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Anson's Stephone Anthony is NFL First Round Draft Pick



Former Anson Bearcat and Clemson Tiger standout Stephone Anthony is now a New Orleans Saint! Anthony, the National Football League first round draft pick who is known for his speed and athleticism, will likely play inside linebacker for the Saints. He is expected to be seen on the field as the season opens.

Anson County couldn't be more proud of Stephone Anthony, our very first, first round draft choice. Congratulations Stephone and let's go Saints!
By Melanie Lyon

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Was 6.1 Percent in March

Anson County's unemployment rate for March was 6.1 percent. In February the rate was 6.3 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate for February was 5.4 percent.

Anson's total labor force in March was 11,027. Of that number 10,358 were employed and 669 were unemployed. In February the total labor force was 10,951, with 10,266 employed and 685 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 97 of North Carolina's counties in March and remained unchanged in three counties.

Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 13.9 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 4.1 percent. Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases while one remained unchanged. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 7.6 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 4.4 percent. The March not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 5.4 percent.

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

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 36,931 to 4,449,518, while those unemployed decreased 7,540 to 256,030. Since March 2014, the number of workers employed statewide increased 90,977, while those unemployed decreased 51,496.

South Piedmont Community College to Host "Spring Bling Block Party" May 6 & 7

South Piedmont Community College will host its annual two-day Spring Block Party on May 6 and 7 at its campuses in Anson and Union counties. As in previous years, there will be free food, games, giveaways and a lot of other fun. But for this year's event, "Spring Bling Block Party," the college's Institutional Effectiveness Department will be highlighting all of the ways South Piedmont is the "gem in your community."

Everyone is invited to join the party, which will include inflatable games, a photo booth, disc golf, Kona Ice and more, and meet SPCC faculty, staff and students to learn more about the many opportunities South Piedmont Community College offers right here in Union and Anson counties.

"Spring Bling" will put the spotlight on Sout Piedmont's many educational and outreach programs, including distance learning opportunities, the Small Business Center, support programs for the unemployed and underemployed and services for intellectually challenged adults.

The Spring Bling Block Party will be held:
• **Union County on Wednesday, May 6** at the Old Charlotte Highway Campus, 4209 Old Charlotte Highway in Monroe, Building B, from 3 to 7 p.m.

• **Anson County on Thursday, May 7** at the L.L. Polk Campus, 680 Highway 74 West in Polkton in the Student Activities Center, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **Anson County on Thursday, May 7** at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro in the Ingram Room, from 4 to 7 p.m.

For more information contact Marci Jackson at (704) 290-5833 or mjackson@spcc.edu.

Circles of Hope Hot Dog Fundraiser

Anson County Circles of Hope will hold a hot dog fundraiser from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. this Friday, May 8, at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro. Each plate includes two grilled hot dogs with buns, a bag of potato chips, fixin's (ketchup, mustard, chili, slaw and onions) and dessert for \$6. Drinks are available to dine-in customers only.

Orders of 10 or more will be delivered free. Please place your order by Wednesday May 6 by calling 704-994-2333.

All proceeds will benefit the Circles of Hope initiative to end poverty in Anson County. For more information, call 704-994-2333.

Balloon Release for Deceased Children

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have lost a child of any age, will have its annual Balloon Release on Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Polkton Depot. Following the release there will be a covered dish supper. All family members are invited.

For information call Irvin at 704-694-8774 or Becky at 704-272-7494.



DARE Program at Ansonville Elementary School

In a release from Tracy Preslar at Ansonville Elementary School: DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It is a wonderful program that Sheriff Tommy Allen 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 Anson County. DARE teaches students the different ways to say "NO" to peers and drugs. This year, Captain Freddie Paxton from the Anson County Sheriff's Office 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 students of Mr. Jones and Mrs. Rathje 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, and tell about what impact did it have on you?" The winners were Tristan Ruppe, Ashlyn Housley, Rylan Phifer and Nkaujli Vue. 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 would like to extend a special thanks to Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid for allowing this program to continue in our schools. We would also like to thank Captain Paxton for teaching our students to make smart choices.

