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

Commissioners Meet October 3

The Anson County Board of Commissioners now meets two times per month. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3 at 6 p.m. The second meeting in October will be held on October 17.

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

Anson's August Unemployment Rate

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for August was 4.2%. July's rate was 4.2%. Anson County ranked #82 of the 100 counties statewide (low to high).

Here are other past rates in Anson County:
2023: 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 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 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%.
2020: 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 August was 3.6%, the same as June and July's rates.

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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%.

Anson's total labor force in August was 10,212, with 9,761 employed and 451 unemployed. In July the total labor force was 10,150, with 9,720 employed and 430 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 41 of North Carolina's counties in August 2023, decreased in 28, and remained unchanged in 31. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.2 percent while Swain County had the lowest at 2.7 percent.

Seven of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases, two increased, and six remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.0 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.9 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.6%.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 99 counties and increased in one. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in August by 16,778 to 5,082,569, while those unemployed increased by 412 to 189,342. Since August 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 129,781, while those unemployed decreased 25,754.

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.

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Extension Offers Fall Walking Program

The Anson County Cooperative Extension is offering a "Sneakers to the Ground" fall walking program. It runs from October 1 to November 27, There's no cost to participate and registration ends this Friday, September 29.

Walk for your health. Grab your tennis shoes, a friend and some motivation because we are about to walk. Challenge yourself with this 8-week walking adventure. You will track your steps with a smart watch, phone or pedometer and keep record of your results weekly.

For those who need some accountability partners, there will be group walks Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10 to 11 a.m. Participants will meet at the Extension Center and locations will be determined weekly.

Included in the program will be:

- Healthy recipes weekly
- Physical activity tips
- Weekly fun facts

Come join in this fun fitness program that includes:

- Healthy recipes weekly
- Physical activity tips
- Weekly fun Facts
- No Cost to participate

Registration ends September 29. You can use the QR code or call 704-694-2915.

For more information contact Roshunda Terry, County Extension Director at 704-694-2915.

Group Meeting About NC State Health Plan Open Enrollment

Grace Senior Center will be providing a group meeting to help with information about the NC State Health Plan Open Enrollment for the 2024 benefit year, which runs October 9-27, 2023.

Retirees who are enrolled with the North Carolina State Health Plan are welcome to attend to ask questions about their health plan.

Join Joanne Clark, Tomasina Spencer and Brenda Bennett, who are Grace Senior Center SHIIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program) Counselors on Tuesday, October 3. They will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Grace Senior Center.

Please call (704) 694-6616 for information and to register. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA.



2023 AHS Volleyball Team

Pictured above is the Anson High School Volleyball Team. They are, from left, front row: Brooklyn Miles, Susan Harrington and Morgan Burr. Middle row: Lauren Lomax, Hannah Austin, Caroline Austin and Allie Steagall. Back row: Coach Lenora Chambers, Leah McLaurin, Eva Hyatt, Lauren Dutton, Payton Buckingham and Coach Patty Livingston.

Anson Schools Sports Update

Anson High School Volleyball

- **Tuesday, September 12 - Anson lost to West Stanly 0-3** (11-25, 19-25, 14-25). **Individual stats:** Lauren Dutton 12 kills, 1 block, 2 digs; Allie Steagall 3 aces, 23 assists, 3 digs; Caroline Austin 1 kill, 1 assist, 13 digs; Brooklyn Miles 3 kills, 1 block, 6 digs; Lauren Lomax 1 ace, 2 kills, 4 digs; Leah McLaurin 2 aces, 1 kill; Morgan Burr 6 kills, 2 digs; Susan Harrington 1 dig; Hannah Austin 5 digs.
- **Thursday, September 14 - Anson beat Forest Hills 3-0** (26-24, 25-21, 25-10). **Individual stats:** Caroline Austin 5 aces, 1 kill, 5 assists, 16 digs; Allie Steagall 2 aces, 4 kills, 25 assists, 6 digs; Lauren Dutton 4 aces, 7 kills, 5 blocks; Leah McLaurin 1 ace, 1 block, 3 digs; Morgan Burr 2 aces, 8 kills, 6 digs; Brooklyn Miles 1 ace, 6 kills, 3 digs; Hannah Austin 1 ace, 1 kill, 8 digs; Eva Hyatt 7 kills, 3 blocks; Susan Harrington 3 digs.

