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

Anson County's Unemployment Rate was 5.5% in May

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for May was 5.5%. In April it was 5.4%, down from 5.9% in March. In February the rate was 7.5%. The January rate was 7.7%, December was 7.1%. In November the rate was 7.2%. The October rate was 7.2%, the September rate was 8.5%, the August rate was 8%, the July rate was 10%, the June rate was 7.9%, May's rate was 10.1% and April's rate was 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 May was 4.5%. The April rate was 4.4%. In March it was 4.6%. The February rate was 5.6%. In January and December 2020 the rates were 6%. Other 2020 rates: In November and October the rate was 6.1%. In September the rate was 7%. In August the rate was 6.8%. In July the unemployment rate was 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in May was 10,398. Of that number 9,822 were employed and 576 were unemployed. In April the total labor force was 10,363, with 9,806 employed and 557 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 77 of North Carolina's counties in May, decreased in eight, and remained unchanged in 15. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.6 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 3.3 percent.

Thirteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases, one decreased, and one remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 6.5 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 3.7 percent. The May not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.5 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in May by 19,658 to 4,736,961, while those unemployed increased by 4,067 to 222,136. Since May 2020, the number of workers employed statewide increased 584,560, while those unemployed decreased 437,470.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

School Board Intends to Drop Dress Code for Next School Year

During the Board of Education's regular meeting on Monday, June 28, they explained that Policy 4316 Student Dress Code would be on the July board meeting agenda for discussion. The board also determined that it is the boards' intention to not have a uniform dress code for the 2021-2022 school year.

The FBI Encourages the Public to Report Hate Crimes

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is engaged in a nationwide effort to build public awareness of hate crimes and encourage reporting to law enforcement. Hate crimes are the highest priority of the FBI's civil rights program because of the devastating impact they have on families and communities. Hate crimes are not only an attack on the victim - they are meant to threaten and intimidate an entire community.

"Hate crimes are the top priority within the FBI's Civil Rights Program, due to the devastating impact these types of crimes have on communities. One act can terrorize entire communities and groups of people," said FBI Associate Deputy Director Jeffrey Sallet. "There's simply no place in this country for hate and intolerance. We in the FBI stand ready to use all the tools at our disposal to reduce the threat of hate crimes and fulfill our mission to protect every American."

The FBI is the lead investigative agency for criminal violations of federal civil rights statutes. The Bureau works closely with its local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement partners in many of these cases, even when federal charges are not pursued. The FBI also works to detect and prevent incidents through law enforcement training, public outreach, and partnerships with community groups.

The FBI defines a hate crime as a "criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity."

The FBI works to protect all victims of crimes, regardless of their country of national origin or immigration status. The FBI encourages victims and witnesses of any hate-related incident to report it to law enforcement. After a report is submitted, the FBI will work with its law enforcement partners and use its resources and expertise to determine if an incident meets the criminal standard.

If you believe you are victim or a witness of a hate crime, we encourage you to report it to the FBI by calling 1-800-CALL-FBI or submitting a tip at tips.fbi.gov. You may remain anonymous.

Friends of Carla Freeman Blood Drive is August 4

First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro is hosting a "Friends of Carla Freeman" Blood Drive. Red Cross urges you to give blood to help save lives. The Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, August 4, from 2 to 7 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall, located at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CarlaFreeman to schedule an appointment.

You can also download the Blood Donor App - Get a digital donor card, schedule your next appointment, track your lifetime donations, view your blood pressure, and follow your donation on its way to a hospital.



Arthur Jackson Named Principal of Wadesboro Primary School

Mr. Arthur Jackson has been named the principal of Wadesboro Primary School.

Jackson spent the last three years of his career in the Moore County School District. Before becoming the assistant principal at Pinecrest High School he served as an English Teacher for 20 years.

Jackson is a licensed administrator in the state of North Carolina. In 1997 he earned his Bachelor Degree in Pre-Law with a minor in Criminal Justice from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. In 2018 he earned his Master of Educational Leadership Degree from Gardner-Webb University.

When asked about hiring Jackson to be the principal of Wadesboro Primary School, Superintendent Howard McLean stated, "Mr. Jackson is a fantastic fit for Wadesboro Primary School. His classroom and school leadership experience has prepared him to lead Wadesboro Primary School to unprecedented heights. I am confident that he will be deeply invested into serving his school's students, staff and stakeholders."

Mr. Jackson stated, "I look forward to working with the Anson County Community. I believe that we can achieve great things together. Go Bearcats!"

