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Anson Unemployment Rate 7.5% in May

Anson County saw the unemployment rate at 7.5% in May, higher than April's 6.8%. Statewide the unemployment rate for May was 5.8%, compared to April's 5.1% rate, according to statistics released by the state's Employment Security Commission.

Anson's total labor force in May was 10,805. Of that number 9,991 were employed and 814 were unemployed. In April the total labor force was 10,732, with 10,007 employed and 725 unemployed.

Unemployment rates increased in 92 of 100 North Carolina counties during May. Six counties saw unemployment rates decrease, while rates stayed the same in two counties.

"A majority of the state's counties experienced significant increases in May," said ESC Chairman Harry E. Payne, Jr. "There are a lot of new entrants into the labor force at this time of year which is making for a very tight job market. On top of that, we could be experiencing the effect that rising energy and fuel prices nationwide may be having on employment. We continue to receive job orders from employers in our local offices while at the same time also experiencing more traffic from job seekers."

Over the month all 14 metropolitan statistical areas experienced an increase in unemployment. Forty seven counties were at or below the state's unemployment rate of 5.8%. Total county employment decreased in May by 4,543 workers, from 4,302,076 to 4,297,533. Unemployment statewide increased by 29,688 workers. The unemployment total in May was 262,235 compared to 232,567 in April.

Currituck County had the state's lowest unemployment rate, at 3.3%, and Scotland County had the highest rate at 10.3%.

The five counties receiving the highest amount in unemployment insurance benefits in May were: Mecklenburg-\$8.8 million, Wake-\$5.8 million, Guilford-\$4.1 million, Forsyth-\$2.7 million, and Gaston-\$2.4 million. \$89.5 million in benefits was paid to 98,102 individuals statewide, compared with \$93.4 million to 104,113 individuals in April.

July Fourth Fireworks, Some Do's and Don'ts

As July 4th approaches, the Department of Insurance wants North Carolinians to know the Fireworks Do's and Don'ts. Presented here is a list of guidelines for a safe and fun firework show at your July Fourth celebration.

For more information, please contact DOI's Public Information Office at 919-733-5238.

DO:

- follow the law - only novelty fireworks such as sparklers, fountains, glow worms and snap pops are legal.
- keep a bucket of water or garden hose handy while lighting fireworks.
- light fireworks one at a time, moving back quickly.
- set off fireworks on pavement, away from flammable vegetation.
- leave big fireworks to the professionals.

DON'T:

- buy fireworks from another state and set them off in North Carolina.
- let children play with or ignite fireworks.
- re-light fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- point or throw fireworks at people or animals.
- carry fireworks in your pockets.
- shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

Fish for Free July 4

Along with watching fireworks and grilling out, celebrate Independence Day by indulging in another favorite pastime, fishing - no license needed! From midnight until 11:59 p.m., on July 4, anyone - resident or non-resident - can fish in any public water, including mountain trout waters and coastal waters, in North Carolina without a fishing license.

So that anglers of all ages and skill levels have an excellent chance of catching fish, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission stocks a variety of fish in waters across the state, from trout in the mountains to striped bass and channel catfish in the Piedmont and coastal regions.

"The purpose of the free fishing day is to show people how much fun fishing can be," said Kent Nelson, fisheries program manager for the Commission's Division of Inland Fisheries. "It's a great way to spend quality time with your kids outdoors and help them develop an interest in nature and conservation."

To make finding a spot to cast a line easier, the agency has listed on its Web site, www.ncwildlife.org, nearly 500 areas that are accessible to the public for fishing. Click on the Fishing link on the left side of the page; then click the Go Fishing! icon on the fishing page.

More than 100 areas are managed by the Commission as either a Community Fishing Program (CFP) site or a Public Fishing Area (PFA), while others are managed by local parks and recreation departments, power companies, N.C. State Parks and other natural resource agencies.

PFAs provide free fishing opportunities from the banks of North Carolina's waters. The Commission clears the banks of underbrush and, in some cases, constructs universally accessible fishing piers, and installs fish attractors. CFP sites are intensively managed bodies of water receiving monthly stockings of catchable-sized channel catfish from April to September. Many sites also feature universally accessible fishing piers and solar-powered fish feeders. In addition, the Commission's Tackle Loaner Program, available at many CFP sites, lets anglers borrow rods and reels free of charge for a day.

While the fishing is free on July 4, fishing regulations, such as size and creel limits, bait and tackle restrictions, and park use fees apply.

North Carolina residents age 16 and older who are interested in fishing the remaining 364 days of the year can purchase a license. To purchase a license: 1) Go online, www.ncwildlife.org; 2) Call 1-888-248-6834, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday; from May to September, seven days a week; or 3) Visit one of nearly 1,000 wildlife service agents located across the state.

For more information visit the agency's website, www.ncwildlife.org or call the Division of Inland Fisheries, (919) 707-0220.

Girl's Dixie All-Stars Place Second in Tournament



The All-Stars are pictured from left, front: Kelsey Harris, Katelyn Howell, Angel James and Alexis Tice. Second row: Kayla Gregory, Taylor Pace, Hailey Brock, Misty Allen and Tracey Brewer. Third row: Brian Tice, Robby Howell, Rebeckah Pace and Allan James. We are delighted to showcase their athletic abilities! Photo by Beth Howell

The Ponytails Girl's Fast pitch Softball Team placed second in the District IV Dixie All-Star Tournament which was held last week at Endy Optimist Park in West Stanly County.

