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

Anson County's March

Unemployment Rate Dropped to 4.8%

Anson County's unemployment rate for March was 4.8%, lower than February's 5.2% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate was 4.3% in March.

Anson's total labor force in March was 10,677. Of that number 10,162 were employed and 515 were unemployed. In February the total labor force was 10,520 with 9,975 employed and 545 unemployed. March was the first time Anson County has had over 10,000 people employed since October 2017.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased all 100 of North Carolina's counties in March. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 12.7%, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.3%. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 6.3 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.5 percent. The March not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.3 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 76 counties, increased in 17, and remained unchanged in seven. 13 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and two remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 29,951 to 4,780,438, while those unemployed decreased 11,315 to 215,431. Since March 2017, the number of workers employed statewide increased 68,826, while those unemployed decreased 6,419.

Water Line Break Shuts Down Highway 74 West in Anson County

A 12-inch water line ruptured along the shoulder of Highway 74 West near Old Prison Camp Road, east of Polkton, shutting down both westbound lanes for much of the day on Thursday, May 17. A detour was put in place for motorists along Boggan Cut Road, Highway 742 North and Ansonville-Polkton Road.

The closure allowed crews can repair the damaged water line and replace the pavement that was torn out for the repair.

DOT Grants Approved for Fencing at Anson Airport

The N.C. Board of Transportation has approved state and federal funds for much-needed improvements to 19 North Carolina airports. Anson County received \$37,000 for new perimeter fencing around the terminal area. The \$10.2 million in funding will be used to provide improvements such as better lighting, longer runways and repairs to hangars and terminal buildings.

North Carolina airports serve as a vital economic engine connecting people and business enterprises with the world. For example, the funds will improve safety and customer service at the Edenton airport, says Harry Davis, manager of Edenton's Northeastern Regional Airport.

"Right now, we're having to use a fuel truck to fill up these aircraft," Davis said. "Once we get this new pavement in, aircraft will be able to pull right up to the fueling area. This is much safer and more convenient for the pilots that come through here."

Airports and aviation-related industries contribute \$31 billion to North Carolina's economy each year, according to a 2016 report. There are 123,400 airport-related jobs in the state. The Division of Aviation is responsible for state airport and aviation system planning and development, and provides funding to communities for constructing and improving airports throughout the state.

The funds awarded do not in all cases represent the total cost of the project.

'On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive' Campaign This Weekend

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, State Highway Patrol and Mothers Against Drunk Driving will kick off the eighth annual "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign this Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27. The multi-agency safety initiative works to reduce alcohol-related accidents on the state's roadways and waterways, both of which see increased traffic during summer months.

"It's easy to prevent alcohol-related accidents on the road and the water," said Maj. Chris Huebner of the Wildlife Resources Commission. "If your holidays include drinking alcohol, make sure to designate a driver whether you're in a car or on a vessel."

Starting Memorial Day weekend, enforcement officers will be conducting sobriety checkpoints and promoting public awareness to deter impaired operation of vehicles and vessels. Awareness and enforcement efforts are centered on four of the busiest summer weekends, including:

- May 26-28
- June 29-July 1 (Operation Dry Water)
- July 6-8
- September 1-3

In North Carolina a driver or vessel operator with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08, or is substantially impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, is subject to arrest.

The campaign is coordinated by the Wildlife Resources Commission and the State Highway Patrol, and supported by local police and sheriff's offices, along with participating non-governmental organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

For more information on boating safety and regulations, visit www.ncwildlife.org/boating or call 919-707-0031.

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Computer Skills Classes

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center offers computer skills classes for all ages. Classes are tailored for beginners or intermediate students.

If you are interested please contact BRLC to register. They are located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.



First place winners of the tournament were David Kiser Team (David Kiser, David Parker, Bryson Stinson and Matt Karwiec).

Ball Drop" was David Parker. Longest Putt went to Phillip Bradford in the morning and Johnny Martin in the afternoon. Longest Drive went to Matt Karwiec for the morning and Chad Drye for the afternoon. Closest to the Pin was Neal Conklin for the morning and Jacob Thomas for the afternoon. This year's raffle winners were Darian Davis for the grill and the Google Home Mini's went to Issac Pineda and Marty Godwin. The Taylormade M2 Driver was won by Daryl Poe.

"Congratulations to all of the winners! Thank you all so very much for the support to continually make this event the success that it is," Emrich said.



Second place - Wadesboro Tire & Automotive (Joe Hendrick, Jay Vernon, Johnny Martin and Ronald Diggs).



Third place winners were B&B Pest Control (Barry James, Alan Hildreth, Daryl Poe and Fred Sparger).

Another Great Chamber Open Held May 18th

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce held its 18th annual "Chamber Open" on Friday, May 18 at Twin Valley Golf Club. With teams booked and many volunteers lined up, everyone was prepared for a great tournament. Players had their choice of an 8:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. tee time. The rain held off most of the day providing golfers with decent weather.

