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

## Wadesboro Fire Chief Marc Sessions Receives 2014 Award of Excellence

Wadesboro Fire Chief Marc Sessions was awarded the 2014 Award of Excellence Winner at the North Carolina Fire & Life Safety Education conference. This award signifies that Chief Sessions is #1 in the whole state.



"The Town of Wadesboro is very proud of Chief Sessions," said Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell. "Anyone who has interacted with him knows this award is well deserved. From smoke alarm programs to teaching fire safety education classes to children, Marc's passion for keeping our community safe is extraordinary."

Sewell concluded, "As evidenced by this award, the Wadesboro Fire Department is committed to keeping our community safe - not only through fire response, but through preventative safety education."

## Anson County's Unemployment Rate Dropped to 5.9% in April

Anson County's unemployment rate for April was 5.9 percent. In March the rate was 6.1 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate for April was 5.2 percent.

Anson's total labor force in April was 11,009. Of that number 10,356 were employed and 653 were unemployed. In March the total labor force was 11,027, with 10,358 employed and 669 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 89 of North Carolina's counties in April, increased in five counties, and remained unchanged in five counties.

Graham County had the highest unemployment rate at 12.8 percent while Orange and Buncombe Counties both had the lowest at 3.9 percent. Thirteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases while one increased and one remained unchanged. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 7.9 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 4.1 percent. The April not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 5.2 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 95 counties, increased in one, and remained unchanged in four. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in April by 43,054 to 4,492,858, while those unemployed decreased 8,095 to 247,392. Since April 2014, the number of workers employed statewide increased 113,452, while those unemployed decreased 24,382.

## Robert Pratt, Jr. Arrested After Two Years of Running from the Law

Suspect has a history of assaulting women

Sheriff Landric Reid issued this statement on Monday, June 8: I would like to announce the arrest of Robert Pratt, Jr. Pratt was arrested without incident at the residence of his girlfriend on Forest Road in Lilesville. He was served with 9 outstanding warrants and placed in the Anson County Jail under a \$66,000 secured bond. Court dates have been set for Anson County District Court.



Robert Pratt, Jr.

I would like to thank deputies of the Anson County Sheriff's Office, other law enforcement officers, and citizens for all the tips and dedication to locate and apprehend Pratt.

Among the charges against Pratt at the time of his arrest were: Assault Inflicting Serious Injury; Assault on a Female (2 charges); Assault by Pointing a Gun; Child Support (2 charges); Communicating Threats; Flee/Elude Arrest with a Motor Vehicle; Injury to Personal Property; Probation Violation; and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle.

## David Horne and Jodi Mauldin Arrested for Stolen Tractor

On Wednesday, June 3 at approximately 3:45 p.m. deputies from the Anson County Sheriff's Office went to a residence on Old Highway 52 West in Ansonville to serve an arrest warrant on an individual who stays at the residence. Deputies spoke with two occupants in the residence and were told that the subject they were looking for was not there but had been there earlier.

Deputies got verbal consent to look around for the wanted suspect. During the search deputies located a Caterpillar tractor that was covered up by brush. The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) confirmed that the tractor was stolen. Both occupants were charged with Possession of Stolen Property. They are David Leone Horne, who was given a \$40,000 secured bond, and Jodi Mauldin, who was given a \$2,500 secured bond. Their court date set for June 16 in Anson County District Court.



## Wadesboro Primary School's Terrific Kids for Honesty and Respect

Wadesboro Primary School recently honored students who display Honesty and Respect character traits. They are pictured above. Micah Chance, Helena McRoyal, Joseph Davis, Chloe Scarborough, Pandora McMahan, Israel Beam, Malisa Hammond, Lamont Buchanan, Makinzi Collins, Carson McNamara, Catie Steagall, Sam Mejia, Zamariah Rorie, Dezirae Robinson, Tamiya Hudson, DiJohn Hillian, LaKaylee Leak, Hailey Biles, Josiah Beam, Case Carpenter, Tyquon Richardson, Savannah Sullivant, Caniyua Webster, Mobin Ali, Jadaish Smith, Jamari Kennedy, Kimora Harrington, Delaney Taylor, Leigha Clarke, Dawn Carter, DaCayla Ratliff, D'Asia Lindsey, Janiya Williams, Adeline Cavanaugh, Tevalin Rorie, Maliki Martin, Taniya Belton, Shakelin Liles, Malachi Gaddy, Tony Dong, Baylon Hagin, Aishah Campbell, Kayden Murdock, Jayden Willoughby, Nekya McDonald, Ashley Gathings, Timothy Smith.

## State Fire Marshal Announces Anson County Volunteer Fire Department Grants

Ansonville VFD, Burnsville Fire and Rescue Ambulance Service, Gullede VFD, Lilesville Fire Department and Peachland Fire Department were all awarded grants recently. They were among 574 volunteer fire departments across the state to receive the grants.

In a recent release Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin said he was pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Volunteer Fire Department Fund grants. This year, more than \$9.5 million was awarded to 574 volunteer fire departments across the state.

The Volunteer Fire Department Fund, administered by the North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal, was created by the General Assembly in 1988 to provide dollar matching grants to assist volunteer fire departments with the purchase of equipment and capital expenditures. The maximum annual award amount is \$30,000 per applicant.

"I'm proud that so many fire departments are taking advantage of this important grant program. These grants help our volunteer fire departments stretch their budgets to better serve their communities," said Goodwin.

