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

## Anson Unemployment Rate Was 12.1% for December

Anson County's unemployment rate in December was 12.1%, up a half percent from November's 11.7% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate for December was 9.8%, up from November's 9.5%.

Anson's total labor force in December was 9,638. Of that number 8,473 were employed and 1,165 were unemployed. In November the total labor force was 9,583, with 8,457 employed and 1,126 unemployed.

Unemployment rates increased in 93 of North Carolina's 100 counties in December. Rates decreased in four counties and remained the same in three.

"Our focus is helping existing and new employers grow jobs in North Carolina," said N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll. "Assisting our customers with finding work and helping them through programs at our DES offices and JobLink Career Centers statewide remains our priority."

North Carolina had 37 counties that were at or below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 9.8 percent. Rates increased in 13 of the 14 state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Statewide the number of workers employed (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in December by 32,021 to 4,038,091. The number of people unemployed increased 12,412 in December to 440,022, compared to 427,610 in November.

Orange County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in December at 6.1 percent. Meanwhile, Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 17.5 percent.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns and therefore it is advisable to focus on the over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted series.

## Kress Horne Recognized for Service



Pictured from left are Sheriff Tommy Allen, Safe Kids Anson County Co-Chair, Corporal Horne, Ashlie Jones, Safe Kids Anson County Coordinator, and Elaine B. Scarborough, Safe Kids Anson County Co-Chair.

On Wednesday, February 8, Corporal William Kress Horne, Jr. of the Anson County Sheriff's Office was recognized as "Outstanding Coalition Member of the Year" at the Safe Kids Anson County meeting. Safe Kids Anson County's mission is to reduce and prevent accidental childhood injuries, birth through age 14 in Anson County.

The Anson County Coalition focuses on four main areas: Motor Vehicle Accidents and Child Passenger Safety, Poisoning, Fire and Fire Arm Safety.

Corporal Horne, who was recognized for his dedication and continuous support, has been a key member of the coalition since its formation in January 2011.

For more information about Safe Kids Anson County please contact Ashlie Jones, Safe Kids Anson County Coordinator, at 704-694-4036 ext 31.

## Writer's Club 23rd Awards Ceremony

In a release from the Anson County Writer's Club: The Anson County Writers' Club is pleased to announce that the 23rd Awards Ceremony for the annual contests in prose and poetry will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 16, in the Little Theatre at the Hampton B. Allen Library.

Winners have been notified by mail. They will be presented a certificate and cash prize for their talent. Friends and relatives are invited to attend the ceremony and stay for light refreshments following the ceremony.

Categories were grades 3-6, 7-9, 10-12; and adult. Co-chairmen for the 2011-2012 contests are Kaye Ratliff and Randy Tarlton. Judges were members of the Union County Writers' Club.

The ACWC held its first contest in 1989 with the goal of encouraging and recognizing local writers. Every three years, the winning entries are published in an anthology, *Anson Pathways*. There are now seven books and an eighth will be added in 2013. The anthologies are available for sale at the Anson County Arts Council office and gallery.

## Chamber Needs Assistance with Collecting 50 Years of Photos

In a release from Lynn Edwards, Director of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber will be celebrating 50 years of service in 2013 and we need your help as we search for photos from the past to the present. Some examples of what we are interested in include, but are not limited to, Before & After, Old & New photos such as, the Airport, the Scarborough Building, the Ansonia Theatre, the Lyon's Den in Fox & Lyon Drug Store, Wadesboro High School, the Famous Curve, the Leavitt House, The Color Purple, photos from Municipalities, or anything else that you think we might have an interest in. We would like to see what you have!

We'd like to have the photos in an electronic format. But we will accept and appreciate the actual photos too. We can have them scanned. If you have actual photos, please put them in an envelope with your name and contact information so we may get them back to you after we have completed our projects for our 50 years of service. We'd like to have your photos by February 29th if possible.

Thanks in advance for your time and effort. Here is our contact information: Anson County Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 305, Wadesboro NC 28170. We are located at 107-A East Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro. Telephone 704-604-4181, fax 704-694-3830, email [ansonchamber@windstream.net](mailto:ansonchamber@windstream.net). Our website is [www.ansoncounty.org](http://www.ansoncounty.org).

## New Beginnings Cancer Support Group

The New Beginnings Cancer Support Group will meet Monday, February 20th at 6 p.m. at the Ladybug Restaurant in Wadesboro. Janine Rywak will be the guest speaker. For more information please call (704) 694-3988.

