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



Family members gather around a sign to be installed on U.S. Highway 74 over Lanes Creek in Peachland to honor the late Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid, who died in September 2022.

County Offices Are Closed Monday

All Anson County offices will be closed this coming Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day. Emergency services and law enforcement will be in full operation.

Healthy Aging Expo is Thursday

The Anson County Council on Aging Grace Senior Center invites all seniors to celebrate at the Healthy Aging Expo on Thursday, May 23. The event takes place at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. For more information call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

Co-sponsors are Sandhills/Daymark, Anson County Department of Social Services, the NC Department of Insurance Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), Atrium Health Anson and Goshen Medical Center.

Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" Kickoff is a Reminder to Buckle Up

Wearing a seat belt every time you ride in a vehicle can save your life. That was the message transportation and military officials trumpeted during last Friday's launch of the 2024 Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" campaign.

"You should always wear your seat belt, whether you're taking a long road trip or just running an errand," said Mark Ezzell, director of the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program, part of the N.C. Department of Transportation. "The risks are far too great not to buckle up. We see the evidence of this every day in North Carolina." The Click It or Ticket campaign runs May 20 to June 2 and includes public outreach to encourage seat belt usage and seat belt checkpoints in all 100 North Carolina counties. "It's easy to forget, even if you're a soldier, that one of the most dangerous things any of us do is ride in a vehicle," said Brian K. Hook, chief of the Fort Liberty Law Enforcement Department of Army Civilian Police. "That's why it's so important for soldiers and civilians to always buckle up anytime you're driving or riding in a car or truck."

The number of fatal crashes involving people not wearing a seat belt increased five out of the six years between 2017 and 2022, according to the North Carolina 2022 Traffic Crash Facts report. In 2022, 562 people not wearing a seat belt were killed in crashes statewide, compared to 417 unbelted fatalities in 2017. Each of those years, unbelted fatalities constituted more than 40% of all crash fatalities.

"This is a great reminder of just how important it is for all of us to wear a seat belt," said Douglas M. Taggart, interagency coordinator for Military Affairs at the N.C. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. "We want everyone to enjoy the Memorial Day holiday. So please if you're going to be traveling anywhere, be sure to buckle up."

Click It or Ticket, which started 31 years ago, is now one of the most well-coordinated efforts of its kind in the nation and nearly every law enforcement agency in North Carolina participates.

North Carolina's April Employment

The state's seasonally adjusted April 2024 unemployment rate was 3.5%, unchanged from March's revised rate. The national rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.9%.

North Carolina's unemployment rate increased 0.2 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 1,200 over the month to 5,075,803 and increased 28,573 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 1,202 over the month to 186,723 and increased 14,527 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 10,200 to 4,987,900 in April. Major industries experiencing increases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 2,700; Government, 2,000; Financial Activities, 1,700; Professional & Business Services, 1,700; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,500; Construction, 900; Education & Health Services, 300; and Other Services, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 700; and Information, 100. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Since April 2023, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 61,400 with the Total Private sector increasing by 46,000 and Government increasing by 15,400. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 20,100; Government, 15,400; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 13,800; Construction, 9,800; Financial Activities, 7,300; Other Services, 4,200; Professional & Business Services, 2,300; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Manufacturing, 5,500; Information, 3,700; and Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 2,400.

Highway 74 Bridge Peachland Named in Honor of Sheriff Landric Reid

The bridges crossing Lanes Creek on U.S. Highway 74 near the Anson County community of Peachland were dedicated on Thursday, May 16 in honor of Sheriff Landric Reid, an eight-year veteran of the Anson County Sheriff's Office.

The N.C. Board of Transportation passed a resolution in January to dedicate the bridges for Reid, who died in September 2022. Local NCDOT staff joined family members and officials from the Anson County Sheriff's Office, N.C. Sheriff's Association, and the N.C. State Highway Patrol at the ceremony.

"I can truly say that my brother loved serving the citizens of Anson County," said Reid's sister Daphne Grier during the ceremony at South Piedmont Community College in Polkton. "He made sure everyone was taken care of, from the children to the elderly here in Anson County. He was devoted to his job and everything he committed himself to do."

Born and raised in Cabarrus County, Reid joined the U.S. Army after high school, receiving an honorable discharge in 1988. He went on to join the National Guard, then served 23 years with the N.C. State Highway Patrol before becoming Anson County Sheriff in 2014.

"I well know that these dedications could not happen without the work and assistance from so many dedicated individuals," said Colonel Freddy L. Johnson, Jr. of the N.C. State Highway Patrol. "From all a part of this NCDOT division to the NCDOT Board, support needed to continue this important program starts with our friends at DOT, and I want to thank you for your efforts in making this dedication happen."

