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

Anson County's November Unemployment Rate Down to 8.2%

Anson County's unemployment rate for November was 8.2%, marking two straight months of single digit unemployment rates. In October the rate was 9.1%. Statewide the unemployment rate in November was 6.9%. In November 2012 the rate in Anson County was 11.9%. Anson's total labor force in November was 10,867. Of that number 9,971 were employed and 896 were unemployed. In October the total labor force was 10,945, with 9,951 employed and 994 unemployed. The unemployment rate decrease for November was a result of a decrease in the labor force primarily (by 78 workers), and an increase of 20 employed workers.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 91 of North Carolina's counties in November and increased in nine. All 14 of the State's metro areas experienced rate decreases.

Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 13.5 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 4.3 percent. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 10.0 percent experienced the highest rate and Durham-Chapel Hill at 5.1 percent had the lowest. The November not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 6.9 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 14 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in November by 18,410 to 4,347,769, while those unemployed decreased 29,308 to 322,319. Since November 2012, the number of workers employed statewide increased 22,025, while those unemployed decreased 110,279.

Reginald Odell, Jr. Sought for Murder of Dorian Miles



The Anson County Sheriff's Office has obtained warrants for First Degree Murder and Assault with Intent to Kill, Inflicting Serious Injury on Reginald Odell, Jr, a black male, aged 34. Odell is wanted for the December 30th murder of Dorian Miles and the assault on Hasson M. Pressley, which occurred in the Lilesville area in eastern Anson County. Odell is believed to be somewhere in Anson County or surrounding areas. Odell should be considered armed and dangerous. Anyone with any information as to his whereabouts should call the Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188.

Brrrr...Single Digit Temperatures in Anson County on Monday Night

Ansonians experienced unusually cold weather on Monday night and Tuesday. The low Monday night was 9 degrees, with temperatures reaching only about 24 degrees on Tuesday. Tuesday night temperatures were in the teens. Weather forecasters expect temperatures to return to normal levels by the weekend.

According to meteorologists an arctic air mass from Canada bulldozed into the southeast. This resulted in strong winds on Monday, producing bitterly cold wind chills. It was the coldest air we have experienced in many locations in the past couple of decades. The cold broke records across the state.

Temperatures early Tuesday ranged from 8 degrees below zero in Boone to 20 degrees on Cape Hatteras. Wind chills ranged from 36 below zero in Boone to 6 at Cape Hatteras and Lumberton. High temperatures across much of the state did not get above freezing on Tuesday.

New Sheriff's K-9 Tracks Down Fugitive

The Anson County Sheriff Office's newest K-9 tracked down her first fugitive Tuesday afternoon, December 31st. Deputies were assisting US Marshalls in attempting to arrest Randy Scott Prevatte, age 42, on a federal probation violation warrant. Prevatte had fled from the officers during an earlier attempt to arrest him, when deputies called for a K-9 to assist.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said that his newest K-9 "Intra," a female German Sheppard, with handler Sgt. Donald Jenks were called to an area off Country Club Road. The K-9 tracked the suspect for several hours through woods, behind houses and across roads. The suspect was finally apprehended in a thick wooded area behind a home across from the entrance to Beaver Dam Estates.

"Intra's first day at work was Sunday, December 22nd. She is a multi-trained K-9, for locating illegal drugs, retrieving evidence, apprehension of fleeing suspects, officer protection, as well as tracking," Sheriff Allen said. "She performed great Tuesday."

The Sheriff also thanked the Wadesboro Police Department for their assistance in the incident. Pictured here are, from left, Deputy Brian Jenkins, suspect Prevatte and Deputy Megan Prieto.



