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

Anson County's June Unemployment Rate Was 4.9%

Anson County's unemployment rate for May was 4.3%, very slightly higher than April's 4.1% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate was 3.7% in May, the same as in April. Anson's total labor force in May was 10,629. Of that number 10,176 were employed and 453 were unemployed. In April the total labor force was 10,585 with 10,149 employed and 436 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 97 of North Carolina's counties in June and decreased in three. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.0 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.2 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 6.3 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.4 percent. The June not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.2 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 94 counties, increased in one, and remained unchanged in five. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in June by 4,194 to 4,831,175, while those unemployed increased 27,361 to 212,051. Since June 2017, the number of workers employed statewide increased 103,355, while those unemployed decreased 13,887.

Internal Investigation Leads to Arrest of Lanesboro Prison Sergeant

Following an internal investigation, a sergeant at Lanesboro Correctional Institution is facing charges brought on Monday for allegedly attempting to bring drugs into the prison. The Polkton Police Department has charged Sgt. Casonja Crowder with felony conspiracy to deliver marijuana and suboxone to an inmate and felony possession of marijuana and suboxone.

"The department appreciates the local law enforcement collaboration in making this arrest for these very serious charges," Kenneth Lassiter, director of Prisons stated. "I want to commend our special operations team and management at the facility for taking action and preventing these drugs from entering the facility. We want it known that we will work with the District Attorney's Office to help ensure any staff suspected of bringing contraband into a prison will be prosecuted."

Crowder, 34, resigned her position effective immediately. She had been with the department since 2015.

The investigation into the matter is ongoing and no further information was provided as of press time.

Family Fall Fest at 2018 Ag Expo & Fair

The 2018 Anson Ag Expo & Fair is set and planning is underway for another great festival for families to enjoy. Family Fall Fest is scheduled for Friday night, September 21 at Circle G Arena in Lilesville. Mark your calendars to come visit, and better yet, participate.

The Anson Ag Expo & Fair Planning Committee has planned an evening of fun, food and games for the whole family to enjoy. Festivities will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude around 8 p.m. Plan to enjoy a fun night for everybody.

Carnival type games will be available for children underneath the shelter and prizes will be given for participation. Older youth will enjoy relay style games set up in the shelter area. Traditional fall fair games are planned, including Dizzy Bat, Egg Toss, Tug-O-War Race and more. Games will wrap up around 7:30 p.m., and then there will be music for everyone to enjoy in the shelter.

The Soul Food Wagon and Hometown Hotdogs and Catering will be set up for the evening offering food truck fare and drinks. In addition, complimentary popcorn and sno cones will be offered for children and adults.

The evening event will set the stage for the annual 4-H Youth Livestock Show the next day, Saturday the 22, starting at 9:45 a.m. at Circle G. For those interested in the Ag Fair, it will also be on display on Saturday at the Cooperative Extension Center in Wadesboro from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Complete event information is available on the web at anson.ces.ncsu.edu and Facebook, under 2018 Anson Ag Expo & Fair. Like that page to receive event updates and be on the lookout for more postings.

Plan to come out and enjoy the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!

Put Life Back Into Your Life. Consider a Living Healthy Workshop.

Are you an adult dealing with an ongoing health condition? If you have conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, heart disease, overweight, chronic pain, anxiety, the Living Healthy Workshop, offered by Grace Senior Center, can help you take charge of your life.

You don't have to stop doing the things you love to do. The key to getting the most out of life is learning to manage your symptoms. No matter your situation, the Living Healthy workshop can assist you in taking control.

Come get the support and tools you need to self manage your condition. Instructors and participants will work together to find practical ways to deal with pain, fatigue and frustration, discover better nutrition and exercise choices, understand new treatment choices, and learn better ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health.

Join this 2 1/2-hour Living Healthy Workshop, held each week for six weeks. Learn from trained leaders who are dealing with health conditions themselves. Set your own goals and make a step-by-step plan to improve your health - and your life.

