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

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Rose to 6.4% in January

Anson County's unemployment rate for January was 6.4%, basically unchanged from December's 6.3%. Statewide the unemployment rate in January was 4.9%. Anson's total labor force in January was 10,843. Of that number 10,146 were employed and 697 were unemployed. In December the total labor force was 10,868, with 10,259 employed and 609 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in all 100 of North Carolina's counties in January. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 16.3 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 4.3 percent. All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases.

Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 7.9 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 4.6 percent. The January not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 5.5 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 89 counties, increased in five, and remained unchanged in six. Thirteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and two remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in January by 22,109 to 4,627,724, while those unemployed increased 30,930 to 269,270. Since January 2016, the number of workers employed statewide increased 104,815, while those unemployed increased 9,015.

ACEC Student Katelyn Howell Earned Scholarship to Attend Pfeiffer University

Katelyn Howell, at student at Anson County Early College, recently participated in Pfeiffer University's first annual Piedmont Institute for Communication, Music and Art (PICMA) Emerging Writer's Competition where she placed third and received a \$2,000 per year scholarship to attend Pfeiffer.



PICMA's mission statement is to spread arts and culture across the Piedmont and beyond. Not only will Katelyn have the opportunity to attend a wonderful university, she will have her work published in the annual issue of The Phoenix, Pfeiffer's literary journal. Katelyn and her family are to be recognized at the launch party for Pfeiffer's new PICMA competition.

Katelyn is not new to writing, as she also received first place in the Anson County Writers' Club 2016 Prose Contest for grades 10-12 with her entry, "Rise." Katelyn and her family attended that awards ceremony and reception in February in the Little Theatre at the Hampton B. Allen Library. Anson Early College Principal Mrs. Carri Decker stated, "We have wonderful students here at ACEC, and we are overjoyed at Katelyn's success. We expect her to accomplish wonderful things in her future."

YCC Students and Staff to Present Rotary Program on Thursday

Members of the Wadesboro Rotary Club will get a firsthand look at one of their investments in education in Anson County at their regular meeting on Thursday, March 23. The club, with 65 members from across the business community, meets each Thursday at noon at Welika Lake in Lilesville.

This week students and staff from the Youth Career-Connect (YCC) initiative at Anson High School will demonstrate the operation of, and discuss the career opportunities created by, three-dimensional printing.

Through local funds, a grant from Rotary International District 7680, and matching funds from the Anson County Schools, the Wadesboro Rotary Club spearheaded the purchase of seven 3-D printers for use in the Youth Career-Connect STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Academy at the high school. Rotarian John Witherspoon was instrumental in the grant preparation process.

"By all accounts, introduction of 3-D printing technology into the YCC Academy has been successful," said Rotarian Dr. Don Altieri, retired president of South Piedmont Community College and the leader of the Wadesboro club's efforts to promote science education in the Anson County Schools. "A primary focus of the YCC program is the introduction of tools to help students build their technical skill sets."

In addition to the 3-D printers in the YCC program, the technology is also part of instruction in the Wadesboro Rotary Club Planetarium and Science Center, where Director Wendy Eford teaches the basic technology to fifth-grade students.

3-D printing is one of the world's fastest growing technologies, and is expected to be a \$23 billion industry by 2021. It is used to produce everything from clothing to cars to prosthetics.

"We want students from Anson County to be competitive, in the marketplace or in getting into the right college programs," said Elaine Clodfelter, president of the Wadesboro Rotary Club. "This investment, and others we have made in our schools and our students, will make a difference."



Read Across America at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School celebrated Read Across America on Thursday, March 2, birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. This annual event is a reading motivation and awareness program that allows children and the community to celebrate reading. Students wore crazy socks and crazy hats and enjoyed a delicious "Green Eggs and Ham" breakfast provided by the cafeteria.

PPES had various guest speakers from all over the community, including high school students, to come in and read a Dr. Seuss book.

Pictured above are two Anson High baseball players who came to PPES to read to a Kindergarten class.

Back Porch Stories Returns to the Ansonia on April 7

The sixth annual Back Porch Stories, a story-telling event hosted by the Anson County Writers' Club and sponsored by Uwharrie Bank, will take place at the Ansonia Theatre on April 7, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person.

