

THE EXPRESS

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

Anson's April Unemployment Rate at 6.9%

Anson County's unemployment rate for April was down to 6.9 percent. In March the rate was 7.3 percent. April was the eighth straight month of single digit unemployment rates for Anson County. Statewide the unemployment rate for April was 6%, In April 2013 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 9.6%.

Anson's total labor force in April was 10,455. Of that number 9,731 were employed and 724 were unemployed. In March the total labor force was 10,495, with 9,724 employed and 771 unemployed. The labor force declined slightly and the number of employed increased slightly.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 99 of North Carolina's counties in April and increased in one. All 14 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 11.6 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 4.0 percent. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 9.1 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville at 4.5 percent had the lowest. The April not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 6.0 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 14 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in April by 25,952 to 4,380,705, while those unemployed decreased 27,552 to 280,798. Since April 2013, the number of workers employed statewide increased 66,722, while those unemployed decreased 91,220.

Ronnie Burr, Timothy Burr, Amanda Kessler Busted for Sweepstakes Operations

Sheriff Tommy Allen said that Deputies from his office executed search warrants on two video sweepstakes locations in Wadesboro Thursday morning, May 29. Deputies served search warrants on J & K Sweepstakes and Tim's Winners Sweepstakes, both places located in a strip mall on East Caswell Street in Wadesboro. Officers seized over sixty video computer terminals, an undisclosed amount of cash, one handgun and arrested three individuals at the scene.

At J & K Sweepstakes Deputies arrested Amanda Kessler, age 34 of McColl, SC on four counts of Operating Electronic Sweepstakes Games. At Tim's Winners Sweepstakes Deputies arrested Ronnie Douglas Burr, age 68 and Timothy Robert Burr, age 44, both of Wadesboro. Both Burrs were charged with two counts each of Operating Electronic Sweepstakes Games. All three suspects were released on a \$5,000 bond each. Their first court date appearance is set for June 12th. Assisting the Sheriff's Office was the Lilesville Police Department and the US Marshals Service.



Some people will even suffer that paint color to play illegal sweepstakes machines.

The Sheriff said that yesterday while his deputies were closing down the two sweepstakes operations another one was unloading equipment at a third location in town, planning to open. "I've not seen a permit for this business but we stopped by and told them what we were doing and they could open at their own peril. So we'll see what happens," the Sheriff said.

Adam Hildreth Arrested for Drug Possession

On Sunday, June 1 officers with the Wadesboro Police Department arrested Adam Thomas Hildreth, 27, on felony drug charges. Officers had observed a suspicious vehicle parked in the parking lot of a local business. They found it occupied by Hildreth who was asleep in the driver's seat of the vehicle. After an investigation the officers located and seized cocaine and drug paraphernalia from inside of Hildreth's vehicle.

Hildreth, a white male, of 165 Cedar Lane in Lilesville, was charged with the following charges: Felony Possession of Schedule II (Cocaine) and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$6,000, and a court date was set for June 9.

Deputy Charged with Misdemeanor in Accidental Shooting

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen said on Friday, May 30 that Deputy Sgt. Josh Beam, whose five year old son shot himself in the ear two weeks ago with Beam's service weapon, was charged by the SBI with "Failure to store a firearm to prevent access by a minor." (GS 14-315.1), a class one misdemeanor. Beam was served with a Criminal Summons by SBI agent B. D. Blackman at the direction of District Attorney Reece Saunders Friday morning. No bond was required. Beam will remain on administrative leave until the matter is disposed in court.

Anson Animal Shelter Pets Up for Adoption Now Are Searchable Online

"We are now on Petfinder!" exclaimed County Manager Lawrence Gatewood. "Anson County Animal Shelter is now listed on Petfinder.com. This is a searchable national database of pets available for adoption that includes a description and photo." "Our petfinder site is up and going," said Shelter Director Becky Wilson. "All the animals that are up for adoption are listed and have a picture. Go to Petfinder.com and search for any Anson County town or zip code and you will be able to see what we have here at the shelter for adoptions." Wilson urges everyone to share this information with anyone who may want a pet. A rescue from Animal Shelter can bring lots of happiness and love into any home...and you will make the animal happy too! It's a win-win. For more information contact Wilson at 704-994-2738.



