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

Anson Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.6% in April

Anson County's unemployment rate in April was 10.6%, down from March's 11% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate for April was 9.1%, March's rate was 9.6%. Looking back at April 2012, the rate then for Anson County was 11.8%. Gradually the trend is moving toward less unemployment.

Anson's total labor force in April was 10,884. Of that number 9,732 were employed and 1,152 were unemployed. In March the total labor force was 10,874, with 9,682 employed and 1,192 unemployed.

Unemployment rates fell in 93 of North Carolina's 100 counties in April, increased in three and remained the same in four. When compared to the same month last year, unemployment rates declined in 88 counties, increased in 11, and remained the same in one.

"Rates continued to drop in April," said N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll. "Looking at over-the-year numbers, most of North Carolina's counties have lower unemployment rates which is certainly positive. Throughout the state, our employment service offices assist those looking to find work with various programs and job search assistance. We are committed to both citizens and employers in getting North Carolinians back to work."

North Carolina had 32 counties that were at or below the state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.1 percent. For the second consecutive month, unemployment rates decreased in all 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Statewide the number of workers employed (not seasonally adjusted) increased in April by 14,542 to 4,212,226, while those unemployed decreased 24,714 to 421,197. Since April 2011, the number of workers unemployed decreased 42,802, while those employed increased 35,770.

Currituck County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in April at 5.3 percent, and Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 17.4 percent.

Three Thieves Busted by Sheriff's Office

Anson County Sheriff's Deputies have made several arrests in break-ins and larcenies. On Monday, May 21st at 10:56 a.m. deputies were responding to a possible breaking and entering when one officer met a vehicle matching the suspect vehicle. The vehicle was stopped and the two occupants of the vehicle were detained. Inside the vehicle, in addition to other items, officers found property that was later identified as stolen from Union County.

Charged with breaking and entering in Anson County and Possession of Stolen Property from Union County were: Rio Shonta Hilton, age 21, of Wingate and James Lee Robinson, age 19, of Rockwell, NC. Both subjects were placed in the Anson County Jail under \$25,000 bond. Deputies also found Robinson was on house arrest from Mecklenburg County and wearing an ankle monitor. Hilton is also wanted in South Carolina on pending charges.

On Tuesday, May 22nd officers were called to the southern part of the county where subjects were seen taking a four-wheeler from a residence. When the officers arrived a home owner had "detained" one of the suspects and deputies took him into custody. That four-wheeler was recovered along with one stolen from the same location the day before.

Deputies arrested Danzell Roger Flowers, age 19, of Rockingham. Flowers was charged with Larceny and Attempted Larceny and was in the Anson County Jail under \$25,500 bond.

Wadesboro Post Office Food Drive Collects 2,447 Pounds

In a release from Alyssa Ostrander, Food Drive Coordinator, Wadesboro Post Office: On Saturday, May 12 we had Wadesboro Post Office's second annual "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive. We collected 2,447 pounds of donated food from our Wadesboro postal customers. All food was donated to the Anson Crisis Ministry located on North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro.

We fell short of last year's collection, but are still very thankful to all who donated. We would like to thank our local businesses who donated food and drinks to feed the volunteers and carriers who helped with the food drive: Food Lion, Subway (in the Food Lion shopping center), Papa Joe's Pizza and Wendy's.



Alyssa Ostrander (left) with Anson Crisis Ministry staff.

Summer Jam is this Friday!

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. is pleased to announce the first band of the season, The Horizon Band, featuring Anson's very own Cletus Surratt, will take center stage this Friday, June 1, filling East Wade Street with popular country, southern rock, oldies, and beach music. Such a variety of music guarantees entertainment for everyone. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude at 10 p.m.

Local vendors will be there to provide food and snacks including hotdogs, popcorn, baked goods, and drinks. All proceeds will benefit local fundraising efforts. So, come hungry! Feel free to bring a lawn chair, beach towel or blanket for your family and enjoy the music. Also, there will be activities for children.

The Summer Jam concert series aims to provide fun, safe, and free entertainment right here in our community. With the help of local support from sponsors around Anson County, the concerts will be free to the public.

For more information contact the Uptown Wadesboro, Inc office at 704-695-1644.

Zimmer Friends Meet Friday

The Zimmer Friends will meet on Friday, June 1st at Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro at 6 p.m.

AMS Pee Dee Wildcats History Club Attends Competition



The Pee Dee Wildcats History Club of Anson Middle School traveled to the Tar Heel Junior Historian state history competition at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh on April 27. The club won in the historical documentary DVD category with the subject "Riverdale Plantation - The Enduring Legacy," and Brittany Henderson won First Place and Chrishaun Jones won Second Place in the state history quiz.

While there, club members Brittany Henderson, Jazmine Leak, Anna McGowan, Chrishaun Jones, Brandon Watson, Katie Taylor, Aiyanna Lowery and Jessica Wiersum attended workshops at the Museum. These workshops were on "Racing for Artifacts," "Woodblock Printmaking," "Analyzing 18th Century Objects," and "Blackbeard, Pirate of the Carolina Coast." They also ate a BBQ lunch at the Museum with over 100 other history clubs from across the state of North Carolina. The BBQ lunch at the state history competition is a fifty year tradition at the North Carolina Museum of History. Every year, either eastern BBQ or western BBQ is served to the statewide competitors.

