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

Anson County's November Unemployment Rate Still Low at 5.1%

Anson County's unemployment rate for November remained low at 5.1%, thought it was up from October's 4.7% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate was 4.5% in November.

Anson's total labor force in November was 10,486. Of that number 9,946 were employed and 540 were unemployed. In October the total labor force was 10,578 with 10,076 employed and 502 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 99 of North Carolina's counties in November and decreased in one. Tyrrell County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.1 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 6.5 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.6 percent. The November not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.5 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 99 counties and remained unchanged in one. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in November by 29,500 to 4,722,457, while those unemployed increased 18,290 to 222,035. Since November 2016, the number of workers employed statewide increased 42,896, while those unemployed decreased 19,410.

Board of Elections Meeting Date Moved to January 11

The regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Elections that was originally scheduled for Tuesday, January 9 has been rescheduled to Thursday, January 11 at 5 p.m. due to an emergency with a board member. The meeting will take place at the Board of Elections office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-994-3223.

To appear on a meeting agenda you must provide notice in writing by 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the meeting. Here is the agenda for the meeting:

- Call to order and invocation at 5 p.m.
- Approval of minutes (if applicable)
- Director's monthly report for December 2017
- November election cost: total cost and amount billed to towns
- New voting booths/letter and information/update
- Elections Conference details - to be held January 28-30 in Durham
- Other concerns and matters



Sheriff's Officers of the Year Recognized

The Anson County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce their 2017 officers awards. Deputy of the year is Sergeant Vance Bennett, Detention Officer of the Year is Sergeant James Babcock and Telecommunicator of the Year is Monique Johnson. They are pictured above with Sheriff Landric Reid.

Sheriff Reid said, "These individuals represent professionalism, dedication and perseverance. These honorees have gone above and beyond their job expectations. The Anson County Sheriff's Office is privileged to have these exceptional employees representing Anson County."

Sheriff's Award for Outstanding Service Presented to Chief Deputy Scott Howell

Anson County Chief Deputy Scott Howell (pictured left with Sheriff Reid) recently received the Sheriff Award for Outstanding Service to the Citizens of Anson County.

On October 30, 2017, Chief Howell and other deputies were dispatched to Traywick Road in Peachland to search for a missing three year old child. During the search efforts Howell heard what he thought was a child crying on an area off of Edwards Store Road. Howell began to search the area and located the child standing in a pond in approximately waist deep water. Howell immediately went into the pond and rescued the child from the water. The child was rendered medical treatment on the scene and released back to his family.

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "Chief Howell's compassion for the citizens of Anson County and quick actions prevented this situation from becoming a tragic event."



Local Initiative has Begun to Mentor Area Students Who Have an Interest in a Medical Career

The Elizabeth Program helps students throughout their medical schooling, with aim that they return to the area as doctors

A new program has started in Anson County to help future physicians stay on track to return to practice here. Expected improvements include better access to health care for local residents, lowered costs and improved health status.

Sponsored by the local Rotary Club, these individuals, Caroline Goins, Dave Anderson, Beth Diggs, Maggie Gibson, Alex Harrington, Bonnie Morgan, Alex Sewell and Stephanie Wilson, have signed on to become volunteer mentors in the Elizabeth Program: Mentoring for Medicine. The program works with students from the area to provide mentoring and resources to achieve success in preparing for and making a career in medicine here. Students can start as early as high school or college, and are mentored through medical school, residency and their return to the area. The Elizabeth Program was founded by Rev. Marty McCarthy and is supported by E. Larry Newton, Ph.D., a psychologist.

The program trains volunteer mentors to connect with students who show the potential to be successful in medical school. It matches mentors and students, and provides support and guidance to mentors. The local effort began with a presentation on the Elizabeth Program Mentoring for Medicine Initiative to the local Rotary Club on April 13, 2017.

Mentoring is a nationally recognized significant resource for improving lives. The month of January has been proclaimed by presidents in recent years as National Mentoring Month. Mentored young people are less likely to drink and more likely to achieve good grades and social effectiveness than young people without a mentor. They are more likely to thrive and to succeed.

The local team had its first training session on December 6. The team will begin to reach out to schools in the upcoming weeks to identify and invite students to participate. The team's mentoring efforts will be ongoing. Mentoring will take place in local restaurants, over the phone, by email and by text.

There is a shortage of primary care physicians in rural North Carolina. Here is the impact: Rural areas like ours have 30% more preventable hospitalizations and a mortality rate that is 18% higher than same-age people living in urban areas, according to a report from the NC Rural Health Research Program. Fewer local primary care doctors results in too few prevention appointments, and appointments often so far away as to be either stressful or in many cases missed. A trusting and useful relationship with a physician fails to develop; vital information exchange often fails as a result. These negative effects hurt the quality of life for our citizens, and dim the hopes for the future.