Classes will be held every Tuesday starting September 11, and run through October 16. It will be held at the Grace Senior Center, from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Sign up now. Spaces are limited. To register or get more information, please call Rita Short at 704-694-6217.



Anson County Celebrates National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 7 citizens of Anson County celebrated National Night Out through an assortment of activities including food, a DJ, public safety displays and events for kids.

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "National Night Out helps build rapport and a sense of teamwork among community members and first responders. The safety of our county depends on teamwork among our officers and the people they serve. National Night Out helps build that sense of teamwork."

Founded in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch, National Night Out is celebrated nationwide and in Canada the first Tuesday in August. It is intended to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local crime prevention programs
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
- Citizens using common sense crime prevention practices to protect themselves and their property
- Neighbors getting to know each other and working together to prevent crime
- Citizens being trained to recognize and report suspicious activity



Letter to the Editor Harvest Ministries Working with Faith Based Center of Hope on School Supplies Giveaway is this Saturday

Can you help less fortunate students with a donation?

As you know, it is that time of year again...back to school time. While this is an exciting and busy time for families and students alike, it can be a burdensome time for many of our county's children and parents. Many of our students don't have the finances or resources to adequately prepare for the upcoming school year. It takes book bags, pencils, paper, crayons, markers, and many other items to be successful in the classroom.

This is where we are asking for your assistance. This year Vancine Sturdivant and the Faith Based Center of Hope, along with Harvest Ministries, are sponsoring the annual "Back to School" Giveaway. This event will be held on Saturday, August 18 beginning at 11 a.m. in the auditorium at Harvest Ministries. The day will be a huge celebration, and a large amount of school supplies will be given to every educator and teacher in attendance. Harvest Ministries is located on East Caswell Street (Highway 74) in Wadesboro, behind Pizza Hut and McDonalds.

This year we want to deliver hundreds of supplies to every school in Anson County! You can help make that happen. Anson students need our support. Together we are asking that you, your organization, or family will please support this endeavor wholeheartedly.

Many local businesses have expressed interest in supporting this community wide event. We are writing to request monetary donation of \$100 - or any amount - to help purchase some school supplies. You can send this to PO Box 1254, Wadesboro, NC 28170. All gifts are tax deductible, and we ask that you please make checks payable to Harvest with "school supplies" on the memo line.

We are trying to have donations collected no later than Friday, August 17. This will give us ample time to gather the supplies, materials, book-bags, etc.

We thank you for your time, and appreciate all you do and support you give to make Anson County a better place for all of us who call it home. To donate items or to drop off items contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-294-0480 or Pastor Steve Adams at 704-695-2879. Thank you again!

Respectfully, Pastor Steve Adams and Vancine Sturdivant

Free Groceries for Families in Need September 5

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Mobile Food Pantry and CHS Mobile Health Unit will be at First Baptist Church, 309 Lee Avenue in Wadesboro on Wednesday, September 5. Please arrive and register between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m.

- Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food.
- Arrive between 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food.
- If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445.
- You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email tschumpert@wnccumc.net. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.

Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market is Now Open

The Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. Farmers Market is open every Thursday, from 4 to 6 p.m. Come the Square (corner of Wade and Greene Streets) and you will find a variety of produce and other food items from the area.

If you would like to participate as a vendor, please contact UWI at 704-695-1644.

Brown Bag Book Club Meeting to Feature Author Phyllis McManus

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the Brown Bag Book Club meeting for Monday, August 20 at 12:00 noon in the Pritchett Room with guest author Phyllis McManus. Phyllis, who was born in Monroe, started writing as a form of therapy when she lost her parents in a car accident in 2002. She loves to write from her heart and this shows in her characters. She won First Place nationwide in the Union County Writer's Club poetry competition in 2008 with the poem, "The Edge of Darkness." Phyllis has won numerous awards for her writing and is currently doing public speaking about her journey as an author. Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish, meet this featured author and enjoy the program.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 28 at 10 a.m. at the BC-SWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-694-3516.