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

Bluegrass Jam Coming to Wadesboro

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host its first acoustic bluegrass jam session on Thursday, June 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. The jam session, led by Randy Collins, is open to all ages and skill levels. Musicians, singers, and spectators are welcome. Participants who are 12 years of age or younger will need to be accompanied by an adult.

This is a free event and open to the public. The jam session will be held twice each month on the second and fourth Thursdays. After June 13, the next jam session will be held on Thursday, June 27.

If you have any questions please contact Dianne or Caroline at the library at 704-694-5177. You may also contact event volunteer Randy Collins at 336-430-6318 (call or text) or via email at vaguitar@msn.com.

Anson County's April Unemployment Rate

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for April was 3.7%. Anson County ranked #70 of the 100 counties statewide (low to high). The March rate was 4.0%.

For perspective, here are past Anson County unemployment rates for April that are not listed below: 2019 3.9%; 2018 4.1%; 2017 5.2%; 2016 6.1%; 2015 5.9%; 2014 6.9%.

Anson's total labor force in April was 10,281, with 9,899 employed and 382 unemployed. In March the total labor force was 10,496, with 10,071 employed and 425 unemployed.

Here are other past rates in Anson County: **2024:** February 4.0%; January 4.0%. **2023:** December 3.8%; November 4.1%; October 4%; September 3.8%; August 4.2%; July 4.2%; 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%. The **2020** rates were: 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 April was 3.3%. In March it was 3.7%. Here are other statewide past rates: **2024:** February 3.7%; January 3.6%.

2023: December 3.2%; November 3.4%; October 3.3%; September 3.2%; August 3.6%; July 3.6%; June 3.6%; May 3.4%; April 3.1%; March 3.5%; February 3.6%; January 3.7%. **2022:** December 3.2%; November 3.8%; October 3.9%; September 3.3%; August 3.9%; July 3.7%; June 4.1%; May 3.6%; April 3.4%; March 3.6%; February 3.7%; January 3.8%. **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%.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 100 of North Carolina's counties in April 2024. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 5.8 percent while Greene, Buncombe, and Ashe Counties each had the lowest at 2.6 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 4.5 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 2.7 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.3 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 94 counties, decreased in five, and remained unchanged in one. All fifteen metro areas experienced rate increases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in April by 11,615 to 5,082,611, while those unemployed decreased by 21,921 to 173,684. Since April 2023, the number of workers employed statewide increased 27,576, while those unemployed increased 20,487.

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.

NCDMV Unveils State's Most Secure Licenses, IDs Ever

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) today announces it will begin issuing new driver licenses, permits and identification cards featuring the latest in card security design and construction specifically intended to combat fraud.

"I am proud to announce the implementation of the most secure credential in our great state's history," said DMV Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. "Our new licenses and IDs will be among the most secure identifying documents in the world."

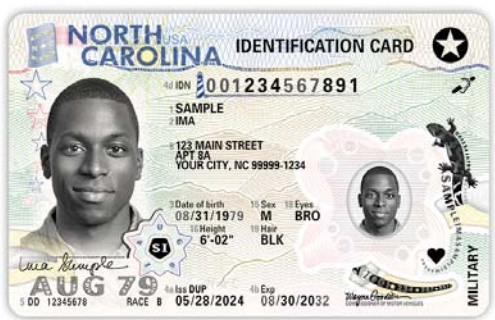
The state's new credential is a 100% polycarbonate card that is personalized using laser engraving technology. Because of its composition, the card will not only look different, it will also feel and sound different. The card will feel stiffer and have both embossed and debossed patterns and lettering on the surface of the card. When dropped onto a tabletop, it will make a unique metallic sound.

The new card design showcases imagery familiar to North Carolinians, with hints of blue and green specifically chosen to correspond with well-known state attributes such as its rolling hills and abundant nature.

