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

## Anson's March Unemployment Rate Down Again to 7.3%

In our April 16, 2014, edition The Express reported that the 7.5% unemployment rate for Anson County during February was measured at the lowest number since April 2008's 7%. In March the rate dropped slightly lower to 7.5%. That marks the seventh straight month of single digit unemployment rates for Anson. Statewide the unemployment rate for March was 6.6%.

In March 2013 the rate in Anson County was 10.4%. Anson's total labor force in March was 10,495. Of that number 9,724 were employed and 771 were unemployed. In February the total labor force was 10,413, with 9,632 employed and 781 unemployed.

In real numbers, Anson County gained 10 jobs in March compared to February. Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 23 of North Carolina's counties in March, decreased in 59 and remained the same in 18. Three of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases, while five saw decreases and six remained unchanged.

Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 12.7 percent, while Chatham County had the lowest at 4.6 percent. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 9.4 percent experienced the highest rate and Durham-Chapel Hill at 5.1 percent had the lowest. The March not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 6.6 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 March by 47,707 to 4,355,340, while those unemployed decreased 210 to 306,429. Since March 2013, the number of workers employed statewide increased 68,328, while those unemployed decreased 86,425.

## NC Pre-K Available for 2014-15 School Year - Apply Today!

Anson County Partnership for Children is accepting applications for NC Pre-K, a kindergarten readiness initiative that is proven to help four year olds gain basic skills needed for success in elementary school. Children who are four years of age before August 31, 2014 are eligible to apply for the program, which is free to qualifying families.

"Availability in this program is limited," said Elaine Scarborough, Anson County Partnership for Children Executive Director. "Parents who are interested in enrolling their children in this free high quality Pre-Kindergarten program should act quickly."

A high priority is placed on serving children who are "at-risk." A child is considered to be "at-risk" if the child's family is at or below 75% of the state median income level or if a disability has been identified. Enrollment is also open to students who have limited English proficiency, developmental differences, chronic health conditions, or a parent who is active military service personnel.

NC Pre-K classes operate on a regular school calendar and are designed to address emotional and social development, physical health, language development, and cognitive functioning. Teachers are highly qualified and hold a minimum of a BA/BS degree as well as specific early childhood credentials. Through incorporation of indoor and outdoor learning environments, students participate in active learning experiences to foster a lifetime love of education.

Parents interested in learning more about the NC Pre-K program should contact Megan Sellers at 704-694-4036 (Ext 101) or [megan.sellers@windstream.net](mailto:megan.sellers@windstream.net) or visit [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org) for an NC Pre-K application.



## Citizens Law Enforcement Academy Graduates

On Thursday, April 10, 29 individuals graduated from the 12th Anson County Sheriff's Citizens Law Enforcement Academy. This Academy was sponsored and put together by the Sheriff's Office for participants who applied from all over Anson County. The purpose of the Academy was to expose participants to the many different aspects of law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

This Academy began on February 27 and met each Thursday night from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants heard presentations from Sheriff Tommy Allen, the Magistrate's office, Sheriff's detectives, FBI, US Secret Service, Homeland Security, the SBI and others from the law enforcement community. They saw a K-9 demonstration, a TASAR demonstration, toured the current and the new 911 Operations Center, also toured the Sheriff's Office, Magistrate's office, detective's office and the county jail. They saw a display of illegal drugs, watched videos of undercover drug buys, participated in a mock crime scene; learned to take fingerprints, saw Sheriff's Office vehicles, firearms and equipment; and actually fired weapons on the Sheriff's Office's firing range. They also participated in the "Ride-A-Long" Program.

Graduates from this Academy were: Bernice Bennett, Tracey Brewer, Cynthia Bower, Theodore Carr, Kishia Dunlap, Lynne Edwards, Isaiah Etheridge, Hubert Gaddy, Kelly Gaddy, Randy Gaddy, Erica Greene, Diane Goodwin, Rachell Hamilton, Laura Hasty, Shannon Hildreth, Thomas Horne, Kayla Jones, Lisa Little, Barbara Lowe, Carrissima Martin, Judy Morris, Marty Napier, Sherri Napier, Brenda Pegram, Ashley Piotrowski, Kevin Robinson, Imari Scarbrough, Rowena Thibodeaux and Billy Thompson.

Sheriff Tommy Allen said this was a really great Academy class. "These participants did a great job. We had very good attendance and good class participation and at the end of the program the most common comment, when we asked them to fill out a survey about the class, was 'don't change a thing; or make it longer, or I wished it didn't end.' I think these kinds of comments speak highly of the program. We have now graduated around 285 citizens from our twelve academies. And since this is the last class I will be in charge of it meant a lot to me that it be successful. I certainly hope the next Sheriff will continue the Citizens Academy." Sheriff Allen said.