Anson High School Varsity Football

- **Friday, September 22 - Anson beat Pageland 48-21. Passing** (attempts-yards): Luke Hyatt 9-15, 130 yards; **Rushing** (carries-yards): Jazeer Griffin 19-179 2 TD; Kendrick Maye 10-106 1 TD; Luke Hyatt 8-36 4 TD; Courtney Sturdivant 1-8. **Receiving** (receptions-yards): Jayden Little 4-63; Courtney Sturdivant 3-34; Kendrick Maye 1-20; Jase Martin 1-13. **Tackles** (solo, assists): Jeremiah Griffin solo 8, assist 3; Denez Chambers solo 4, assist 2; Jase Martin solo 4, assist 1; Darren Harrington solo 4, assist 1; Cedrick Zeno solo 4, assist 1; Courtney Sturdivant solo 4, assist 1; Jazeer Griffin solo 2, assist 2; Jaqualin Liles solo 4; Zack Griffin solo 4; Kendrick Maye solo 2; Daquan McKeever solo 1; Jayden Little solo 1; Gage Lookabill assist 1; Gabriel Maxwell solo 1; Emmanuel Sturdivant solo 1. **Sacks:** Denez Chambers 1.5; Jeremiah Griffin 1.0; Jase Martin 3.0; Jaqualin Liles 1.0; D. Harrington 1.0; Emmanuel Sturdivant .5. **Interceptions:** Jazeer Griffin 1; Cedric Zeno 1.

Anson High School Junior Varsity Football

- **Thursday, September 21 - Anson beat Pageland 38-14.** Jackson Stinson 2 rushing TD, two 2 point conversions; Tasean Harrish 1 rushing TD; Dallas Lilly 1 rushing TD, 1 KO return TD, one 2 point conversion.

Anson Middle School Cross Country

- **Tuesday, September 19** - Competed at the South Stanly Meet at Piney Point Golf Club.

Team Times Boys: Brady Hyatt 17:40.7; Walter Marsh 17:41.4; Isaac Marsh 19:39.4; Ceyvon McNair 19:52.0; Lagrant Chiholm 20:05.1; David Colston 27:54.9. **Times Girls:** Lorelei Woodall 19:33.1; Briannon Murdock 19:34.1; Jiya Shah 25:20.7; Nakia Thomas 25:23.3.

Anson Middle School Volleyball

- **Tuesday, September 19** - AMS lost to West Stanly 3-2
- **Thursday, September 21** - AMS beat East Montgomery 3-0

Anson Middle School Girls Track

- **Tuesday, September 19** - Scotland Meet. Carika McNair 1st Place Shot Put, 1st Place Discus; Aubree Brewington- 2nd place Discus; London Williams- 3rd place Discus.

Girls 4x100 2nd Place - Angel Cason, Cherish Chambers, Kori Moore, Taliyah Wall.

Anson Middle School Golf

- **Tuesday, September 19** - Deercroft Golf Club, Wagram, NC Team finished 1st Place overall. Coy Lear 36 (medalist); Garret Baucom 55; Griffin Hasty 56; Gabriel Dillon 56; Brodie Lear 57; Dakota McGowen 62.

Partnership for Children Barn Blast Set for January 26

Caroline Goins, Executive Director of the Anson County Partnership for Children said, "We are excited to invite you to the annual Barn Blast fundraiser in support of the children of Anson County. This event promises to be a night of fun and entertainment, all for a great cause."

The evening will kick off with a live auction featuring a wide range of exciting items up for bid. From unique experiences to valuable collectibles, there's something for everyone. Following the auction, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Jon G's. And of course, no fundraiser is complete without some dancing! So, put on your dancing shoes and get ready to groove the night away.

The event will be held at the SPCC Lockhart-Taylor Center on Friday, January 26, from 6 to 11:30 p.m.

Your contribution will make a significant impact on the lives of Anson County children and families, providing them with educational resources, programs, and much-needed support.

Goins added, "Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you at Barn Blast!" You can get more information and purchase tickets by visiting www.AnsonChildren.org or calling 704-694-4036.

Beekeepers Meet Thursday

All Anson County Beekeepers, honey bee enthusiasts and anyone who is interested in the hobby are reminded that the upcoming meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at the Anson Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro.

They will discuss winter preparations, and hive moisture control. Also, they will have 50/50 drawings, door prizes, and ACBA t-shirts for sale as well.

For more information check the Anson County Beekeepers facebook page.

Richard David Johnson Found Guilty on all Counts for Child Sex Offenses

On September 20, 2023, after a nearly two-week trial, an Anson County jury found Richard David Johnson, 56, of Wadesboro, guilty of the following offenses:

- Four counts - Statutory Sex Offense with a Child by an Adult
- Four counts - Indecent Liberties with a Child
- Four counts - Disseminate Obscenity to Minor Under 13
- Two counts - Third Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor

The Honorable Paul A. Holcombe, North Carolina Superior Court Judge, sentenced Johnson to an active sentence for a minimum of 600 months (50 years) and a maximum of 840 months (70 years) in the custody of the North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections. Upon his release, Johnson is to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his natural life. Johnson was given credit for his time served in the Anson County Jail, 942 days (approximately 31 months).

These charges stem from two separate incidents investigated and charged by the Wadesboro Police Department in 2018 and 2021, with technical assistance from the Monroe NC Police Department. The case was prosecuted by the office of W. Reece Saunders, Jr., District Attorney for the 21st prosecutorial district.

Music on the Square is Sat.

The Town of Peachland invites everyone to their "Music on the Square" this Saturday, September 30, from 4:30 to 10 p.m. This free event features DJ Leon Gatewood and the Village Green Band & food vendors.

For more information contact Melissa Hildreth at 704-272-7781.