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

19 Year Old Anson High School Student Dead After Shooting, Car Accident

On Friday, March 17 deputies with the Anson County Sheriff's Office responded to an area on Airport Road in Wadesboro in reference to a traffic accident. During the initial investigation it was determined that the victim, Tony Ahmad Gainey, 19, of Wadesboro, suffered an apparent gunshot wound.

Investigators responded and secured the scene. The investigation is ongoing. The Sheriff's Office is being assisted by State Bureau of Investigation and the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

Detectives encourage anyone with information to come forward by contacting the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188.

Anson County Sheriff Scott Howell said, "More details will be released as the investigation unfolds. Thank you for your patience."



Shamrock Shuffle 5K and Shop Local Event in Uptown Wadesboro

Participants in the 5K and all the other "lucky people" who came to uptown Wadesboro for the Shamrock Shuffle 5K and Shop Local Event on Saturday, March 18 enjoyed lots of fun, great shopping with local businesses and vendors, delicious food and good weather. Who could ask for more!

At this Chamber of Commerce sponsored event it was a family and friends affair for many of the vendors. Pictured above are, from left, front: Adalyn Presson with Princess Charming Shoe Charms. Second row: Sissy Tucker, Elizabeth Presson with Scentsy, Leigh Parker, Claire Davis, and Leah McLaurin with Candle Creations. Third row: David Parker and Tommy Eddins.

Anson County's January Unemployment Rate

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for January was 4.3%. Anson County ranked #71 among the 100 counties statewide (low to high).

Here are other past rates in Anson County: **2022:** December 4.0%; November 4.6%; October 4.9%; September 4.2%; August 4.9%; July 4.7%; June 5.1%; May 4.7%; April 4.6%; March 4.9%; February 5.1%; January 5.1%. **2021:** December 4.4%; November 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 6.5%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The **2020** rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%.

In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the unemployment rate for January was 3.7%.

Here are other statewide past rates: **2022:** December 3.2%; November 3.8%; October 3.9%; September 3.3%; August 3.9%; July 3.7%; June 4.1%; May 3.6%; April 3.4%; March 3.6%; February 3.7%; January 3.8%. **2021:** December 3.2%; November 3.4%; October 3.6%; September 3.8%; August 4.4%; July 4.6%; June 4.9%; May 4.5%; April 4.4%; March 4.6%; February 5.6%; January 6%. **2020:** December 6%; November and October 6.1%; September 7%; August 6.8%; July 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in January was 10,280, with 9,841 employed and 439 unemployed. In December the total labor force was 10,069, with 9,666 employed and 403 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 99 of North Carolina's counties in January 2023 and decreased in one. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 10.1 percent while Greene, Buncombe, and Orange Counties each had the lowest at 3.0 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.4 percent while Asheville and Raleigh each had the lowest at 3.1 percent. The January not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.7 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 71 counties, increased in 14, and remained unchanged in 15. Eleven of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and four remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in January by 1,538 to 4,964,633, while those unemployed increased by 27,047 to 190,835. Since January 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 74,495, while those unemployed decreased 6,789.

Roundabout Construction Starting Next Week on Highway 218

N.C. Department of Transportation contract crews will start building a roundabout next week at the intersection of N.C. 200 and N.C. 218 in Union County, requiring the intersection to be closed to traffic after rush hour Monday morning.

During construction, non-truck traffic will follow a posted detour along Love Mill Road, Zebulon Williams Road and Haigler Gin Road and Honey Bee Road. Trucks will follow a separate detour from N.C. 24/27 to U.S. 601, U.S. 74, and N.C. 200, returning to N.C. 24/27. The intersection is scheduled to open in early June.

Roundabouts improve safety for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. They also help reduce the congestion and backups more typical at traditional intersections with stop signs and traffic signals.

NCDOT has produced a video showing how roundabouts work and improve overall safety. Go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "Roundabouts in North Carolina."

For real-time travel information, visit [DriveNC.gov](https://www.driveNC.gov) or follow NCDOT on social media.

School Board Meeting is March 27

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, March 27. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at about 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration meetings begin March 24

Pre-Kindergarten registration will be held at the elementary school located in the attendance area where the child lives. Please check the dates and times below for the school your child will be attending.

To attend Kindergarten, your child has to be 5 on or before August 31, 2023. North Carolina Law requires a certified birth certificate - hospital/mother's copy birth certificates will not be accepted.

Prior to the Pre-Kindergarten registration clinics, forms can be picked up at the elementary school or on the Anson County Schools website under the Parent Portal button, ansonschools.org.

