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

Anson County's December Unemployment Rate Was 4.5%

Anson County's unemployment rate for December was 4.5%, up from November's 4.1% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate was 3.8% in December, up slightly from November's 3.5% rate.

Anson's total labor force in December was 10,367. Of that number 9,905 were employed and 462 were unemployed. In November the total labor force was 10,336 with 9,908 employed and 428 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 99 of North Carolina's counties in December and remained unchanged in one. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.6 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.0 percent.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 5.0 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.1 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.8 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 99 counties and increased in one. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in December by 29,983 to 4,791,992, while those unemployed increased 14,695 to 187,253. Since December 2017, the number of workers employed statewide increased 78,656, while those unemployed decreased 26,660.

Duke Energy Updating Electric Meters

Citizens will see and hear from Duke technicians for several months

Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer has shared a letter he received from Duke Energy concerning a program they have begun to update electric meters in Anson County. The purpose of the letter is to inform citizens about what these technicians are doing, and to also let citizens know that the technicians will be working at homes and contacting customers. Here is the letter:

To whom it may concern,
I am sending you some information to inform everyone at the Anson County Sheriff's Office and Wadesboro Police Department that Duke Energy is beginning their meter exchange program in Anson County and in Wadesboro.

We are coming into your area starting the first week of February and continuing through the following five to six months. We are changing all of our meters to the new smart meter.

My hope is that you can let everyone on your team know that our technicians will be at homes and in contact with our customers and your citizens. Our goal is to make your team aware of our presence so that if someone calls, you may ease their mind.

The contracting company for Duke Energy working in the area is Scope Services Inc.

Duke Energy is sending out postcards ahead of our meter deployment as well as knocking on the door when we arrive onsite. The Technicians should have a vest on, be drivin a labeled truck, and have strobes flashing.

The technicians will work normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. There may be an occasional Saturday, but most weeks not.

Please see attached picture of our technicians.



Thanks again for your help in making this process as smooth as possible for all of us.

Coats, Sweaters, Blankets and Hygiene Products Giveaway this Thursday

Faith Based Center of Hope and Harvest Ministries Outreach Center, Pastor Steve Adams will pass out coats, sweaters, blankets and bags with hygiene products this Thursday, February 7, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro.

Any citizens with donations to this cause, please come and bring your donations or contact Vancine Sturdivant. For more information please contact Sturdivant at 704 848-4412.

Black History Program February 17

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center, Apostle Tim Adams and Pastor Steve Adams will celebrate their Black History program on Sunday, February 17 at 10:00 a.m. Anson County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant will share her "Mountain Top" experience with the congregation. The public is invited, and dinner will be served.

For more information contact Pastor Steve Adams at 704-695-2879.

Harvest Ministries is located 1134 East Caswell Street (Highway 74) in Wadesboro, behind McDonalds.

Monthly Democratic Party Meeting

The Anson County Democratic Party will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 21 at 6 p.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library. The agenda includes precinct organization and Teen Democrats organization. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

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



to the generosity and strong values of our community," said Caroline Goins, ACPC Executive Director.

Presenting Sponsors Poisson, Poisson & Bower, PLLC and Uwharrie Bank worked to make the event memorable for all. Special guests included Senator Tom and Janice McInnis, Representative Mark Brody's family, County Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn, Judge Sophia Crawford, and Anson County Board of Education members Carol Ann Gibson and Lisa Davis.

A highlight of the evening was Angelica Smith sharing her connection to the Anson County Partnership for Children in front of a full room of supporters. "The Partnership is like a second family. When I was in TIPS (Teen Information & Parenting Services) they helped me with child care, diapers, and helped me graduate from high school," said Smith. "They taught me how to be a mother, with classes like Motherhead."

Angelica was asked to speak in honor of youngest son, Datreon. Unfortunately, Angelica lost Datreon due to complications from a birth defect known as Esophageal Atresia/Tracheal Esophageal Fistula (EA/TEF). Individuals affected by this rare birth defect cannot swallow. Datreon fought hard, spending 37 days in the NICU and living each day to the fullest but did not make it to his first birthday.

The Partnership honored Datreon by naming this year's Sponsor a Child in memory of him. With the money raised through Sponsor a Child for Datreon, approximately 690 children will receive books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Each year brings new supporters of young children, including sponsors, guests, volunteers and donors, with the many ways to contribute to Barn Blast. There is something for everyone at the Barn Blast, and guests support the efforts of the Partnership in a variety of ways. The Anson County Partnership for Children appreciates all those who shared generously for the 2019 Barn Blast fundraiser. The event was successful in every aspect. Based on the generosity of those who support this annual fundraiser, local children and families will be able to benefit in numerous ways.

