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

Anson Ag Fair Set is September 21

Anson County Cooperative Extension is pleased to announce plans for the 2019 Anson Ag Fair, set for Saturday, September 21. The 2019 Fair Rules and Regulations Booklets have arrived and are now available at the Cooperative Extension Center, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The fair book is also available online at anson.ces.ncsu.edu. Click on the 2019 Anson Ag Expo & Fair link, and the book can be downloaded in pdf format, complete with registration forms. Information is also available on the Anson County Cooperative Extension Facebook page.

If you have a green thumb, an artistic eye, or a flair for crafts, now is the time to start planning items to enter into this year's county fair. Set aside a jar of canned goods that turned out better than you planned. Finish up a craft project you have been working on.

The County Fair portion of the fourteenth annual Anson Ag Expo and Fair will be held Saturday, September 21 at the Extension Center on McLaurin Street, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. It will be here sooner than you think.

Crafts, canned goods, ag products, photography, art and handicrafts will be welcomed for competition. Take down your vacation photo from the fridge and frame it. Add fertilizer to that favorite plant. Then bring them all down to the Extension Center and enter them in the fair!

Remember that fair participation is open to youth as well as adults. Age groups available for competition consist of:

- Pee Wee - 0 to 5 years
- Pre-teen - 6 to 12
- Teen - 13 to 19
- Adult - 20 and up

Registration for all entries will be taken in on Thursday, September 19, from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The fair will be judged on Friday and open to the public for display on Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.

Items can also be entered into the "In Memoriam" and "Blast from the Past" categories. Items made by deceased loved ones can be entered in "In Memoriam" while items made prior to 2002 and never shown in a fair can be entered in "Blast from the Past."

Cash premiums will be awarded from \$5 for First Place through \$2 for Third Place in over 200 categories. Last year's county fair showcased 170 entries from 28 fair exhibitors, and \$609 was paid out in fair premiums. Class ribbons are awarded for all entries, with Best of Show and Juror's Choice ribbons awarded for each competition area per age division.

For additional information contact the Anson County Cooperative Extension Service at 704-694-2415.

Come out and join the fun. There is something for everyone. Celebrate agriculture in Anson.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.8 Percent in June

Anson County's unemployment rate for June was 4.8%, slightly higher than May's 4.3%. Statewide the unemployment rate was 4.4% in June, up from May's 4.0% rate. For perspective, ten years ago, the June 2009 unemployment rate in Anson County was approximately 15%.

Anson's total labor force in June was 10,632. Of that number 10,119 were employed and 513 were unemployed. In May the total labor force was 10,750 with 10,287 employed and 463 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 97 of North Carolina's counties in June and decreased in three. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.4 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.4 percent.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 6.1 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.6 percent. The June not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.4 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 95 counties, decreased in two, and remained unchanged in three. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate increases over the year and one decreased.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in June by 4,484 to 4,919,894, while those unemployed increased 23,191 to 229,035. Since June 2018, the number of workers employed statewide increased 113,062, while those unemployed increased 19,679.

Stride for Pride Tennis Shoe Drive is Now Accepting Donations

Stride with Pride has begun their 9th 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 500 pairs of tennis shoes out. For 2019 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 the first week of August, 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. Their contact information is below.

If you would like to donate you can contact Sheriff Reid at 704-695-7771 or lreid@co.anson.nc.us, or you can contact Patti Poulcott at 704-694-8386 or ppoulcott@carolina.rr.com. They will come to you, or you can drop off donations at Judy's Tax Service, located at 102 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The mailing address is: Judy's Tax Service, Patti Poulcott, 102 S. Rutherford St, Wadesboro, NC 28170.



been working this summer in the lab of Richard Chi, assistant professor of biological sciences, to improve a 3-D printed prosthetic device, the phoenix hand with wrist articulation, by creating a modified tension piece to allow independent functionality of the fingers. This new design will be released to open-sourced platforms and will be available to worldwide chapters of the Helping Hands Project, a nonprofit organization that provides low-cost prosthetics to children with upper limb differences.

Irvin Naylor, a senior majoring in computer science, is working alongside Jackson in Chi's lab. However, Naylor's research focus is to address the 30-40 percent user-abandonment of upper-limb prosthetic devices. Working closely with the Helping Hand Project, the student researchers found that initial training for a prosthetic device can be challenging and lead to abandonment, especially for children with congenital limb differences who are unfamiliar with new mechanical movements. Naylor is designing a computer game that will be integrated into the mechanical movements of the prosthetic devices to provide a fun and effortless process for learning to use prosthetic hands and arms.

Poulcott and Naylor demonstrated their research projects and answered questions at the July 26 Summer Research Symposium. The University's Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is in its inaugural year and hosted the research symposium. The office mission is to support undergraduate students through undergraduate research grants and opportunities to communicate their research to others through symposia, national conferences and research exploration events.

Poulcott and Naylor's research opportunities are possible through their participation in Charlotte Community Scholars. Undergraduate students also are participating in research this summer through: Charlotte Research Scholars, SPIDURS (Summer Program to Increase Undergraduate Research), College of Computing and Informatics REU, Department of History Capitalism Initiative, Department of Mechanical Engineering REU, Making Future Communities REU, NanoSURE REU, NSF Criminal Justice REU, Undergraduate Research Class (BIOL 3900) and Charlotte Teachers Institute.

