

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #149
Wadesboro, NC
28170

Postal
Customer

THE EXPRESS

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • TheExpressNews@gmail.com • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

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

Anson County's Unemployment Rate at 7.1% in August, Same as July

Anson County's unemployment rate for August stayed the same as July, 7.1 percent. In June the rate was 6.9 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate for August was 6.1 percent. In August 2014 Anson's unemployment rate was 7.5%, in 2013 it was 10.1%, in 2012 it was 13.1%, in 2011 it was 12.5%, in 2010 it was 12.5%, and in 2009 it was 15.1%, over double 2015's rate.

Anson's total labor force in August was 10,884. Of that number 10,106 were employed and 778 were unemployed. In July the total labor force was 11,003, with 10,219 employed and 784 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 86 of North Carolina's counties in August, increased in four counties, and remained unchanged in 10 counties. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 11.4 percent while Buncombe County had the lowest at 4.6 percent.

Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases while one remained unchanged. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 8.8 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 4.8 percent. The August not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 6.1 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 91 counties, increased in seven, and remained unchanged in two. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year while one remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in August by 40,415 to 4,460,585, while those unemployed decreased 10,192 to 289,996. Since August 2014, the number of workers employed statewide increased 111,397, while those unemployed decreased 13,101.

Anson County Farmers and Ranchers Qualify for USDA Natural Disaster Assistance for Drought

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated McDowell, Polk and Union counties in North Carolina as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by a recent drought. Farmers and ranchers in Anson County also qualify for natural disaster assistance because Anson is contiguous.

"Our hearts go out to those North Carolina farmers and ranchers affected by recent natural disasters," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "President Obama and I are committed to ensuring that agriculture remains a bright spot in our nation's economy by sustaining the successes of America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through these difficult times. We're also telling North Carolina producers that USDA stands with you and your communities when severe weather and natural disasters threaten to disrupt your livelihood."

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in North Carolina qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous with McDowell, Polk and Union Counties. Those counties are: Anson, Burke, Mecklenburg, Stanly, Avery, Cabarrus, Mitchell, Yancey, Buncombe, Henderson and Rutherford.

Farmers and ranchers in Chesterfield, Greenville, Lancaster and Spartanburg counties in South Carolina also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on September 30, 2015, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Additional programs available to assist farmers and ranchers include the Emergency Conservation Program, the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program, and the Tree Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers (704-694-3516 in Anson County) for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at disaster.fsa.usda.gov.

Fundraiser for Veterans Council

A fundraiser is being held by the Anson County Veterans Council to raise funds for a new Veterans Memorial to be located at Wadesboro Park. The Memorial will be a real asset to Anson County, and located in a safe and easily accessible location.

The lucky winner of the raffle will win a beautiful building that can be used as a playhouse, storage building, potting shed, or whatever you may need it for. The tickets are only \$5 each, and can be purchased from these Veterans Council members: Ed Parker, Judy Cox, Al Dean, Sherman Cash, Dara Kelly or Gerrie Rorie. Also, you may call 704-695-5800.

The Veterans Council will have a booth at People Fest on Saturday, October 10, and you can purchase tickets there. The raffle drawing will take place during People Fest at about 1:30 p.m., so get your tickets early!

Anson Animal Shelter Needs Volunteers - Would You Like to Help?

The Animal Shelter depends on the help of volunteers to ensure that animal residents receive love and care. More volunteers will also help relieve the workload on staff which can result in more time for resident animals to be adopted before they are euthanized (put to sleep). Please consider volunteering. For more information on helping, call 704-694-4832.



People Fest is Saturday! Declared 'Ed McBride Day'

Everyone get ready, People Fest is BACK! Uptown Wadesboro will be the place to be this Saturday, with lots of vendors, continuous entertainment, all kinds of food, lots and lots of games and activities for children, performances, and, of course, headlining band the Swashtones in the evening followed by the giant fireworks show! It begins at 10:30 a.m. with an Opening Ceremony on the Square, and concludes with fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Be sure to look over our special People Fest section that features a schedule of events, a list of vendors and booths, and a map showing where everything is located. You can take this section with you to People Fest to be sure to take advantage of all the things on offer. This special section was created through the generosity of the sponsoring advertisers - be sure to thank them for making it possible.

