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Anson County's Unemployment Rate Dropped in December

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for December was 4.0 percent, down from November's 4.6% rate. Here are other past rates in Anson County: **2022:** November 4.6%; October 4.9%; September 4.2%; August 4.9%; July 4.7%; June 5.3%; May 4.7%; April 4.6%; March 4.9%; February 5.1%; January 5.1%. **2021:** December 4.4%; November 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 6.5%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The **2020** rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%.

In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the unemployment rate for December dropped to 3.2% from November's 3.8% rate. Here are other statewide past rates: **2022:** October 3.9%; September 3.3%; August 3.9%; July 3.7%; June 4.1%; May 3.6%; April 3.4%; March 3.6%; February 3.7%; January 3.8%. **2021:** December 3.2%; November 3.4%; October 3.6%; September 3.8%; August 4.4%; July 4.6%; June 4.9%; May 4.5%; April 4.4%; March 4.6%; February 5.6%; January 6%. **2020:** December 6%; November and October 6.1%; September 7%; August 6.8%; July 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in December was 10,069, with 9,666 employed and 403 unemployed. In November the total labor force was 10,196, with 9,731 employed and 465 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 96 of North Carolina's counties in December and increased in four. Tyrell County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.1 percent while Buncombe, Greene, Orange, and Watauga Counties each had the lowest at 2.5 percent. All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases.

Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.2 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.5 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.2 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 47 counties, decreased in 30, and remained unchanged in 23.

Five of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, four decreased, and six remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in December by 2,607 to 4,926,333, while those unemployed decreased by 29,503 to 163,346. Since December 2021, the number of workers employed statewide increased 93,639, while those unemployed increased 2,676.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

Children's Playhouse Theatre Show February 4

The Cheraw Arts Commission presents "The Lion & the Little Red Bird" featuring the Tarradiddle Players of the Children's Theatre of Charlotte on Saturday, February 4. The play will be presented at 11am at the Theatre on the Green in Cheraw and is part of the Children's Playhouse Theatre Series for family audiences. Admission is \$5.00 at the door the day of the performance.

This delightful play tells the story of an inquisitive bird and a compassionate lion, an unlikely friendship to say the least. Why does Lion's tail keep changing colors? Little Red Bird's curiosity is piqued, and she sets out to unravel the mystery! This show features a mix of puppets and actors.

Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission 843.537.8420 x 12 for additional information.

Mahjong Classes in February

It's a New Year - clear the cobwebs! Learn a new game! Cheraw Arts Commission - Mahjong Classes in February

The Cheraw Arts Commission is offering Mahjong Classes in February. The first class will be held Thursday, February 16 from 11am-1pm at the Cheraw Community Center - 200 Powe Street. There will be a total of 3 classes for a \$25 registration fee.

Mahjong is a tile-based game that developed in China during the 19th century and is played by four players. It is a game of concentration that has been found effective in improving short-term memory and logical thinking. Brenda Branson will provide basic instruction for the beginner player. Pre-registration is required. Call the CAC for additional information and to register 843.537.8420 x 12.

Legislative Update Program February 17

Join the Anson Chamber at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, February 17 at Twin Valley Golf Club for their annual Legislative Update. Hear from Sen. David Craven and Rep. Mark Brody on updates from Raleigh, along with information specific to Anson County.

A light breakfast will be provided for attendees. The event is free for Chamber members, and \$10 for non-members. All attendees are required to register for this event at: form.jotform.com/ansonchamber/2023-legislative-update.

For information contact Shelby Emrich at 704-694-4181 or emrich@ansoncountychamber.org.

Dollar Days Yard Sale for Charity

Faith-Based Center of Hope and PlayazElite Motorcycle Club will have a "Dollar Days" yard sale on Saturday, February 18 beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Burger King in Wadesboro.

For further information please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704 848-4412 or Patricia Robinson at 704 848-4995.

