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

Anson County Unemployment Rate 12.8% in January

Anson County's unemployment rate for January was 12.8%, a whole percentage point higher than December's 11.8% rate. The state unemployment rate was 10.2%, higher than December's rate of 9.5%.

In January 2011 Anson County's unemployment rate was 11.6%.

Anson's total labor force in January was 11,128. Of that number 9,709 were employed and 1,419 were unemployed. In December the total labor force was 11,238, with 9,907 employed and 1,331 unemployed.

Unemployment rates increased in all of North Carolina's 100 counties in January. All 14 of the state's metro areas also experienced rate increases. The January statewide not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 10.2 percent.

Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 20.4 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 6.6 percent. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 14.1 percent experienced the highest rate and Durham-Chapel Hill at 7.7 percent had the lowest.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates dropped in 30 counties, increased in 63 and remained unchanged in seven. Four metro areas experienced decreases, while eight experienced increases and two remained the same.

Statewide the number of workers employed (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in January by 30,998 to 4,255,318, while those unemployed rose 37,412 to 482,822. Since January 2012, the number of workers unemployed increased 14,640, while those employed increased 68,375.

Harvest Ministries Annual "Show the Love" Event



While Harvest Ministries Outreach Center works to provide services, meet needs, and reach people all year long, every February the congregation takes it up a notch to make the entire month "Show the Love" Month. This 4 week long outreach effort allowed HMOC to pinpoint four areas of need and focus on meeting those needs.

Show the Love 2013 once again brought hope, smiles, groceries, school uniforms, and much more to many of Anson County's residents.

Groups from HMOC including, the Ladies' Ministry, Men's Ministry, Fusion Youth, Powerhouse Kidz, 412 Young Adults, and many more took time to "Show the Love" in unique and different ways. Some of the ways were:

- Random Acts of Kindness - paying for strangers' lunch, gas, and other items at local stores and vendors.
- Visiting nursing facilities in the county
- Providing school uniforms for Wadesboro Primary School Students
- A Free Car wash to the community
- And much more.

Pastor Steve Adams said, "The old adage is simply people don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care. Show the Love is designed to help many people - but in reality we are the ones who receive the greatest blessing from it."

For more information on Harvest Ministries Outreach Center's programs and services

Schools' Early Dismissal Times for Thursday

On Thursday, March 28 Anson County Schools will have early dismissal. See times below:

- All Elementary Schools will release at 12:30 p.m.
- All Secondary Schools will release at 1:30 p.m. (Anson High, Anson Middle, Anson New Tech, Anson Early College)

Being a Caregiver is Not Easy!

Learn how to balance your life with the Powerful Tools for Caregivers class

A family caregiver is someone who helps a relative or friend with the things that he/she can no longer do because of an illness or have become frail. Most caregiving experiences start with taking them to the doctor or grocery store and gradually increases to doing housework, preparing meals and assistance with bathing and dressing. In most situations the care continues and as time goes by more and more of your time will be needed. Often caregivers neglect themselves while providing compassionate comfort and support for a loved one. Many studies have shown caregivers are twice as likely to develop a chronic illness due to the prolonged stress.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a free educational series designed to provide the Caregiver with the tools needed to take care of themselves so they can continue to provide good quality care. You will benefit from this class whether you are helping a spouse, parent, or friend. Someone who lives at home, in a facility, or across the country. This class will not only benefit those new to caregiving but also those who have been providing care for an extended period. This evidence based program will help family caregivers reduce stress, boost self-confidence, improve communication skills, balance their lives, increase their ability to make tough decisions and locate helpful resources.

Classes consist of six 90 minute sessions held once a week. Lisa Ledford and Rita Short co-lead the series and both are experienced caregivers themselves, who have successfully applied the techniques they teach. Interactive lessons, discussions and brainstorming will help you take the "tools" you choose and put them into action.

Classes will be held at the Grace Senior Center, located at 199 Highway 742 South (just past IGA) in Wadesboro. Sessions will be held each Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, April 9 and ending on Tuesday, May 14.

For more information or to register contact Rita Short at 704-694-6217. Powerful Tools for Caregivers is provided by the Anson County Council on Aging and Liberty Home Care and Hospice.

Beautiful Quilt Being Raffled for Special Olympics



A beautiful hand made quilt is up for raffle, with all proceeds going to benefit the Anson County Special Olympics. Anson County Special Olympians helped make the quilt and donated it for the raffle. It features representations from Anson schools.

For a donation of only \$5 you can get in on the chance to win this special piece of art...and it is warm too! Of course everyone is welcome to buy more tickets or donate extra. This raffle is truly for a great cause. Special Olympic participants are provided an exciting day or fun and thrills each year.

There are costs involved with putting on the Special Olympics. Also, there are needs for funds all year long, not just for the event itself.

To purchase tickets, please call Pam Ratliff, Fundraising Chairperson, at 704-294-0408. The raffle winner will be announced during opening ceremonies for Special Olympics on Tuesday, April 30. The rain date is Thursday, May 2.

This year's Special Olympics will be held at the Anson High School Football Field, with opening ceremonies beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Blood Drive is Today!

A Blood Drive will be held at First Baptist Church Wadesboro today, Wednesday, March 27, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. All donors will be entered into a drawing to win a \$1,000 gift card to a Home Improvement Store!

For more information visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

Ground Breaking Ceremony for New Gullede Fire Department

The Gullede Volunteer Fire Department, Station 9, will have a ground breaking ceremony for their new fire station on Sunday, April 7 at 4 p.m. The public is invited.

Democratic Party County Convention

The Anson County Democratic Party will hold their County Convention and Breakfast on April 13 at the Hampton B. Allen Library. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. and the convention begins at 10 a.m.

