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

## Unemployment Rates Increase in 84 NC Counties in June

Unemployment rates rose in 84 of North Carolina's 100 counties in June, fell in 11 and were unchanged in five. When compared to the same month last year, unemployment rates declined in 91 counties, increased in six, and remained the same in three.

Anson County's unemployment rate in June was 12.5%, a significant increase over May's 11.7% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate for June was 9.9%, May's rate was 9.4%. Looking back at June 2011, the rate then for Anson County also was 12.6%.

Anson's total labor force in June was 11,116. Of that number 9,724 were employed and 1,392 were unemployed. In May the total labor force was 10,998, with 9,709 employed and 1,289 unemployed. Looking at the numbers, Anson actually employed more people in June than in May, but the labor force increased and that caused the higher unemployment percentage.

"Over-the-year numbers are showing a positive trend compared to the June numbers," said N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll. "Since June of last year, rates are down in nearly all of North Carolina's 100 counties. Job announcements continue to be made across our state and we remain focused on getting people back to work. Working with employers statewide and providing assistance in our employment service offices is critical to finding opportunities for our customers."

North Carolina had 39 counties that were at or below the state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.9 percent. Unemployment rates increased in all 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Statewide the number of workers employed (not seasonally adjusted) increased in June by 12,294 to 4,237,552, while those unemployed rose 22,088 to 463,123. Since June 2011, the number of workers unemployed decreased 45,492, while those employed increased 69,075.

Currituck County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in June at 5.3 percent, and Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 17.6 percent.

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 series.

## Sheriff Warns of Flim-Flams

In a release from Sheriff Tommy Allen: The Anson County Sheriff's Office continues to warn citizens of fraud and flim-flam scams that are reported regularly to the Sheriff's Office. Generally, these are some form of mail, fax, telephone, e-mail or internet scams, notifying individuals they have won money from some contest, lottery or third world individual who is asking for help getting money back into the United States.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said that the old rule still applies, "If it sounds too good to be true, it almost always is. I have a stack of Award Notifications, Lottery Payment Processing Forms, Claim Center Notifications, USA Survey Network (and the list goes on and on), who have contacted local citizens on their "winnings" and ask the individuals to send them a 'processing fee, finders fee, or tax fee' for helping them with some contest that they've never entered. These letters will often be postmarked Canada or some third world country or even an island resort. Do NOT call any phone numbers listed on these letters. Sometimes that is the only thing they are trying to get you to do. You may be billed hundreds of dollars for that one "international" call."

The Sheriff said there are three things to always remember: 1) You will never win any lottery, contest or drawing that you have NEVER entered; 2) NO legitimate contest will ever ask you to send money back to them under any circumstances; 3) No legitimate person is going to contact you and promise to pay your bills and ask you to send them money in the process.

We recently have had several instances of the latter. Individuals developing a relationship correspondence with someone on Facebook or some similar social network. They ask the victim to send them money in return they promise to send a large amount of money soon. Or they send them a large check that they ask them to deposit and return a portion back to them. Of course the check will bounce a few days later, but it's too late because the victim has already sent the money by "wire" to the individual. One person recently lost \$10,000 to this scam; another \$1,400.

Anything remotely similar to what I've just described is 100% fraud and flim-flam. Remember, if it seems too good to be true...it is!!! Take time to check it out. Any legitimate business will welcome that and the crooks will not wait around.

## Veterans Services Enhancement Fair is Thursday

In a release from Ted Ward, Anson County Veteran Services Officer: The W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center's Rural Health Program and the Anson County Veteran Service Office will be hosting a Veteran Services Enhancement Collaborative in the Ingram Room of the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro on Thursday, August 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally staff from the Winston-Salem VA regional office, the Charlotte Vet Center, Greenville mobile Vet Center, and other VA and community agencies will there to provide Veterans information about services relating to their health care and more.

Former and current military and their family members who have questions or need assistance with VA benefits are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. The rural health team provides health care education and registration. The VA regional office answers claims questions and provide benefits information. The Vet Centers provide counseling and support services for combat veterans.

Former men and women of the military who are not currently enrolled for VA health care benefits or who would like to file a claim will need to bring copies of their DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, to attach to their applications for VA benefits. If you have lost your DD Form 214, you can request a copy from [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/). VA personnel will assist in completing enrollment applications, claims, requesting DD Form 214s, and initiating MyHealthVet online services.