The recipient departments will match the grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis unless the department receives less than \$50,000 per year from municipal and county funding, in which case the recipient will match one dollar for every three dollars of grant funds up to \$30,000.

More than \$110 million in matching grant funds has been awarded to volunteer fire departments since the program began in 1988.

The specific awards for the Anson County fire departments were: Ansonville VFD \$12,975; Burnsville Fire and Rescue \$28,656; Gullede VFD \$8,319; Lilesville Fire Department \$21,000; and Peachland Fire Department \$30,000.

## Helping Hands Community Food Pantry Established

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center (HMOC) has established a new community food pantry that will provide free groceries to families in need. The Helping Hands Community Food Pantry will be held monthly at the HMOC location.

Harvest Lead Pastor Steve Adams shared, "Since my father, Tim Adams, started Harvest Ministries our mission has always been about reaching people, finding needs and filling them, finding hurts and healing them. This monthly outreach will allow us to continue to reach our community at a point of need."

Adams continued, "Our goal is to fulfill Matthew 25:35 and to help those who may be in need. The 3rd Friday Food Give is designed for those who may be in between paychecks, those looking for employment, or simply those who have a need. We have found that at certain times of our lives, all of us could use a 'Helping Hand.'"

Food is distributed on a first come, first served basis. No documentation is needed. If you need food, come to HMOC each month. The first Food Give will be held on Friday, June 19, from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

For questions or more information, or if you would like to donate canned goods and non perishable food items, please contact Pastor Adams at HMOC at 704-695-2879. The website is [www.harvestmin.com](http://www.harvestmin.com). HMOC is located on Highway 74 in Wadesboro, behind Pizza Hut.

## Parks and Recreation Pool is Open for the Summer

The Anson County Parks and Recreation swimming pool at Little Park is now open for the summer season. It will be open only on the weekends until Tuesday, June 16. Starting then the schedule will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, from 2 to 5 p.m. The pool is closed on Mondays and Fridays for maintenance. The cost is \$1 per person.

Swim lessons will be offered, with three different classes during the summer. The lessons are \$18. The schedules are:

- Class #1 June 15 - 25; Class #2 July 6 - 16; Class #3 July 20 - 30
- Beginners 9:30-10 a.m.; Advanced 10:15-10:45 a.m.; and Parent & Child 11-11:30 a.m.

## Free Dental Clinic on June 19 Offers Help to Uninsured

This is a release from Sandy Bruney: Dental providers will bring free dental care to Wadesboro in a one-day clinic on Friday, June 19. The NC Baptist Men's (NCBM) mobile dental bus will be at First United Methodist Church, located at 118 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro, to offer dental care to the uninsured, impoverished, homeless, elderly, Hispanics and other ethnic groups.

Those who qualify for this free service, which includes examinations, fillings, and extractions, should meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. to register. Dental care will be provided by area dentists.

The Medical/Dental Bus Ministry of NCBM provides a means of free dental care to residents of North Carolina and treats approximately 3,500 people annually. The ministry is funded by donations from individuals and groups. This is the ministry's first visit to Anson County. Sponsors of the free clinic are Deep Creek Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church and Circles of Hope, a national organization whose purpose is to reduce generational poverty.

"When people have dental needs they cannot afford to address, it can lead to absence from work and loss of employment," said Sandra Ketchie, organizer of the Wadesboro one-day dental clinic. Ketchie is a member of Hands for Hope, the governing board of Circles of Hope, and Deep Creek Baptist Church.

For more information call 704-694-6865 or 704-475-8353.

## 4-H Yard Sale is Saturday

The Anson County 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association will be having a yard sale on Saturday, June 13, from 6:30 a.m. until 12 noon at the Old SunTrust Bank parking lot. Lots of neat items will be offered for sale, from clothing to crafts! All proceeds will go to further educational opportunities for 4-H Volunteer Leaders on the state and regional levels.

## Anson Law Enforcement Takes on Fire & Rescue in Friday Fundraiser

Everyone is invited to come to Field of Dreams on Friday, June 12 at 7 p.m. to enjoy a softball game between Anson County law enforcement officers and fire and rescue members. This game is a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and kids under 5 get in for free. For more information call 704-294-8389.

## Deep Creek School Reunion is Saturday

Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish and friends to the annual Deep Creek School Reunion. This year's event will take place on Saturday, June 13 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Deep Creek Baptist Church. For more information call Peggy Pinkston at 704-694-2791.

## Anson County Farmers Market Opens Saturday

Everyone is invited to come out on Saturday, June 13 for the opening of the Anson County Farmers Market. Gates open at 7:30 a.m. The market will continue to operate on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. until October 31.

The Farmers Market is located on Highway 52 South beside Wadesboro Primary School, across from Coffing Hoist.

## Brown Bag Book Club Meets June 15

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, June 15 at noon in the Pritchett Room of the Hampton B Allen Library for lunch and an author talk. All those attending are asked to bring a dish, a friend and enjoy the talk by Pastor Tobias M. Wall, a Lilesville native and pastor of Olive Branch Baptist Church in Marshville. Wall has written two books, *Pastor's Most Inspiring Scriptures* and *Building With A Storm In Mind*. Please come and join in the fellowship, food and inspiration.

If you have questions or need additional information please call the library at 704-694-5177.