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

Anson's Unemployment Rate Dropped to 5.2% in April

Anson County's unemployment rate for April was 5.2%, slightly lower than March's 5.4%. Statewide the unemployment rate in April was 4.3%, down from 4.7% in March. Anson's total labor force in April was 10,667. Of that number 10,114 were employed and 553 were unemployed. In March the total labor force was 10,771 with 10,186 employed and 585 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 97 of North Carolina's counties in April and increased in three. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.8 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.2 percent.

Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases and one increased. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 6.8 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.3 percent. The April not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.3 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 98 counties and increased in two. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in April by 8,754 to 4,704,649, while those unemployed decreased 21,733 to 209,165. Since April 2016, the number of workers employed statewide increased 77,932, while those unemployed decreased 19,513.

Anson Schools and Carolinas HealthCare Systems' 5210 Program

In last week's Express we featured an article that included photos of Cam Newton visiting Anson County elementary school student in association with a healthy lifestyles program called the 5210 League. This program is a partnership between Anson County Schools and Carolinas HealthCare System.

The number in the league name stands for: **5** servings of fruits and vegetables each day; **2** hours a day or less of recreational screen time; **1** hour a day of physical activity; and **0** sugary drinks!

A colorful and detailed explanation of the 5210 League is presented on page 5. Remember, the 5210 League works great for people of all ages!

Domestic Violence Coalition Men for Change 2017

Men are asked to make a pledge, contribute to this important cause. Deadline is Friday.

The Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center (ACDVC) is asking the men of Anson County to take a pledge this Father's Day to create a community free from violence for women and children.

This is a fundraiser that begins on Monday, May 1 and continues through Friday, June 9 - asking men to take this pledge:

"I pledge to seek equality and respect in all my relationships with women. I commit to lead by example, to be a role model to other men and a mentor to our younger generations to create a community and future, free from violence for our women and children."

An insert will be in The Express Newspaper the week after Father's Day in June 2017 listing the name of each contributor. Individual pledges are \$5. To pledge In Honor or In Memory of someone will cost \$10. Any business that would like to pledge will be asked to donate at least \$25.

We need YOUR help so that every man in our county has the chance to participate. There will be special prizes awarded to the top two people raising the most money including a grill and Carolina Panthers memorabilia contributed by the Carolina Panthers themselves!

The proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assaults within Anson County. ACDVC is a nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Tax letters will be mailed after June 30.

If you would like to be participate in selling pledges please contact Gail Dove at 704-694-4499 for details. If you want to make a donation to Men for Change 2017 the mailing address is: ACDVC, PO Box 694, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

ACDVC would like to say a special thank you to The Express Newspaper, Pizza Hut and the Carolina Panthers for their generous support and contributions to this fundraiser!

Board of Elections Regular Meeting is June 13

The Anson County Board of Elections will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 13 at 5 p.m. It will take place in the boardroom at the Board of Elections office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

The agenda calls for an appearance by Tiffany Ariel, Anson County FSA Executive Director, updates on current and pending legislative changes (SB68 & others), a budget process update, the monthly report by Board of Elections Director Steve Adams, and other concerns/matters.

Dates of note are:

- June 22 & 23 - Director vacation days
- June 27 - State board appoints new local boards
- July 4 - County offices closed for Independence Day
- July 18 - New board takes office at 12 p.m.

For more information about the Board of Elections call Adams at 704-994-3223.

2017 LandTrust Paddle Series Includes Nearby Trips

Throughout the summer and fall The LandTrust for Central North Carolina will be hosting paddle trips to showcase the central Piedmont's precious natural resources, awesome views, and rich history, all within a one to two hour drive from Charlotte, Greensboro or Raleigh...with two of the events less than half an hour from Anson.

- On Friday, June 23 there will be a 6 mile paddle trip on the Rocky River. Everyone will meet at 8:30 a.m. and be on the river by 9:00.
- Put In: Takes place at approximately 2494 Plank Road in Norwood. After crossing the bridge across the Rocky River, there is a small unpaved road on the right that leads down near the river. This property is owned by Anson County.
- Take Out: Highway 52 Bridge, Norwood. Exit the river directly after passing under the bridge on the left. There is no official parking located here, but there is a gravel area at the intersection of Riverview Road and Highway 52.
- The Rocky River joins with the Pee Dee River at Colson's Plantation, a strategic location along a north-south route during the American Revolution.
- On Saturday, June 24 there will be a 3.7 mile paddle trip in Rockingham on the Hitchcock Creek Blue Trail from Roberdel Access to Steele Street Access just north of Rockingham. Everyone will meet at 9 a.m. and be on the river by 10:00.
- Put In: Meet at the Steele Street Access Point and a shuttle provided by The Hive will transport participants to the put in spot at Roberdel Access, located on Nicholson Road, Rockingham 28379.
- Take Out: Steele Street Access, 34.94855, -79.77240
- Kayak Information: 14 Kayaks are being provided by Life Memories Outdoors (LMO) with a total of 24 kayaks available. The kayaks are single person only and participants must be over 7 years old. If weight exceeds 230 lbs please contact Michael Nye for accommodations. Please no pets.
- If the 24 slots fill there may be a second run offered at 1 p.m. the same day.
- There are other paddle trips in September and October. Visit landtrustcnc.org/get-involved/2017-paddle-series for more details on the June trips and others. Also, you can call 704.647.0302 or email landtrust@landtrustcnc.org.