Survivor Dinner to be Held April 13

There will be a Relay for Life Survivor Dinner on Saturday, April 13 at First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro at 6 p.m. This dinner is offered to cancer survivors, and they are welcome to come and bring one guest.

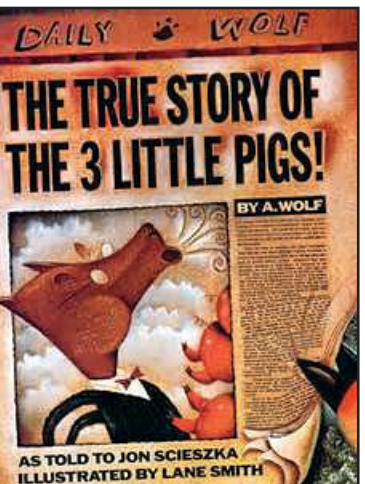
If you would like to attend you are asked to RSVP by April 5 by contacting Carrie Bunn at 704-294-0071 or ansonrelay@yahoo.com.

Veteran Services Office Hours

The Anson County Veteran Services office is open Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. The office is located in the former Belk building on South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

For information on services and other veteran affairs contact Ted Ward, Veterans Services Officer, at 704-694-4418.

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Week of the Young Child to be Celebrated with Play, The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs

In a release from the Anson County Partnership for Children: The public is invited to the 2013 Week of the Young Child Celebration sponsored by the Anson County Partnership for Children on Tuesday, April 16. The theme for this year's celebration is *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, which offers a new twist on a much beloved classic.

Each year the Anson County Partnership for Children joins communities nationwide in celebrating young children and those who serve as caregivers and child care providers. The celebration will begin with the annual Week of the Young Child Parade at 10 a.m. on Rutherford and East

Children and parents are encouraged to be creative, dress in their favorite costumes and decorate their own "parade floats" using the "Three Little Pigs" theme. Costumes are not required to participate in the parade, but are encouraged. No gas-powered vehicles are allowed. Prizes will be given for the best float and best costume. Each child who attends the parade will receive a free book from the Anson County Partnership for Children. Parade spectators are needed and the public is encouraged to come out and join in the celebration while showing support for the youngest Ansonians.

The Anson County Partnership for Children and the Anson County Arts Council are jointly sponsoring two free performances of *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* by The Tarradiddle Players of the Charlotte Children's Theatre. The first performance will be reserved for N.C. Pre-K children and their parents following the parade at 11 a.m. on April 16 in the Ansonia Theatre. The main floor of the theatre will be reserved for the children and child care staff members. Parents and family members will be seated in the balcony. Staff members supervising the children are asked to sit in the outside seats.

All Anson County children and their parents are also invited to the free public performance of *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* by the Tarradiddle Players on Tuesday, April 16, at 6 p.m. at the Ansonia Theatre. The performance is free to the public but seating is limited. Tickets can be reserved by calling or coming by the Anson County Partnership for Children (704-694-4036), or the Anson County Arts Council (704-694-4950). Each child who attends the performance will receive a free book from the Anson County Partnership for Children.

Please call the Anson County Partnership for Children at 704-694-4036 for additional information regarding the 2013 Week of the Young Child parade and performances of *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*.

The Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership is responsible for developing collaborative strategies to meet the unique needs of children and families in Anson County focusing on: Child Care Quality, Accessibility and Affordability, Child Health, Literacy and Family Support Programs. For more information, contact Kim Wilson at 704-694-4036.

Special Olympics are Coming

Anson County's Special Olympics are set for Tuesday, April 30 at Anson High School Football Field. Opening ceremonies will be held at 9:30 a.m. If it is raining the event will be moved to Thursday, May 2.

The Special Olympics Spring Games will feature track and field competitions and some demo sports, basketball for example. Participants are 8 years old and older. There will also be activities for young athletes, ages 4 to 7 years old. Last year there were about 75 Special Olympians, and about 25 youth participants. Each olympian is accompanied by a high school student "buddy" throughout the event. Things wrap up about noon.

"We want to invite the community out to attend and enjoy the Special Olympics," said Sylvia Tillman, Special Olympics Coordinator. "The olympians love to hear the attendees cheer them on."

Would you like to volunteer to help? If so, please contact Tillman at 704-694-4417. She asks that you contact her as soon as you can so that organizers will know how many people they can count on.

A beautiful handmade quilt is being raffled off with all proceeds going to support Special Olympics in Anson County. Tickets are only \$5 each...but you can buy more than one or donate additional money. The winner will be announced at the opening ceremonies. If you would like a chance to win please call Pam Ratliff at 704-294-0408.

Civitan Announce Scholarships

The Wadesboro Civitan Club, the oldest civic organization in Anson County, will be accepting applications for college scholarships from now through May 6th. The club will be awarding \$1,000 scholarships to four college-bound students from Anson County this year.

Applications will be judged on academic achievement and financial need. Because good citizenship and community involvement are important Civitan goals, applications will also be judged on the evidence of students' leadership and participation in clubs, churches, extracurricular activities, and charitable service to the community.

Application forms will be available through school guidance counselors, by writing the Civitan Club at PO Box 751, Wadesboro, NC 28170, or by telephoning Sandra Pliescott, Chairman of the Civitan Scholarship Committee, at 704-694-7853 evenings and weekends or at 704-694-4106 during business hours.

Charles Boyle Still Distributing Food at 93 Years Old

Mr. Charles Boyle celebrated his 93rd birthday, as usual, by picking up the daily food at the Wadesboro Food Lion. He is the oldest volunteer at the Anson Crisis Ministry and has been a volunteer for almost 10 years.

