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

School Board Workshop and Monthly Meeting is March 25

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a board workshop and their monthly meeting on Monday, March 25. The workshop and meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

The board workshop will begin at 2:00 p.m. Closed Session will begin after the workshop at 3:30 p.m. 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 to the public will begin at 5:30 p.m.

If the public wishes to come to the workshop, it is an open workshop. The Open Session of the meeting will be live streamed at 5:30 p.m. on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board. Public comment will be held during the open session portion of the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Anson's January Unemployment Rate

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for January was 4.0%. The December rate was 3.8%. Anson ranked #64 of the 100 counties statewide (low to high).

Anson's total labor force in January was 10,249, with 9,838 employed and 411 unemployed. In December the total labor force was 10,040, with 9,655 employed and 385 unemployed.

Here are other past rates in Anson County: **2023:** November 4.1%; October 4%; September 3.8%; August 4.2%; July 4.2%; June 4.2%; May 4.0%; April 3.6%; March 3.9%; February 4%; January 4.3%. **2022:** December 4.0%; 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 was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the unemployment rate for January was 3.6%. In December it was 3.2%.

Here are other statewide past rates: **2023:** November 3.4%; October 3.3%; September 3.2%; August 3.6%; July 3.6%; June 3.6%; May 3.4%; April 3.1%; March 3.5%; February 3.6%; January 3.7%. **2022:** December 3.2%; November 3.8%; 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%.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in all 100 of North Carolina's counties in January 2024. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.8% while Greene County had the lowest at 2.7 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases.

Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.0 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.9%. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.6%.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 80 counties, increased in eight, and remained unchanged in 12. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and one remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in January by 13,222 to 5,047,774, while those unemployed increased by 21,136 to 189,783. Since January 2023, the number of workers employed statewide increased 77,336, while those unemployed decreased 4,861.

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.

Jamoszio Burch Charged With Human Trafficking of a Child, Indecent Liberties with Children

On Thursday, March 14, 30 year old Jamoszio Burch of Wadesboro was charged with 1 Count of Human Trafficking of a Child, and 2 Counts of Indecent Liberties with Children. That same day Burch was arrested and booked into the Anson County Jail under a \$250,000 secured bond.



Jamoszio Burch

The Anson County Sheriff's Office and North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation are currently working jointly on the case, and this is an ongoing investigation. Additional charges are anticipated.

If anyone has any information, please contact your local law enforcement.

Town of Lilesville's Easter Egg Hunt is Set for Tuesday, March 26

Everyone is invited to come out to Hatcher Park in Lilesville for the Town of Lilesville's Easter Egg Hunt event on Tuesday, March 26. It will be fun for the entire family...but especially for kids ages 0-12 years old as they enjoy the Easter egg hunt. Food trucks will be set up at 5:00 p.m., including Burger Brothers, Taco Factory and Monica's Italian Ice.

The Easter egg hunt begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. so don't be late! See you there!



Atrium Health Women's Care Mobile Health Event is Saturday

'Drive to Thrive' event will provide a wide range of services

Atrium Health Women's Care Drive to Thrive is mobile care unit that provides a range of women's care services in a warm, welcoming environment. It will be in the front lot of Atrium Health Anson this coming Saturday, March 23, from 9:00 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Services include:

- Cervical cancer screening (Pap smear)
- Screening for urinary tract infections
- Screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Birth control (contraception), including same-day access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), like intrauterine devices (IUDs)



• First-time prenatal visits, if not established with an OB/GYN • Postpartum visits • Ultrasounds • Mammogram referrals • Social worker on-site to help connect with other resources • Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended. You can call 704-468-0137 to schedule an appointment. Visit AtriumHealth.org/MobileHealth or scan the QR code for the Drive to Thrive mobile health schedule, locations and more information. The website includes information on the Community Sliding Fee Discount Program that can provide up to a full 100% discount for qualifying patients.

N.C. Forest Service Celebrates the Importance of Arbor Day and the Many Benefits Provided by Trees

Arbor Day is March 22

North Carolina Arbor Day will be observed March 22 to commemorate the annual tree-planting holiday that dates to 1872.

"Tree planting is a natural and simple solution to many challenges that we face each year in North Carolina," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "We are fortunate to have a variety of state forestry programs that protect forest resources by supporting landowners and communities with tree planting, site preparation and forest improvement."

Forestry programs and resources include cost-share programs such as the Forest Development Program and the Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program, both managed by the N.C. Forest Service. The NCF's Urban and Community Forestry Program also oversees the application and award process for Tree City USA, Tree Campus Higher Education and Tree Line USA.

Planting trees and responsible urban forest management at the local level including community involvement and participation in urban forestry recognition programs are critical to sustaining healthy forest resources in North Carolina.