- Some of the 103 posters making presentations at the research symposium included:
- Evaluating the biodiversity of restored salt marshes versus natural salt marshes
 - Impacts of participation in the brain architecture game on attitudes about trauma informed care
 - Societal costs and benefits of AI surveillance in the context of parking lot crime
 - Analyzing the Immunostimulatory effects of structurally modified and functionalized nucleic-acid nanoparticles
 - New thione complexes of silver with potential anticancer properties
 - Security for insecure Wi-Fi calling
 - Numerical analysis of ocean current turbine hydrofoil designs to be installed in North Carolina shores
 - Transfer student success: more support for learning communities
 - The identification of molecular structures in new, unique hydrocarbons through the use of X-ray crystallography
 - Machine learning application in identifying children at risk for an immunization delay

Story courtesy of Aimee Hawkins / Inside UNC Charlotte

Czech Manufacturer Finds A US Home In Peachland

By John Marek, Director of Anson County Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP): About a year ago, we announced without any fanfare that Project Kure had chosen Peachland as the location for its new sales, assembly and service facility. These "quiet" announcements are typically made at the company's request because of timing issues regarding the marketing of their products and services or because they do not want competitors to know in advance what they are doing. For an economic developer, it always feels a little anticlimactic to simply say in a closed meeting that a project was won and just leave it at that, but we understand that the confidentiality of a project and the trust of the company is of paramount importance.



I had an opportunity today to visit Project Kure, which I can now reveal is VEIT North America, the U.S. subsidiary of poultry transportation equipment manufacturer VEIT, based in the Czech Republic. The facility is located about a half-mile east of downtown Peachland on U.S. Highway 74. You may have seen the distinctive white and red demo unit in the parking lot or the sign which was recently erected on the highway.

The U.S. company is owned by Dwain Johnson and is an expansion of his BAT poultry scale and security division located in Marshville. On this day, I was shown around by Dwain's son Mark, who gave me an in-depth tour of the demo vehicle, which is designed for hauling day-old chicks from the hatchery to the growers. The trucks, which can be configured in sizes ranging from Sprinter vans to OTR semi trailers, offer the latest in chick transport technology, with redundant heating, cooling and electrical systems.

The equipment is manufactured in the Czech Republic (Kure is Czech for chicken) and shipped to the U.S. via Charleston or Wilmington. It is then brought to Peachland and configured to customer requirements—at the time of my visit they were modifying a Moffett lift rack for a semi unit that was almost ready to leave the yard.

The company chose Peachland because of its proximity to international ports, an international airport and the company's existing North Carolina location in the heart of the "fryer belt." With more than 1,000 poultry houses currently operating or permitted, Anson County is one of the leading chicken producing areas in the state, and Project Kure was one of two large poultry-related projects announced in the county in 2018, the other being the \$15 million Catawba Biogaba plant under construction near Lilesville. VEIT has already invested more than \$1 million in the county and while the Peachland facility is still being developed, they are pleased with the results so far.

These poultry-related companies form what economic developers refer to as clusters, groups of businesses which provide products or services around a core industry. The VEIT truck product line premiered at the IPPE Show in Atlanta in 2017 and the response from poultry producers has been very positive. Representatives of hatcheries from all over the country are coming to Peachland for product demos and training, further boosting the local economy.

Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market Every Thursday

The Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market is open every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. on the Town Square through the end of September. All vegetable, fruit, baked goods as well as arts and crafts vendors who wish to participate should contact Uptown Wadesboro at (704) 695-1644.

For information call Uptown Wadesboro or email uptownwadesboro@windstream.net.

Farmers Market Open Wednesdays and Saturdays

Purchase locally grown vegetables and other items at the Anson County Farmers Market. The market will open on Saturday, June 22. It is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays through the end of September. The hours are 7:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Farmers Market is located 1736 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro, just past Wadesboro Primary School. For more information contact Francis Campbell at 704-690-0638.

Jackson Poulcott's Summer Research Efforts Presented at Symposium

When Jackson Poulcott, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering technology, learned that young girls with limb differences wanted prosthetic hands with removable fingernails so they can change their nail color, he set out to make that happen.

Poulcott, a graduate of Anson New Tech High School, is one of more than 100 undergraduate students who presented their research on Friday, July 26 at UNC Charlotte's Summer Research Symposium. In addition to improving cosmetic features, he has

Foster Parent and Caregiver Support Group Meets Thursday

The Foster Parent and Caregiver Support Group will be held this Thursday, August 8 at Richmond County Department of Social Services, located at 125 Caroline Street in Rockingham, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Resources and refreshments will be provided free.

Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995 or by email at connections-fsp@gmail.com to register.

The Barn Quilt Mural Project at Grace Senior Center is Friday

Come join the fun at Grace Senior Center to be part of "The Barn Quilt Mural Project." The event will be held on Friday, August 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. Seniors can contribute by coming to help paint a tile to be included in this project. Once the tile is completed, those who helped will be able to sign the tile.

This is free, and all materials are provided. To sign up call Mary Jones at (704) 694-6616.

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Music by the Clarke Family

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, August 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre. The guest will be the Clarke family: Ava, Caden, Isaac, Gina and Jason Clarke.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the music of this talented family. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.