Active in his community, Reid served on the Executive Board for Anson County Toys for Tots and was the founder and coordinator of the Stride with Pride Shoe Drive. He also co-founded the Shaundasia T. Smith Foundation which distributes food and backpacks to high school students in the county, and awards scholarships to high school seniors in the county.

Executive Vice President of the N.C. Sheriff's Association Edmond W. Caldwell, Jr. summarized Reid's work ethic. "Every organization like the N.C. Sheriff's Association has folks who are show horses, but they're not the ones that get the work done. The folks in the organization that get the work done are the quiet leaders who are working behind the scenes. And that is what Sheriff Landric Reid was in the North Carolina Sheriff's Association."

Summer Meals for Kids and Teens to be Provided by School Nutrition Service

This is a release from the Anson County School System: As part of its efforts to ensure kids have access to healthy meals during the summer months, School Nutrition Services-Anson County Schools is pleased to announce its summer meals site will be serving kids and teens. Starting on July 9, 2024, all kids and teens 18 and under can receive meals free of charge.

Please complete the Multi-Day meal survey (Google document) before June 21, 2024. It is available at ansonschools.org and on the Anson County Schools' Facebook.

Meals to-go (non-congregate meals) Multi-Day unutilized meals will be available on Tuesdays beginning July 9, 16, 23, and 30. The drive-thru will begin at 7:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Parents and caregivers may pick up meals on behalf of their children, please complete the Google document referenced above.

For kids who rely on school meals, summer can be the hungriest time of year, and hunger has short- and long-term consequences for a child's health, education, and well-being. Making sure kids and teens have access to nutritious summer meals is especially important this summer.

The Summer Meals program is funded by the USDA and run by school districts and local organizations, and sites can be found throughout the community.

We're always happy to see you at the Anson High School Summer Meal Drive-Thru, but there may be more convenient locations closer to you. Families can text "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 304-304 and type in a zip code to find nearby summer meal sites, along with operating days and times.

No application, registration or proof of residency or citizenship is required at sites.

Message from Chamber of Commerce President Sandy Cox

As I reflect on my first sixty days at the Chamber, I'd like to reflect on a few key memories. Those include attending Chamber board meetings, Economic development meetings, Tourism meetings and a lunch and a tour at Atrium Health Anson. I visited many areas of the county with Leadership Anson and saw firsthand, Wadesboro Primary and the dedication the staff have to their students. Watched Anson High School students building a tiny home and Anson Early College students shared their education journey. I witnessed food being distributed to those in need at Anson Crisis Ministry and experienced a small, but true Anson County gesture when a stranger (Diane) offered me her glasses, allowing me to witness the solar eclipse.

I lived most of my life in Mecklenburg County and as I watched the news of the funerals last week of those heroes in blue; it gave me chills when I saw the Wadesboro police standing in Charlotte to show their respect. When the Rotary hosted their blood drive last month, I sat on the bus with many others and donated blood for those that needed it. I knocked on your door, called, emailed and texted asking for support of our Fifth Annual Clays for Commerce, and you answered the call. We had a very successful day. I am excited to share we have added five new Chamber members during this time, and I want to thank you for your membership.

There is a song by Jackie DeShannon, "Think of your fellow man, lend him a helping hand, put a little love in your heart, and the world will be a better place." I tend to think of Anson County when I hear that song. You all certainly lend a hand and have love in your heart.

Thank you for the warm welcome and support. I look forward to continuing the journey of meeting the fine folks of Anson County.

Farmers' Market Opens for the Season this Saturday

The Anson County Farmers' Market opens for the season this Saturday, May 25. It will be open every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through Saturday, September 28. The Farmers' Market is located at 1736 US-52 South in Wadesboro, beside Cobb Vantress.

The market offers local farm fresh produce, meats and eggs as well as baked goods, crafts and art.

For more information about the market and how to be a part of it, contact Leslie Lee at 704-695-4415, ansonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com, or message through the Facebook page, Anson County Farmer's Market.

Anson County Beekeepers Meet Thursday

The Anson Beekeepers will hold their regular bee meeting on Thursday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The guest speaker is Makaila Smith, USDA Program Director with the Farm Service Agency. She will give a presentation on opportunities and programs for beekeepers in our state.

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. There will be no meal during the meeting.

Not a member but would like to learn more about the local chapter, beekeeping educational programs, or need a beekeeper to re-home a visiting swarm? Visit the "Anson County Beekeepers Association" Facebook page for more information.

Animal Shelter Free Vaccine and Microchip Clinic

The Anson Animal Shelter will host a clinic offering free vaccines and microchips for your pet on this Saturday, May 25, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at their location. The address is 7257 US 74 in Polkton, at the entrance to the Field of Dreams.

Pre-registration is required at: forms.gle/ZbCcFRodQUETFGJ9.

Please remain in your vehicle with your pets.

For more information you can email Animal Shelter Director Maureen Lett at mlett@ansoncountync.gov.