Wadesboro Primary School Terrific Kids

Wadesboro Primary School has recognized their Terrific Kids for Honesty and Respect. They are: Hunter Ratliff, Destiny Heath, Shastor Clark, Javion Smith, Taylor Still, Janiah Bass, Tameia Little, Casey Gabriel, Cheyenne Whittington, Sarah Lang, NaAsya Scott, Natalia Bemnet, Trajan Gatewood, An Tonnu, Jordan Smith, Shakelin Liles, Allie Hill, Trent Taylor, Dalajah Greene, Milajah Brown, Francesca Rivera, Malik Cason, Megan Smothers, Will Howard, Lemuel Leak, Jadaisha Smith, Dustin Goodwin, Mario Thomas, Seth Liles, Chenoa Gaddy, Andrew Davis, Delaney Taylor, Adrian Johnson, Will Gathings, Hezekiah Barnes, Catie Steagall, Saniyah Dumas, Janyah Flowers, Trindaja Moore, Jaybreyona Parson, Makayla Richardson, Malachi Gaddy, Janyah Broady and Quamaine LaGrande.

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. Summer Jam is Friday!

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. will host the first Summer Jam of the year this Friday, June 6th at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to come out for this fun and free event. It will be a family dance party with a DJ playing your favorite beach, country, hip-hop, kids dance, line dance, oldies and top 40 songs. Dance music for everyone!

Bring your own seat to Rutherford Street! There will be activities for children and concessions too. Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. t-shirts will also be for sale. Come on out and celebrate summer with us!

Everyone is Invited to the Women's League Dinner on June 10

Delicious dinner, music by Tony King, and over \$2,200 in raffle prizes! RSVP by June 5 for dinner.

All members of the community are invited to come enjoy a delicious cooked to order steak dinner with all the trimmings, appetizers and wine at the Anson Women's League Social and Dinner on Tuesday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Twin Valley Country Club. Elvis tribute artist Tony King will entertain attendees with his terrific tenor voice, and the winners of two raffles running right now will be announced too. It will be a night of fun, fellowship, great food and song. Because the event is catered, RSVP's must be received by Thursday, June 5.

The Women's League (AWL) is sponsoring two raffles to raise funds for scholarships and other projects that help our community:

- 1) Quilt Raffle: A beautiful handmade quilt by Cynthia Little. Raffle tickets are \$1 each.
- 2) Tin Pan Anson Raffle: A huge washtub full of items and products mostly made or created here in Anson County. There are works of art, pottery, variety of food products pizza, cakes by Maureen Lett, Soowee Treats goodies, hair products from several local salons, jewelry, wine from Southern Medley, gift certificates from several local merchants and restaurants, books published by Anson County authors, and much, much more! Raffle tickets are \$5 each for this bounty of gifts worth well over \$2,200!

AWL's Beverly Getzen said, "This is a true bounty, representing the generosity of many in our community - merchants, artists, writers, producers, restaurateurs, service providers and businesses of all types. We are thankful for this generosity and know that whoever wins this enormous bounty will enjoy all these marvelous items and gift cards, even some cash! These great items will give you a lot of pleasure plus provide gifts for family and friends."

You are also invited to contribute items to the raffle.

The Tin Pan Raffle bounty will be on display at various businesses in Wadesboro. You can call 704-694-4883 to find out where it is right now.

"The Women's League desperately needs all the funds we can raise in this raffle to replenish our scholarship funds in order to continue to help graduating seniors get to college," added Getzen. "We also will use these funds to contribute to many other community needs and causes throughout Anson County. Everyone who buys a raffle ticket, either for the lovely quilt or for the Tin Pan Anson is also contributing to improvements throughout our community."

