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

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Dropped in February

Anson County's unemployment rate for January was 5.3%, but retreated down to 4.8% for February. Statewide the unemployment rate was 4.5% in January, dropping to 4.2% in February.

Anson's total labor force in February was 10,530. Of that number 10,029 were employed and 501 were unemployed. In January the total labor force was 10,406 with 9,858 employed and 548 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 99 of North Carolina's counties in February and increased in one. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 12.5 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.2 percent.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 5.5% had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.4 percent. The February not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.2 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 96 counties, increased in three, and remained unchanged in one. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in February by 58,761 to 4,825,338, while those unemployed decreased 14,280 to 211,243. Since February 2018, the number of workers employed statewide increased 68,468, while those unemployed decreased 6,615.

Former Anson Deputy David Scott Burroughs Charged in Revenge Plot

On Friday, April 5 former Anson County Sheriff's Office deputy David Scott Burroughs, 29, was arrested and accused of planting drugs in another man's vehicle as revenge for dating his ex-girlfriend. The incident took place in March 2018, when, according to Sheriff Landric Reid, Burroughs, who was a deputy at the time, purchased heroin and methamphetamine, planted the drugs into the man's vehicle, then told fellow officers that there were tips from the public about the man dealing drugs from his car. Sheriff Reid stated, "This was a revenge case where Burroughs planted drugs into a male's car. The male was dating Burroughs' ex. Burroughs wanted revenge, and he wanted his ex-girlfriend back. It started on a Sunday afternoon. By Wednesday when we made the stop, drugs were at the same place in the car as indicated by the 'tips' on Sunday. That was a red flag because anyone selling drugs wouldn't have them Sunday to Wednesday in the same place."

According to Reid, the victim's father called with concerns about the allegations against his son. The sheriff fired Burroughs after his deputies investigated the case last year. The NC State Bureau of Investigation was brought into the investigation, and that led to the arrest of Burroughs last week.

Burroughs was charged with Possession With Intent To Manufacture, Sell And Deliver Heroin, Possession With Intent To Manufacture, Sell And Deliver Marijuana and Possession of Methamphetamine. He was placed into the Anson County Jail with an \$800,000 bond, and court date of April 16. He was released on bond on Monday, April 8. Sheriff Reid said, "I am grateful our detectives were able to uncover the alleged scheme before anyone's life was ruined."

State Highway Patrol Announces 2019 Operation Drive To Live

In anticipation of spring break and prom season, the State Highway Patrol is once again conducting Operation Drive to Live, an annual campaign to reduce collisions involving teen drivers. Beginning Monday, April 8 through Friday, April 12, troopers will step up their enforcement in and around school zones between 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

In 2018 the Highway Patrol investigated over 55,261 motor vehicle collisions involving drivers and passengers who were between the ages of 15 - 19. Of those collisions, 10,287 injuries were reported and 94 resulted in one or more fatalities. According to National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, young drivers are significantly over-represented in fatal crashes, particularly those who are 16 to 19-year-olds. Immaturity and inexperience are primary factors contributing to fatal crashes by young drivers, especially during the first six months of driving.

This year, SHP is focusing on distracted driving, one of the leading causes of teen-related crashes. Cell phones, passengers and other electronic devices are just some of the distractions that can lead to needless collisions involving injury or death.

With this in mind, the Patrol has partnered with the Johnston County (JoCo) Teen Drivers Club, to produce PSAs on the dangers associated with distracted driving. The PSAs will be featured throughout the week on the Patrol's Facebook page in hopes of combating distracted driving collisions.

Youth & Vaping 101 Workshop

A Youth and Vaping 101 Workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 16. It will take place at the Anson County Cooperative Extension Center, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Travis Greer, Youth Prevention Coordinator with Cumberland County Department of Public Health, will be the guest speaker. Greer will cover these topics:

- Explain the current public health impacts associated with vaping.
- Interpret the latest data and statistics related to vaping.
- Recognize the numerous types of vaping devices and flavors.
- Understand and utilize reliable resources, and promising practice programs in youth tobacco education and prevention.
- Develop new and/or foster current partnerships to expand reach and engagement in educating youth about the public health impact of new and emerging tobacco products

Resources and lunch will be provided free of charge. Space is limited, so please register by this Friday, April 12. Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995 or by email at connectionsfp@gmail.com for more information and to register.



Sandy Pines Chapter Top Teens of America Chartering/Induction

This is a release from TLOD: The members of Sandy Pines North Carolina Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) are honored to announce the chartering and induction of thirteen teens to the Sandy Pines North Carolina Chapter of Top Teens of America (TTA) on Sunday, March 3 at the Henderson Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Lilesville. Members of the Sandy Pines TLOD sponsored the thirteen teens.

The Sandy Pines teens are the latest group to attain membership in Area IV which comprises North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and the island of Jamaica. The Chapter will service the Sandhill Region.