The essay winners are pictured above right. They are, from left, front: Tristan Ruppe, Ashlyn Housley, Rylan Phifer and Nkaujli Vue. Back: Lt. Josh Beam, Captain Freddie Paxton and AES Principal Toby McLaurin.



Anson County Schools Relay for Life Team is Geared Up For Success this Weekend

Anson County Schools are busy raising money for this year's Relay for Life event, to be held this Friday, May 8, from 6 p.m. until midnight at the Anson High School football stadium.

The school team has a goal of \$15,000 and will definitely exceed that amount. There are various ways to help raise money and help raise awareness for cancer research. On Thursday, May 7 the Anson Middle School Staff will take on the Anson High School Staff in a volleyball game. Admission is \$3 and game time is 4 p.m. Come watch the excitement in the Anson Middle School gym. All proceeds will go to Relay for Life.

In addition, the ACS team will hold a Zumbathon Charity Event on Friday, May 8, in the Anson High School gym from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. This is a donation only event and all proceeds will go to Relay for Life. ACS invites everyone to Party in Purple! Bring your friends! Come out and dance! Licensed Zumba Instructors who are hosting the event are MiRandi Chewning, Kim Ingold and Tanya Jackson.

During the Relay for Life event the ACS team will be busy selling slushies, hotdogs and drinks, doing face painting, there will be a dunking booth and they will hold a football toss. Please come out and support all of the teams who hope to one day find a cure. *By Melanie Lyon*

Postal Carriers Food Drive is Saturday

Just leave non-perishable food items in a bag beside your mailbox to help Ansonians in need

The National Association of Letter Carriers along with United States Postal Service is having their 23rd annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Carriers go through the community every day, often coming face to face with a sad reality for too many - hunger. So, each year on the second Saturday in May, carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations from their customers. These donations go directly to a local food bank to provide food to people in Anson County who need help.

The need for food donations is great. Currently 49 million Americans are unsure where their next meal is coming from. Sixteen million are children. And, 5 million are seniors over the age of 60.

Last year postal carriers collected over 72 million pounds of food nationally, feeding an estimated 30 million people. This year they will continue in that tradition. Participating is simple ... Just leave non-perishable food items in a bag by your mailbox this Saturday, May 9 and your carrier will do the rest. They invite you to join them on this great day of giving.

PPES Students Learn How to be Heart Healthy

Debbie Seigler from Anson County Health Department educated the third graders from Peachland-Polkton Elementary School on Thursday, April 16. Her topic was "How to Keep your Heart Healthy."

Students really enjoyed it as you can see. She also presented them with an exam.



Town of Wadesboro Budget Meetings

The Town of Wadesboro Town Council will be holding the last of their special meetings to discuss the 2015-2016 Budget. A meeting concerning the Capital Improvement Plan will be held at the Town of Wadesboro Conference Room at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12.

Civitan Club Spring Event is Saturday

Artists and artisans from Anson County and the surrounding region are invited to show and sell their creations at the Anson High practice field on May 9th. The Saturday event will last from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Those interested in participating should request a reservation application from the Wadesboro Civitan Club at PO Box 751, Wadesboro, NC 28170 or phone Yates Almond at 704-848-4810. All designs must be the products of NC and SC residents.

In addition to displays of paintings, sculpture, pottery, woodcarving and hand-made furniture, quilts, jewelry and other locally-made crafts, the event will have free entertainment by local musicians and free games for children. Local organizations may also have information booths.

The event will conclude with a rubber ducky race with a \$500 prize for the person who picks the winning duck. The Civitan Hot Dog Booth will be the only food vendor, but will have burgers, chips, and soft drinks, as well as their signature hot dogs.