

THE EXPRESS

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

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Was 6.3% in February

Anson County's unemployment rate for February was 6.3 percent. In January the rate was 6.5 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate for February was 5.7 percent.

Anson's total labor force in February was 10,951. Of that number 10,266 were employed and 685 were unemployed. In January the total labor force was 10,908, with 10,196 employed and 712 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 89 of North Carolina's counties in February, increased in five, and remained unchanged in six.

Graham County and Hyde County both had the highest unemployment rate at 14.2 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 4.2 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 8.1 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville and Raleigh both had the lowest rate at 4.6 percent. The February not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 5.7 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 95 counties and increased in five. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in February by 47,142 to 4,412,037, while those unemployed decreased 6,783 to 264,689. Since February 2014, the number of workers employed statewide increased 98,117, while those unemployed decreased 54,895.

Board of Education Budget Workshop

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a Budget Workshop this Thursday, April 16 at 3:30 p.m. in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center.

D. G. Martin to Speak at Carolinas Writers Conference this Saturday

D. G. Martin, host of "North Carolina Bookwatch" will be the keynote speaker at the seventh annual Carolinas Writers Conference, to be held on Saturday, April 18 at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. His topic will be "Looking Back at North Carolina Bookwatch: What I have learned from conversations with more than 250 Carolina authors."

Martin is a graduate of Davidson College and Yale Law School and is a former Green Beret. He practiced law for 20 years before joining the University of North Carolina as Vice President for Public Affairs. Now retired, he writes a weekly newspaper column and has written numerous book reviews and feature articles for newspapers, journals, and magazines.

Scheduled workshop presenters for the conference are Joseph Bathanti, N.C. Poet Laureate 2012-2014, "Where You Live: Writing about Yourself and Your Family;" storyteller Martha Reed Johnson, "From Page to Performance;" novelist and poet Ruth Moose, "Flash Fiction;" strategist Susan Sloate, "Screenwriter's Tricks for Killer Novel Structure" (morning) and "Marketing on Amazon" (afternoon); and L. Diane Wolfe, owner of Dancing Lemur Press, "Publishing and Printing 101" (morning) and "Publishing and Promoting 102" (afternoon). Sloate will hear pitches in the afternoon.

A complete description of workshop topics, workshop leader bios, and a schedule can be found at www.carolinawritersconference.org.

Cost for the conference is \$25 with pre-registration and \$30 at the door. A catered lunch is included in the fee. The deadline for registration is April 10. A limited number of lunches will be available for walk-ins, but it is strongly urged that participants register early by using Paypal on the web page; sending a check or money order made out to Anson County Writers Club, PO Box 363, Wadesboro NC 28170; emailing info@ansoncountywritersclub.org; or by calling Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211.

For those who would like to attend Martin's lunchtime address only, the cost is \$15. Registration is the same as for the workshops.

The Carolinas Writers' Conference is sponsored by the Anson County Writers' Club, Uwharrie Bank, Anson County Arts Council and Ansonia Theatre, Anson County Tourism Development Authority, and South Piedmont Community College. For more information email ansoncountywritersclub.org.

This is National Library Week

Hampton B. Allen Library is celebrating

April 12 through 18 is National Library Week. At Hampton B. Allen Library they are celebrating in several ways. If you come into the library this week and (1) read a book, or (2) bring in a "lost" book, or (3) color a picture, or (4) use a computer, or (5) use the Card Catalog, or (6) send a FAX, or (7) make a copy ... you will receive prizes!

Also, your fines will be waived for late and lost books returned through April 18, 2015 (only).

If you have any questions or need more information call the library at 704-694-5177.

Tractor Supply Paper Clover Fundraiser Supports Anson 4-H

Starting Wednesday, April 22 and running through Sunday, May 3, Tractor Supply in Wadesboro is partnering with the National 4-H Council to offer a Spring Paper Clover Promotion to help support local 4-H programs in counties that have these stores. Individuals have the choice of adding \$1 at checkout. Proceeds will come to the local 4-H program that will have cover cost for trips, summer day camps, conferences and volunteer trainings.

"Anson County is truly grateful to have a Tractor Supply in the county because there are only 31 in the state of North Carolina," said Roshunda Terry of Anson 4-H. "So if you have not already done so, please go down to the store, make a donation or purchase one or ten clovers. Last year in 48 states \$1.5 million was raised through this promotion to support 4-H across the country. Remember, the proceeds are going to a great program that supports great youth and adults right here in Anson County! Hope to see you there!"



Week of the Young Child Parade was Held Tuesday

Over 500 Anson County Pre-K and Kindergarten children "steam shoveled" their way through the drizzle and rain for the Week of the Young Child Parade, which was held yesterday (Tuesday) in uptown Wadesboro. The parade theme was "Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel."

The Anson County Partnership for Children sponsored the festivities. Dr. Holly Kiker of Anson Family Optometric along with the Anson County Arts Council partnered with the Partnership for Children to provide a fun-filled day for Anson County's young children, including books for each participant and a theatrical production of *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* at the Ansonia Theatre.

Everyone loves a parade, but especially young children. It was a great day to be a child in Anson County! Story & photos by Melanie Lyon



Back Porch Stories is Old-Time Fun Friday

Back Porch Stories, featuring three North Carolina storytellers, will present an evening of old fashioned, family-friendly fun at the Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro. The program begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 17. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Anson County Arts Council, Lacy's, and at the box office the night of the program.

Two storytellers appeared at Back Porch Stories in 2013 and are back by popular demand. Michael Reno Harrell, the featured presenter, is an award-winning songwriter, storyteller, and published author. His combination of music and storytelling are based in experience, sometimes downright funny, sometimes just plain scary, maybe even with a message worth taking away, but always mesmerizing and entertaining.

Martha Reed Johnson is a master at finding, creating and telling amazing stories from ordinary moments. According to her parents, she has been telling tales from the time she could talk. Martha's stories will leave you laughing and wanting more.

New this year is J. A. Bolton. Bolton started telling stories at a young age when the fellas at the local store would buy him a drink and candy bar to tell a story. Since then he's gone on to tell some pretty tall tales that include huntin', fishin', and workin' on the farm.

Back Porch Stories is sponsored by the Anson County Writers' Club, the Anson County Arts Council, the Anson County Tourism Development Authority and Uwharrie Bank. For more information call 704-693-5211.

Healthy Living and Eating Class

Pathway to Peace Ministries presents ANEW-START, healthy living seminar and cooking class on Sunday, April 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. Learn how to cook plant-based foods that will heal you. Learn how to lose weight, have more energy, reduce cholesterol, reverse diabetes, lower blood pressure, and much more.

Interested? Come! Seminar and cooking class is FREE! It will be held at 11775 Highway 109 South in Peachland. For more information call 704-695-1441.