Chamber Lunch & Learn January 21

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce and South Piedmont Community College's Small Business Entrepreneurship Center invite you to attend the next Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, January 21. The program is entitled "Build Your Small Business through Networking and Social Media." How do you find resources for your small business? Making the right connections is critical for small business success. Learn tips about when, where, and how to network. Attendees will discover local, regional, and state resources to help with planning, managing and financing a small business. Lisa Rolan, Director of the Small Business Center at South Piedmont Community College, will host the event and Shane This Lunch & Learn session is free from Chamber members. It will take place at 11:45 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office. Seating will be limited to the first 25, so please RSVP your attendance as soon as possible for the seminar and catering purposes. The deadline for registration will be Friday, January 17. If you RSVP and do not attend you will be billed \$5 for your lunch! You may register by calling 704-694-4181 or email ansonchamber@windstream.net.



Students at AES Graduate from the DARE Program

DARE teaches students about drug awareness and resistance. It is a wonderful program that Sheriff Tommy Allen, Jr. started in 1988. It was one of the first in the state and has operated continuously ever since.

Each year DARE is taught to over 400 fifth graders throughout the county. DARE teaches students the different ways to say "no" to peers and drugs. This year Lieutenant Paxton taught fifth graders at Ansonville Elementary School more than just drug prevention education; he taught the students good decision making skills to help them avoid high-risk behavior to ensure they grow up healthy, safe, and secure.

Recently each student in Mr. Jones and Mrs. Rathje's classrooms successfully completed the DARE program and were honored during a graduation ceremony. Four students from the fifth grade were chosen as DARE essay winners. These students wrote in response to the following prompt: What knowledge and skills have you learned in D.A.R.E. to help you make healthy choices? Give details about what you have learned and why it's important.

The winners were (from left) Caleb Williamson, Nevaeh Lilly, Emily Edwards and Kennedy Jones. Each student received medals of honor for completing award winning essays. Congratulations to the winners of the essay contest and to all fifth grade students for a job well done.



AES Dare Winners

Auditions for the Musical Godspell are this Month

Auditions for the musical *Godspell* will be held at the Ansonia Theatre on Monday and Tuesday, January 27 and 28, from 6 to 9 p. m. Parts for five men and five women are available. Roles are appropriate for various ages and cultures. Director Tommy Wooten is looking for a strong singer, preferably in his 20's or 30's, to play the part of Jesus.

This inspirational musical is based on the gospel according to Matthew and is a modern take on the teachings of Jesus. It is one of the most beloved musicals of all time. All those auditioning should come prepared to sing any song of their choosing. They can bring sheet music or a karaoke track, or they can sing a cappella. Performances will be May 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11. Those auditioning should also bring a calendar noting any conflicts on weekday evenings or performance dates.

Contact the Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or ansonart@windstream.net if you are unable to audition on the scheduled dates or if you have questions.

Sheriff Offers Jail Report for 2013

An end of year report shows that the Anson County Jail's average daily population (ADP) was down for the fourth year in a row. The average daily jail population for 2013 was 44 inmates. The jail's rated capacity is 60. A total of 1,582 individuals were booked into the jail, averaging around 132 per month.

Year	ADP	Total Booked Per Year	Average Booked Per Month
2003	51	1920	160
2004	54	1954	163
2005	58	2119	177
2006	55	2027	169
2007	55	---	---
2008	53	1707	142
2009	62	1919	160
2010	68	1483	124
2011	58	1669	139
2012	48	1603	134
2013	44	1582	132

"Our jail population has come down from 68 in 2010, when some days were well into the 80's, for a number of reasons," said Sheriff Tommy Allen. "The District Attorney is moving cases through the system a little faster, which is really hard to do as the system is not set up for speed. The judges have changed the bonding structure some, allowing lesser bonds for certain minor crimes. But, most importantly, we are pushing the inmates into and through the system with our pre-trial policies by reviews bonds, moving up court dates for those who cannot make bond and coordinating with many of the branches of the judicial system such as the DA's office, the attorneys, witnesses, officer's court days and the Clerk of Court's office to see that it all clicks at the same time to move cases of inmates. I believe we've pushed back by at least by five and maybe ten years the need to start planning to build a new jail, which would likely be a ten million dollar plus project."