The following teens were inducted: Nevaeh Barnes, Christopher Blackwell, Janae Blackwell, Jacequeline Cherry, Mallory Cox, Syndee Davis, Chenoa Gaddy, Wykeria Little, Kaylen Madden, MaKayla Marshall, Alexis Smith-McCoy, Courtney Sturdivant, II and Owenn Taylor.

Numerous individuals supported the new teens including Carmen Casasola, Sandy Pines President; Fannie Ratliff, TTA Advisor; OnJerya Smith, Assistant Advisor; Teresa A. Smith, Chapter Organizer; and Ladies of Sandy Pine TLOD; Barbara Stowe, Area IV TTA Advisor; Krista Hinson, Area IV TTA Assistant Advisor; Ashley Campbell, National TTA 2nd Vice President; Demetria Hudson, Area IV TTA President; National TTA Financial Secretary; Jamarre Cook, Area IV TTA Recording Secretary; Jordynn Foster, Area IV TTA Assistant Recording Secretary; Michaela Gathings; and other TLOD and TTA officials and members from the Queen City, Raleigh, Wendell and Winston Salem Chapters.

A host of other community members and families were present to support this most worthy group of teens. A special thanks to Wizpro Imagineering for taking photos to capture this amazing event.

For more information please contact Fannie Ratliff or OnJerya Smith at sandypinestopteens@gmail.com.

Music, Free Clothing, Shoes and Groceries this Saturday

This is a release from Leon Gatewood of HOLLA!: Kingdom Citizens OutREACH invites Morven, the entire Anson County Community, friends and families to a day of fellowship, music and words of inspiration. This amazing event will take place this Saturday, April 13 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the park located at 301 East Main Street in Morven.

"We will be giving away free clothing, shoes, groceries and more," said Wayne Marsh. "Our love for the Lord Jesus is the reason we reach out to so many communities with this ministry," added Debra Marsh. The group will be prepared to serve 1,000 people.

According to the organizers, "everyone is encouraged to come out to partake of the many blessings offered by this ministry, with the greatest being the love of Jesus." In the event of bad weather the event will be rescheduled to a later date.

For more information contact Wayne and Debra Marsh at 704-289-1708, Mark Leak at 704-200-1984 or the HOLLA! Center at 704-851-3144.

Book Club Meeting to Feature Writer's Club Winners

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the Brown Bag Book Club meeting for Monday, April 15 in the Pritchett Room at 12:00 noon. The Anson County Writer's Club winners in the adult division will be the guests. Kaye Ratliff won 1st Place in adult poetry and Charles Kaska 1st Place in adult prose. They will be sharing their winning entries as well as other readings. Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and enjoy the program. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Anson County Partnership for Children and Anson County Domestic Violence will present a "Pinwheels for Prevention" Pinwheel Garden for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The pinwheels (pictured below) will be displayed in front of the courthouse the week of April 8th. The garden of pinwheels symbolizes childhood happiness and are a physical reminder of the bright futures all children deserve.

"The pinwheel garden serves as a reminder that we are all responsible when it comes to the healthy childhood development of our communities' children," said Caroline Goins, Executive Director of the Anson County Partnership for Children.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is spreading the message that everyone can invest in children and families to give children the safe, stable, nurturing environments and relationships they need to thrive.

"North Carolinians are already involved in activities that prevent child abuse and neglect, they just don't realize it," said Sharon Hirsch, President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina. "We are working to educate the public about how they are already helping to prevent child abuse, as well as offering some positive ideas about how we all can help children and families thrive." A study commissioned by Prevent Child Abuse America shows that only 27% of Americans report that they are engaged in prevention. However, that same study showed that:

- 80% of Americans reported donating goods, money or time to an organization supporting children and families, and
- 70% reported volunteering to work with children through places of worship, schools, and sports or academic clubs

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, Anson County Partnership for Children and Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition are encouraging North Carolina residents to learn more about how three specific actions - mentoring children and parents, advocating for family-friendly policies, and donating time and money - relate to child abuse prevention. For more information, contact the Anson County Partnership for Children at 704-694-4036 or visit www.preventchildabusenc.org.



Autism Presentation Open to the Public is Today

Anson County Schools Exceptional Children's Department has an opportunity to collaborate with the Autism Society of North Carolina - Charlotte Office. Ms. Nancy Nestor, an Autism Resource Specialist will be available to share a variety of information including characteristics of Autism, strategies to help, common therapies, and where to go for help.

"Ms. Nestor has a Master's Degree in Special Education and is very knowledgeable in the area of Autism," said Janice Bennett, Transition Coordinator with Anson Schools. "We are delighted to have her as our guest speaker."

This workshop is free. A question and answer session will take place afterwards.

The workshop takes place today, Wednesday, April 10, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Wadesboro Elementary School, Room 113. Refreshments will be served.

Ansonville Historical Society Spaghetti Supper is Saturday

The Ansonville Historical Society is sponsoring its annual Spaghetti Supper at the Ansonville Fire Department this Saturday, April 13, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The \$10 plates will include spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and a drink. Carry outs are available.

Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For information call 704-694-3516.