All profits from the Barn Blast are used for Partnership programs which address the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on child care, health, literacy and family support.

Gladys Wright Has 104th Birthday

Mrs. Gladys Jones Wright turned 104 years old on Sunday, February 3. The family celebrated her birthday at her home in Peachland.

Mrs. Wright has lived her entire life as a resident of Peachland. She has been a member of Deep Springs Baptist Church, where she continues to attend.

Mrs. Wright was married to the late Frank Wright. She has two daughters, Rebecca Nance and Sybil Ferree and two sons, Bobby and Sheppard, 13 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.



Anson Women's League Soup Luncheon is Next Tuesday

Mark your calendars for the annual Anson Women's Soup Luncheon next Tuesday, February 12, at First Baptist Church on Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. Dine in, take-out, or deliveries for ten orders or more are available. Dine-in hours are 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This meal is a warm treat of homemade vegetable beef soup, toasted cheese sandwich, beverage, and homemade dessert. The cost per ticket is \$8.

Anson Women's League has a history of local projects, support of local nonprofit organizations, and scholarships for high school seniors that are provided each year for up to four young women who will attend college in the fall. The soup luncheon is the primary fundraiser for the year. Support of the soup luncheon from the community is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Ross Huntley at RHuntley@co.anson.nc.us or Bonnie Morgan at bonnie.morgan@windstream.net for delivery orders by Thursday, February 7 at noon.

Tickets may be purchased from any member of Anson Women's League. Walk-in guests are welcome.

Please consider becoming a member of Anson Women's League, enjoy the friendships you will make, and become a part of an organization that selflessly gives back to the community.

Please contact Bonnie Morgan at 704-695-5373 for questions regarding the soup luncheon or becoming a part of the organization.

High School Selection Dates for Anson Students

Anson County Schools has released this information about key dates for high school selection:

- **February 26 Parent Forum** Superintendent and Administrators will explain the high school application process and provide information about each of the high school choices. Anson Middle School Gymnasium, 6-7 p.m. Audience: Parents/guardians and 8th grade students.

- **February 27 Counselors Visit AMS** Counselors from each high school will give a presentation, then do a question & answer. They will provide information about each of the high school choices. Anson Middle School. Audience: 8th grade students.

- **February 28 Open House** At Anson High School and Anson County Early College, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Audience: Parents/guardians and 8th grade students.

- **March 1 Writing Prompts** Students will complete the essay portion of applications during their ELA classes.

- **March 5 Applications distributed to students**

- **March 15 Completed high school applications turned into AMS or Central Office by 3:30 p.m.**

Brown Bag Book Club Meeting is February 18

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the Brown Bag Book Club meeting for Monday, February 18 in the Pritchett room at 12:00 noon. Ann McSwain Jones and Leonidas McSwain will be the guest speakers. Ann co-authored three books with her dad, Martin McSwain: *Hopewell Church Veterans in the Civil War*; *Hopewell Veterans of WWI* and *Links of Hopewell*. Leonidas was involved in one of those publications and also published *The Hills of Rocky River*. They will be sharing research techniques and publishing tips for genealogy.

Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and enjoy this informative program. For questions call 704-694-5177.

Foster Parent Family Support Group

A Foster Parent Family Support Group will be held at the Anson County Department of Social Services, located at 118 North Washington Street in uptown Wadesboro, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Resources and refreshments will be provided free.

Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995 or by email at connectionsfp@gmail.com for more information.

The deadline to register is February 13.

\$70,000 Raised for Anson County Children at the Partnership for Children Barn Blast Event

More than \$70,000 was raised at the 2019 Barn Blast, the annual Anson County Partnership for Children (ACPC) fundraiser held on Friday, January 25 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro.

"The money raised annually at Barn Blast to support the children of Anson County is a true testament

to the generosity and strong values of our community," said Caroline Goins, ACPC Executive Director.

Presenting Sponsors Poisson, Poisson & Bower, PLLC and Uwharrie Bank worked to make the event memorable for all. Special guests included Senator Tom and Janice McInnis, Representative Mark Brody's family, County Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn, Judge Sophia Crawford, and Anson County Board of Education members Carol Ann Gibson and Lisa Davis.

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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.

Matt Arrowood to Perform for 50+ Club Meeting

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ club meeting for Monday, February 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the Little Theatre. Matt Arrowood of Marshville will be doing a concert of gospel and country music. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the music of this talented young man.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Make Your Own Valentine Cards at Grace Senior Center Feb. 13

Anson County's senior citizens are invited to Grace Senior Center for a session to make your own Valentine cards. This fun event will take place on Wednesday, February 13 at 2:30 p.m.

To register and receive more information call Mary Jones at 704-694-6616. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.