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

July Unemployment Rate at 8%

Anson County's unemployment rate for July was 8 percent. In June the rate was 7.4 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate for July was 6.9%.

In July 2013 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 10.3%. In July 2012 it was 12.6%, in July 2011 it was 12.5%.

Anson's total labor force in July was 10,632. Of that number 9,785 were employed and 847 were unemployed. In June the total labor force was 10,483, with 9,710 employed and 773 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 95 of North Carolina's counties in July, decreased in four, and remained unchanged in one. However, 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.

Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 12.7 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 3.9 percent. All fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 10.2 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville at 5.2 percent had the lowest. The July not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 6.9 percent.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in July by 7,838 to 4,396,729, while those unemployed increased 21,502 to 324,277. Since July 2013, the number of workers employed statewide increased 48,186, while those unemployed decreased 75,846.

Fire Disaster Averted

Thanks to Fire Safety Education

Wadesboro Fire Department's education program recognized as one of the top two in all of North Carolina

Wadesboro Fire Chief Marc Sessions and the Anson County School System teach fire safety to students, and that important information averted what could have been a catastrophe for one family recently.

On Thursday, August 21 two young men, Mekhi Brooks (11 years old) and Rondell Thompson (15 years old) were at home cooking breakfast. While cooking the pan flamed up and began to burn. The boys immediately turned the stove off, covered the pan with a lid, and called 911 for assistance. They evacuated the residence and were waiting at a meeting place the family had predetermined in the front yard. Thanks to their knowledge and actions the home suffered only minimal smoke damage. The boys' proud mother is Monica Brooks.

"Each of these young men told our firefighters that they had implemented the training they received at school through the Fire Department's education programs. Their actions prevented property loss and potential injuries to them," said Wadesboro Fire Chief Marc Sessions. "This is why the Wadesboro Fire Department puts an emphasis on their prevention efforts and continues to expand its programs. It demonstrates the commitment made by the volunteer firemen to keep their community safe. We want to prevent fires from occurring, but we know that we won't stop all of them. But when they do happen, we want all the stories to have a happy ending like this one."

In the past year the Wadesboro Fire Department's Fire and Life Safety Education Program was awarded recognition as the second best program in North Carolina (#1 went to Greensboro, population 277,080).

"Our real rewards are examples such as this one, when citizens use their knowledge from Wadesboro Fire Department's education program to protect themselves and their families," concluded Fire Chief Sessions.

You can contact Chief Sessions at 704-694-2167 if your organization would like a fire safety presentation. The Wadesboro Fire Department provides this service free of charge to Anson citizens of all ages.

Elementary School Night at Football Game this Friday

Parents: Every Anson County School K-6 student has been provided one ticket for free admission to the Anson Bearcats vs. South Stanly Game that is this Friday, September 5 at 7:30 p.m. This ticket may only be used by the student. School staff from each elementary school will be attending the game showing support.

During the game PA announcements will be made inviting each K-6 student to join other students from their school on the first floor hallway of K-Building at Anson High School to line up by school and then participate in a walk around the track showing support and cheering for our Bearcats. One adult may accompany each elementary student when they meet in K-Building. The adult may also walk the track with their child. Students will return to the stadium to sit with their family when the walk is complete. Adults who accompany elementary students must pay regular admission price at the gate.

Be sure to come out to the game with your student(s) and join in the fun and excitement.

Living Healthy Workshop

Are you an adult dealing with an ongoing health condition? If you have conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, heart disease, overweight, chronic pain or anxiety, the Living Healthy Workshop can help you take charge of your life.

Come get the support and tools you need to self manage your condition. They will work together to find practical ways to deal with pain, fatigue and frustration, discover better nutrition and exercise choices, understand new treatment choices, and learn better ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health.

Join Grace Senior Center's 2 1/2 hour Living Healthy Workshop, held each week for six weeks. Learn from trained leaders who are dealing with health conditions themselves. Set your own goals and make a step-by-step plan to improve your health - and your life.

Classes will be held every Monday starting September 15. They run through October 20, and will be held at the Grace Senior Center from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Sign up now because spaces are limited. To register or get more information please call Rita Short at 704-694-6217.



Anson High Bearcats Welcome PPES Students on First Day of School

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School students had a special surprise the first week of school! On Friday morning, August 29 Coach Luke Hyatt and some of the Anson High School football players came out and greeted PPES students in both the car rider line and the bus parking lot.

The students were thrilled as the football players, dressed in their jerseys, took time out of their day to say hello and wish them a good day. Arranged by the PPES Character Council, students were able to see that our athletes display character traits such as kindness and caring. The football players also led students in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PPES teacher Wendy Dagenhart said, "Thank you so much to Coach Hyatt, Anne Hyatt and the football players! Go BEARCATS!!"

Pow Wow Event Scheduled for Weekend of September 12

Anson County will host our first Intertribal Indian Pow Wow at the Lemuel Community Center in Morven the weekend of September 12. This event will feature all kinds of Indian culture, including music, dancing, stories, education, arts and crafts, food, vendors and more.

The schedule is:

- Friday is Children's Day, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- On Saturday the gate will open at 10 a.m. and events will run until 5:30 p.m. The Grand Entry is at 12:30 p.m.
- On Sunday there will be worship service from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., the gate will open at 11:30 a.m. and events will run until 5 p.m. The Grand Entry on Sunday will be held at 12:30 p.m.