In conjunction with People Fest, the Anson County Chamber of Commerce is holding their Discover Anson Bicycle Ride and the Wadesboro Police Department is presenting their unique Zombie 5k run/walk. Details about these events are in this week's Express.

The Wadesboro Town Council has declared Saturday to be Ed McBride Day. Ed, pictured above a few years ago, is a sign artist of renown in these parts. He began his career as a teenager in 1937, and still turns out a bit of work at age 93! His signs and artwork are a big part of the fabric of Anson County. He even designed the official People Fest logo!

Ed also is known to citizens for his Remembering column in The Express. His columns feature a photograph and some information to go along with it each week. Ed took photographs of most every sign he created, kept organized notes, and he has a great memory, so each of his columns is truly an important slice of history. The subjects of his columns - people, businesses, churches, schools, events - have touched the lives of many people here in Anson County.

Lastly, Ed is a great guy! Anyone who has met him is immediately aware that he is a kind, compassionate and funny man. He has contributed to the community through the Masons, Lions Club, his church and countless hours of volunteering his time and talents. Congratulations Ed!

Prescription Procedures Modified in State of Emergency

Because of the state's declaration of a state of emergency for all of North Carolina on October 1, 2015, due to potential life-threatening flooding, Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin issued a bulletin to insurance companies regarding prescription medicines.

Under the authority of NCGS 58-3-228, Goodwin has advised all insurance companies, State Teachers and Employees Health Plan, and other entities licensed by the Department of Insurance that provide health benefit plans covering prescription drugs to waive time restrictions for the refilling of current prescriptions for people who reside in the areas that fall under the emergency declaration.

As a result, within 29 days after the bulletin's issue on October 1, people insured for prescription benefits under health benefit plans in North Carolina may:

- Obtain one early refill of a prescription if there are authorized refills remaining; or
- Obtain one replacement prescription for a prescription that was recently filled.

2016 Ag Cost Share Funding Available

The major cause of water quality problems in North Carolina and in much of the United States is nonpoint source pollution. In many cases, damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excessive fertilizer use, animal waste contamination, and improper use of agricultural chemicals. The North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program helps to address nonpoint source pollution by providing technical and financial assistance to landowners. Some services include pasture improvements, waste/mortality management, stream protection, and many more practices to help protect soil erosion and water quality in agriculture operations.

If you are a landowner or renter of an agriculture operation that has been operating for three years or longer, then you are eligible to participate in the NC Ag Cost Share Program. Anson County has been allocated \$55,568 in funds for fiscal year 2016.

To apply for cost share please come to Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro (USDA Building). If you are unable to come to the office and apply, please contact Resource Conservationist Jake Barbee to make arrangements to apply at 704-694-3516 ext.3.

Lions Club Inducts New Members

At a formal meeting on July 23 Randal Clapp, the Wadesboro Lions Club inducted 5 new members. Pictured below seated are new members Gloria Alexander and Joyce Liles. Standing are Club President Jim Chandler and new members, Jason Rigsby, Krystle Rigsby, Governor Clapp and new member Justin Burr.

Lions Club International is the largest service club organization in the world. Its 1.4 million members in more than 46,000 clubs are service communities in 207 countries and geographic areas around the globe. Since 1917 Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired, championed youth initiatives and strengthened local communities through handson service and humanitarian projects.

The Wadesboro Lions Club was chartered in 1949. The Club meets at the Lady Bug Restaurant on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Call Lion President Jim Chandler at 9105711448 for more information.



BRLC Chicken Dumpling Fundraiser is Saturday

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center will hold their 7th annual Chicken Dumpling Fundraiser this Saturday, October 10, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can eat or carry out. There will be music from 1 to 2:30 p.m. All funds go to support BRLC ongoing programs.

BRLC is located on Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Musical Program

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting on Monday, October 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre. Robert Williams, Angel Riley, Ted Latham and J. A. Bolton will be presenting a program of bluegrass, country and gospel music. Everyone is invited to come, bring a friend and enjoy the music.

For more information call the library at 704-694-5177.

Anson Women's League Meets October 13

The Anson Women's League will meet on Tuesday, October 13, from noon until 1 p.m. at Twin Valley Country Club. All women are invited to hear a member from Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church share information about their many mission projects. Lunch is available for \$8.50.

Please send RSVP's for the meal to AWL President Misty Nordan at mistynordan@yahoo.com by Friday, October 9.