Anson County also requires at least 2 proofs of residence (911 address on Driver's License, address on a bill, etc.) to place the child in the proper attendance area. We encourage you to bring your child with you to the registration clinic!

Do not forget to bring these items:

1. Certified Birth Certificate for your child
2. Shot Record
3. Health Assessment (if already completed)
4. At least two (2) proofs of residence showing your 911 address

Additionally, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the Anson County Board of Education approved school choice for Kindergarten only (Policy 4150). Families are allowed to choose which elementary school their child attends. If you decide to send your child to a school outside of their attendance area, transportation will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Anson County Schools looks forward to seeing you as you register your child for Pre-Kindergarten. If you have questions, please call the school in your attendance area and speak to the school nurse.

Registration Dates/Times

- Ansonville Elementary School, March 24, 2023 (9:00 – 11:00 a.m.)
- Wadesboro Primary School, March 24, 2023 (9:00 – 1:00 p.m.)
- Lilesville Elementary School, March 29, 2023 (9:00 – 11:00 a.m.)
- Peachland-Polkton Elementary School, March 31, 2023 (9:00 – 1:30 p.m.)
- Morven Elementary School, April 5, 2023 (9:00 – 11:00 a.m.)

Anson County Beekeepers Meet Next Tuesday

All Anson County Beekeepers members are reminded that the upcoming meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28 at the Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Come one, come all who are interested in honey bees regardless if you have bees or not.

Anson County Beekeepers meeting are open to everyone who is interested in having bees for honey and pollination as well.

For more information call 704-272-7154 or check their Facebook page, "Anson Beekeepers Association."

NCDOT HBCU Internship, Fellowship Programs Application Deadline Extended

The N.C. Department of Transportation has extended the application deadline for the 2023 Historically Black Colleges and Universities internship and fellowship programs. The deadline to apply for an HBCU internship or fellowship is now March 31. The previous deadline to apply for the internship and fellowship was last week. Selected applicants will start work May 30.

NCDOT's HBCU and Minority-Serving Institution Internship Program provides hands-on experience for students attending HBCUs and MSIs. The summer internship program is an ideal way for undergraduate students to gain work experience with the NCDOT, while learning what a career in the transportation industry can offer. The internships also include professional development workshops on skills such as résumé building, business writing and networking.

Fellows are offered a two-year individual fellowship experience tailored to their interests, involvement and goals. Applicants who apply to the fellows program must have graduated within the past three years with a bachelor's degree or master's degree from a North Carolina HBCU or MSI.

Participants work in all areas of the transportation industry. The programs also offer free trainings and certifications, travel and opportunities to network with and learn from transportation professionals.

The fellowship program helps develop a pool of qualified employees for potential permanent positions within NCDOT and the transportation industry.

If you are interested in learning more information, go to HBCU Outreach Initiatives and Programs at ncdot.gov. The applications for internships and the fellows programs are posted on the NC Office of State Human Resources website, governmentjobs.com.

Partnership for Children Offers Free Car Seat Checks

They also sell car seats and booster seats at deep discounts

Did you know that the Anson County Partnership for Children offers FREE car seat checks? If you are unsure about your child's safety seat or need help installing it, they have nationally certified child passenger safety technicians there to help you.

Just call the Partnership office at 704-694-4036 or stop by at 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro for more info.

The Partnership also offers car seats and booster seats at highly discounted rates for Anson County community members.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon is Saturday

This is a release from Harris Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church: The pastor, Deaconess Board and members of Harris Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church are inviting all Anson County law enforcement officers to join our church family in the Fellowship Hall at Harris Chapel for a delicious lunch and tokens of appreciation as our act of kindness and appreciation for your service in Anson County. We will be delighted to have you as our guests to show our gratitude and to personally thank all of you for protecting us and keeping our towns, neighborhoods and county safe.

The Luncheon will be held this Saturday, March 25, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Please make a special effort to come and dine with us. We will be honored to have you as our special guests. Sincerely yours, Rev. Dr. Bernice Bennett, Pastor and Sis. Marilyn Bennett, Deaconess.

Harris Chapel is located at 401 West Main Street (Highway 145 South) in Morven, at the intersection with South White Oak Street. The telephone number is 704-851-3990 or 704-848-4085.

Safe Kids Anson Hosting Operation Medicine Drop

Safe Kids Anson will host Operation Medicine Drop this Saturday, March 25, from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. in the Food Lion parking lot in Wadesboro.

Bring your unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines for safe disposal. Syringes and needles will not be accepted for collection.

Free Movie at the Library is Elvis

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing the movie *Elvis* starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks on Monday, March 27 at 10 a.m. in the Pritchett room. This is a PG-13 movie.

Hope to see you there.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.