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

## Anson County's June Unemployment Rate at 7.4%

Anson County's unemployment rate for June was 7.4 percent. In May the rate was 7.9 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate for June was 6.5%.

In June 2013 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 10.9%. In June 2012 it was 12.5%.

Anson's total labor force in June was 10,483. Of that number 9,710 were employed and 773 were unemployed. In May the total labor force was 10,658, with 9,821 employed and 837 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 81 of North Carolina's counties in June, increased in 10, and remained unchanged in nine.

Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 12.1 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 4.2 percent. Thirteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases, while one remained unchanged. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 9.6 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville at 4.9 percent had the lowest. The June not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 6.5 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) decreased in June by 26,751 to 4,388,173, while those unemployed decreased 10,225 to 303,122. Since June 2013, the number of workers employed statewide increased 57,060, while those unemployed decreased 105,228.

## Anson County Property Tax Bills Have Been Mailed

Anson County 2014 property tax bills were mailed to taxpayers on Wednesday, July 30. Property tax bills are due September 1, and considered delinquent on January 6, 2015.

Taxpayers can mail their payments to Anson County Government Center, 101 South Greene Street, Suite 115, Wadesboro, NC 28170. Or you can pay in person at the Anson County Government Center between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. You can now pay your taxes at the Government Center with a debit or credit card. They accept MasterCard, VISA and Discover.

Payments postmarked after January 5, 2015, will be delinquent and assessed 2% interest for the 1st month, and then 3/4% for all months thereafter until paid. Delinquent taxes will be advertised and a \$20 assessment will be applied per tax bill.

Questions regarding property listings, real estate values or tax bills should be directed to the Anson County Tax Assessors office at 704-994-3290.

Questions regarding payment of tax bills should be directed to the Anson County Tax Collectors office at 704-994-3291.

## Anson Ag Events at Taste of the Pee Dee

Three popular events from the Anson Ag Expo & Fair will be held as part of the Taste of the Pee Dee Festival which will be held on Saturday, October 11. Plan now to mark your calendars to come visit and watch, or better yet, participate.

Since the annual ag event is changing locations for this year, space will be limited. So plans are to hold the Kiddie Tractor Pull, Creative Squash Challenge and Local Foods Bake-Off on Saturday, October 11 in uptown Wadesboro.

Youth weighing under 72 pounds are eligible to compete in the pedal tractor competition, racing for show ribbons and toy tractors. Youth ages 2-16 can also compete in the Creative Squash Challenge by decorating and crafting a unique creation from any squash variety.

Adults have their own event in the bake-off, by baking an item for competition made from a local food item. Youth categories are broken into divisions, while the bake-off is a single class. Winners will be awarded ribbons and prize money.

Guidelines and competition rules for these events will be available soon on the web and Facebook event page. Be on the lookout for more postings at [anson.ces.ncsu.edu](http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu) and the 2014 Anson Ag Expo & Fair Facebook page.

While we hate to lose these events from our regular lineup, we are pleased to be able to still offer them during the Taste of the Pee Dee Festival. Plan to come out and enjoy the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!

## Meet the Bearcats this Thursday!

Come out and support the Anson High School Football Team this Thursday, August 7 at 7 p.m. for their annual Meet the Bearcats event. This will be their first live intersquad scrimmage at Bearcat Stadium. The event is free, and will be a great opportunity to see this year's team in action.

There will also be a mandatory parent meeting at 6 p.m. in the AHS cafeteria.

## Duke Energy Donation Aids Rotary Club's Upgrading of Planetarium

A recent donation from the Duke Energy Foundation helped the Wadesboro Rotary Club surpass its fund-raising goal to upgrade the Rotary Planetarium and Science Center.

Pictured below are, from left, Michael Freeman, Superintendent of the Anson County Schools, which houses the center; Dr. George Truman, Rotarian and retired Superintendent of Schools; David McNeill, District Manager for Duke Energy; Dr. Ron Altieri, Rotarian and retired President of South Piedmont Community College; and Rotarian Wendy Efird, Director of the Rotary Planetarium and Science Center.



## "Children Are Human Seeds" BRLC Summer Fun Day Camp

In a release from Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center: Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center's Summer Fun Day Camp came to a close on Thursday, July 24. Teachers Miss. N. Watkins and Mrs. S. Allen and cook Mrs. S. Biles invited parents, BRLC Summer Fun Day sponsors, and agency/business managers to attend the ending celebration which began at 11:30 a.m. All camp participants received different awards and certificates for their outstanding participation in the camp activities. Door prizes were given to the lucky ticket holders during the celebration.

All students had been asked to learn the Pledge Allegiances to the US Flag, to the Christian Flag and the Bible. They were each asked to learn and recite the Lord's Prayer. Those who did were rewarded during the course of the camp. These recitations were done each morning during the time of inspiration.

The BRLC Summer Fun Day Camp provided the opportunity for all children to experience the understanding of children being human seeds. There were a total of 51 different children enrolled, ages 4 to 17 years. The camp operated four hours a day, Monday through Thursday. It featured breakfast, inspirational time, arts and crafts, and lunch daily.

Agency/Business managers were invited to come and share information about their services. Mr. Derrick Byrd provided information and instruction on his hobby, designing and building wrestling belts for all ages. Mr. Derrick, who is deaf, has enjoyed this hobby for some time. He was able to answer all questions that the children asked. He, along with his mother, presented a short session in sign language to the students. The children were very attentive.

Computer and math sessions were held twice a week under the direction of volunteer Taylor Rorie. This session was geared to building math skills, life skills and strategy for students ages 4 to 11. Students were eager to learn and most cooperative. Taylor is a rising senior at Anson high school.