Art Classes for Kids in February

The Cheraw Arts Commission is offering Art Classes for Kids in February. The "Young at Art" classes are geared for Ages 7-9 and Ages 9-13. The classes will be Tuesday, February 28 at the Cheraw Community Center. Ember Estridge will be the instructor for both classes. Ember is an art educator who tailors her projects and lessons to engage and motivate her students.

Ages 7-9 will attend from 4:30-5:15pm and will learn basic drawing techniques to create the SC State Reptile, the loggerhead sea turtle. The fee for this group is \$10 with all supplies provided. The class for Ages 9-13 is scheduled from 5:30pm-6:30pm. This older group will receive instruction in Radial Printmaking creating a tile print design. The registration fee is \$15 for the 5:30pm class with all supplies provided.

Registration is now available at the Cheraw Community Center- 200 Powe Street. Call the Cheraw Arts Commission for additional information - 843.537.8420 x 12.

Lifelong Improvement Through Fitness Together (L.I.F.T.) Class Offered in 2023

This is a release from Roshunda Terry, County Extension Director: Are you an adult, of any age and fitness level, who would like to learn how to achieve and maintain a healthier lifestyle? Would you like to learn and practice exercises designed to help increase strength, flexibility, and balance while improving your nutrition habits? Would you like to make new friends and build community connections? Would you enjoy a free interactive program in a group setting? Then L.I.F.T. is for you!

L.I.F.T. is a research-based program that helps develop relationships, improve functional fitness and emotional health. These classes will help improve your strength and mobility, learn healthy food options, and most importantly help form a community to socialize and interact in the virtual world. L.I.F.T. is an 8-week group-based strength training program that meets 2 times a week for 1-hour sessions. This program is open to all adults, young and old and will be taught in a Hybrid format. Participants will attend in person with their local FCS agent and sessions will be taught collaboratively with local and area FCS Agents over zoom. We will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from March 13- May 2 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM. Anson participants will meet at 501 McLaurin Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170. These classes are free of charge. There will also be a functional fitness assessment on March 1st starting at 10am. When you call the office to register, please give what time you would like to come for your assessment. These will be in 15-minute increments on a first come, first serve basis.

Alexander, Anson, Montgomery, Lee, Richmond, Stanly and Union counties have partnered to offer this virtual fitness program. Agents will instruct the hour-long class and all you will be able to participate with others from seven additional counties. Classes will be prerecorded for those that may have a scheduling conflict and have to miss our live class. Making time for exercise can change your life! If you're looking for a free, strength training program, LIFT is the program for you. Let's get active, together! To register, please call 704.694.2915 to sign up and select your time for your assessment. Looking forward to getting fit with everyone that register!!

COVID-19 Information Sources

To stay up to date on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit covid19.ncdhhs.gov or text COVIDNC to 898211. Call 2-1-1 (or 888-892-1162) for general questions or for help finding human services resources in your community.

For a national perspective, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.

For a world-wide perspective, visit the World Health Organization website at www.who.int.

Recruiting Volunteers for Meals on Wheels

Grace Senior Center is recruiting volunteers to help with their Meals on Wheels by delivering meals. If you are interested in helping Anson's shut-in and elderly citizens with this important program, please contact Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

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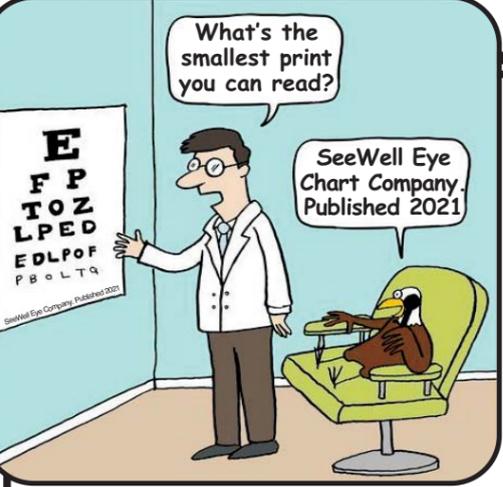
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