Tickets for the Social and Dinner are \$15.50. If you plan to attend please RSVP by June 5 by calling Beth Rogers at 704-695-2010. Raffle tickets are available now by calling 704-694-7022. You can also purchase raffle tickets at the door.

Senator Gene McLaurin's Statement on the Senate Budget

In a release from Sen. Gene McLaurin: "Despite serious reservations about some aspects of the Senate budget, today I stood with teachers in my district and voted Yes. I'll be the first to admit that this is far from a perfect budget, but we face a teacher pay crisis in NC that has ranked us at 47th in the nation. This is a disgrace, especially for a state that was once regarded as one of the best in education nationwide. I have met with teachers in their schools and in their homes across our 5 county area who have been forced to take on second and third jobs, teachers who cannot afford to make repairs to their car or have a medical procedure done, because our state has misplaced our priorities.

Make no mistake, the teacher crisis we face was caused by the misguided priorities of some here in Raleigh. But today I had a chance to deliver on a promise I made to teachers - to raise teacher pay significantly - with an end goal of bringing teacher pay to the national average. This budget will increase teacher salaries by \$5,800 on average. The starting salary for a beginning teacher increases to \$33,000 as opposed to \$30,000. I will not kick the can down the road - we must address teacher pay now. In addition to teacher pay, our state employees are due for a raise as well, and this budget accomplishes that by bringing up the average state employee pay by \$1,000 with benefits. The budget also prioritizes early childhood education, our community colleges, and university funding."

Veteran Justin Kuhel Treks Through Anson County on his March Across America

On day eight of his 2,700-mile journey across America by foot, former Marine Justin Kuhel marched through Anson County with his American flag waving proudly and his gait purposefully leading him toward the west.

Justin, an American veteran who served two deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, is now honorably discharged and is proudly headed to California. His quest is to raise awareness and funds for two very worthy veterans charities. All proceeds from Justin's journey will be donated to the Headstrong Project and to Help our Military Heroes. Both organizations are on the front lines battling to help our veterans return to their lives after deployment.

Justin's journey began at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and will end at Camp Pendleton, California. So from the East to the West, Justin will act as a banner to attract attention to his cause. If you would like to make a donation please call 614-288-8532 or visit www.marchacrossamerica.org. You can make any contribution you would like, no matter how large or how small. You may also visit facebook.com/MarchAcrossAmerica for more information and photos chronicling the journey.

Let's help Justin reach his goal to raise much-needed funds in support of veterans, while he honors them by marching "From sea to shining sea."



Schools Dismiss Early Friday

Anson County Schools will have early dismissal on Friday, June 6.

- All Elementary Schools will dismiss at 12:30 p.m.
- All Middle and High Schools will dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

Zimmer Friends Meet this Friday

Everyone is invited to the Zimmer Friends meeting that will be held on Friday, June 6. It will take place at Bojangles Restaurant at 6 p.m.

Deep Creek School Reunion is this Saturday

Everyone is invited to attend the annual Deep Creek School Reunion. This year's event will take place this Saturday, June 7, starting at 11 a.m. at Deep Creek Baptist Church. Please bring a covered dish, and enjoy fun and fellowship.

Gary Gilmore to Present Musical Program on June 9

The Hampton B. Allen Library's 50+ Club will meet on Monday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre. Gary Gilmore will provide entertainment with his delightful music. Please come and bring a friend. Any questions call 704-694-5177.

Sit-A-Cise for Silver Slippers Program to Get Fit

Grace Senior Center will host Sit-a-cise for Silver Slippers (Seniors ages 60 & over), an exercise seminar, on Tuesday, June 10 at 10 a.m. It will be taught by Shelia Raye. Sit-a-cise will be held on a monthly basis through October at no charge.

Sit-a-cise is designed to give you a great workout, give you the ability to lose weight, burn fat, tone, and improve your strength and cardio - all while sitting in a chair without risking serious injury or placing major stress on your lower joints, tendons and ligaments. Just Sit and get Fit!

Dates and times will be posted in the papers. For more information or to register, please call 704-694-6616.

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