The campers had a day to tie dye t-shirts. Each camper brought their own white shirt from home and received instruction on how to tie dye. They would wear the shirts whenever they left the campus of the BRLC. (They are pictured above in their shirts.) Another day, rangers from the NC Forestry Service presented a program about their services. The rangers also gave the children and adults the opportunity to get "Wet and Wild" on a day when it was hot. The children always look forward to the Wet and Wild Day.

Campers visited several places during outings, including the Boggan-Hammond House, Little Park and the Lillie Bennett Facility. The children made cards and gifts bags to share with the residents at Lillie Bennett.

All students who wanted to take part in the SFDC talent show were given the opportunity to do so. The talent show was presented on the last day for the guests who attended the closing. The talent show consisted of music, hula hoop, singing, dance, cheers and head stands. As the parents, community and supporters were being entertained with the talent show, they also enjoyed lunch. A short DVD was made and played after the talent show for the audience to see how the children spent their summer at the BRLC. All BRLC Summer Fun Day Camp sponsors made this happen for so many children in this county and community.

## Sen. McLaurin's Statement on the Compromise Budget

From Sen. Gene McLaurin: Although this budget is far from perfect, I voted Yes and let me explain my reasons. I have heard from many state employees who educate our children, clean-up and pave our roads, run our courts efficiently, protect us and enforce the law and much more. I think everyone agrees that state employees and educators deserve a long overdue pay increase. At a time when we are ranked 46th in the nation in teacher pay, this budget will reward teachers with an average 7% raise- rolling longevity pay into the raise, and restoring teacher tenure. This budget prioritizes reading in early grades by funding Read to Achieve and keeping teacher assistants in the classroom. The budget compromise rewards state employees with a \$1,000 pay increase and rewards our non-certified school and central office employees with a \$500 pay increase. I realize this is not nearly enough, because they deserve more after having no raise with the cost of living ever increasing, but this is a step in the right direction.

I was also pleased that the compromise budget adequately funds our community colleges, universities, early childhood education, and the education of children who live in psychiatric residential treatment facilities. It provides \$5 million to provide grants to eligible veterans and their dependents enrolling in UNC or a community college under the federal Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program.

Please understand that I have objections and concerns with teacher and state employee pay equity and am opposed to rolling longevity pay into a teacher's salary, while other state employees maintain their longevity. This is one clear example of the need for more transparency in the budget process. In closing, I was disappointed in several last minute changes to the budget and the short length of time given for members to review and consider an almost 500 page budget - which amounted to 7 hours total (8am-3pm). The citizens of NC deserve better. The lack of transparency in how our taxpayer dollars are being spent prompted me to run an amendment last week to promote openness in government. I remain committed to working with my colleagues in a bipartisan manner to sustain this budget, help resolve pay equity issues, and bring more transparency into the budget process. It is my hope that when you have questions and concerns, you will reach out to me to share those. My staff is eager to help answer your questions. As always, I am grateful for and humbled by the opportunity to serve the citizens of the 25th Senate District and look forward to being in the district full time.

## Rep. Brody's Statement on the Compromise Budget

From Rep. Mark Brody: Short Session Ends. July was a busy month in Raleigh for Rep. Brody and his colleagues as they worked to wrap up the Legislative Short Session. One of the most important pieces of legislation that was passed in the short session was the \$21.25 billion dollar budget.

The budget will provide public school educators an average seven percent raise - averaging \$3,500 per teacher. The \$282 million investment will be largest teacher pay raise in state history - moving North Carolina from 46th to 32nd in national teacher pay rankings. It will also preserve teacher assistant positions, protect classroom funding and continue to give superintendents broad flexibility to tailor classroom spending to their districts' needs.

In addition to the teacher pay raise and preservation of classroom funds, the budget will:

- Reform and replace an archaic 37-step teacher pay system with a six-step schedule and a transparent compensation package
- Preserve current Medicaid eligibility
- Provide most state employees a \$1,000 pay raise and five bonus vacation days
- Increase pay for step-eligible Highway Patrol Troopers between five and six percent
- Maintain funding at current levels for the state's university system
- Fulfill the commitment to extend supplemental pay for teachers with Master's degrees who have completed at least one course in a graduate program as of August 1, 2013.

The budget will also boost early-career teacher pay by 14 percent over the next two years to \$35,000 - making North Carolina a leader in the Southeast and fulfilling a promise made by state leaders in February.

If you would like further information about the Budget, please contact our office: Office of Representative Mark Brody, District 55, Anson & Union County, 2219 Legislative Building- Raleigh, NC. (919)715-3029, [mark.brody@ncleg.net](mailto:mark.brody@ncleg.net)

## Lilesville Civic Builders Yard Sale is Saturday

Everyone is invited to come out for great bargains while supporting the efforts of the Lilesville Civic Builders. They are holding a yard sale this Saturday, August 9 in the parking lot of Burger King in Wadesboro, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Open House at the Ansonia and Arts Council

The Anson County Arts Council invites all Ansonians to an Open House on Sunday, August 10, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to view new paintings, jewelry, pottery, stained glass, gourd art, painted glass and items crafted from wood as well as enjoy revolving entertainment onstage in the Ansonia Theatre. "Ten-Minute Talent" in the Ansonia will feature several local performers over the course of the two hours. Light refreshments will be served. This is a free event.

For more information call 704-694-4950.

## Women's League Meets August 12

The Anson Women's League will meet on Tuesday, August 12 at Twin Valley Country Club, from noon to 1 p.m. with special guest Mrs. Tammy Thomas from Fountain Hill. Lunch is available for \$8.50. All women are invited to attend.

If you plan to have lunch please contact Sandra Pli-escott at 704-694-7853 or [woodsand@carolina.rr.com](mailto:woodsand@carolina.rr.com) by August 9.