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

## Anson County's October Unemployment Rate a Low 4.7%

Anson County's unemployment rate for October remained extremely low at 4.7%, up only slightly from September's 4.6% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate was 4.1% in October.

Anson's total labor force in October was 10,578. Of that number 10,076 were employed and 502 were unemployed. In September the total labor force was 10,507 with 10,023 employed and 484 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 93 of North Carolina's counties in October and remained unchanged in seven. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.2 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.1 percent.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 6.0 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.3 percent. The October not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.1 percent.

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

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in October by 19,213 to 4,751,139, while those unemployed increased 7,987 to 204,020. Since October 2016 the number of workers employed statewide increased 74,326, while those unemployed decreased 47,192.

## Sheriff Asks Citizens for Help in Dealing with Rash of Break Ins

The Anson County Sheriff's Office is asking for help from the citizens of our community due to a recent rash of breaking and entering and theft crimes. These crimes have occurred in the various parts of Anson County in recent weeks, at various hours of the daytime and nighttime. They are happening in various locations as well. Privately owned residences and hunting clubs have been targeted by suspects. The locations and times when these incidents are sporadic.

Sheriff Landric Reid is asking for help from our citizens in the following ways. "If you see any suspicious person or vehicle at a residence, church or business that you know doesn't belong there please call and report it immediately," Sheriff Reid said. "Also, anyone having information concerning these crimes who would like to leave information or leave an anonymous tip please call our crime prevention line at 704-695-3111."

Sheriff Reid concluded, "I would like to thank citizens for any help in this matter. We strive to make Anson County a safe community to live and raise a family. And, with a partnership and help from people in our community we can achieve this goal."

## Sheriff's Deputies Bust Haywood Marsh, Jr. with Drugs and Weapons



On Tuesday, December 5 deputies with the Anson County Sheriff's Office were in the Morven area when they observed Haywood Spencer Marsh, Jr., 40, of Morven standing in the empty parking lot of the old Ed's Exxon. Deputies were aware that Marsh had outstanding arrest warrants.

After confirming that the warrants were still active, the deputies approached Marsh, and advised him of the warrants. At that moment Marsh ran away from the officers, but he was quickly apprehended and taken into custody. Marsh was found to have two loaded firearms in his waistband, multiple bags of marijuana, and some other drug paraphernalia.

Marsh was served with the outstanding warrants, and additionally charged with Resisting Arrest, Possession of Concealed Weapon, Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon, Possession with Intent to Sell or Distribute Marijuana, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$62,000 secured bond.

A deputy sustained minor injuries during the altercation with Marsh. He was treated and released from CHS-Anson. Sheriff Landric Reid said, "I credit our deputies with handling this dangerous situation with professionalism. They utilized their training to not only ensure their safety, but the safety of the suspect and the public."

## Christmas Holiday Shows at the Rotary Planetarium

The Wadesboro Rotary Planetarium and Science Center will feature two types of shows during the Christmas season. *Season of Light* is a depiction of the various holiday seasons around the world and a celebration of Christmas music.

*The Star of Bethlehem* is a religious story representing the astronomical and biblical aspect of the star in the east. Both are videos projected on the 24 foot planetarium dome. Planetarium Director Wendy Efird will also present the winter sky constellations and visible planets during this time.

Since the seating is limited, reservations are necessary by calling 704-694-4417 ext 01005 and leaving your name, date of show you would like to attend, and number of seats to reserve. There is no charge, but donations are welcome to help fund science activities at the planetarium for students.

Here is the schedule of holiday shows:  
• Monday, December 18 at 10 a.m. *Season of Light*  
• Monday, December 18 at 1 p.m. - *The Star of Bethlehem*

During all the holiday shows the Animal Room will be open, as well as the T. D. Burns collection of around 150 rare and beautiful fluorescent minerals from around the world. In this exhibit these mineral specimens become exposed to powerful short and long-wave ultraviolet lamps, and their atoms become energized and emit brilliant visible light in almost every range of the color spectrum. It is a beautiful and fascinating sight.



## Rev. William H. Sturdivant Celebrated His 104th Birthday

Children from the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center's Kids Café visited with Rev. William H. Sturdivant recently to help him celebrate his 104th birthday. The children sang for Rev. Sturdivant and presented him with ten commandments they made from popsicle sticks. Afterwards all of the attendees enjoyed ice cream and cake.

## Protect Your Dogs and Cats from Winter Woes

In many areas, winter is a season of bitter cold and numbing wetness. Help your pets remain happy and healthy during the colder months by following these simple guidelines.

