Anson County Parks and Recreation Survey

Community Interest and Opinion Survey: Let your voice be heard today! Anson County Parks & Recreation would like your input to help determine parks and recreation facility development priorities within the County. They would greatly appreciate your input.

Your participation will help guide parks and recreation planning and thus improve the quality of life in Anson County.

You can take the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/AnsonSurvey2.

The survey link will be available for a few more days. Please spread the word!

The Health Department is Here for You and Your Family

The Anson County Health Department provides clinical care services aimed at helping ach Anson County resident achieve better health and well-being. They provide the

- Acute care & sick visits
 Reproductive health
 College physicals
 Laboratory testing
- Annual physicals, PAP smear, and counseling for people age 21+ Sports physicals for people age 12+ • Immunizations for children and adults
- Communicable disease screening and treatment WIC (women, infants, and children) Call today, 704-694-5188, to make your appointment. The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. You can find them on Facebook and the website is: www.co.anson.nc.us/164/Health-Department.

African American History Event at BRLC

Don't miss this event! Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center will celebrate diverse cultures with an event called "Whose Names are You Keeping Allive?" BRLC volunteers and Kids Cafe students take a deeper look into the history of ancestors, both local and abroad. This educational event takes place on Saturday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m. at BRLC in the John L. Brewer Assembly Room.

Participants will have family artifacts, such as old pictures to show, music from the past and stories of traditions that ancestors passed on. If you would like to wear your heritage attire, please do. Refreshments will be served.

For information call Carol Smith, BRLC Director, at 704-778-7478. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire

Department. For more information you can call 704-826-8737, check their Facebook page or visit www.burnsvillelc.org.

Black History Month 2025 Events

There are several events scheduled to honor and recognize the contributions of African-Americans to America history during the month of February.

• On Saturday, February. 22 at 6:00 p.m., there will be a presentation geared towards recognizing the struggles of early enslaved African-Americans. The program, titled, "Say Their Names. Tell Their Stories. Sing Their Songs" will feature stories told from an enslaved person's perspective. In addition, local musicians and choirs will sing the early songs of African-Americans that was either resistance music or faith music. These songs also served to provide the template for most of modern music. This program will be held at the SPCC Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. It is free and open to the public. For more information about this program contact Winnie M. Bennett, 704-465-0867.

 On Sunday, February, 23 the Anson Youth Leaders Academy will present "Blacks in This display will take Wax: An Exhibit of African-Americans Who Shaped History." place from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center. The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact the Caraway Foundation at 704-761-4351. Also, during Black History Month the Watato Children's Choir from Uganda will give two performances in Laurinburg, NC and Hamlet, NC. The first performance will be on Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m, at Scotland High School Auditorium, 1000 West Church Street in Laurinburg. The second concert will be held on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cole Auditorium, 1042 Hamlet Avenue in Hamlet. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for each event. Adult general admission is \$30 and childrens's admission is \$15. This event is sponsored by the Scotland Youth Development and HOLLA. For more information and to book your ticket call 704-695-4968 or 910-384-3168.

Tree Seedling and Fruit Plant Sale Saturday in Wingate

The Simpson Event Center is hosting a tree seedling and fruit plant sale this Saturday, February 22, from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon. The Event Center is located at 307 Cultivation Circle, across the bridge from the greenhouse, behind the Union County Agricultural & Event Complex just off Highway 74, a mile west of Wingate.

Come early to ensure you get first dibs on the best selection. There will be a variety of native trees and shrubs, apples, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, muscadine grapes, figs and elderberries, strawberries and much more!

Free Tax Assistance at Grace Senior Center

Free income tax assistance will be available for Anson County Residents sixty years of age or older of low-or moderate-income, needing help in preparing their income tax returns. The assistance is a program sponsored by AARP and Grace Senior Center.

Volunteer counselors trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service will be at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, March 5 and Wednesday, April 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day. This free assistance is designed to help taxpayers fill out forms 1040EZ, 1040A, 1040 and the North Carolina return. Persons using the services should bring a picture ID, this year's tax package, age and

earnings statements (forms W-2) received from employers, interest statements from the bank (form 1099-INT), a copy of last year's tax return, and any other relevant information concerning income and expenses. All persons who have an appointment must pick up a Tax Package at Grace Senior Center before their scheduled appointment and bring the completed package to the appointment. Electronic filing of returns will be available.

If you are interested call Grace Senior Center to schedule an appointment and for additional information at (704) 694-6616.

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ESTHETIC PROCEDURES

Church

FEBRUARY 23

Family & Friends

Day at Henry Grove Missionary **Baptist** Church, 3588 Vintage Road in Lilesville, 2:30pm with Rev. Jean Douglas, Associate Minister at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church Rockingham, under the leadership of Pastor Bennett. Dinner served after the service. All are

Appreciation Service For Elder Pandora Johnson Little at Chapel Holiness Church, 3pm with Pastor Cindy

Wiggins. **FEBRUARY 23 - 26** Winter Revival

At Harmony Community Church, located at 1984 Pulpwood Yard Rd in Peachland, with Dr. Ron Lynch. Sun 9:30am & 6;30pm. Mon-Wed 6:30pm nightly

FEBRUARY 28

Spiritual Ministry

"Refocus & Refuel, Reflecting Beatitudes" at Savannah

AME Zion Church, 7pm with Rev. Dr. Roy Lisenby, Rev. Dr. Terry Little, Rev. Dr. Eddie Maye & Evangelist Jamal Moore. All are invited.