## AHS Parent University

Anson High School will host its Inaugural Parent University Graduation on Sunday, May 4 at 4 p.m. in the Commons Area. Senator Gene McLaurin is the Keynote Speaker. The first group of Anson High School parents has successfully completed requirements for graduation and will receive their diplomas.

Parent University is an opportunity for parents to engage in interesting and practical courses designed to increase parents' and caregivers' confidence and skills related to navigating the school system and helping students succeed academically and socially. Courses focus on understanding what the student is learning, advocacy, effective parenting and developing a healthy living environment. The Curriculum areas are Educational Support, College and Careers, Health and Wellness, and Community Networking.

Parent University is free and meets primarily the second and fourth Saturday each month from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sessions include workshops facilitated by community leaders and business partners, field trips, and coursework provided by certified staff of Anson High School. Each session concludes with a Power Lunch focused on parent empowerment.

Applications are being accepted now for the next group, with classes beginning in June. For more information contact Dannie Montgomery, Coordinator at 704-694-7485 or [Montgomery.d@ansonschools.org](mailto:Montgomery.d@ansonschools.org).



Graduates pictured here are, from left, front row: Denise Sturdivant, Tonya Rivers, Barbara Harris, Sandy Hudson and Tammy Moore. Back row: Brenda Bennett, Vivian Gatewood and Ben Streater. Not Pictured: Elandras King, Debra Garris, Ruby Streater, Doris Brown and John Brown.

## Big Yard Sale at Social Services Parking Lot Saturday

Come one, come all...to the Department of Social Services parking lot for a big yard sale this Saturday. Lots of great items will be available. Come take a look and you will be sure to find a deal on something you just have to have!

The yard sale is being put on by employees of Social Services. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the American Cancer Society. This is an Anson County Social Services Relay for Life Fundraiser. The yard sale will run from 7 a.m. to noon. The Department of Social Services is located on Washington Street in uptown Wadesboro, across from the Sheriff's Office.

## Uptown Wadesboro Brick Pavers

It's time once again for ordering your own brick pavers for the sidewalks of uptown Wadesboro. Is there someone or a particular organization you'd like to honor or recognize with a commemorative brick paver? You can honor an organization, a business, your high school graduating class, a special event or special person.

Please pick up an order form at the Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. office at the Anson County Chamber of Commerce in the Scarborough Building at 107 East Wade Street.

The pavers may be placed anywhere in the uptown area where unmarked bricks are located. You may wish to create a cluster of bricks related to your family members or group. Since the beginning of the brick paver program, hundreds of bricks have been placed in the uptown Wadesboro area.

The bricks are available in two sizes. The four inch brick accommodates three lines of print and costs \$50; the eight inch brick allows for six lines of print and costs \$100. For an additional \$100 you may add a company logo.

For more information please call the Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. office at 704-695-1644.

## Ansonian Adventures Board Game on Sale

The Chamber of Commerce's Ansonian Adventures board games are going on sale for Easter and Mother's Day! For the next two months you can purchase a game for only \$40! So if you missed your opportunity to get one for yourself, family member, friend or employees of the month, now is the perfect time to do so. These games make great gifts, keepsake items or to have for family game night. Lots of Ansonians have played the game and loved it. They really have had a lot of fun with their family and friends!

When you purchase a game you're not only getting a unique one of a kind fun collectable game, but you're also giving support to the Chamber so they can continue to support our county, businesses and citizens.

You may purchase a game at any of the following businesses: Anson County Chamber of Commerce, Forbes Jewelers, Uwharrie Bank, Turner & Tyson Accountants, PNC Bank, H.W. Little and Salon 52. There are a limited number of the games available so get your game today!

For more information call the Chamber at 704-694-4181.

## Sit-a-cise Weekly Exercise Program for Seniors

Sit-a-cise for Silver Slippers (Seniors ages 60 and over), an exercise seminar, is held at Grace Senior Center on Thursdays from 2 to 3 p.m. It is taught by Shelia Raye.

Sit-a-cise will be held on a monthly basis through October at no charge. Sit-a-cise is designed to give you a great workout, give you the ability to lose weight, burn fat, tone, and improve your strength and cardio - all while sitting in a chair without risking serious injury or placing major stress on your lower joints, tendons and ligaments. Just Sit and get Fit! Dates and times will be posted in The Express.

For more information or to register please call 704-694-6616.

## Godspell Tickets Still Available

Tickets for *Godspell*, the musical based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, are available. 2014 season at the Ansonia Theatre. Performances will be Friday and Saturday nights, May 2, 3, 9, and 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees on May 4 and 11 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the Anson County Arts Council and Lacy's in Wadesboro.



# Elect Mike Smith Sheriff

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Mike Smith Sheriff