

THE EXPRESS

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

Anson Unemployment Rate 7.4% in June

Anson County saw the unemployment rate at 7.4% in June, up slightly from May's 7.1%. Statewide the unemployment rate for June was 4.9% according to statistics released by the state's Employment Security Commission.

Anson's total labor force in June was 11,399. Of that number 10,553 were employed and 846 were unemployed. In May the total labor force was 11,324, with 10,519 employed and 805 unemployed.

For June, 39 of the state's counties were at or below 5% unemployment. Forty-five counties were at or below the state's not seasonally adjusted rate of 5.1%. From May, the unemployment rate increased in 87 counties and decreased in 13. Overall employment in North Carolina has increased by 52,123 workers since June 2006. The total employment for the state in June was 4,309,833. Unemployment statewide in June was 223,849 workers.

"As anticipated with summer hiring, employment of 16-19 year-olds during June increased 14.3% statewide," said Harry E. Payne, Jr., chairman of the ESC. "During each of the past four years the labor force has experienced a significant increase in May to June largely due to high school students looking for summer jobs."

Currituck County again had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 2.8%, and Scotland County had the highest rate at 11.3%.

Braves Have Perfect 11-0 Season Record



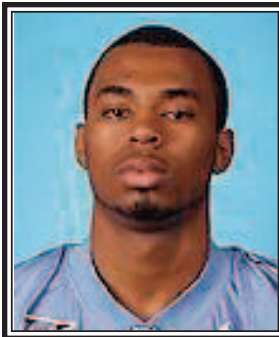
The Marshville Braves, (most of whom are from Anson County ironically,) finished the 2007 season with an undefeated record, 11-0. The Braves continued their winning ways by also winning the MAA Tournament. They defeated four teams to take home the championship for the second straight year.

Team members are pictured from left, front: Drew Thomas, MaKenna Hower, Gracie Ratcliffe, Hunter Pheiffer,

Evan Byars, Leah Mabry and Abby Mills. Second row: Dalton Heavner, Charlie Wallace, Nolan Grooms, Jordan Sikes, Alan Dale McRae, Grayson Preslar and Cole Davis. Third row: Coaches Joe Sikes, Dale McRae, Brent Preslar and Allen Davis.

Congratulations Braves on your perfect 11-0 season.
By Mel Morse

Cedric Holt Signs With Indianapolis Colts Team



Cedric Holt, graduate of Anson High School and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, signed with current Super Bowl Champs, the Indianapolis Colts, on August 27. Holt, a 5' 10," 187 pound Cornerback is among those listed amid the team roster on the official Indianapolis Colts website.

According to www.indianapoliscolts.com, "Holt signed as a free agent to begin play as a cornerback on July 27."

During his career at Anson, Holt was one of the Charlotte Observer's Top 25 prospects in North Carolina, even though he only played in one game as a senior due to a groin injury. That didn't stop him from being selected to the Shrine Bowl Team as well. His play during his freshman through junior seasons was enough to prove him worthy of the award.

While in Chapel Hill, Holt was one of a few freshmen to actually play in all twelve games. His success continued throughout his college career. "He was in on at least one tackle and played an average of eighteen snaps per game. Additionally, Holt had thirteen solo stops and five assists," according to Tarheel Blue.

Anson County would like to extend congratulations to native Cedric Holt. The entire community wishes you continued success in this, the ultimate level of sports action.
By Mel Morse

Reward Offered in Recent Property Crime

Sheriff Tommy Allen said today that a property owner in a recent breaking and entering has issued his own reward in the amount of \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those people responsible for the theft. The residence of Don Beck suffered the breaking and entering larceny on July 24, and Sheriff's Deputies are investigating.

Property stolen from the Deep Creek home include a large quantity of antique jewelry, guns, coins, bottles and other items.

Anyone with any information on this crime should call the Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188 or the Crime and Drug Hotline at 704-695-3111. All information received will be held in confidence.

Anson UNCC Graduates

Four Ansonians attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte have graduated recently. They are Scott B. Canipe of Morven, Gina B. Carpenter of Wadesboro, Kristin B. Goodwin and Daniel W. Sellers, both of Lilesville.

UNCC also released their Chancellor and Dean's Lists. Ansonians making the Chancellor's List were William G. Hooks of Wadesboro, Thajying N. Ly of Polkton, Shanna J. Melton of Wadesboro, Charles R. Tyson of Wadesboro and Claire M. Yandle of Polkton.

Ansonians making Dean's List at UNCC were Gina B. Carpenter of Wadesboro, Ashton L. Davis of Peachland, Daniel L. Meachum of Peachland, Ashley B. Timmons of McFarlan and Pang K. Vang of Polkton.

It's a Lilesville Election Correction

In last week's edition of The Express, in our election article, we mistakenly identified a Lilesville mayoral candidate as running for council. Here is the correct information about Lilesville candidates for the November 6 Municipal Elections:

- **Lilesville Mayor** David Grissom, James Richard Harrington
- **Lilesville Council** Bernice M. Bennett, Hampton M. Downer, Frank E. McAllister, Steve Whitlock, Juanita Williams

Thank You for the Music, the Laugh, the Smile

No matter if you're using the latest technological gadgetry like iPhones and iPods or simply listening to your car radio, music is a great source for soothing the soul. It can transform an otherwise dreary day into one with sunshine, and can turn weeds into wildflowers. Yes, believe it or not, it's true. I knew it accurate for myself, but found out more extensively when I began asking people around me, people from all walks of life, all ages and backgrounds, about their musical recollections. And even though we all have our own unique tastes for what appeals most to our musicality, we all have one thing in common, laughs. For there was not one person I spoke with who didn't laugh, or at the very least smile, when beseeched with my query.