Pew Rally Program At Rocky Mount AME Zion Church in Ansonville, 2:30pm with Elder Raymond Fox. Family & friends are invited to attend. MARCH 9

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Friends & Family Day

Hosted by Youth Ministry of Victory Temple Miracle Center, 4pm with Apostle Penny Montgomery from Charlotte. 1685 Morgan Sellers Rd, Wadesboro.

41st Pastor Appreciation at Victory Temple Miracle Center, 1685 Morgan Sellers Rd, Wadesboro, 4pm with Pastor Larry Williams of Tabernacle of God Ministries in Dillon, SC.

8th Anniversary of Overseer Sylvia McLendon at Divine Unity House of Restoration Fellowship Hall, 3760 Hwy 109 S, Wadesboro. District Overseer, Pastor Iris Tillman of Church of God of Prophecy in Morven at 11am. Pastor Cindy Wiggins of House of Faith in Wadesboro at 2:30pm.

FEBRUARY 20

Free Food Anson Mobile Food Market 4:00 p.m. at Elderly Services / Wadesboro Elementary School, located at 321 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Fresh veggies, fruit &

bread if available. Blood pressure checks, along with healthy living topics & booths. Nothing required to receive food, just come! Sponsored by Anson Extension Service. **FEBRUARY 24**

Board of Education Regular Meeting Closed Session begins 5pm for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5). Open Session begins at 6pm. View at Anson County School's YouTube page. (Search YouTube for Anson County Schools.) Meeting takes place in Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. For public comment, sign up in-person. Sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting.

You Decide: What Will Be The Next NC Economy?

North Carolina has gone through two major economic overhauls in the last 150 years. The first was the shift from a largely agrarian economy to an economy focused on manufacturing products using home-grown farm outputs. The so-called "Big Three" were cigarettes made from North Carolina tobacco, textile and apparel products manufactured from cotton, and furniture and paper products using North Carolina trees and lumber. Much of this "Big Three" economy was located in small towns and rural areas in the state.

The second transformation occurred in the late 20th century. This was when globalization of the economy expanded. Two major trade agreements involving the U.S. occurred. The first was the North American Free Trade Agreement between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. The agreement lowered trade barriers between the three countries and shifted manufacturing within North America. The second event occurred when the World Trade Organization, which included the U.S., admitted China as a important being the U.S. – on more favorable terms.

Two of the three "Big Three" industries – textiles/apparel and furniture – were massively impacted by these trade agreements, and not in a good way. Foreign competitors, especially China, used lower-cost labor to underprice North Carolina manufacturers and capture a large part of the U.S. market. At the same time, the tobacco industry was hard hit by the declining use of tobacco products, especially cigarettes. As a result, jobs in the North Carolina "Big Three" plunged. Rural economies in the state were especially hurt.

Fortunately, North Carolina was able to re-make its economy over several decades around industries I have named the "Big Five." The "Big Five" includes technology, pharmaceuticals, food processing, transportation production and banking. Each industry grew for different reasons. Technology, primarily related to information technology, was attracted to the foresightful Research Triangle Park in the Raleigh-Durham region and the top universities located there . Pharmaceuticals developed for the same reasons, but also for its link to the state's agriculture sector through bioscience. Food processing - mainly meat processing - was tied to the state's farm sector shift to meat as its largest output. Transportation manufacturers, including parts and final products, took advantage of North Carolina's competitive business costs and location in the expanding South. Lastly, banking has always been important to Charlotte, with its location straddling the two Carolinas. When nationwide banking was authorized in the late 20th century, Charlotte became the second-largest banking center in the country. Now, let's look ahead . Many futurists expect emerging new technologies like artificial

intelligence (AI) will lead to a big economic shake-up, including in North Carolina. Will we have another transition to a new North Carolina economy? Here are my thoughts. Rather than creating a new economy, I expect AI and related technologies will "transform" our existing economy instead of transitioning it to something brand new. Indeed, some of our older industries may be revived in the future.

For the "Big Three" of tobacco, textiles/apparel, and furniture, tobacco-related firms will likely continue to contract. This is because of the continued drop in smoking, particularly among young people who are the consumers of the future.

However, the future may be the opposite for textiles/apparel. Some experts think the application of AI to textile/apparel production could significantly improve productivity for domestic manufacturers and consequently reduce the cost advantage of foreign competitors. Some think the same could occur for furniture manufacturing but to a lesser degree.

For the "Big Five," continued growth is expected in technology, pharmaceuticals, food processing and transportation manufacturing. The one exception is banking, where there is uncertainty about how digital banking and banking alternatives could impact the financial sector.

Other sectors in North Carolina could emerge as much more significant to the economy in coming decades. One is mining and quarrying. Pure silicon is a key component of computer chips, and North Carolina has one of the world's largest pure

silicon mines in Mitchell County. Also, batteries are important to the continuing energy transition, especially for electric vehicles. Two minerals used for batteries are lithium and phosphate, and North Carolina has significant supplies of both. Tourism is a multi-billion dollar industry in North Carolina. With the state's marvelous

the tourism industry will likely become more important to the state's economy in the future. Predictions about the economy always have to be tentative and speculative. I see the future North Carolina economy growing, with some of our traditional industries prospering, while others face challenges. There will also be a third group of lesser known

beaches, spectacular mountains, hundreds of golf courses and multi-faceted large cities,

economic sectors who will be "up and comers" in the future.

Does this sound about right? You decide.

Mike Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

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