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

Pressure Canner Dial Gauge Testing

The days are longer, the weather has gotten warmer and more people are out in their gardens planting. In preparation of gardens being picked, people are pulling out their canners to can vegetables. Canning is an important, safe method of food preservation if practiced properly. Pressure canning is a must for all low acid foods. This includes all vegetables, meats, poultry, seafood and soups or a combination of any of these items. The canning process involves placing foods in jars and heating them to a temperature that destroys microorganisms that could be a health hazard or cause the food to spoil.

Your dial gauge should be tested yearly to ensure accuracy. Make sure your steam dial gauge is correct. The Anson Cooperative Extension Center is offering Pressure Canner Lid testing for steam dial gauge lids only. Weighted gauges do not require testing.

The Extension Center will offer free testing of canner lids on Wednesday, June 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Simply call the Extension Center at 704.694.2915 to schedule an appointment. Then bring your lid to 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro to be tested at your scheduled time. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. They are closed from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

Before you get too far into your canning season have your dial gauge checked. This is a free service to the public. For questions and information contact Roshunda Terry, County Extension Director, at 704-694-2915.



Grand Re-Opening and Ribbon Cutting at the Anson Farmers Market

The Anson County Farmers Market kicked off its 2023 season on Saturday, May 27 at the Anson County Farmers Market building on Highway 52 South. Board of Commissioners Chairman J. D. Bricken, Wadesboro Town Council member Steven "Chipper" Long, and Anson County Chamber of Commerce representative Melanie Cuntee were on hand, along with many visitors and vendors, for the ceremonial ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand re-opening.

Leslie Lee, the market manager, had her daughters help her cut the ribbon. Fellow organizer Angela Caraway shared a few words to thank over a dozen Anson farm families, crafters and artisans who braved the cold and windy weather to join in the market. "All of you here are making it a success already. Whether it's jewelry or tomato plants or pies or whatever you have, we thank you for making that item and bringing it here today. This is history."

The Anson County Farmers Market will be open every Saturday from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. until September 30. The address is 1736 US-52 in Wadesboro, just past Wadesboro Primary School.

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's April Unemployment Rate

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for April was 3.6%, down slightly from March's 3.9% rate. Anson ranked #72 of 100 counties statewide (low to high). Here are other past rates in Anson County:

2023: February 4%; January 4.3%. **2022:** December 4.0%; November 4.6%; October 4.9%; September 4.2%; August 4.9%; July 4.7%; June 5.3%; May 4.7%; April 4.6%; March 4.9%; February 5.1%; January 5.1%. **2021:** December 4.4%; November 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 6.5%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The **2020** rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%.

In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the unemployment rate for April was 3.1%, down slightly from March's 3.5% rate.

Here are other statewide past rates:

2023: February 3.6%; January 3.7%. **2022:** December 3.2%; November 3.8%; October 3.9%; September 3.3%; August 3.9%; July 3.7%; June 4.1%; May 3.6%; April 3.4%; March 3.6%; February 3.7%; January 3.8%. **2021:** December 3.2%; November 3.4%; October 3.6%; September 3.8%; August 4.4%; July 4.6%; June 4.9%; May 4.5%; April 4.4%; March 4.6%; February 5.6%; January 6%. **2020:** December 6%; November and October 6.1%; September 7%; August 6.8%; July 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in April was 10,295, with 9,924 employed and 371 unemployed. In March the total labor force was 10,424, with 10,015 employed and 409 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 98 of North Carolina's counties in April 2023 and increased in two. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.8 percent while Buncombe County had the lowest at 2.4 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.5% while Asheville had the lowest at 2.5%. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.1%.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 76 counties, increased in 10, and remained unchanged in 14. Eleven of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year, one increased, and three remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in April by 8,286 to 5,051,146, while those unemployed decreased by 21,948 to 163,394. Since April 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 63,968, while those unemployed decreased 2,657.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

Women in Business Small Business Summit

Anson County Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with South Piedmont Community College and the Women's Business Center of Charlotte is hosting the fourth annual Women in Business Small Business Summit on Thursday, June 8 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. The topic of this year's summit is "Mastering Marketing & E-commerce."

If you would like more information or to register, email: info@ansoncountychamber.org. Vendors are needed for the event. If you would like to have a free vendor table, please register via email at: info@ansoncountychamber.org.

Class of 1973 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman High School Class of 1973 will hold a 50th reunion planning meeting on Saturday, June 10. They invite all classmates to attend. The meeting will take place at 3 p.m. at the Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro. For info contact Brenda S. Rorie at 704-695-5196.

Children's Day Festival in Morven

Why: National Children's Day Festival
Where: The Lemuel Community Training Center, located at 206 W Main Street, Morven, NC 28119
When: Sunday, June 11, 6 to 9 p.m.
Who: Children in Anson and surrounding areas
What: Bouncy house, slushies, popcorn, food, games, face painting, fireworks. A day to play!

Charitable donations are welcome! Sponsors are needed for the fireworks show. Contact 704-294-9556 for more info.

NC Music Hall of Fame Announces 2023 Inductees

Induction ceremony tickets are available now to the public

The North Carolina Music Hall of Fame announced on May 26 the six inductees that will comprise the 2023 class scheduled to be enshrined during the annual induction ceremony on October 19 at the Mooresville (N.C.) Performing Arts Center.

The 2023 inductees are:

• **Scotty McCreery** (Garner, N.C.) - Scotty McCreery made history in 2011 when his first album, *Clear as Day*, debuted at No. 1 on the all-genre Billboard Top 200 Albums chart, making him the first country artist and youngest male artist of any musical format to achieve this feat. He has since established himself as one of today's top country music entertainers, earning five consecutive No. 1 hits, multiple gold and platinum albums and singles, and sold out concerts across the world. In addition to winning American Idol in 2011, McCreery has received an array of ACM, BMI, CMT, NSAI, and Carolina Beach Music Awards and has executive produced two Hallmark holiday movies based on his first No. 1 hit song, "Five More Minutes."