"What is the first song that pops into your head when you think of good times had from days gone by?" I asked. And with every single answer, an insurmountable amount of giddy laughter, ear to ear grins, head shaking, face grabbing, rib tickling smiles for miles, or some sign of amusement with the moved to the side memories of good times recounted just by thinking of that one, single, jingle-jolting song.

This gig has been a true measure of how a melody can unlock the laughter. I instigated such harmony that I may have reason to write a sequel to this little ditty of a music note. So let's share some of the most heart warming of the recounts.

Al Nance nearly jumped from his recliner when explaining why Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Born on the Bayou" was his fondest memory. "It reminds me that it took eight minutes for that song to play and I had eight minutes until curfew. I would turn it on while making my speed runs from Wadesboro. I always made it too!" Jim Huntley smiled while recounting his memories of listening to WADE radio. "Wonderland by Night" is my earliest remembrance when all in life was good. Then there were all the Beatles tunes."

Also in tune with the Beatles, Stan Marsh said, "I remember listening to 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand' while riding in my dad's '64 Galaxy and waiting at the Esso station," as a beaming smile spread across his face. It was like waving a magic wand through the air. Every time the question was delivered, the places and faces lit up. "Do You Believe in Magic?" Tina Parks does as that was her favorite musical post-it note. "It just made us dance every time we heard it," she giggled. "Godspell" was named as a song of great inspiration. "I had just moved to Anson County and I didn't know what was going on in life. It gave me hope. For an eleven year old kid, it was a moving experience," added Matt Jones.

"My dad used to rock me to sleep when I was young. He would sing 'Amazing Grace' as I yuggled in his lap. It's a very nostalgic and happy memory," said Allison Nance. "Swingin' is the song that I recall," said Nicki Gaddy. "We used to sit with my grandparents in their old porch swing and sing that song!" Thinking of summer, "The Beach Boys and that old Ford Falcon we guys used to ride around town in is what I recall,"

said Mac Benton. His neighbor, Marshall Ray, added "Be Young, Be Foolish But Be Happy" to the compilation. "That song brings back memories of just growing up happy in my own neighborhood." "Three Times a Lady" was noted as a happy memory for Beth Howell. "It reminds me of my mother, a true lady" she smiled.

"You Dropped the Bomb on Me" was proof that this question indeed unleashed happy times for a beaming Greg Flowers. "Oh man, I haven't thought of this in years. Thirty-Eight Special's 'Hold on Loosely' reminds me of my first beach trip with the guys, just chillin and hanging out," said Charles Lockhart. And hanging out with the gals also brought back loads of laughs for Cindy Huneycutt who named Van Halen's "Dancing in the Street." "We would pile into one car and just ride around. When that song came on we would pull over, get out and just dance like crazy!" "Ride Wit Me" reminds me of getting my drivers license, cruising with my friends and just being in high school again," said Ashley Rivers. "You Make Me Wanna Shout" reminded Brandis Chewning of times she and her mother laughed so hard they cried. "We would ride in the car and when that song came on we both threw our hands in the air as they sang SHOUT! Everyone thought we were waving at them and they would wave back. What a wonderful memory."

"I remember dancing with my first love to 'The Tennessee Waltz,'" said my mom, Betty. "Blue Velvet" was tagged as a number one fun song. "I would go over to see my cousins and we danced in their living room. It was so much fun," said Karen Nance. "I Hope You Dance" was dubbed Misty Harris' fave recollection, Kevin Brooks added "Gimme Three Steps," Poodle Campbell laughed uncontrollably with her answer, "Gonna Get Along Without You Now." "Groove is in the Heart" was named by Connie Beam, "The Old Rugged Cross" by Terry Mabry, "What You do to Me" by Gayle Hall and "With This Ring" by Shawn Weigman, all with fond remembrances.

And so the list of those asked the reflective question about their past, their happiness and their recollections of unlocked musical memories now exists. I guess it only fitting that I too add my song to the selections. The first one to come to mind is "My Girl." Someone used to sing it to me as they pantomimed the words. For some odd reason it made me feel special for just a little while. Every time I hear it I'm reminded of that feeling and I smile.

This sampling has left me forever changed. I have witnessed how powerful music can be. Everyone enjoyed the moment they remembered the music and so I say, "Thank you for the music, the songs we're singing. Thanks for all the joy they're bringing. Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty? What would life be? Without a song or a dance what are we? Thank you for the music and for giving it to me." May you too find the key to unlock your musical memories and enjoy the moments of which you are reminded. Cheers to the music!
By Melanie Morse

Back to School Bash is Sat, Aug. 4

Holla, Harvest Ministries Outreach Center and McDonalds are sponsoring a Back to School Bash this Saturday, August 4. The event will take place at Harvest Ministries and McDonalds from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This event takes place simultaneously with "Stuff the Bus" which is collecting school materials for underprivileged students.

Students are invited to come to this free event have a blast of fun with many activities, including go-kart rides, basketball games, games, storytellers, a playground, motivational speakers and a 3 point shooting contest.

There will be school supplies given out, and lots of entertainment!

This event is to celebrate the accomplishments students made during the school year and to encourage improvement for next year.

For additional information and/or to offer help and suggestions, please call 704-694-3552 or visit Wadesboro.com for more details.

Swim Classes

Parks and Recreation will be offering adult swim classes on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons starting August 7. Cost is \$18 per person. Lessons will be taught at the Parks and Recreation pool beginning at 5:30 p.m.

There will be a minimum of five and a maximum of fifteen adults per class. For more information, call Wendell Small at 704-694-5751.

Look inside for these special inserts

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- Time Warner
- ARMS
- Rotary Club
- Captain D's
- Save A Lot