Experience in other parts of the country, in the far northwest, as well as New Mexico and Alabama for example, demonstrate that supporting students to maintain ties to their rural roots and values greatly improves the likelihood that they will return home to practice.

Because college and medical school students are generally away from local resources and relationships, mentoring will most often take place by phone, mail, email and other means. When students are in town, face to face meetings are encouraged. A mentor relationship built on sincerity and consistently dedicated to bringing the best out of students makes this work.

So here is what is in this for you. This program stands to make a difference in our community. If you are a student this can be vital to your success. You can contact Caroline Goins by email at caroline.goins@ansonchildren.org or go to the the Elizabeth Program website www.elizabethprogram.org and send an email to Marty McCarthy or Larry Newton.

If you are a teacher or school administrator, be aware how this can help your students reach their potential and sustain success and service. You can learn more at the Elizabeth Program website or reach out to Caroline Goins.

For parents, if your child is an academic achiever, is engaged in extracurricular activities and has ever expressed interest in medicine as a career know this - It may be possible. The Elizabeth Program has resources to make the financial burden bearable and the journey likely to stay on track to a rewarding and beneficial career right here or in another rural community.

Q-Tip Art Class at Grace Senior Center

Have you always been interested in q-tip art? If so, you are invited to join in the q-tip art class at Grace Senior Center on Tuesday, January 23 at 12 noon. Call Mary Jones, Activity Director at Grace Senior Center, to register at 704-694-6616.

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Events in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King



D. L. Hammond has participated in many BRLC programs.

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center will honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this Saturday, January 13 during their USDA food giveaway, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. They invite you to come and join them. If you have a youth or youth group in the age range of 9 to 16 who would like to attend and volunteer at the food giveaway, they are welcome.

On Monday, January 15 BRLC will have a celebration. Lunch of homemade beef stew and chili (for a donation of \$5) will be served at 12 noon. At 1 p.m. local students and adults will present a portion of King's legacy and 'I Have a Dream' speech.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The best time to call is between 3 and 5:30 p.m.

Series of Events Planned for Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Recognition

Several events are being planned in the Anson County community to honor the birthday and celebrate the life and legacy of the late Civil Rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Anson County Partnership for Children has scheduled a special Storytime at the Partnership offices in the Early Childhood Resource Center at 10:30 a. m. on Wednesday, January 10. There will be storytelling and singing, along with other activities planned for children from birth to seven years of age. After the storytelling hour staff will assist children in making banners for participation in the MLK, Jr. Parade.

On Saturday, January 13 the inaugural MLK, Jr. Holiday Parade will be held. The parade, sponsored by HOLLA!, will commence at 10:00 a.m. For entry information for the parade contact Alex Gaddy at 704-465-1790 or Tracy Little at 704-695-1246.

The annual MLK, Jr. Prayer Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 14 at Lady Bug Restaurant, located at 800 East Caswell Street in Wadesboro. A continental breakfast will be served. Please note this is a departure from prayer breakfast scheduling in previous years (it usually took place on the Monday prior to the annual program). The Prayer Breakfast is sponsored by Harold Smith of Smith's Funeral Home. All local ministers are asked to be in attendance and prepared to participate. The community is invited to attend as well.

The annual MLK, Jr. March will begin on Monday, January 15 at 8:00 a.m. at Whit's Convenience Store on Morven Road in Wadesboro. The march will end at Empowering Word Ministries (formerly known as Greater St. Matthews Word Ministries), located at 1168 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Jerry Tyson of Flat Rock Baptist Church of Wadesboro. Other scheduled participants on the program include a community choir, male choir, MLK, Jr. Essay winners, and a tribute to the holiday through song, word and dance by other performers.

All events are free and open to the public. For additional information please contact Marlene Richardson at 704-694-2337 or Winnie Bennett at 704-851-9269.

Free Lunch & Learn Session on Understanding Your Credit Report

Is your business upside down? Learn how to understand your credit report at the free SPCC lunch & learn session.

Understand the credit reporting system, your credit worthiness, your business needs, just to name a few. Understand your FICO score. Get answers to some of these questions:

- What is your track record?
- How much is too much?
- What is your credit history and how is it established?
- What is a healthy mix?
- Consumer Reporting
- How to increase your personal credit score?

South Piedmont Community College's Small Business Center will host this lunch & learn session on Tuesday, January 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The session will take place in the Anson Community Room at Carolina's HealthCare System. To register visit www.ncsbc.net. Make plans to attend now!

Board of Education Regular Meeting is January 16

With this meeting, all Board of Education meetings to now begin at 4:30 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 16 in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Open session to the public should begin around 5:30