The card front includes the state's flower – the dogwood, the state flag, state border outline, a marbled salamander, and a lighthouse, all at the forefront of the rolling hills in the west. The card back includes the Colonial Spanish mustang grazing along one of North Carolina's many beaches in the east.

These design elements are among more than 50 security features used to assist law enforcement in the deterrence and detection of fraud.

The new card design will be put into production later this week as the current design is being phased out by the end of June. Current licenses and ID cards will remain valid until their expiration date.



New Scholarships for HBCU & MSI Students

Students at North Carolina's historically Black colleges and universities and minority serving institutions are now eligible for new scholarship funds from the N.C. Department of Transportation. NCDOT's Office of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Outreach Program has been awarded more than \$15,000 from the Southeastern Association of State Highway Transportation Officials.

Students from HBCUs and MSIs who are pursuing degrees in transportation fields will be eligible to apply for scholarship money. NCDOT's Office of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Outreach Program will select 14 scholarship award recipients by July 31. Each student will receive a \$1,100 scholarship to put toward their school-related financial needs.

The HBCU/MSI scholarship program is a great way to attract new, diverse transportation professionals who are pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in transportation-related fields at any of North Carolina's HBCU and MSI.

North Carolina has 10 HBCU and four MSI colleges and universities who participate in this program.

Interested students can visit the website to apply: ncdot.gov/hbcu

Applications must be received by June 30.

Dollar Day Yard Sale is June 8

Faith-Based Center of Hope will have a "Dollar Day Yard Sale" on Saturday, June 8 beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot across from Papa Joe's Pizza, at 911 East Caswell Street in Wadesboro. All proceeds will go to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Contributions and donations are appreciated. For more information please contact Vincine Sturdivant, CEO at 704-294-0480 or Patricia Robinson at 704-848-4995.



Memorial Day Recognitions in Wadesboro

This Memorial Day our fallen heroes were honored in numerous ways around Wadesboro thanks to Veteran Services Officer Courtney Palmoore. The courthouse lawn was covered with 110 flags, the Belk Building window was decorated with an appropriate display, and the wreath was laid at the Veterans Memorial in Wadesboro Park.

These heroes gave their lives in service to this country. We are forever indebted. Photos courtesy of Judy Cox



Meet & Greet Event for New School Superintendent Dr. Brian Ratliff

The Anson County Board of Education invites the community to come meet the new Interim Superintendent of the Anson County School System, Dr. Brian Ratliff.

This drop-in meet and greet event will take place on Monday, June 3, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Office, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.



Dr. Brian Ratliff

Bowman Senior High School Alumni Reunion Scheduled for June 8

A Bowman Senior High School Alumni Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 8 at Anson Middle School (the former Bowman Senior High School), located on Highway 52 North in Wadesboro. Activities will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Classmates, friends and family are invited for outside activities from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be lots of vendors, food, games, booths, bouncy house, and much more! Bring your lawn chair and/or tent.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m. and running until 10:00 p.m. is a social for classmates from the years 1968-1984 and guests.

For more information about this exciting event you can contact Lorraine at 813-573-4977, Jeffrey at 704-572-3966 or Mary at 843-910-0018.

This is a no-alcohol event.

Sizzling Summer Community Yard Sale is Saturday

Friends of the Hampton B. Allen Library are holding a Sizzling Summer Community Yard Sale on this Saturday, June 1 in uptown Wadesboro. The event runs from 8 a.m. until 12 noon and will feature an exciting yard sale, vendors and food trucks.

Proceeds support Hampton B. Allen Library community programs, upkeep, and the bookmobile.

Would you like to sell your stuff? Sign up for \$20 a spot or \$25 per spot with electricity. Pre-registration is required, so call ahead to reserve your spot. Anyone can participate as a seller. If you are paying for your spot with CashApp, contact the library. Sellers will set up from 7-8 a.m. and clean up 12-1 p.m.

For inquiries or additional information please contact the library at 704-694-5177 or email circflft@gmail.com.