For more information contact the Rural Health program office, at 1-800-469-8262, ext. 4958/4960, your local Veteran Service Office, or visit our internet website [www.salisbury.va.gov](http://www.salisbury.va.gov). Rural health outreach activities are posted on our events calendar at [www.salisbury.va.gov/calendar.asp](http://www.salisbury.va.gov/calendar.asp). Veterans are encouraged to stay informed by visiting our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/VASalisbury](http://www.facebook.com/VASalisbury).

## Harvest Ministries Outreach Center to Give Away School Supplies

On Saturday, August 25 at 1 p.m. Harvest Ministries will hold their annual Stuff the Bus event in the parking lot. It is a day of fun, food, games, prizes...and most importantly free school supplies to the children and families of Anson County.

Everyone is invited to come out. There will be a moon bounce, dunking booth, free throw shooting contest, gift cards, gas cards for adults, free concessions and much more. And, of course, hundreds of school supplies will be given away. This will allow students to have the tools and items necessary to start the school year successfully.

Lead Pastor Steve Adams said, "Stuff the Bus is simply a way to do our part in providing free items to students of this great county. In partnering with other great organizations and individuals, together we are showing the love of Christ by helping parents and children with these supplies."

Adams invites anyone or any business who would like to become involved in helping area students in need to donate supplies or money toward this cause. Donations will be accepted right up until August 25. To help, please call 704-695-2879. More information is available at [www.harvestmin.com](http://www.harvestmin.com).

## Anson 4-H'ers Place in District Competition

Anson County 4-H'ers brought home top honors from district competition at their annual South Central District Activity Day. Over 500 youth and adults attended the event held at Mac Williams Middle School in Fayetteville, NC. Two district gold level winning presentations were won by Anson County 4-H'ers.

District gold winners were Na'La Brown - Fruit and Vegetable Use, age category 11-13, and Morgan McCoy, Expressive Arts and Communications, age category 14-18. Bronze medal winner was Katherine Brown in Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, age category 9-10. Other presentation participant was Aaliyah Escalera with a presentation in Open Class, age category 14-18. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

Others in attendance from the county were Quenton Cromartie, 4-H'er, 4-H Volunteer Leader Betty Garris, and County Extension Director Janine Rywak.

The Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and state and local governments conducts 4-H Programs. 4-H programs focus on the development of life skills for youth. Programs are offered to all youth regardless of sex, race, religion, national origin, or disability.

## 50+ Club to Feature Musical Program

The Hampton B. Allen Library invites you to join them for the 50+ Club meeting that will be held on Monday, August 13 at 10:30 a.m. The program will be music presented by the band, Olde Country & Gospel. The band features Jim Hinson, Wilbur Moore, Sandy Drye, David Napier and Aaron Hinson.

For more information call the library at 704-694-5177.

## "I Remember Beautiful Windows and Exquisite Architectural Details"



Ansonians driving through uptown Wadesboro will notice the former Belk Building, now county offices, is undergoing a major facelift. It is quite surprising to see a beautiful facade emerging as the old white front panels are removed.

When I asked Anson County Manager Mr. Lawrence Gatewood if the original beauty of the Belk Building was known before the current restoration began, he said, "Mr. John Dunlap and former Belk Manager Mr. George Matthews both remembered beautiful windows and exquisite architectural details. These architectural details are becoming more and more apparent as panels are removed."

The panels, which covered the face of the building, were installed in 1954.

"We didn't go into this blindly. We decided to remove some of the panels and uncovered something beautiful. We hope to restore the building as closely to its original grandeur as possible," said Gatewood.

It's a rare find to uncover such amazing architecture, held captive by panels of processed metal, tarpaper and wood for nearly 60 years. What a treasure we have found!

Story and photo by Melanie Lyon

## 2.5 Magnitude Earthquake Occurs Near McFarlan Sunday

The US Geological Society has reported that on Sunday, July 29 there was an earthquake in the area of McFarlan that registered 2.5 magnitude. The epicenter of the 1:45 p.m. quake was located approximately 7 miles east-southeast from McFarlan at a depth of 8.8 miles.

There were no significant injuries or damage reported.

## Local Barbers and Cosmetologists Come Together in Support of Crash Victims

On Sunday, July 15, our community was rocked with tragedy. That day four people died in a head on collision on Highway 52, and the two survivors were gravely injured. In the aftermath of that tragedy an outpouring of love and support is being showered on the two survivors, Mrs. Rose Robinson and Mrs. Cheryl Bailey, both self employed cosmetologists, and both of whom are unable to return to work at this time due to their extensive injuries.