The sponsor of the History Club is Ms. Leslie M. Rivers. Ms. Rivers was the January 2012 recipient of the T. Harry Gattou Award given by the Raleigh Civil War Round Table at the North Carolina Museum of History. This award is given to one person each year nationally who has made significant contributions to the study and research of the American Civil War. Ms. Rivers' research project has been Sherman's March through Anson County in March 1865. Past recipients of the award have been Ed Bearss, who appeared in the Ken Burns'

1989 PBS Civil War series, author of 20 books on the Civil War and is the current director of the National Park Service, and Mark Bradley, history professor at UNC-Chapel Hill and author of the book, The Battle of Bentonville.

Chaperones for the trip were Ken and Becky Goins. The History Club would not have been able to attend the state history competition without the generous funding from these organizations and individuals, The Little Foundation, the Woodmen of the World, Rotary Club, and Mrs. Lisa Davis.



Chrishaun Jones (left) and Brittany Henderson

150 years of USDA Still Benefitting Anson County Citizens!

On May 15, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding. When President Lincoln signed legislation establishing a Department of Agriculture, he declared its purpose should "acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture." Indeed, the "People's Department," as Lincoln nicknamed it, still greatly benefits every North Carolina and Anson County citizen!

150 years later, those benefits from USDA's contributions include agricultural research, fuel, economic development, natural resource conservation, and international trade. We take for granted reasonably priced food. And because agriculture is still half of what we do in North Carolina, we profit from agricultural exports, which continue to post significant trade surpluses. Jobs, some right here in Anson County, are fostered by the agribusiness community.

There's little debate that American agriculture maybe the most productive sector of the U.S. economy. Let's give much of that credit to the Anson County farmer and producers on that one! These agri-business professionals have adopted technology, effectively managed risk, and are the leading stewards of land and water.

And what will it take for USDA to continue this 150 year success streak? Continue becoming a more modern and effective service provider is one way. And, yes, USDA must always administer taxpayer funds prudently, much as Anson County households carefully manage their budgets.

On that subject, Secretary Tom Vilsack's Blueprint for Stronger Service aims at further building an already modern and efficient USDA into an organization that better responds to 21st century agricultural challenges. Blueprint speaks to how USDA continues to create jobs, support working families, strengthen rural communities, and builds on the success and productivity of America's farmers. I suspect Anson County farmers and ag producers will be on the front line, meeting the changing needs of North Carolina and America's agriculture.

Join the Anson County Farm Service Agency in celebrating USDA's 150th Anniversary!

Lock, Look, Learn About Water Safety

Safe Kids North Carolina offers tips to reduce child drownings

Safe Kids North Carolina, a statewide coalition housed in the North Carolina Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal, is reminding parents and caregivers about important safety tips in an effort to reduce child drownings, near-drownings and entrapments in swimming pools and spas. An estimated 400 children age 14 and younger drown in swimming pools and spas each year across the U.S. A Consumer Product Safety Commission study found that 2,000 children are treated annually in hospital emergency rooms for submersion injuries sustained in familiar surroundings, with a majority of those victims being supervised by one or both parents at the time of the accident.

"A fun day at the pool or spa can very quickly turn dangerous if we are not vigilant about water safety practices," said Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin, chair of Safe Kids North Carolina. "As parents and caregivers, we must take active responsibility for our children's safety in and around the water."

Safe Kids North Carolina reminds parents and caregivers to Lock, Look and Learn:

- **LOCK** - Homeowners should put up a fence that is at least 4-feet high around all sides of a pool or spa with a locking gate that closes and latches by itself. Homeowners should cover and lock pools and spas when they are not using them, and also remove or lock ladders to above-ground pools and spas when not in use.
- **LOOK** - Adults and caregivers must always watch children - whether the children know how to swim or not - when kids are in or near water without being distracted by phone calls, text messages, reading or talking to others. If a child is missing, look in the water first.
- **LEARN** - Children and adults should know how to swim. Adults should learn how to use rescue equipment and correctly choose and use U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets. Caregivers should learn adult and infant CPR and teach children to never swim alone or swim near pool or spa drains.

For more detailed information about the Safe Kids Lock, Look and Learn program, go to www.safekids.org/parents and select the Water Safety Guide.

Safe Kids North Carolina reaches out to parents, caregivers and children in 66 counties served by 38 coalitions across the state. Through these coalitions and partnerships, more than six million people have access to Safe Kids North Carolina programming. For more safety tips and information about Safe Kids North Carolina, visit www.ncsafekids.org.

BRLC Free Food Pantry Every Wednesday

Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center holds their Emergency Food Pantry outreach every Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. Volunteers are available to serve families. For more information call BRLC at 704-826-8182 or 826-8737.

Digital Photography Class

Want to get more out of your digital single-lens reflex camera? A basic photography class scheduled for June at South Piedmont Community College might be just what you need. The class will be taught by award-winning photographer Rick Crider on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., June 5-28.

Students should bring a digital single-lens reflex (SLR) camera to the class, which will be taught in Building A, Room 102, on the Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe. The class will be technical in nature, as opposed to creative and/or artistic. It is designed primarily for those delving into the use of a digital SLR for the first time, getting them past using the camera in automatic, or program, mode, and discovering just how versatile their camera can be once the basic functions are understood.

Crider, a longtime photographer for The Enquirer-Journal in Monroe, has won numerous state and regional awards over the years. He has also spent many years as a freelance media and commercial photographer.

Register online at www.spcc.edu (click on Corporate/Continuing Education, Personal Interest), by phone at (704) 290-5221 or in person on the Old Charlotte Highway Campus. Cost is \$69.

Deep Creek School Reunion

There will be a Deep Creek School Reunion on Saturday, June 9th at 11 o'clock. This event will be held at the Deep Creek Baptist Church. Everyone is invited, and asked to please bring a covered dish.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA