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Labor Law Poster Scams Increase With Minimum Wage Hike

Minimum wage goes to \$6.55 per hour this Thursday

N.C. Department of Labor officials urge businesses to ignore threatening mail from private poster companies that are trying to capitalize on the minimum wage increase, enacted by U.S. Congress, which takes effect this week. "Ignore the ridiculous solicitations," Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry said. "Your tax dollars have already purchased your business a poster, so save your money and call NCDOL for your free set. We noticed an increase in calls from the public complaining about the mailings the last time the minimum wage increased, and the same thing is happening this year."

Businesses interested in ordering the new posters, can visit the Department of Labor website at www.nclabor.com/posters/posters.htm or call 1-800-625-2267.

Private poster companies that make money selling expensive posters have capitalized on the graduated minimum wage increase by threatening businesses into buying the latest poster or risk incurring substantial fines from the N.C. Department of Labor. The poster companies have been known to charge as much as \$100 per poster.

NCDOL has updated the Wage and Hour Notice to Employees to reflect the minimum wage change, but there will be no fines issued to businesses that don't have the most recent notice posted.

As of Thursday, July 24, employers in North Carolina are required to pay their employees at least \$6.55 per hour. The increase is the second step in a three-step process Congress enacted in 2007 to eventually increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour. The third and final step will take effect July 24, 2009.

Commander Stan Burns Receives Naval Change of Command



Anson Native Commander W. Stan Burns received change of command duties on July 1 during a ceremony in Corpus Christi Texas. Commander Burns' parents were on hand for the prestigious honors.

Commander W. Stan Burns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Burns of Wadesboro, relieved Commander Bruce Rasche III, USN of the Training Squadron Thirty One Augment Unit, in a change of command ceremony on July 1 in Corpus Christi, Texas. "The change of command is an honored product of the rich heritage of naval tradition wholly without an equivalent counterpart in the Army or Air Force. The heart

of the ceremony is the formal reading of the orders by the relieving officer and the officer to be relieved."

Commander Burns graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He entered flight training and received his Wings of Gold in June of 1994.

Commander Burns flew from 1998 until 2001 as a Wise Owl with the Squadron Thirty-One. He also served as Flight Leader while instructing advanced students in Familiarization, Night FAM, Basic Instruments, Airways Navigation, Visual Navigation and Tactical Formation.

In 2006 Burns received VT-31 Reserve Instructor Pilot of the Year honors. He currently has over 5,000 flight hours and has been awarded three Navy Achievement Medals, National Defense Service medals, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and other campaign awards.

Commander Burns is married to Bernice Vargas Burns and they have two children, Brandt and Avery.

Congratulations are extended to Commander Stan Burns. Anson County is proud to have such strong leadership in the US Navy, as this ceremony passes authority and responsibility to Commander Burns, a fine officer whose presence reflects the dedication of free men and women proudly serving our nation. *By Melanie Morse*

Civil War Artillery Program

Don't forget your earplugs! Staff and volunteers from Ft. Fisher State Historic Site, along with their M1857 12-pounder "Napoleon," will be coming to Museum of the Cape Fear this Sunday, July 27, from 1 to 5 p.m. Join them for an afternoon of firing demonstrations, tours of the arsenal grounds, and talks on the role of the Fayetteville Arsenal in the production of artillery carriages and ammunition.

Local resident and militaria collector Jack Wells will also be on hand to present a fascinating display of original Civil War artillery projectiles he has acquired over the years. His in-depth research and presentation on the world of 19th century munitions makes an excellent addition to this program. This up-close look into the sights and sounds of Civil War artillery is not to be missed!

Tours and demonstrations will take place on the hour, beginning at 1 p.m. For more information contact Chris Woodson at 910-486-1330. This is a free event!

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex is located on the corner of Bradford and Arsenal avenues in Fayetteville. The historical complex is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (910) 486-1330. The historical complex is part of the Division of State History Museums, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. www.ncculture.com.

Camp Summer Breathe 2008 - Fun and Informative!



Camp Summer Breathe 2008 was a huge success! June 16th - June 20th was full of excitement with 38 campers attending this year's five day asthma camp. In addition, this was Camp Summer Breathe's first year to utilize the Junior Counselor program. The Junior Counselor's program was designed for former campers who have exceeded the required age limit to attend and assist in the activities. Junior counselors not only help with the camp but earn community service hours for school. In addition to the junior counselors, we received assistance through the Stanly Community College's (SCC) Respiratory Care Program. At least six students from SCC's Respiratory Care Program attended each day with a total of nine students volunteering to return on Friday and assist campers with a review of the entire week.

Each year local physicians play a major role in the education of asthma. They provide information about symptoms of asthma, asthma triggers, and treatments of asthma. Dr. Sarah Elliott, Dr. Lacy Hobgood and Dr. Lisa Bracey-Cash attended 2008 Camp Summer Breathe with education, games, and excitement.

On Monday Melinda McDonald with the Alcohol and Drug Service of Rockingham, a United Way Member Agency, spoke about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Melinda provided displays and mannequins to demonstrate the damaging effects drugs, smoke, and alcohol have on our lungs, teeth and mouth. She provided and distributed goodie bags to each child. Also on Monday Eric Peterman from Sepracor stopped by to help kick off our camp. He brought Xopenex backpacks filled with giveaway items.

On Tuesday Rena Dixon, a public health educator from UNC-Greensboro, talked to campers about

healthy eating and exercise. She shared a nice asthma workbook with the children and provided goodie bags.