"Communities all across the state are holding Arbor Day celebrations," said David Lane, state forester. "I encourage everyone to contact your local municipality to be a part of their celebration as an attendee, participant or even an organizer."

Once deemed "the treeless plain," Nebraska was home to the first Arbor Day celebration in 1872 with the planting of more than a million trees. North Carolina observes Arbor Day the first Friday following March 15, while National Arbor Day is held the last Friday in April each year.

N.C. Forest Service staff are positioned to help landowners manage their woods and communities manage their urban forest. NCF's county staff are also available to assist with developing Arbor Day celebrations and Tree City USA, Tree Campus Higher Education and Tree Line USA awards during community celebrations.

Find your county ranger's contact information at ncforestservice.gov/contacts.

Learn more about the N.C. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program at ncforestservice.gov/Urban/Urban_Forestry.htm.

2024-2025 Kindergarten Registration Begins Friday

Kindergarten Registration will be held at the elementary school located in the attendance area where the child lives. Please check the dates and times below for the school your child will be attending.

To attend Kindergarten, your child has to be 5 on or before August 31, 2024.

North Carolina Law requires a CERTIFIED birth certificate (hospital/mother's copy birth certificates will not be accepted).

Prior to the Pre-Kindergarten registration clinics, forms can be picked up at the elementary school or on the Anson County Schools website (ansonschools.org) under the Parent Portal button. Anson County also requires at least 2 proofs of residence (911 address on Driver's License, address on a bill, etc.) to place the child in the proper attendance area.

Registration Dates/Times:

- Ansonville Elementary School, March 22, 9 to 11 a.m.
- Wadesboro Primary School, March 22, 9 to 11 a.m.
- Lilesville Elementary School, March 28, 9 to 11 a.m.
- Morven Elementary School, March 28, 9 to 11 a.m.
- Peachland-Polkton Elementary School, April 19, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Additionally, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the Anson County Board of Education approved school choice for Kindergarten only (Policy 4150). Families are allowed to choose which elementary school their child attends. If you decide to send your child to a school outside of their attendance area, transportation will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

The Anson County School System looks forward to seeing you as you register your child for Pre-Kindergarten. If you have questions, please call the school in your attendance area and speak to the school nurse.

East Polkton School Alumni Local Motown Review and Dinner

The East Polkton School Alumni are hosting a Motown Review and Dinner on Saturday, March 23, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Harvest Ministries Event Center in Wadesboro. For tickets, or if you would like to participate, call 704-408-2729. Please leave call back information.

Community Worship Service Outreach

The Lamb of God Church will hold a Community Worship Service Outreach, giving out household items and paper products on a first come, first serve basis, on Sunday, March 24. The worship service begins at 6:00 p.m. and the give-away begins at 6:45 p.m. This is a free event, but you must register. Email: lambofgodchurch8390@gmail.com or call 843-623-3777.

The event will take place at the Lamb of God Church, located at 1111 Concord Avenue in Monroe. Pastor Antonio Patterson and Co-Pastor Cindie Patterson invite you to this event. The website is: logomchurch.com.

Free Movie at the Library is Woman In Gold

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing the movie *Woman In Gold* on Monday, March 25 at 10 a.m. The movie is rated PG-13 and is the story of a Jewish refugee attempting to reclaim family treasures seized by the Nazi's. The movie will be shown in the Pritchett Room. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Ansonia Theatre is Holding Auditions for Upcoming Play

The Ansonia Theatre will be holding auditions for the upcoming musical *Godspell* on Monday, April 22 at 6 p.m. Please prepare a song that best showcases your voice. Participants will read from the script. All roles are available. The play will be presented July 12-21.

Come be a part of this wonderful show!

Anson Mobile Food Market is March 21, 10 a.m.

The next Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, March 21, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Ansonville Town Hall, located at 8778 US Hwy. 52. Food will be given away, including fresh vegetables, fruit and bread (if available). There will be blood pressure and blood sugar checks, along with other healthy living topics and booths.

This free event offers citizens of Anson County six to eight different types of fresh produce monthly. This is a free initiative, so please come and get some produce. Nothing is required for you to receive produce, just come.

The event is sponsored by the Anson County Extension and its partners.

This event is to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county. It will also serve as an educational event to offer education on the two targeted areas of the county health assessment which are tobacco use and hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas.

Anson County Beekeepers Meet on March 28

Field trip rescheduled to April 6

The Anson Beekeepers will hold their regular bee meeting on Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The group will talk all about queen bees.

There will be 50-50 drawings to help earn funds for the association. If you are able to bring some items for the drawings, the Anson Beekeepers will greatly appreciate it.

For more information you can check the Anson Beekeepers Facebook page, "Anson Beekeepers Association."

Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes with instructor Sheila Raye on the following Thursdays: March 28, April 11 & 25. The classes begin at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com