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

## Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet July 9

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Monday, July 9. The Commissioners meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

## Anson County's Unemployment Rate Remains a Low 4.3 Percent in May

Anson County's unemployment rate for May was 4.3%, very slightly higher than April's 4.1% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate was 3.7% in May, the same as in April. Anson's total labor force in May was 10,629. Of that number 10,176 were employed and 453 were unemployed. In April the total labor force was 10,585 with 10,149 employed and 436 unemployed. Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 60 of North Carolina's counties in May, increased in eight, and remained unchanged in 32. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.5 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 2.8 percent. Seven of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases, one increased, and seven remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 5.8 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 2.9 percent. The May not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.7 percent. When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year. The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in May by 37,232 to 4,835,398, while those unemployed decreased 1,008 to 184,582. Since May 2017, the number of workers employed statewide increased 108,389, while those unemployed decreased 28,554.

## Stride for Pride Tennis Shoe Drive is Now Accepting Donations

Stride with Pride has begun their 8th annual season of collecting donations of new tennis shoes and/or money used to purchase tennis shoes that will be provided to under privileged youth of all diversities in Anson County. These shoes are given to youth ranging in age from kindergarten to 12th grade, and all sizes are needed. Stride with Pride is a joint effort of Sheriff Landric Reid and Patti Poulcott of Judy's Tax Service. Through the generous contributions of our community, last year Stride with Pride was able to give over 475 pairs of tennis shoes out. For 2018 the goal is to put a smile on at least the same number of faces. Collections for the upcoming school year will be going on through August 12, but you can contribute at any time during the year. Sheriff Reid said, "Patti Poulcott and I will be working to collect new shoes and monetary donations from area supporters. We hope that you will consider joining us in this important effort to help a child walk the halls of success this new school year." Patti Poulcott said, "Through your generosity we can help our youth 'Stride with Pride' this coming school year. Collections are going on now. We hope that you will consider joining us to help our local children." Also, if you are in need of shoes contact Patti Poulcott or Sheriff Reid with size information. If you would like to donate you can contact Sheriff Reid at 704-695-7771 or [lreid@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:lreid@co.anson.nc.us), or Patti Poulcott at 704-694-8386 or [ppoulcott@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ppoulcott@carolina.rr.com).

## School Superintendent Michael Freeman Warns of Non-Approved Solicitations for Funds

This is a release from Anson County School Superintendent Michael Freeman: My office continues to discover situations where agencies and/or individuals are soliciting funds on behalf of Anson County Schools (ACS) without proper approval. Recently a number of local businesses and faith-based agencies have reported attempts for funds to be donated for the ACS to support various student projects. Some of the companies soliciting funds have not been approved by my office nor any school based administrator. This communication is to caution anyone who is approached by individuals, businesses or agencies soliciting funds for any ACS need; you should investigate this matter to make sure the donations are truly being solicited for the benefit of children enrolled in Anson County Schools. My office will now research any company, agency or individual who is soliciting funds. You may call our office at 704-694-4417 to verify if funds being solicited for ACS have been legally approved based on board policy. You may also email Anne Hyatt at [hyatt.anne@anson.k12.nc.us](mailto:hyatt.anne@anson.k12.nc.us) or Michael Freeman at [freeman.michael@anson.k12.nc.us](mailto:freeman.michael@anson.k12.nc.us).

## Free Groceries for Families in Need

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Mobile Food Pantry and CHS Mobile Health Unit will be at Marshville United Methodist Church, located at 310 Ross Street, on Wednesday, July 11. Please arrive and register between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m. • Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household. Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email [tschumpert@wncuccmc.net](mailto:tschumpert@wncuccmc.net). The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need. If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445.



## Anson County Schools 2018 Junior Marshalls

Congratulations to the 2018 Junior Marshalls from Anson High School and Anson County Early College. From Anson County Early College they are Matthew David Burns, Vontarya Ronquesha McBride, Mili Nguyen, Benjamin Franklin Tillman and Naiya Christine Woodburn. From Anson High School they are Deborah Elizabeth Abee, William Ray Bennett, Gabriel Bustos-Hernandez, James Brice Carpenter, Kamryn Nicole Flake, Dalton Parker Heavener, Savannah Rose Houser, Madison Grace Hyatt, McKenzy Christen Johnson, Kurt Garrett McCormick, Caitlyn Virginia McGuire, Alan Dale McRae, Kara Grace Morgan, Savanna Marie Perkins, Grayson Brent Preslar, Jordan Elizabeth Sikes, Zachary Dale Sikes, Jamiyah Jnae Sturdivant and Savannah Dawn Tarlton.

## Dates Set for 2018 Anson Ag Expo & Fair

Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 21 - 22, the dates for this year's Anson Ag Expo & Fair. The event's planning committee has started meeting to prepare for traditional and new fall festivities. The annual 4-H Youth Livestock Show will be held at Circle G Arena, while the Ag Fair will be held at the Extension Center in Wadesboro on Saturday, September 22. Again, this year there will be a Family Fall Fest, held at Circle G Arena on Friday night, September 21, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. The Family Fall Fest will feature fall and agriculture themed relays and competitions for kids, food trucks/vendors, games for small children under the shelter, and more. Come out and enjoy an evening of family fun and entertainment. The annual 4-H Youth Livestock Show will begin at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday in Lilesville, while the Ag Fair will be open to the public on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in Wadesboro. Be on the lookout for more information to come, including schedules, fair book release, and much more. Come out and join the fun, and help us celebrate agriculture in Anson.

## Habitat for Humanity Urgent Home Repair Program

Union-Anson County Habitat for Humanity will be disbursing applications for their Urgent Home Repair program for Union and Anson Counties from July 16 to September 28. Union-Anson County Habitat for Humanity's Urgent Home Repair program is sponsored by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) with funds provided by the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund. In order to qualify for the program, the eligible household must own their own home, fall within the specific income limits (specified by NCHFA) and be able to prove that they have one or more qualifying needs. The needs outlined by NCHFA are defined as: • A person that is at least 62 years of age or older. • A person that is handicapped or disabled. • A single-parent with at least one (1) dependent child in the residence. • A family with five (5) or more persons. • A child below six (6) years of age with elevated levels of lead in their blood. • A military veteran. This program is not for cosmetic repairs such as painting or landscaping. Union-Anson County Habitat for Humanity is only authorized to repair issues that would be considered harmful, deadly, or an issue that would make a homeowner move out of their home. If you meet the specific qualifications outlined above, please call Beverly Livingston at (704) 465-2030 to receive an application for Anson County or Keturah Key at (704) 296-9414 ext. 811 to receive an application for Union County. Union-Anson County Habitat for Humanity, "Building Homes, Building Hope."

## Kevin Gaskins, Kenny Brower and Chris Horne Win in NC DOT "Equipment Rodeo" Competition

The N.C. Department of Transportation held its annual "Equipment Rodeo" at Cabarrus Arena in Concord on May 23, giving Charlotte-area employees an opportunity to take part in a friendly competition of skill and accuracy. This event tests the safety awareness of employees in Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Stanly and Union counties. Eighty-five operators were challenged to navigate heavy equipment through various obstacle courses to emphasize safety, precision and skill advancement. Of the winners, Kenny Brower won in his category for the second consecutive year. The winners include: • Lowboy Truck Exercise: Jeff Foreman, Stanly Maintenance • Single-Axle Truck Exercise: Kevin Gathings, Anson Bridge • Motor Grader Truck Exercise: Kenny Brower, Anson Maintenance (2-year winner) • Tractor-Mower Exercise: Chris Horne, Anson Maintenance • Backhoe Exercise: Cody Stegall, Cabarrus Maintenance (2-year winner) • Tandem-Axle Truck Exercise: Tommy Staton, Union Equipment The winners from each event will represent Division 10 at the State Rodeo in Raleigh on July 31. Winners from the statewide competition will move on to a regional contest with nine other Southeastern states in September.

## Ansonville Bridge Scheduled for Replacement

The N.C. Department of Transportation has awarded a \$1.2 million contract to National Bridge Builders LLC of Kernersville to replace the bridge on Pinkston-River Road over Brown Creek, south of Ansonville. The bridge was closed last summer due to safety concerns. Built in 1959, the bridge is considered structurally deficient, which means speed or weight limits must be put on the bridge to ensure safety. The current weight limit on the bridge is seven tons for single-axle vehicles, and three tons for tractor-trailers. When the structure was inspected last year, an initial recommendation was made to reduce the weight limit to three tons for a single-axle vehicle. Although only about 110 vehicles used it each day, heavier vehicles such as logging trucks and farm equipment also used it. After additional review by NCDOT's Division 10 staff and Structures Management staff in Raleigh, engineers recommended closing the bridge until it could be scheduled for replacement. The contract has a floating availability date between this September and March 2019. Once work gets underway, the contractor will have 210 days to complete the project. Vegetation and reforestation work can continue after the bridge opens to traffic. This was one of 18 road, rail and bridge contracts recently awarded by the N.C. Department of Transportation. Per state law they went to the lowest qualified bidder for each project. The contracts are worth \$144.4 million.

## 50+ Club Meeting to Feature Program of Music July 9

Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting on Monday, July 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre. Jim Hinson, Joyce Hardaway, David Napier, Bobby Perry, Sandy Drye, Harold Carpenter and Ronnie Jarman will be the guest musicians and singers. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the music of these talented artists. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

## 4th Annual Blood Drive in Memory of Shaundasia T. Smith is July 10

It's that time of the year again. The 4th annual Blood Drive in memory of Shaundasia T. Smith will be held on Tuesday, July 10 at the Fireman's Training Center in Wadesboro. The blood drive will start at 12:00 noon and end at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is asked to please come out and help save lives. One pint of blood can save as many as three lives. There is a shortage of blood across our nation because collections of blood are down. The American Red Cross needs our help. The need for blood is always the greatest during the summer months and holidays. Appointments are available on the Red Cross website at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) for this blood drive. Walk in appointments will also be welcomed on the day of the drive. The Red Cross has donated 2 tickets to Carowinds to be raffled on that day. You will need to be present to win the Carowinds tickets. The Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation is also having a raffle for its scholarship fund. There will be a drawing for a 50 in television, a \$250 gift basket and a \$100 gas card. You don't have to be present to win any of the foundation's drawings. Thank you for all your support in helping the youth of our community, thank you in advance for your participation in this blood drive.

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)