On Wednesday we took a field trip to B. V. Hedrick Gravel and Sand in Lilesville. Jason Connor, a geologist, gave our group a wonderful tour of the rock quarry. The kids enjoyed having their picture taken on "retired" heavy equipment, playing on rock piles and receiving refreshments.

Among other activities, the campers enjoyed swimming, making picture frames for their picture made at B. V. Hedrick, and making "mucus," a craft provided by the SCC students.

On the final day of camp, while picking up their children, parents were asked to observe what their children had learned. Campers demonstrated how to use a Peak Flow Meter and MDI with a spacer. They talked about asthma triggers, the five warning signs of an asthma attack, and skits were performed about children with asthma. A great time was had by all who participated.

The staff of Camp Summer Breathe and Anson Community Hospital would like to thank the following for helping to make Camp Summer Breathe 2008 the best year ever. Thanks goes to our local physicians, the students of Stanly Community College Respiratory Care Program, Jason Connor with B. V. Hedrick Gravel and Sand, Eric Peterman, Erin Sadler, Melinda McDonald, Rena Dixon, Anson County School Nurses, Sara Smith, Judy Morris, Kay Eckersley, Jeania Martin for our wonderful advertising, and Print Plus for t-shirts and bags. We also want to thank McDonalds, Burger King, Domino's Pizza, Papa Joe's Pizza and local business that made donations through the Foundation of Anson Community Hospital.

The Sammies CD Release Party is Aug. 9

On Saturday, August 9, at the Charlotte Visulite, The Sammies will host a CD release party in honor of their sophomore album, "Sandwich." Along for the ride are SoulDozer and Broken Strings, also slated to play.

The Sammies' self titled debut album from 2006 has generated a buzz around these parts, and their latest work, slated for September 23, is a much anticipated release for their million or so fans. Such notables as Pitchfork and Harp magazines say, "The Sammies is the coolest, most fun band around. Get familiar with them or you are already way behind the curve."



Their live shows are apparently the talk of the southeastern region and, as Fred Mills, originally from Anson County, put it, "Quite possibly the best band currently operating in North Carolina. Quite."

Frank Backgammon, vocals and guitar, Donnie Yale, drums and vocals, Conrad Vacation, bass guitar and Bobby Freedom lead guitar & vocals now comprise the quartet and are finding

themselves right among the top of up and coming bands. Operating under the MoRisen Label, founder Chuck Morrison says, "They're going to sneak up on people, a lot of people. These Southern rockers are upbeat, twangy, witty, a little punk and definitely spirited." "Sandwich," a 'fusion of classic rock, early punk and indie rock' featuring 13 new songs including "Golden Sun," "In the Basement," "Treat Her Like a Queen," and "Old Grey," is much anticipated, says MoRisen executives. "The band has already lined up some pre-album release gigs in and around the South (dates listed below) and their live shows are pure firestorms. You can expect the full-court push when the album hits stores," adds MoRisen. All four of The Sammies are self-taught musicians who were raised on the likes of Lynyrd Skynyrd, David Bowie, The Rolling Stones and other classic rock bands. Two are self proclaimed country boys from Wadesboro. Yes, Backgammon, is better known around these parts as Will Huntley and Yale is brother Joe, both sons of Joanne and Bill Huntley.

In anticipation of their latest release, "Sandwich" be sure and check their performance schedule for a show near you. Again, they will be rocking the roof off the Visulite in Charlotte on August 9. But if that's not in the cards, you can always check out this fantastic foursome sometime between July 25 and October 17. Tour dates are as follows:

Jul 25, 9 p.m., Barley's Taproom, Knoxville, Tennessee, August 1, 9 p.m., Grey Eagle, Asheville, August 9, 9 p.m., Visulite Theater, Charlotte, August 23, 9 p.m., Raleigh Downtown Live, The Pour House, Raleigh, September 6, 9 p.m., The Hummingbird, Macon Georgia, September 9, 9 p.m., The Pour House Music Hall, Raleigh, September 13, 9 p.m., The Soapbox Lounge, Wilmington, September 19, 9 p.m., Tasty World!, Athens, Georgia, September 20, 9 p.m., The Nick, Birmingham Alabama and October 17, 8 p.m., Duke University Campus Concert Series, Durham.

Visit MySpace for a sample of their spirited new material - I did and loved it. (They also have a website, www.the-sammies.com.) For sure, "Treat Her Like A Queen" is my fave of the thirteen edgy compilations, but its all good music, and I mean real good. Be advised and be aware of this rising sensation, partly from Anson County. Sorry but you can't write in these parts without giving credit where credit is due, The Sammies roots are deep in Anson County and we're certainly proud of that fact and ready for our claim to fame. It's just too important not to mention the two Huntley brothers from our little neck of the woods.

See you at the Visulite on August 9! And, for the record, don't even bother to wear socks 'cause The Sammies will just rock 'em off!

By Melanie Morse

Farmers Market is Open for Business

The Anson County Farmers Market is open every Wednesday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come out and purchase delicious home-grown foods at great prices.

The Farmers Market is located on Highway 52 South across from Coffing Hoist.

The Healthy Ansonians Mobile Health Screening Clinic will be at the market July 26 and August 23 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

School Board Meeting Monday, July 28

The Anson County School Board will hold its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, July 28 at the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center located on White Store Road in Wadesboro.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a closed session. Open session begins at 6:30 p.m. and the public is invited to participate.

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