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

Sheriff's Office Issues Scam Alert

The Anson County Sheriff's Office has issued a warning to citizens about telephone scammers who are using phone numbers of legitimate sheriff's offices. Anson citizens may get calls that show as coming from the Anson County Sheriff's Office.

The scammers are using an application called "Spoof Card" that allows the suspects to use any legitimate phone to call from with the intent of victimizing people for large amounts of money.

The Sheriff's Office is informing citizens that their office never calls or sends texts to inform individuals they have an active warrant, missed court, or any legal action.

The Sheriff's Office wants to remind the community not to give money or personal information over the phone.

Anson County Bridge to be Replaced

An Anson County bridge will soon be upgraded, thanks to a \$5.4 million contract the N.C. Department of Transportation recently awarded to Anson Contractors, Inc. The bridge on U.S. Highway 52 over South Fork Jones Creek will be replaced, starting as soon as this fall. The bridge is located at the bottom of the hill just north of Morven Truck Stop. Crews will build a temporary bridge and alignment while building the new structure, so a detour won't be needed for the project.

The new bridge will be 40 feet wide with 12-foot wide travel lanes.

Construction should finish in the fall of 2026, with vegetation establishment and landscaping continuing through spring 2027.

For real-time travel information, visit DriveNC.gov or follow NCDOT on social media.

Anson's May Unemployment Rate

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for May was 4.0%. Anson County ranked #71 of the 100 counties statewide (low to high). The April rate was 3.7%.

For perspective, here are past Anson unemployment rates for May that are not listed below: 2019 4.3%; 2018 4.3%; 2017 5.2%; 2016 5.3%; 2015 6.6%; 2014 7.9%; 2013 10.4%; 2012 11.7%; 2011 11.7%; 2010 13.6%.

Anson's total labor force in May was 10,349, with 9,938 employed and 411 unemployed. In April the total labor force was 10,281, with 9,899 employed and 382 unemployed.

Here are other past rates in Anson County:
2024: March 4.0%; February 4.0%; January 4.0%.
2023: December 3.8%; November 4.1%; October 4%; September 3.8%; August 4.2%; July 4.2%; June 4.2%; May 4.0%; April 3.6%; March 3.9%; 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 4.9%; 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 May was 3.5%. In April it was 3.3%.

Here are other statewide past rates: **2024:** March 3.7%; February 3.7%; January 3.6%. **2023:** December 3.2%; November 3.4%; October 3.3%; September 3.2%; August 3.6%; July 3.6%; June 3.6%; May 3.4%; April 3.1%; March 3.5%; 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%.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 95 of North Carolina's counties in May 2024, decreased in four, and remained unchanged in one. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.0 percent while Buncombe and Currituck Counties each had the lowest at 2.8 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.7 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.9 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.5 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 71 counties, decreased in 17, and remained unchanged in 12. Eleven metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, one decreased, and three remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in May by 17,523 to 5,100,685, while those unemployed increased by 12,332 to 185,896. Since May 2023, the number of workers employed statewide increased 42,648, while those unemployed increased 8,953.

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.

Hampton B. Allen Library's Bluegrass Music Jams are July 11 & 25

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host bluegrass acoustic music jams on Thursday, July 11 and Thursday, July 25, 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. Musicians, singers and spectators are welcome. The jam sessions are open to all age levels and skill levels. Children age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have any questions please contact Dianne or Caroline at the library, 704-694-5177. You may also contact event volunteer Randy Collins at 336-430-6318 (call or text) or via email at uaguitar@msn.com.



Godspell Brings the End of an Era at the Ansonia Theatre

Get ready for an unforgettable theatrical experience that celebrates the life and teachings of Jesus through the lens of vibrant music and storytelling. *Godspell* is set to dazzle audiences at the Ansonia Theatre from July 12-21. This groundbreaking musical, based on the Gospel according to Matthew, marks the debut of composer Stephen Schwartz, who later gifted the world with beloved hits such as *Wicked*, *Pippin* and *Children of Eden*.

In *Godspell*, a comedic troupe of eccentric players joins forces with Jesus to impart timeless lessons through parables, games, and playful antics. The show features an eclectic blend of songs ranging from pop to vaudeville, with the international hit "Day by Day" standing out as a memorable musical number.

As Jesus' life unfolds onstage, the narrative navigates moments of humor and depth, culminating in a powerful depiction of the crucifixion. Even in this solemn moment Jesus' enduring messages of kindness, tolerance and love continue to resonate, leaving a lasting impact on audiences.

The talented *Godspell* cast includes Chuck Wright as Jesus, alongside Trey Lincoln, Darius Cox, Paige Mercer, Ann Crescitelli, Liz Sleeper, Gracilee Bricker, Olivia Van Etten, Johnny Almond and Evan Grier, each bringing unique flair to this vibrant production.

Director Tommy Wooten has joined forces with Music Director Gail Litaker, Choreographer Brooke Gaddy-Bartlett and an all-star team to bring this production to life. The production crew features set design by Teri Brown and Donald Perkins, lighting by Rachel Kostelnik, stage management by Robert Graves, and assistant direction by Maggie Gibson. The band, including Larry Moree on guitar and Logan Tallman on drums, provides an eclectic musical backdrop for the performance. Costumes are expertly designed by Brittany Price and Betsy Watts, adding visual flair to this dynamic show.

This production marks the end of an era, as it will be Tommy Wooten's final show as Artistic Director after nearly 12 years with the Ansonia. Join us in celebrating Tommy's remarkable contributions and this significant milestone in the Ansonia's history.

Don't miss this brilliant production at the Ansonia Theatre, running Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Secure your tickets now at ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950. See you at the show!

Anson Mobile Food Market is July 18

The next Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, July 18, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the HOLLA! Community Center, located at 229 East Main Street in Morven. Food will be given away, including fresh vegetables, fruit and bread (if available). There will be blood pressure and blood sugar checks, along with other healthy living topics and booths.

This free event offers citizens of Anson County six to eight different types of fresh produce monthly. This is a free initiative, so please come and get some produce. Nothing is required for you to receive produce, just come.

The event is sponsored by the Anson County Extension and its partners.

This event is to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county. It will also serve as an educational event to offer education on the two targeted areas of the county health assessment which are tobacco use and hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas.

The Anson County NAACP Meets July 22

The July meeting of the Anson County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will be held on Monday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the HOLLA! Community Center, located at 229 East Main Street in Morven. They welcome you to come and see what is going on. "Each one reach one."

For more information contact Anson NAACP President Sinic Marsh at mrs6@yahoo.com or 704-254-0630.

ACTS New Location Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting to celebrate the new facility for the Anson County Transportation System (ACTS). There will be tours of the building, and light refreshments will be served while they last.

The event takes place on Tuesday, July 16, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The ACTS Office is located at 573 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

Atrium Health Women's Care Mobile Health Event is July 13

'Drive to Thrive' event will provide a wide range of services

Atrium Health Women's Care Drive to Thrive is mobile care unit that provides a range of women's care services in a warm and welcoming environment. It will be in the front lot of Atrium Health Anson on Saturday, July 13, from 9:00 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Atrium Health Anson is located at 2301 US Highway 74 West in Wadesboro.

Services include:

- Cervical cancer screening (Pap smear)
- Screening for urinary tract infections
- Screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Birth control (contraception), including same-day access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), like intrauterine devices (IUDs)
- First-time prenatal visits, if not established with an OB/GYN
- Postpartum visits
- Ultrasounds
- Mammogram referrals
- Social worker on-site to help connect with other resources

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended.

You can call 704-468-0137 to schedule an appointment.

Visit AtriumHealth.org/MobileHealth or scan the QR code for the Drive to Thrive mobile health schedule, locations and more information. The website includes information on the Community Sliding Fee Discount Program that can provide up to a full 100% discount for qualifying patients.



Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets July 16

The Anson County Board of Commissioners will meet on Tuesday, July 16 at 6 p.m.

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

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