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

Anson's May Unemployment Rate was 5.2% - Same as April

Anson County's unemployment rate for May remained the same as April at 5.2%. Statewide the unemployment rate did the same thing, remaining 4.3% in May, same as in April.

Here are May unemployment rates in Anson County for each of the last seven years: 2010 13.6%; 2011 11.7%; 2012 11.7%; 2013 10.4%; 2014 7.9%; 2015 6.6% and 2016 5.3%

Anson's total labor force in May was 10,577. Of that number 10,026 were employed and 551 were unemployed. In April the total labor force was 10,667 with 10,114 employed and 553 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 67 of North Carolina's counties in May, decreased in 13, and remained unchanged in 20. Edgecombe and Scotland Counties each had the highest unemployment rate at 7.8 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.3 percent. Thirteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases and two remained unchanged.

Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 6.8 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.5 percent. The May not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.3 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 97 counties, increased in one, and remained unchanged in two. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year and one increased.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in May by 5,145 to 4,709,722, while those unemployed increased 4,347 to 212,911. Since May 2016, the number of workers employed statewide increased 64,923, while those unemployed decreased 14,348.



Anson Schools Junior Marshalls 2017

Anson County Early College Emily Dalrymple, Kathryn McRae, Hanna Osborn, Keeley Pope and Kaytlin Teal.
Anson High School Taylor Austin, Emily Bolick, Iliasia Burch, Tiffany Caple, Weston Carpenter, Abigail Dagenhart, William Dagenhart, Imani Dunnom-Marant, Amber Freeman, Hannah Harward, Ethan Johnson, Amani Khalid, James Lindsey, Cydney Livingston, Jaear McClendon, Taijha Rivers, James Thomas, My Vue, Hannah Williams and Sidnee Williams.
Anson New Technology School Anna Burroughs, Gerald Cannon, Alexis Kirby, Michael Minick and Essence Tillman.

Photo courtesy of Robbie James

Wadesboro Lions Club Eyeglasses Recycling Program Needs Donations

The need for used glasses is great. According to the World Health Organization, 153 million people have uncorrected refractive errors (near-sightedness, far-sightedness or astigmatism). Most of these vision impairments are quickly diagnosed and easy to treat with corrective lenses. Still, millions of people in developing nations are pushed deeper into poverty simply because they do not have glasses. They can't learn, because reading is difficult. They can't work to the best of their ability, because they can't see clearly.



For children, clear vision means a better education, healthier development and a better quality of life. For adults, it means greater employment opportunity and economic strength. For seniors it means less dependency on others.

The Lions of Wadesboro and North Carolina collect over 170,000 pairs of eyeglasses each year to address the need for glasses, making eyeglasses recycling one of our most popular activities. Please place your used eyeglasses into one of the recycling boxes located at the following locations in Wadesboro:

- Anson Family Optometric, 1134 Holly Street
 - Northcut Auctions, 1132 East Caswell Street
 - Covington Eye
- Recycling boxes are also available in most post offices throughout the county.

Only complete reusable glasses with both plastic and metal frames, gold frames in any condition, antique glasses and new lenses can be recycled.

For information about the different projects of the Wadesboro Lions Club please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

Candidate Filing Has Begun for 2017 Elections

Candidate filing for local elections across North Carolina began last Friday, July 7, and run through noon Friday, July 21. Local elections are held between September and November, depending on the rules governing particular types of election contests. This year, more than 1,000 contests will be held across the state.

In Anson County elections will be held on Tuesday, November 7. The voter registration deadline is October 13.

"We hope that many candidates sign up to run for local office over the next two weeks and that voters across the state make sure they are registered to cast ballots in their hometown elections," said Kim Westbrook Strach, executive director of the Bipartisan State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement.

Candidates for local office must file notices of candidacy with the proper county board of elections to be listed on ballots in the primary or general elections. Candidates must be at least 21 years old. They also must live and be registered to vote in the electoral district for the office being sought.

Voters must be registered 25 days before an election to vote on Election Day. The regular voter registration deadline for September elections is August 18. For October elections the deadline is September 15. For November elections the registration deadline is October 13.