Featured storyteller Ron Jones grew up on a dairy farm in North Carolina in a whole family of storytellers. After 28 years as a library administrator and consultant, for the past 10 years he has been sharing stories with audiences of all ages. From traditional folktales to bilingual English/Spanish stories to original tales and legends - he strives to take audiences on an animated and high energy ride! His series of family stories are meant to make you laugh with joy or tug at your heart strings and everything between. As a storyteller, Ron believes strongly in the rich oral tradition of storytelling and the joy and mindfulness it brings to us all. He has performed in schools, libraries, museums, and at festivals throughout the southeast and in Canada and Mexico.

Also appearing at Jess Willis and Robin Kitson.

Willis says, "I am an artist and storyteller currently living in South Carolina. I build giant puppets and freaky/funky masks from salvaged and re-purposed materials. I tell stories to everyone from the very young to the very old, true stories, folk tales, and outright lies... whatever the occasion calls for. I am on the path of an authentic life with my longtime love and our three cats and we have no idea what will happen next."

Kitson believes we all start life as happy babies sucking our toes, and blowing spit bubbles. Others are happy to clean up no matter the mess. We believe we are "all that" with hearts bright and shiny. As we grow we hear "no," "don't," "stop that," and "don't touch." Our hearts get a bit of rust till one day our hearts are completely encrusted and no longer shine. What we need is a storyteller to remind us we are still that baby who is "all that." As we travel through story our heart swells and swells and pretty soon it gets so big that BOOM!! the rust flies off and our hearts shine again. Come on so I can show you how "Stories Polish Your Heart!"

Tickets will be sold at the box office prior to the event.



Ron Jones



Jess Willis



Robin Kitson

Apply for Wadesboro Rotary Club Scholarships Now

Deadline to apply is Friday

The Wadesboro Rotary Club Scholarship committee is now accepting applications for the Wadesboro Rotary Club Scholarships for upcoming college freshman students' 2017-2018 school year.

Please contact your high school or early college guidance office for a copy of this application or call 704-694-3618 to obtain a copy. The deadline for submission is Friday, March 24, 2017, delivered to your guidance office.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) Emergency Food Pantry will distribute free food products this Saturday, March 25 at 10 a.m. These foods are provided by the NC Department of Agriculture through the Second Harvest Food Bank of MetroLina. Families will be served until the food runs out - first come, first served.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for each individual's eligibility and food items will only be available to Ansonians who qualify. Individuals who have not registered before nor received food from the BRLC Emergency Food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. A neighbor who does not have the necessary documentations will not be served. Families that receive food stamp assistance automatically qualify. Each family will only be provided these commodities this month. Parents are asked not to bring small children. Neighbors, please park in parking lot behind center.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8182 for information. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

Free Movie is *Singing with Angels*

Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie for Monday, March 27 at 10 a.m. in the Little Theatre. It is *Singing with Angels*. This is a powerful movie that will lift your spirits to new heights. Join Aubrey as her life is touched by the hope of a sick child, a desperate man rescued by the power of music, and her own journey through joys and challenges to discover she is never alone. The movie stars Sarah Kent, Scott Christopher and Anne Seward and features the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this beautiful story. For more information call 704-694-5177.

Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo games are held every third Tuesday of the month at Grace Senior Center at 1 p.m. All seniors are invited to attend for fun and fellowship. There is not cost, but you must be 55 or older to play. For more information or to register to play call the center at 704-694-6616.

Wadesboro Town Council Special Meeting is Today

A special meeting of the Town of Wadesboro Town Council has been set for today, Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. for the discussion, updates, and/or possible approval of the following items:

- Health Care Insurance
- Resolution for State Health Care Plan

The meeting will be held in the Town of Wadesboro conference room.

Board of Elections Meets this Evening

The Anson County Board of Elections has a meeting tonight at 5 p.m. in the office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

The scheduled agenda for the meeting is:

- Approval of minutes
- Executive Session - Personnel: North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

For more information call Director of Elections Steve Adams at 704-994-3223.

PPES Blood Drive is Today

The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood.

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School is holding a Blood Drive today, Wednesday, March 22, from 2 to 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Everyone is welcome to donate, please bring your ID.

The PPES homeroom with the greatest participation will win a pizza party!

For more information contact Amanda Drake at 704-272-8061 or Drake.Amanda@anson.k12.nc.us. Also, you can learn more about the American Red Cross at 800-RED CROSS or redcrossblood.org.

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