The current jail was built in the early 1980's and has been open for thirty years. It replaced the old jail that opened in 1912, the same year the current courthouse was opened.

"People don't realize that a jail building ages faster than other public buildings that are opened mostly during regular business hours," the Sheriff added. "A jail is operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week the year around. We do the best we can with what we have. One of our main concerns now are any changes the state may make in certain minimum standards for jails. Some things you just can't change or fix without expensive construction."

New Salvage Yard Reporting Quickly Locates Stolen Vehicles

Since a new salvage yard reporting law went into effect a month ago, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles' License and Theft Bureau has received 41 reports of stolen vehicles, stopping 22 from being sold to salvage yards and confiscating 19 following sales.

The new law requires salvage yards and metals recyclers to verify vehicle information before selling parts or crushing vehicles they buy. Of those identified, the Bureau and several local law enforcement agencies have recovered 33 vehicles and also uncovered three fictitious IDs still under investigation. Additionally, the Bureau is beginning to receive reports of illegal activities in buying and selling junked cars.

"This is a great example of how one new law has already made a big difference in a very short amount of time," said Motor Vehicles Commissioner Kelly J. Thomas. He said the number of vehicles stolen in North Carolina during 2012 totaled more than 15,876.

DMV's new North Carolina Scrap Vehicle Reporting System requires metals recyclers and salvage yards to verify whether a vehicle brought to them without a title and more than 10 model years old has been reported stolen prior to purchase. With access to the system, these recyclers can cross-reference DMV files. North Carolina salvage yards and recyclers were required to begin verifying the status of vehicles brought to them as of Dec. 1. Businesses who have not registered with the Division will be audited and are subject to felony charges if unregistered.

Passage of the law requiring the new reporting system was initiated by Rep. Tim Moore of Kings Mountain. The Carolina Auto Recycler Association and the Recycle Association of North Carolina also worked to help shape the legislation.

If a vehicle is reported stolen, the system notifies the salvage yard or recycling business to verify the vehicle identification number and stop the purchase of the vehicle. The system immediately notifies the Division's License and Theft Bureau about the stolen vehicle and the business notifies local law enforcement. If the vehicle is not reported stolen, the system will allow the sale to continue, requiring a copy or scanned image of the seller's driver license and identifying information about the vehicles to be maintained by the business.

The system will continue to check the vehicle's status for up to 30 days after the initial request. The metals recycler or salvage yard will not be held liable if the motor vehicle later turns out to be stolen.

Randy Lee Henry Busted Under New NC Meth Precursor Law

On last Thursday, January 2 detectives with the Wadesboro Police Department obtained warrants for the arrest of Randy Lee Henry, 43, of Wadesboro for Possession of Precursor Chemicals. This is the first such case for the Wadesboro Police Department since the introduction of a new pseudoephedrine law aimed at reducing the manufacturing of methamphetamine.



The new North Carolina law states, "It is unlawful for any person to possess a pseudoephedrine product if the person has a prior conviction for the possession or manufacture of methamphetamine." The law went into effect on December 1, 2013.

Henry was arrested on Friday, January 3 and placed in the Anson County Jail on a \$5,000 secured bond.

Carson Hill to Perform for 50+ Club Meeting

The Hampton B. Allen Library 50+ Club will meet on Monday, January 13 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. Local musician Carson Hill will be presenting a program sharing some of her own material. This program is free and everyone is invited to come and bring a friend. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Friends of the Animal Shelter Meeting

There will be an organization meeting of the Friends of the Animal Shelter on Tuesday, January 14, from 6 to 7 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming involved with or learning more about the new Anson County Animal Shelter is urged to come to the Ingram Room at the Lockhart-Taylor Center for the meeting. For more information contact the Anson County Manager's office at 704-994-3200.