- Don't leave pets outdoors when the temperature drops. Most dogs, and all cats, are safer indoors, except when taken out for exercise. Regardless of the season, shorthaired, very young, or old dogs and all cats should never be left outside without supervision. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks.
- No matter what the temperature, windchill can threaten a pet's life. A dog or cat is happiest and healthiest when kept indoors. If your dog is an outdoor dog, however, he/she must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his/her body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls rather than metal; when the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.
- Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.
- The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe the feet with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates his/her mouth.
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that may attract animals and children. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze (and all household chemicals) out of reach. Better yet, use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol; if swallowed in small amounts, it will not hurt pets, wildlife, or your family.
- Probably the best prescription for winter's woes is to keep your dog or cat inside with you and your family. The happiest dogs are those who are taken out frequently for walks and exercise but kept inside the rest of the time. Dogs and cats are social animals who crave human companionship. Your animal companions deserve to live indoors with you and your family.

## Changes to Medicare Part A and B for 2018

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have announced the changes to Medicare Parts A and B for 2018. Each year, Medicare costs are reexamined to determine if changes need to be made to deductibles, co-pays and out-of-pocket maximums.

SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, is available to Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers to help them understand how the coming changes will affect their coverage in 2018.

**Part B - Medical Insurance** The standard Part B premium amount in 2018 will remain at \$134 (or higher depending on your income). Some beneficiaries who were held harmless against Part B premium increases in prior years will have a Part B premium increase in 2018, but the premium increase will be offset by the increase in their Social Security benefits next year.

The Part B deductible will remain at \$183 in 2018.

**Part A - Hospital Insurance** Hospitalization costs for Medicare beneficiaries will increase slightly in 2018.

### HOSPITALIZATION COSTS

	2017	2018
First 60 days	\$1,316 deductible	\$1,340 deductible
Days 61-90	\$329 per day	\$335 per day
Days 91-150	\$658 per day	\$670 per day

Medicare will continue to pay 100 percent of approved costs for the first 20 days of Post-Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility Care. For Skilled Nursing Care between 21 and 100 days, the charge per day is \$167.50 for 2018, an increase from the 2017 charge of \$164.50.

The premium for Medicare Part A will continue to be \$0 for eligible beneficiaries. For those ineligible, the premium for Part A increased to \$422 per month for those who worked fewer than 30 quarters, and \$232 per month for those who worked between 30 and 40 quarters.

**Medicare Supplement Plans** The Standardized Medicare Supplement Plans in 2018 will increase for the out-of-pocket limit for Plan K at \$5,240, and the out-of-pocket limit for Plan L at \$2,620. The deductible for the Plan F Prime is increasing to \$2,240.

SHIIP, a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance, can help answer any questions about Medicare costs and coverage over the phone or in person. Trained SHIIP counselors are available for free, unbiased counseling appointments in all 100 North Carolina counties. For more information, contact SHIIP at 1-855-408-1212 or visit [www.ncshiip.com](http://www.ncshiip.com). In Anson County call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

## Toys for Tots 2017 Needs Your Help

The Toys for Tots 2017 Christmas campaign has begun, and they need everyone's help. If you can donate a new toy or funds, please do. This will enable less fortunate children in Anson County to celebrate Christmas through the magic of receiving presents. Without Toys for Tots, some children would have nothing on Christmas day.

"Businesses, churches, schools, citizens and our elected officials are very important to us," said County Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant who is the Toys for Tots Coordinator for Anson County. "It's a way you can give back to your community and to our less fortunate children and families. You can support Toys for Tots through a monetary donation or purchasing toys."

You may leave your toys off at the following drop-off sites:

- Harvest Ministries Outreach Center • Grace Senior Center • Gumby's, Lilesville
- Department of Social Services • All schools will have toys drop boxes

Citizens will also be able to pick up applications requesting help at the above locations and the Anson County Health Department.

For further information please contact Assistant Coordinator Dr. Bernice Bennett at 704-694-6616, Secretary Debra Rosebud at 704-695-2963 or Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

## Brown Bag Book Club Meeting Features Writer's Club Program

The Hampton B. Allen Library's Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, December 18 at 12:00 noon in the Pritchett room with the Anson County Writer's Club presenting the program. Prize winning entries will be read by John Witherspoon, Kaye Ratliffe, Beverly Getzen reading husband, Rufus Getzen's, winning entry, Gina Clark and John Marek. Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and enjoy the program. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Writer's Club and meet and listen to some of the past winners of the annual writing contest.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

## Showing of World War II In Color at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing part 3 of the 13 part documentary series, *World War 2 In Color*, on Wednesday, December 27 at 10 a.m.

Here is the documentary synopsis: When the United Kingdom declared war on Nazi Germany at the outset of World War II it controlled to varying degrees numerous crown colonies, protectorates and the Indian Empire. From September 1939 to mid-1942 Britain led Allied efforts in almost every global military theater.

## Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Or Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They have distributed coats to several of the churches and schools in Anson County.

Blankets for the elderly are also available.

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church is the pick up site, or you can deliver donated items there too. Just call to schedule it.

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

## Ladies Out at Grace Senior Center

Ladies Out is held every Monday at 1 p.m. at Grace Senior Center. To find out what that means, and to register, call 704-694-6616.