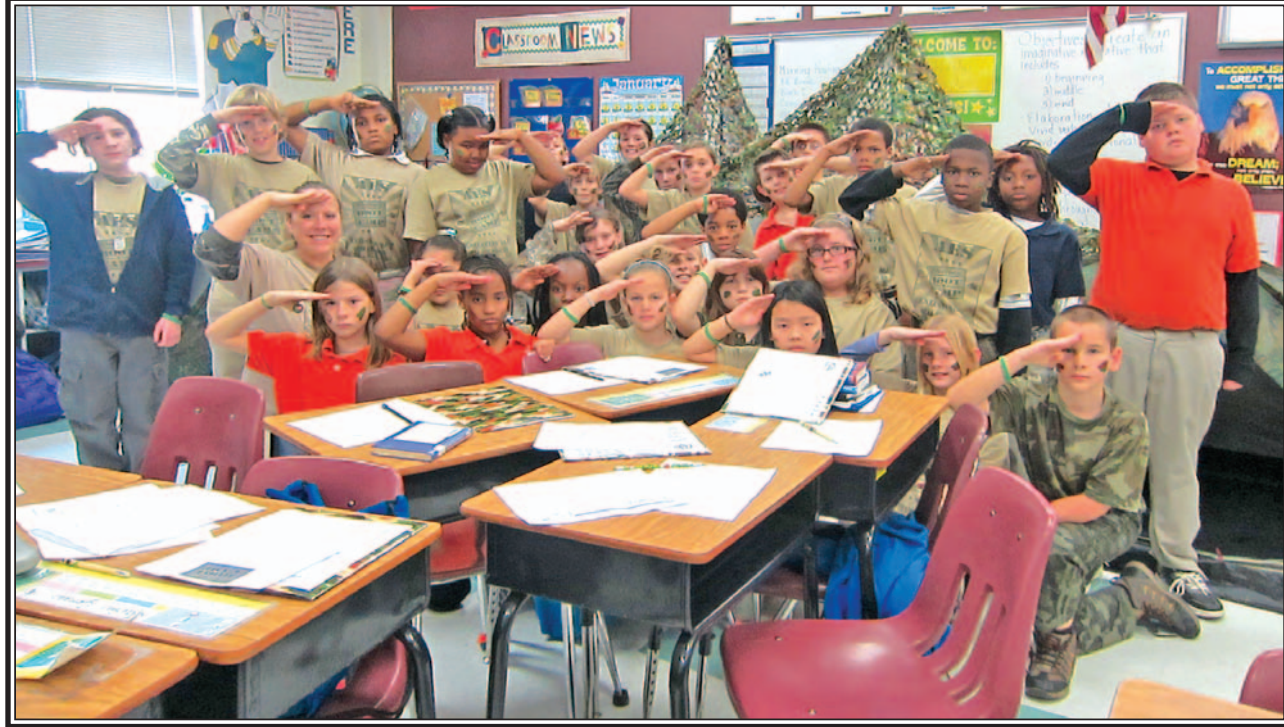
## AES Holds Second Year of 4th Grade Writing Boot Camp



In a release from Ansonville Elementary School: January 23rd-27th, Ansonville Elementary School's 4th Graders experienced Writing Class in a whole new way... "Boot Camp" style. Thanks to Anson County Writer's Club, AES teacher, Ms. Tracy Preslar, was able to hold the second year of Writing Boot Camp for 46 fourth graders using a \$1500 grant she received back in 2008.

During the five days, students were taught important writing strategies that included: Better Beginnings; Support, Elaboration, and Details; Vivid Verbs; Descriptive Words; Transitional Words and Phrases; and Exciting Endings. Writing Boot Camp is an idea geared towards raising interest in writing for boys and girls alike by having them dress and play the part of military recruits. Students received their own personalized "Boot Camp" shirts and were able to wear camouflage gear, such as combat boots, fatigues, and dog tags. Equipped with camouflage pencils, writing folders, and wristbands, students worked while sitting in military camp tents, lounging under the camouflage tarps on camouflage pillows and blankets, or on camp cots.

Each and every student devoted their attention completely during the entire camp. Every student who mastered the "Boot Camp Cadence" and other writing strategies officially graduated from Writing Boot Camp and are now "Master Writers!"