The Anson County Chamber Open would not be as successful as it is without the support of the sponsors, volunteers and especially the golfers. Shelby Emrich, Chamber President and CEO, thanked all of those who sponsored or donated to this year's tournament. Emrich went on to say that without the wonderful volunteers this event would not be as successful, and she appreciated each one of them.

The winner of the Split-the-Pot was Wesley Horne. The winner of the "Golf

Anson Businesses Presented with Safety Awards

NC Department of Labor recognizes Anson County businesses

The N.C. Department of Labor honored area employers and employees at the agency's annual safety awards banquet in Wadesboro on Monday, May 21.

"It's really an honor for me to travel throughout the state and recognize these employers who are making a commitment to their employees' safety and health," Commissioner Berry said. "Over the past 17 years, North Carolina has experienced a declining injury and illness rate, which now rests at an all-time low 2.5 per 100 full-time workers for private industry. These employers continue to make North Carolina workplaces some of the safest in the country."

The awards honor outstanding on-the-job safety achievements of each recipient during 2017. Recipients are located in Charlotte, Cleveland, Cordova, Greensboro, Hamlet, Lilesville, Peachland, Polkton, Rockingham, Troy and Wadesboro.

Commissioner Berry was the keynote speaker at the banquet and presented the awards. The event, co-sponsored by the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, was held at Oliver's Restaurant in uptown Wadesboro.

The local recipients met the stringent requirements necessary to receive a safety award. Recipients from Anson County included"

Silver Awards. Rate of days away from work must be at least 50 percent below the industry average.

• First Year: Allen's Professional Investigations Inc. and Cobb-Vantress Inc., NC Production

Gold Awards. Rate of days away from work, job transfer or restriction must be at least 50 percent below the industry average.

• First Year: Carolinas Healthcare System-Anson, Cobb-Vantress Inc., Wadesboro Hatchery, Columbus McKinnon Corp., Wadesboro Operations, Pee Dee Electric Membership Corp.

• Second Consecutive Year: Lynn Thomas Grading Inc.

• Twentieth Consecutive Year: Hildreth Wood Products Inc.

Under program rules, companies must have been free of fatal accidents at the site for which the award is given to be eligible. The gold award criteria are based on a DART rate that is at least 50 percent below the statewide rate for its industry. The rate includes cases of days away from work, restricted activity or job transfer. The silver award is based only on cases with days away from work. They are recorded when the worker misses at least one full day of work, not including the day of the injury. The applicant must attain an incidence rate for cases with days away from work that is at least 50 percent below the rate for its industry.

More information on the Labor Department's Safety Awards Program is available by calling 919-807-2908 or emailing Eursula Joyner at eursula.joyner@labor.nc.gov.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families

Free USDA foods will be distributed today, Wednesday, May 23 and Saturday, May 26, from 9 to 11 a.m., or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution Division provide these food items through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for individual's eligibility. The food items will only be available to Ansonians. Individuals who have not registered or received food before from the BRLC Emergency food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. Those families who receive food stamp assistance will automatically qualify. Parents are asked not to bring children due to limited seating space. Neighbors are asked to please park in parking lot behind center.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

Free Movie is A Question of Faith

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the free movie for Tuesday, May 29 (please note date change) at 10:00 a.m. in the Little Theatre. It is *A Question of Faith*. A judge remands Maria to a juvenile detention center after the teen strikes 12-year-old Eric with her car while texting. Joining Eric in the hospital is Michelle, a young singer who collapses while auditioning for a major record label. As their respective parents begin to question their faith, a chain of events unknowingly brings all three families together in unexpected ways. The movie stars Richard T. Jones, C. Thomas Howell, TC Stallings and Renee O'Connor. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this incredible movie!

For more information call 704-694-5177.

Bearcats Spring Game 2018 is this Friday

The Anson High School Bearcats Spring Game will be held on at 6 p.m. this Friday, May 25 at the Anson High School Stadium. Everyone is invited to come, and the admission is free. There will be games for kids, contests, gift cards, Anson gear, and more! Meet the team! Players will provide autographs for all children. Concessions will be sold, with proceeds used to support Bearcat football.

This event is sponsored in part by Harvest Ministries Outreach Center. For more information call Coach Ralph Jackson at 704-244-9947 or Pastor Steve Adams at 704-695-2879.

Flag Disposal Ceremony to be Held Saturday

The Anson County Veterans Council will host a ceremony to demonstrate the proper disposal of the American Flag. The event will take place at Wadesboro City Park this Saturday, May 26 at 4 p.m.

The public is invited to attend. If you have a flag you need to dispose of you are welcome to bring it. This is also an opportunity for those who have not yet seen the Veterans Memorial at Wadesboro City Park.

Hot dogs will be served after the ceremony. You will not want to miss this event.

For information call Brenda Parker at 704-694-6770.

Zimmer Friends Get Together is Friday, June 1

The Zimmer Friends group will hold a get together on Friday, June 1 at Bojangles in Wadesboro, starting at 1 p.m. They invite all who are interested in attending and enjoying the fun.

For more information call Betty Huneycutt at 704-694-4213.