 28.

If you have any questions please call Town Hall at 704-694-5171.

Board Meeting

January 22

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-3516.

Lions Club

Welcomes

New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at Papa Joe's Restaurant the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about these meetings or becoming a member, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.