## SPCC to Offer Spring Classes in Morven

South Piedmont Community College will offer free classes for the unemployed and underemployed, and inexpensive computer classes at the new Holla Center of Morven beginning this spring. The center, at 229-E Main St., is also known as the Mary E. Little Center.

The courses, beginning in March, include morning and evening Computer Skills for the WorkPlace and Computer Skills for the Job Seekers classes. The FDIC class, MoneySmart, will begin in April. These classes are all free of charge for the unemployed and underemployed.

Courses in Typing Skills I and II will be offered in March and April in the new computer lab. There will be a small fee for these. Center Technician Ginger Sturdivant and SPCC JobReady Recruitment Specialist Eric Tillmon will instruct the classes.

Register at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, 514 N. Washington St., Wadesboro, prior to the first day of the course. For information, contact Sandy Huntley at 704-272-5456 or [shuntley@spcc.edu](mailto:shuntley@spcc.edu).

## Wildlife Commission Raises Awareness of Prescribed Fire

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is raising awareness of the benefits of prescribed burn during Prescribed Fire Awareness Week, Feb. 13-19, 2012. Gov. Bev. Perdue has signed a proclamation declaring the second full week in February a time for citizens to "learn more about prescribed burning and the essential role fire plays." The Commission is one of several agencies and groups teaching the importance of prescribed fire in North Carolina ecosystems.

"Prescribed fire is one of our key tools in forestry and wildlife habitat management," said N.C. Prescribed Fire board member Dean Simon, a wildlife forester with the Commission. "Many plants and animals need prescribed fire to survive and thrive, and burns also reduce the threat of large, dangerous wildfires."

Fire once occurred naturally across North Carolina. Low-intensity fires burned every few years, fueled by grass, leaves, pine straw and other forest debris. They kept the forest open, allowing sunlight to penetrate to its floor and reducing buildup of dangerous fuel loads. Fire suppression altered the landscape, allowing fuels to accumulate and putting people and communities in jeopardy.

There are many fire-dependent ecosystems across the state, from the mountains to the coast, including most oak and pine forests. Without fire, many native plants and animals will disappear due to lack of food, habitat and conditions needed for them to exist.

Prescribed fire participants receive extensive training to ensure that they are careful to protect surrounding communities, themselves and the land they are working to restore. Fire experts do a great deal of work before the burn. They create a burn plan, which includes smoke-management strategies, fire-control measures, acceptable weather parameters, equipment and personnel needs. The plan also details how the ecosystem will benefit from fire.

For more information on Prescribed Fire Awareness Week, contact the N.C. Prescribed Fire Council at [www.ncprescribedfirecouncil.org](http://www.ncprescribedfirecouncil.org) or Brian Haines, public information officer with the N.C. Forest Service, at 919-857-4828.

The N.C. Prescribed Fire Council brings together natural resource professionals, public and private land managers, and others who support the use of prescribed fire.

## The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program

Are you an adult age 55 or older with any type of diagnosed Arthritis? Grace Senior Center will be offering a free eight week exercise program to senior citizens in Anson County. This exercise program will be offered twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 1 to 2 p.m.

The program begins on Monday, March 5th and runs through Monday, April 23rd. To register please call AFEP Instructor Wanda Talbert at 704-694-6616 or email [waltbert@email.co.anson.nc.us](mailto:waltbert@email.co.anson.nc.us).

## Genealogical Society Meets Saturday

The Anson County Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, February 18th at 2 p.m. in the Historical Society office at 206 East Wade Street in Wadesboro. Juanita Redfean Williams will discuss the history of Lilesville. The public is invited. Email [genealogy1959@yahoo.com](mailto:genealogy1959@yahoo.com) or call 704-475-3877 for more details.

## Early School Dismissal Thursday, Secondary School Conferences

Thursday, February 16th is early dismissal for all schools, and Parent/Teacher Conferences for secondary schools only.

- Wadesboro Elementary and Wadesboro Primary Dismiss at 12:30 p.m.
- All other elementary schools dismiss at 1 p.m.
- All secondary schools dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

Parent/Teacher Conferences for secondary schools only run from 2 to 7 p.m.

## Blood Drive at PPES February 15

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, February 15, from 2 to 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Please enter at the main entrance of the school to check in, and you will be directed to the gym. In appreciation for sponsoring the drive, the school will receive much needed supplies for the students.

For more information on the drive or how to donate blood contact Amanda Drake, PPES School Nurse, at 704-272-8061.

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