In Anson County there are many special people who come together in times of trials and times of need. This time is no exception. Mrs. Judy Little, owner of You Are So Special Beauty Salon, is coordinating a countywide movement in support of these two ladies, with the hope that our community will unite in an effort to sustain and help two fellow cosmetologists. "When you are self employed as these women are, and you are unable to work, then you do not get paid," Little said.

Several businesses have already joined the cause. If you would like to connect with them, please contact one of the following: Gary Snuggs at Tite Cutz Barber Shop, 704-694-9511; Carolyn Hough at Awesome Touch Salon, 704-695-1808; Kim Carpenter at Kim's Kuts, 704-694-4108; Angeles Hyatt at Nu Kuts Barber Shop; Brenda Pratt at The Hairkeepers, 704- 694-4969; Angela Ledbetter at Angela's Beauty Salon, 704-694-6669; Angeline Gainey at Nu Creations Beauty Salon, 704-994-9947; or Judy Little at You Are So Special Beauty Salon, 704-994-9277.

During my conversation with Mrs. Little, she said, "Ryan Robinson was a barber, his wife, Rose is a cosmetologist and Cheryl Bailey is a cosmetologist. This was an accident from where there are many sufferers. We are in the same profession and we can all feel their pain." Little encourages everyone to consider making donations. Jars will be set up in hopefully every salon and barber shop in the county.

A yard sale is planned for Saturday, September 1, from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the parking lot of You Are So Special at 213 West Caswell Street in Wadesboro. Please help by making donations to sell or monetary donations. There will also be sandwiches and hot dogs available for purchase that day.

All proceeds from the salon/barber shop connection as well as the yard sale will be split between Rose Robinson and Cheryl Bailey. Please connect with the salon or barber shop of your choice in order that we may help these families in need. Your commitment to these efforts is greatly appreciated.

By Melanie Lyon

## Veterans' State and Federal Benefits Seminar

The Anson County Veterans Service Office is sponsoring a meeting for all Anson County veterans and their spouses today, Wednesday, August 1st in the Little Theatre at the Hampton B. Allen Library, from 6 until 8 p.m. The library is located at 120 Greene Street in Wadesboro. Topics shared will be state and federal benefits. Also special guests will share about the benefits of a county veterans' council.

Ted Ward, the Veterans Service Officer for Anson County, encourages all veterans and their spouses in Anson County to attend. This meeting will be very informative and enlightening to all present. Any questions contact Ted Ward at (704) 694-4418 or [tward@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:tward@co.anson.nc.us).

## Back to School with Pride Needs Your Help

The Back to School Pride event will be held again this year to support area school students who are in need of uniforms and school supplies. This year's event will be held at Hatcher Park in Lilesville, beginning at 4 p.m.

Many of you may not realize how much need there is among students whose families are struggling just to provide food and shelter. The added cost of basic clothing needs and necessary school supplies are sometimes just out of reach for those families who really are trying to make things better for their children. Those families may not be asking for a handout, but just need things like pencils, paper, notebooks, uniforms and shoes.

To give donations of money, uniforms or school supplies, all of which will be for the benefit of Anson students, please call 704-848-4412 or Ester at 704-848-8452.

## Loaded Dice at Summer Jam this Friday

Everyone is invited to come to the Summer Jam on Friday, August 3 on East Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro. Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. is presenting this fun night of music, beginning at 7 p.m. and running until 10 p.m. Loaded Dice, a five piece band featuring lead and rhythm guitars, keyboards, bass guitar and drums as well as three and four part vocal harmonies, will churn out classic and southern blues rock, country, beach, oldies and top 40 dance tunes. There will be concessions and activities for the kids too.

The sponsors for the event are Ambassador Health and Rehab, Dest Family Dentistry, Glenn Trexler and Sons Logging, Leavitt Funeral Home and Parson Drugs.

## Polkton Fun Day to be Held September 8, Vendors Invited

In a release from The Town of Polkton: The Town of Polkton is seeking vendors to participate in its Polkton Fun Day event. The festival will be held Saturday, September 8th. We are looking for a variety of local vendors with items such as accessories, arts, crafts and food items. There is also a car show planned and many childrens activities.

If you or your organization would like to participate please contact Emily Wallace 704-272-8911 or email [polktonfunday@gmail.com](mailto:polktonfunday@gmail.com).

## McRae High School Class of 1962 Reunion

The McRae High School Class of 1962 will hold their reunion on Saturday, August 4. All classmates are invited to join in the fun. The reunion will kick off at the Golden Corral in Monroe at 4 p.m. Then there will be an event at the Glennie Bennett Community Center in Morven at 6 p.m.

The photographer for the event is Inspiration by Tweetie. For more information contact Linda Hyatt at 704-851-9657.

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