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

Anson Unemployment Rate Was 11.7% in May

Anson County's unemployment rate in May was 11.7%, a significant increase over April's 10.6% rate. Statewide the unemployment rate for May was 9.4%, April's rate was 9.1%. Looking back at May 2011, the rate then for Anson County also was 11.7%.

Anson's total labor force in May was 10,998. Of that number 9,709 were employed and 1,289 were unemployed. In April the total labor force was 10,884, with 9,732 employed and 1,152 unemployed.

From June 2011 to May 2012 the total unemployment benefits paid for all programs in Anson County (population 26,908) was \$7,839,469. In Richmond County (with a population of 46,659) \$18,152,155 was paid, Stanly County (with a population of 60,595) paid \$20,955,954, Montgomery County (with a population of 27,826) paid \$8,450,999, Union County (with a population of 202,206) paid \$60,070,056, and Mecklenburg County (with a population of 923,427) paid \$364,040,366.

Unemployment rates rose in 76 of North Carolina's 100 counties in May, fell in 21 and were unchanged in three. When compared to the same month last year, unemployment rates declined in 88 counties, increased in eight, and remained the same in four.

"While rates were up in most counties for May, over-the-year, we see a positive downward trend," said N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll. "Rates were down in 88 counties across North Carolina since May of last year. Our focus remains on growing jobs across the state as several key job announcements have been made over the past several weeks. Our employment service offices are committed to working with employers to get job seekers back to work in North Carolina."

North Carolina had 33 counties that were at or below the state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.4 percent. Unemployment rates increased in 13 Metropolitan Statistical Areas and declined in one.

Statewide the number of workers employed (not seasonally adjusted) increased in May by 11,632 to 4,223,768, while those unemployed rose 17,758 to 439,528. Since May 2011, the number of workers unemployed decreased 40,819, while those employed increased 35,027.

Currituck County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in May at 5.2 percent, and Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 16.9 percent.

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 series.

Safe Kids NC Urges Parents to "Look Before You Lock"

Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin warns about the dangers of hot cars

Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin, Safe Kids North Carolina and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are reminding everyone to "Look Before You Lock" to prevent heat stroke deaths that occur as the result of children being left or trapped in unattended vehicles. On average, nearly 40 children across the country die from heat exposure each year. Since 1999, at least 19 children in North Carolina have died, when they entered a vehicle unnoticed, when a caregiver accidentally forgot them in a car, or when they were intentionally left in a vehicle while their caregiver performed another task or errand.

"The unfortunate thing is that these tragedies are completely avoidable," said Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin, state chair of Safe Kids North Carolina. "By taking simple steps, we can help one another prevent the tragedy of child heat stroke."

The danger of vehicular hyperthermia in children in North Carolina spreads from March through November due to the subtropical climate. Hyperthermia can occur even on days with mild 70-degree temperatures. The temperature in a closed vehicle can rise about 20 degrees in 10 minutes and nearly 30 degrees in 20 minutes. Cracking a window has little effect.

Here's what parents and caregivers can do to prevent tragedies:

- Lock Vehicles and Trunks. Thirty percent of recorded heat stroke deaths in the U.S. occur because a child was playing in an unattended vehicle. These deaths can be prevented by simply locking the vehicles to assure that kids don't enter and become trapped. Check vehicles and trunks FIRST if a child is missing.

- Create Reminders. Many child heat stroke deaths occur because parents and caregivers become distracted and exit their vehicle without their child. To help prevent these tragedies parents can:

- Place a cell phone, PDA, purse, briefcase, gym bag or something that is needed at your next stop on the floor in front of a child in a backseat. This will help you see your child when you open the rear door and reach for your belongings.
- Set the alarm on your cell phone/smartphone as a reminder to drop your child off at day care. Check out the Baby Reminder application at bit.ly/zxcdty which automatically monitors and determines when you are driving and when you are not.

- Set your computer calendar program to ask, "Did you drop baby off at daycare today?" Establish a plan with your daycare that if your child fails to arrive within an agreed upon time that you will be called within a few minutes.
- Be especially mindful of your child if you change your routine for daycare.

- Get Involved. Free educational materials are available at www.Safekids.org or by searching online for "Never Leave your Child Alone." Post them at your child care center, place of business, church - let's help each other prevent further tragedies!

- And if you see an unattended child in a vehicle:
- Take Immediate Action and Dial 911. The body temperature of children rises 3 - 5 times faster than adults, and as a result, children are much more vulnerable to heat stroke. Law enforcement and EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble and can take action to remove the child.

Safe Kids North Carolina reaches out to parents, caregivers and children to prevent childhood injuries through 38 Safe Kids Coalitions working in 66 counties. For more information, visit www.ncsafekids.org or www.safercar.gov.

Uptown Farmers Market is Back

The Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market is now open every Thursday, from 4 to 6 p.m. on the Square. Everyone is invited to come out to buy locally grown vegetables, meats and homemade goodies.

If you would like to sell your produce call 704-695-1644 for more information.

Congratulations to Anson County's Junior Marshalls



Legislative Update

From Rep. Frank McGuirt: Regrettably, this is not a very happy report. The House and Senate approved a budget Thursday that keeps North Carolina moving backwards, and it hurts families in Anson and Union. A year after losing 6,000 public school educators - including 3,000 teachers and teacher assistants - this budget leaves schools with \$190 million less than they had last year. The total reduction to funding for K-12 education over two years will reach \$650 million. Financial aid for UNC system students has been cut by \$22 million. Union County schools were hit hard last year but this coming one may be even worse! Anson is certainly endangered once again.