• **Loudon Wainwright III** (Chapel Hill, N.C.) - For the past 52 years, Loudon Wainwright III has carved out a distinguished career as one of North Carolina's most original singer-songwriters. A six-string tragic comedian, Wainwright's material is by turns funny, heart wrenching, and always deeply personal. Along the way, he has released more than 20 albums, won a Grammy Award, acted in films and TV shows (including *M*A*S*H*), and had his songs recorded by artists including Johnny Cash, Mose Allison, Bonnie Raitt, his son, Rufus Wainwright, and fellow North Carolinian Earl Scruggs.

• **Bill Curtis** (Fayetteville, N.C.) - Bill Curtis is a musician and songwriter who formed his funk disco band, The Fatback Band, in 1970. The Fatback Band released the first recorded rap song "King Tim III (Personality Jock)" which is widely regarded as one of the first ever commercial rap singles earmarking the beginning of recorded hip hop. In 1979, the band released the first line dance hit to the song "(Are you Ready) Do The Bus Stop." Curtis has performed with influential artists including Jackie Wilson, Marvin Gaye, The Moonglows, Ruth Brown, Earth, Wind & Fire, and Aretha Franklin, and has received several invitations to the White House.

• **Fetchin Bones** (Charlotte, N.C.) - From 1983 to 1990, Fetchin Bones pioneered an eclectic, original sound by blending rock, punk, funk, grunge, country, and blues with powerhouse vocals by Hope Nicholls, the band's lead. After their debut album, *Cabin Flounder*, they went on to release three more albums for Capitol Records. Supporting acts such as R.E.M., the B-52s, Violent Femmes, The Replacements, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Fetchin Bones were celebrated for their inspired live performances. The band formed in Charlotte, N.C.

• **George Beverly Shea** (Montreat, N.C.) - First singing for Billy Graham in 1944, George Beverly Shea carried the gospel in song to every state in the Union and to every continent of our world. As the musical mainstay in the Billy Graham Crusades, Shea was often called "America's Beloved Gospel Singer." Shea received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Recording Academy in 2011 and in 1966 he won a Grammy Award for Best Gospel or Other Religious Recording. He is most recognized for the songs "I'd Rather Have Jesus", "The Wonder of It All" and "How Great Thou Art."

• **Betty Davis** (Durham, N.C.) - Known as the "Queen of Funk," Betty Davis is a multi-talented music influencer, pioneering funk diva, singer, songwriter, producer, and fashion model who transformed funk music with her extreme performances and edgy lyrics. Davis' notable hits "If I'm In Luck I Might Get Picked Up" and "Shut Off The Lights" made Billboard R&B charts in the 1970s. Her most significant studio albums were *They Say I'm Different* (1974) and *Nasty Gal* (1975). The documentary *Betty: They Say I'm Different*, was released in 2017 and triggered a reemergence of Davis' powerful career and created a cult following. Davis influenced a number of artists including Miles Davis, Chaka Khan, Janelle Monae, Erykah Badu, Prince, and Madonna.

About the Event: The induction ceremony honoring the 2023 class will take place on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at the Mooresville Performing Arts Center in Mooresville, NC. The ceremony is open to the public and will include appearances by inductees and live performances by Scotty McCreery, Loudon Wainwright III, and Fetchin Bones. More performances to be announced. General reserved tickets are on sale now for \$60 and can be purchased at NorthCarolinaMusicHallofFame.org. VIP ticket packages that include reserved seating, a VIP reception, souvenir book and event badge, red carpet walk, and early access seating are on sale for \$90.

Exhibits showcasing memorabilia from the 2023 inductees will be on display at the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame museum this October. Updates on the event and exhibition can be found on the organization's social media pages and website. Admission to the museum and new inductee exhibition is free; donations are accepted.

About the NCMHOF: The North Carolina Music Hall of Fame is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Its mission is to recognize, promote, and commemorate the musical heritage of the State of North Carolina. The North Carolina Music Hall of Fame museum is located at 600 Dale Earnhardt Blvd. in Kannapolis, NC. The museum adjoins the Curb Music & Motorsports Museum which showcases the career of Curb Word record label owner and NASCAR team owner Mike Curb. Learn more at: NorthCarolinaMusicHallofFame.org.

Anson County Commissioners Meets June 6

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live-streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Blues, Country, Rock & Folk with the Gamblers Band

Albemarle Parks and Recreation hopes you'll join them for Thursdays at the Station this Thursday, June 1 for a performance by the Gamblers Band at 7:30 p.m. at Market Station.

The Gamblers Band plays rock, blues, country and folk. Alan Gilbert, a talented singer, songwriter and guitarist, formed the band in 2016. His songs have been featured on the Tony D. Now show and WNCW's Local Color. The band has played at the Festival in The Park, Smokey Joe's, the Stanly County Fair, the Stage Door Theater at the Blumenthal and many other breweries, restaurants, bars and private events.

The concert is free! All you need to do is bring a comfortable chair and enjoy the show.

The Market Station is located at 501 West Main Street in Albemarle. Refreshments are available.

Dollar Day Yard Sale is June 17

Faith-Based Center of Hope will have a "Dollar Day" Yard Sale on Saturday, June 17 beginning at 8 a.m. in the parking lot at Burger King in Wadesboro.

To donate items or money, please contact Patricia Robinson at 704 848-4995 or Vancine Sturdivant at 704 294-0480. All donations are welcomed.