Jackson officially began his new role on July 1, 2021.



Dr. Darrell Potts Named Principal of Anson Middle School

Dr. Darrell Potts has been named the principal of Anson Middle School.

Potts spent the last four years of his career in the Mecklenburg County School District. Before becoming the assistant principal at West Mecklenburg High School, he served as the Dean of Students. He also served as a Lead Teacher for seven years.

Potts is a licensed secondary administrator in the state of North Carolina. In 2008 he earned his Bachelor Degree in History from Winston-Salem State University. He earned his Master of Arts in Teaching Degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2012. In 2014 he earned his Master of Executive Leadership Studies Degree from Gardner-Webb University. In 2021 Potts earned his Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership from Gardner-Webb University.

According to Mr. Howard McLean, Superintendent of the Anson County School District, "Dr. Potts' background has prepared him to meet the needs of students, parents and staff at Anson Middle School. Equally, his experience in working in multiple school leadership positions provides him with a unique perspective and extensive understanding of students entering the secondary school level."

Dr. Potts stated, "I am excited to start this new journey with our AMS community. I am about the work. I am here to help our students grow, and we will get the job done. Bearcat Pride!"

Potts officially began his new role on July 1, 2021.



Heather Gerald Named Assistant Principal of Wadesboro Primary School

Mrs. Heather Gerald has been named the Assistant Principal of Wadesboro Primary School.

Gerald spent the last four years of her career in the Anson County School District. She has served as an Instructional Coach for the past year. She also served as an elementary teacher for nine years.

Gerald is a licensed administrator in the state of North Carolina. In 2010 she earned her Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education and AIG Certification from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. In 2012 she received her Masters Degree in Elementary Education from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Gerald earned the status as National Board Certified Teacher - Middle Childhood Generalist in 2017. She received her Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 2018, and she will be completing her Educational Specialist Degree from Wingate University in July 2021.

"Mrs. Gerald's academic and practical experiences have prepared her well to be a great assistant principal. I have complete confidence that she will help lead Wadesboro Primary School on the path of success and achievement for years to come," said Mr. Howard McLean, Superintendent of the Anson County School District.

Mrs. Gerald stated, "I am very excited about this opportunity to assist with leading Wadesboro Primary School. I promise to work with stakeholders to ensure the success of our students. I want to say thank you to Mr. McLean, the board of education and Anson County Schools for your support."

Gerald officially began her Assistant Principal duties on July 1, 2021.

Fire Ant Control

The red imported fire ant continues to spread across the United States and has called many lawns, yards, pastures, and field home here in Anson County. These ants can interfere with many agricultural areas. Impacts can include animal injury equipment damage, hay production, veterinary costs, forage degradation, electrical equipment damage, infested feed, and reduced feeding. Eradication is not practical at this time, but there are things we can do to manage infestations.

Baits are highly recommended because they often have the least effect on species other than fire ants. The baits come in a granular form. There are two basic approaches to applying this granular, one is applied directly to individual mounds and the other is broadcasted over a wide area that is heavily infested with fire ants. Some are not to be used in pastures with livestock other than horse; this is because horses are not used for human consumption. The label is the law. Always read the label and follow restrictions and directions for the intended use.

Below are tips for using granular baits:

- Use fresh bait. A part of the granular baits are food particles that attract the ants to the bait. Old bait will not attract ants to feed on it.
- Ants must be actively foraging for baits to be successful. You can gauge their activity by placing pieces of hot dogs or potato chips in area of suspected ant mounds. If they are receptive to food, this would be a good time to put bait out.
- Apply the bait according to the label. Sprinkle the bait around the mound as opposed to on top of the mound because ants don't actually come out of the top, they mainly use tunnels that have openings a foot or more around the mound. It is best to apply bait early in the evening.
- Be aware of rainfall. Moisture can lead to the bait becoming rancid and less attractive to the ants. Many labels recommend that bait not be put out less than 6 hours after a rain event.

For a list of pesticides for use in pastures contact your local N.C. Cooperative Extension agent, 704-694-2915. By Kinsey Everhart, Extension Agent



Beat the Heat... Grace Senior Center Offering Free Fans for Eligible Citizens

Grace Senior Center is excited to announce that our agency has been blessed with a wonderful donation of fans (a limited supply). This allows more fans to be given out to seniors 60 years of age or older or those under 60 with a disability. If you meet these requirements and are in need of a fan, please come to Grace Senior Center office Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

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