"This is the first time an Anson County Parks and Recreation Ponytails Team has gone all the way to the finals in the District IV tournament," said Wendell Small. They are coached by Brian Tice, Robby Howell and Allan James. The coaches said, "We would like to thank each member of the team for their hard work

and extra effort. They each went above and beyond and made these games exciting and fun. We really appreciate what they have achieved and realize they are all talented individuals who make up a super team."

Everyone would like to congratulate these fine young female athletes on a job well done. You should be proud of your accomplishments throughout the entire season as well as your outstanding performance in tournament play. You go girls! Story by Mel Morse

Summer Institute - Let's Knock Learning Out of the Ballpark

Since summer is here and we're right smack dab in the middle of baseball season throughout the county and the country, what better theme could be had for the Anson Middle School Summer Institute than, "Knock Learning Out of the Ballpark?" The summer enrichment program is the brainchild of Dr. Greg Firn, Superintendent of Anson County Schools, who appointed Ms. Kaye Mangum to oversee it as Principal.

Mangum couldn't be more excited about what is happening with the thirty plus eighth grade students on hand for exciting methodologies for honing math and reading skills. "Knock learning out of the ballpark is our theme, its America's favorite pastime and is working out beautifully for our kids. We begin each morning with reading from the book, "The Story of Americas Baseball Fields." This book not only enhances reading comprehension and provokes discussions, it also taps into math skills with the diagramming of baseball fields, measurements from base to base, radius, diameter, etc.," said Ms. Mangum.



Pictured from left, Dazhoun Hammonds, Quatavius Allen, Christina Rose, Oneisha Cook and Kadeja Bennett, along with Isaiah Etheridge and Mrs. Kaye Mangum (standing) are enjoying the comparison of American poet Langston Hughes to today's rapper, L'il Wayne. "They say the same things in different ways," said the students. Photo and story by Melanie Morse

Her five teachers, equally as energetic and pragmatic about helping students, are among the many reasons I witnessed more energy and enthusiasm about school work than I've seen in quite some time. Teachers Christina Rose, Delores Covington, Darlene Lindsey, Horace Sullivan and Shirley Crowder were involved in providing fun and interesting activities for those students who were invited and in turn chose to participate.

Wonderful books are available for the summer reading and contain an array of intriguing topics for exploration. While rifling through the books I found myself wishing I could sit for awhile and read for pleasure until the 11:15 bell rang for the students to be bused back home.

In addition to the vibrant listing of books, the students have access to computers where they actively participate in programs such as Reading Assistant, Math Baseball, Fast Forward and more. Ms. Shirley Crowder beamed with pride as her students provided instant feedback as to what they had already learned and showed me instantly how their computer programs are used. "With Fast Forward I am able to go in and check how well the students are doing by listening to their actual voice while they read aloud. The voice recognition program cues students as they read and sends them messages to help them with any trouble areas," Crowder added. Students Breyana Deberry and Jameisha Facyson both listed areas of interest and of learning since the Institute began and both said they would rather be at school than just sitting around the television.

Enthusiasm was exuding from another classroom where Mangum and I popped in to take a peep. Mrs. Christina Rose was involved with vocabulary skills and writing with more precision. I heard the words precise, comprehension, simultaneously, fluency and many, many more throughout their discussion. Students Oneisha Cook and Dazhoun Hammonds were happy to be in class and it showed in their smiling faces. Both had great things to say about their summer readings and camp-like learning experiences.

On July 17 the Summer Institute will culminate with, what else, a celebratory baseball game on the school field. Ms. Mangum said, "We will break up into two teams and play each other, while enjoying traditional baseball game foods like hotdogs, peanuts and popcorn. Parents and the public are cordially invited to attend. I believe in this program and the success of the students which will show in their assessments, I'm sure. This is such a great experience for our kids and I am thrilled to be a part of it," Mangum added.

Visiting the classrooms showed me excitement and hard to contain enthusiasm for enrichment in a variety of venues. It was a refreshing experience for me, the students, teachers and the principal. Great work everyone!

Food Distribution Center Closed July 4

The Food Distribution Center at Harvest Ministries will be closed on Friday, July 4 for the holiday. The Center will resume regular hours after Friday.

\$1 Movies for Kids at the Library

Anson County Parks and Recreation and Hampton B. Allen Library will be sponsoring movies on Wednesdays, starting Wednesday, July 9. The movies will run from 2 to 4 p.m. at the library. If you are eight to fifteen years old come enjoy movies, popcorn and a drink - all for only \$1.

To attend you need to preregister by calling Wanda Chappell at 704-694-5868 by the Monday before the Wednesday movie. The movie will be announced each week prior to its showing. The movie for next Wednesday is "The Game Plan."

Wadesboro and Lilesville Garbage Collection Schedule for July 4

In Wadesboro there will be no garbage pickup on Friday, July 4 due to the holiday. All areas will be service on Monday, July 7.

The Town of Lilesville will be picking up trash on Wednesday, July 2.

Look inside for these special inserts
• IGA
• Family Dollar