Winter's Over, Do You Have a Coat or Blanket You Would Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program throughout the year. They distribute coats and blankets to several of the churches and schools in Anson County as well as directly to those people in need. Now that winter is over, do you have a coat or blanket that you can contribute to this cause?

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or Ester Lindsey at 704-848-8452.



Ansonville Elementary School Helps BRLC Emergency Pantry & Summer Fun Day Campers

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center volunteer David Huneycut (left) and volunteer David Perry (right) pose with Ansonville Elementary Principal Michael Vetter. The volunteers are preparing to move more than 280 pounds of non-perishable food items to the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center.

Principal Vetter, with the help of staff Mary Wood, directed a non-perishable food drive. The food drive was in support of BRLC's Emergency Food Pantry. Faculty members and students made this much needed food drive a success. Ansonville Elementary collected approximately 300 pounds of food. Huneycut and Perry made sure that all food was picked up and placed in the Emergency Pantry area.

In 2016 the BRLC Pantry served 1,476 different families and 1,116 different children, as well as 860 senior adults. Summer months are difficult for parents to keep food on the table to feed the little ones. This food drive will help those who are eligible this summer.

Ansonville's faculty members also supported the Summer Fun Day Camp (SFDC) which will begin June 19. The SFDC is made available to all children through individual's sponsorship donations. Potential Campers are able to enroll at little or no cost as long as there are scholarships. BRLC is open daily, Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Parents and guardian may come by and enroll campers or pick up applications.

For more information contact BRLC. They are located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

'Ask An Expert' Resource Available

Anson County residents now have the expertise of all of the nation's land-grant universities at their fingertips, thanks to a web tool offered by the Anson County Center of NC Cooperative Extension. With this Extension resource, called Ask an Expert, county residents can submit questions, via the Anson County Extension website (anson.ces.ncsu.edu), at any time of day or night. They can get timely answers by email from Extension faculty from NC State University, NC A&T State University, and other land-grant institutions.

For over a century, Cooperative Extension has been providing unbiased, research-based information on a wide range of topics. Now, Ask an Expert allows you to access that information with greater convenience.

Using a short online form, residents can submit questions about agriculture and food, health and nutrition, lawn and garden, youth development and 4-H, and a host of other topics.

To access Ask an Expert, anyone can visit the Anson County Extension website at anson.ces.ncsu.edu and click the Ask an Expert links at the top right or on the left panel of each page. Simply enter questions and email addresses in the spaces provided, and submit them. Questions will be directed to Extension faculty members who have the appropriate expertise to provide accurate and timely responses. Users also can attach photos to their questions.

The Ask an Expert resource also is available at extension.org, a nationwide web site that offers an interactive learning environment. The site delivers the best, most researched knowledge from the smartest land-grant university minds across America. The site connects knowledge consumers with knowledge providers. The extension.org site also offers a searchable database of answers provided in response to questions submitted by other users.

Of course, residents who need information still are welcome to call or visit the Anson County Extension center during business hours. The online resource just adds another avenue to available information and provides convenient access to Extension experts.

The Anson County Center of NC Cooperative Extension extends to county residents the educational resources of NC State University and NC A&T State University. Both universities commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation.

'School's Out' Movie Night in Uptown Wadesboro

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. will host a free outdoor movie event to celebrate the end of the school year this Friday, June 9 starting at 8 p.m. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs to the Wadesboro Town Square at the corner of Wade and Greene Streets to enjoy the animated film *Sing* as well as popcorn and refreshments.

For further information, contact Uptown Wadesboro at (704) 695-1644 or uptownwadesboro@windstream.net.

Called Board of Education Meeting Friday

There will be a Called Board of Education Meeting this Friday, June 9 at 2 p.m. at the Anson County Schools Administrative Office Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

The regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 29 at the Anson County Schools Administrative Office Board Room. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open Session to the public should begin around 6:30 p.m.

Anson Farmers Market Opens June 17

It is time again to purchase locally grown vegetables and other items at the Anson County Farmers Market. The Farmers Market will open for the season on Saturday, June 17. The market will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays through October 28. The hours are 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Farmers Market is located 1736 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro, just past Wadesboro Primary School. For more information contact Francis Campbell at 704-690-0638.

Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market Begins Thursday, June 15

The Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market will begin June 15 at 4 p.m. and run every Thursday on the Town Square through the end of September. All vegetable, fruit, baked goods as well as arts and crafts vendors who wish to participate should contact Uptown Wadesboro at (704) 695-1644.

For further information call Uptown Wadesboro or email uptownwadesboro@windstream.net.

Book Sale Fundraiser for Hampton B. Allen Library

The community is invited to a Book Sale hosted by the Hampton B. Allen Library this Saturday, June 10 in the Wadesboro IGA parking lot. There will be lots of 'special finds' so don't miss this sale. All funds raised will go to help support the library and its many programs that benefit Anson County. The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Come find that special book for your home, and enjoy the fun and fellowship.