What is the Grand Entry? The Pow Wow begins with the Grand Entry. All spectators are asked to rise as the flags and eagle staffs of the host and visiting tribes are brought in. The Eagle staffs and flags represent nations, families, and communities. As the drums begin a Grand Entry song, the chief or tribal chair of the host tribe and visiting dignitaries, including veterans from fire departments, police, the military and other services, enter the arena. They are followed by other honored members and the color guard of veterans. Elected royalty (princesses, warriors, etc.), young people who have been chosen and honored by their specific home community to represent that community at Pow Wows around the country, follow next. Led by the elders, the men dancers follow next, generally in the following order: men's traditional dancers, men's grass dancers and then men's fancy dancers. Then the women enter, also led by the elder women and in the order of women's traditional dancers, jingle dress dancers and then fancy shawl dancers. The teenage boys enter next, followed by the teenage girls and then the younger boys, girls and tiny tots. The dancers in each category are announced by the MCs as they pass the announce stand. Finally the arena is filled with all of the dancers, each dancing in their grand regalia. Responsibility for maintaining the song passes from drum to drum, going around the circle until all dancers are in the center of the circle and dancing. With all remaining in the center of the circle, the prayer song and honoring song for veterans begin next. It is a spectacular sight filled with beauty and excitement and pride.

"The Pow Wow is a family cultural event," said Chief Jim Wilson of the Indian River Dwellers, the event organizer. "This is the first Pow Wow in Anson County, and we hope that it becomes a growing part of the community that will be held every year. We, as Native Americans, look at building programs such as this into events that are just as important 50 years from now as they are today."

"We strive to offer programs that allow children and the public to better understand our Indian culture and way of life, and also to understand that we are not necessarily the Indians you see on television and in movies," Wilson concluded.

The cost is \$5 for adults, children 5-18 get in for \$3, and seniors, veterans and children under 4 get in for free. The Lemuel Community Center is located at 206 Highway 145 South in Morven.

Vendor space is still available. Also, the event depends on sponsorships to help cover expenses. If you are interested in vendor space or becoming a sponsor please call Chief Wilson at 336-618-0561 or Rick Cassidy at 704-690-5776. Any monies left over after paying expenses are donated to area churches that helped with the event.

The Sammies Play at the Ansonia Theatre this Saturday

Some people hear voices in their head; the Sammies hear music! This Saturday, September 6, at 7:30 p.m. you can hear that music, too, as the Sammies take the stage at the Ansonia Theatre.

Anson natives Joseph Huntley (aka Donnie Yale) on drums and vocals, William Huntley (aka Frank Backgammon) on guitar and vocals, and bandmates Ben Levine (aka Bobby Freedom) on lead guitar and keyboard and CR Rollyson (aka Conrad Vacation) will be joined by special guest and Anson native Adam Little (aka Wayne Jetski) on guitar, keyboard, and percussion.

The Sammies have been playing music in some form for over 10 years. After two full-length albums, an exclusive deal with Lionsgate Films that landed their songs in multiple movies and television shows, touring the United States, and playing SXSW, CMJ and the Sundance Film Festival, the band is at it again with work on their third album.

You may have heard this indie rock group's 2006 recording *Panther Leap* which celebrates Charlotte and the Panther football games. With comparisons as wide-ranging as MC5 to Pavement to XTC, the Sammies have quite a large group of fans. Now you can hear them up close and personal. Come out and rock the Ansonia Saturday night.

Tickets (\$5) are available at the Arts Council (704-694-4950), at Lacy's and at the door. Don't miss this!



Newly Formed Bearcat Athletic Support Foundation Meeting Scheduled for Next Wednesday

A meeting of the newly formed Bearcat Athletic Support Foundation (BASF) will meet on Wednesday, September 10 at 6 p.m. in the Anson High School Media Center. This group will focus on student athletes grades K-12. There will be discussions on improving attendance at games and stirring up community support for student athletics.

All parents, guardians and community members are encouraged to attend. Bring a friend!

Veterans Enhancement Fair is Today!

Anson County veterans, their families, friends and everyone who is interested are all invited to the Veterans Enhancement Fair which will be held on Wednesday, September 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. This event is designed to bring available resources together in support of our veterans and their families.

Blood Drive Thurs.

There will be a Blood Drive on Thursday, September 4 at South Piedmont Community College at the Polkton campus. You are urged to come by between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to donate blood and receive a free t-shirt. Donors must weigh a minimum of 120 pounds.

50+ Club Meeting Features Thomas Cureton

The Hampton B. Allen Library's 50+ Club will meet on Monday, September 8 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. The guest presenter will be Thomas Cureton sharing his music. Everyone is invited to join in and bring a friend to enjoy this program.

For more information call 704-694-5177.

Anson Women's League Meets Next Tuesday

The Anson Women's League will meet Tuesday, September 9, from noon until 1 p.m. at Twin Valley Country Club. They invite all women to join them as they kick off the year with guest speaker, Cindi Pope speaking on the new Taste of the Pee Dee event in October. Lunch is available for \$8.50.

Please send RSVP's for the meal to AWL President, Terri Martin at tmartin@covenantdove.com by Friday Sept. 5.

Class of 1974 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman Senior High School Class of 1974 will meet at the Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 27. Come out with plans for the 40th reunion. Contact Annie McCoy Smith at 704-465-1149.