This budget continues the attack on women's health by defunding cancer screenings and health services provided to women by Planned Parenthood. Cuts to programs for victims of rape and domestic violence remain in place. There are many problems with this budget and despite the good news that state employees and teachers are getting badly needed pay raises, I did not vote to support it because of the overwhelming number of bad items and its overall damage to education. I have provided some additional information about the document below. It now goes to the governor, who will have to consider whether to approve it or veto it.

EDUCATION

- This budget not only fails repair any of the damage last year's budget did to schools, but it cuts an additional \$190 million from the schools. This year's cut alone is the equivalent of 3,400 teaching jobs. Yes, an additional 3,400 hundred educators could lose their jobs in 2012!
- The total cut to K-12 schools over the past two years is nearly \$650 million.
- This budget eliminates our successful Teaching Fellows and Teacher Cadets programs and programs such as the National Guard's Tarheel Challenge and the Communities in Schools program that provide resources for students. It also eliminates funding for counselors for children in military families.
- Financial aid for UNC system schools is down \$22 million, reducing access to higher education for middle-class students
- The total cut to the UNC system over this budget cycle is \$414 million.
- Pre-Kindergarten programs were reduced by \$16 million (20 percent). Smart Start was cut by \$34 million. They have failed to meet the conditions set out by a judge who ruled their changes violated the state constitution.

HEALTH

- Continues the "War on Women" by continuing to defund Planned Parenthood, which provides cancer screenings and other health services.
- Fails to reverse cuts to programs for victims of rape and domestic violence enacted in 2011.
- Cuts funding for local mental health services by \$20 million
- Eliminates drug treatment court services

TRANSPORTATION

- Our gasoline tax was cut but for only one year...and a very small cut.
- Public transportation funds for whole state were eliminated, except for funding for Charlotte rail project
- Cut maintenance funding for primary and secondary roads by \$60 million
- Cut secondary road construction funding by \$26 million

OTHER

- Continuation of a tax cut to benefit the wealthy, while further cutting our schools and hurting working families and small businesses
- Cuts \$6.7 million to foster care programs
- The State Board of Elections budget has been cut by \$120,000 and no money was made available to match the Help America Vote Act federal grant. This cut will strain our elections boards in both Anson and Union during a presidential election year where North Carolina is going to be a key state.
- Diverts \$9.6 million from a federal housing settlement intended to help struggling homeowners and puts it in the General Fund
- Twenty percent cut to Rural Center programs, which are important to many small communities
- Increases from 100 to 1000 the number of exempt positions that can be filled by the governor. Also allows the governors to set salaries with no cap on cabinet level positions.
- Sets aside \$740,000 for a governor's inauguration and transition costs.
- Ninety percent cut to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, which helps communities pay for water and sewer projects
- Continues to tear apart the Department of Environment and Natural Resources by transferring divisions and employees to the Department of Agriculture

The budget is one of the last big items we are likely to handle this session. The General Assembly is expected to adjourn in early July. After that, I will return home and will continue to be available to help you and your families. Please call on me if I can be of service. 919-715-3007, Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net

Note: You can listen to committee meetings and press conferences on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net. Once on the site, select "Audio," and then make your selection - House Chamber, Senate Chamber, Appropriations Committee Room or Press Conference Room. A schedule of committee meetings and other events is also available on the website.

Deadline for Treasures of Anson Art Contest is Saturday

Don't miss the deadline of Saturday, June 30 for submitting your artwork for the 2012 Treasures of Anson Art Contest. The subject for this year's contest is the bluebird. Total prize money is \$400. Entries will be displayed at the Arts Council's 2nd Sunday Art Reception on Sunday, August 12 in the Olde Mill Gallery at the Lockhart-Taylor Center.

Judging will take place during the month of July, and awards will be announced in August. No late entries will be accepted. Art entries will be accepted at The Forever Inn Bed & Breakfast, located at 214 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. Please call ahead (704-695-1304) to make sure someone is available to accept delivery of your entry.

All artwork must be ready for display and properly labeled. Complete guidelines for the contest are available online at www.AnonArtLeague.com. Please call Merrie at 704-695-1304 if you have any questions about the guidelines or about the art contest.

Town of Wadesboro Council Meeting Date Change

The Wadesboro Town Council will meet on Monday, July 9 instead of July 2 due to the July 4th holiday. The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in the Town of Wadesboro Conference Room.

Free Movie is Journey #2

The Anson County Parks & Recreation movie for Friday, June 29th at 10 a.m. is *Journey # 2*. This free movie will be shown in the Little Theatre at the Hampton B. Allen Library. Movies are donated by Hometown Video.

For more information call 704-694-5868.

Nighthawk Band to Appear at Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club will meet on Monday, July 9 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. The band Nighthawk will be presenting a musical program. Band members are Gary Gilmore (former Borderline band member), Fred Carpenter and Gary Young. Everyone is invited to join them for this event.

If you have any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Parks and Rec Ansonville Summer Camp

Anson County Parks and Recreation has announced that their Summer Camp in Ansonville will be held on Tuesday, July 10. They will use the outdoor area of Ansonville Elementary School from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. This camp is for ages 9 to 12.

You can register for the camp by calling 704-694-5868 or 704-694-5751.

Clothing and Food Giveaway to be Held

First Baptist Church of 722 Sikes Avenue in Wadesboro will hold a Clothing and Food Giveaway. This event will be held on Saturday, July 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information contact Mary Neal at 704-694-2686. The Pastor is Rev. Gregory Everett.

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