Please contact your county board of elections or visit its website for more information about the elections being held in your area. The Anson County Board of Elections is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For more information call Steve Adams, Director of Elections, at 704-994-3223.

The website is www.co.anson.nc.us/CountyServices/BoardofElections.

No Early Voting or Absentee Voting in November Election in Anson County

In the upcoming Municipal/Town elections for Anson County there will be no Early Voting or Absentee by Mail Voting. All Anson County towns have opted out, according to Anson County Director of Elections Steve Adams.

Election Day in Anson County is Tuesday, November 7. Voter registration runs through 5 p.m. on Friday, October 13.

For more information contact the Board of Elections at 704-994-3223. They are located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

The website is www.co.anson.nc.us/CountyServices/BoardofElections.

Bach's Lunch is July 19

The Anson County Arts Council will hold a Bach's Lunch on Wednesday, July 19, from 12 to 1 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro. Tickets are only \$10 for a delicious lunch accompanied by beautiful live music.

Tickets can be purchased at the Arts Council office beside the Ansonia Theare or purchased at the door. For more information call 704-694-4950.

Treasurer Folwell Announces "AAA" Bond Ratings for NC

North Carolina State Treasurer Dale R. Folwell, CPA announced today that all three major national bond rating agencies have re-affirmed the State's "AAA" bond rating, all with stable outlooks, in preparation for the upcoming sale of approximately \$106 million of General Obligation (GO) Bonds and \$300 million in Limited Obligation Bonds (LOB). The GO and LOBs are scheduled to be competitively sold later this month. The bonds are being issued to take advantage of lower interest rates, thus reducing interest costs for taxpayers.

"The transactions refund over \$400 million of bonds originally issued to fund important projects around the state including schools, roads and other infrastructure improvements," said Treasurer Folwell. "Since we are able to take advantage of historically low interest rates and our "AAA" bond ratings, we will save tens of millions of dollars."

North Carolina is one of only 12 states to earn the "AAA" bond rating by all three rating agencies.

Each of the rating agencies commented on the state's diverse economic base; history of conservative fiscal management; a commitment to strong reserves as well as managing debt and pension liabilities.

GO/LOB Ratings

- FITCH: AAA/AA+
- MOODY'S: Aaa/Aa1
- S&P: AAA/AA+

The Department of State Treasurer's State and Local Government Finance Division handles the sale and delivery of all state and local debt and monitors the repayment of state and local government debt. More information can be found at www.nctreasurer.com/slg.

Wadesboro Community Blood Drive is July 18

An American Red Cross Wadesboro Community Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, July 18, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. It will take place in the Fellowship Hall at the First Baptist Church, located at 309 Lee Avenue in Wadesboro.

To schedule an appointment visit redcrossblood.org and enter: Wadesboro. You can streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting redcrossblood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Anson County Parks & Rec Free Summer Movies

Anson County Parks & Recreation is offering free movies every Monday through July 31. The movies are screened at the Hampton B. Allen Library at 1:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. These movies are for youth, ages 10 to 14.

Here is the movie lineup:

- July 17 *Snow Days*
- July 24 *Nanny McPhee*
- July 31 *Rudy*

For information call Wendell Small at 704-695-2782.

Disease Reversal and Prevention Cooking Class

Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer, arthritis, high cholesterol and high blood pressure are preventable and reversible through a smart and powerful plant-based health plan. Do you want to know more?

Attend the next healthy living and cooking seminar at Pathway to Peace Ministries, this Sunday, July 16, from 3 to 5 p.m. This seminar is free. It will feature new recipes, and you will also be able to eat a delicious plant-based dinner there.

Pathway to Peace Ministries is located on Highway 109 South, 2 miles past Deep Creek Road as you go towards Mt. Croghan, SC. The address is 11775 NC 109 South, Peachland, NC. For more information call 704-695-1441.

Brown Bag Book Club Program on the Pee Dee River

The Hampton B. Allen Library's Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, July 17 at 12 noon in the Pritchett room. Kaye Ratliffe will be the guest speaker. She will be presenting a program on the Pee Dee River, sharing information from Virginia Canal and Navigation Society publications as well as Pee Dee Ripples. Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and enjoy this informative program.

For more information call 704-694-5773.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

Stride for Pride Tennis Shoe Drive Begins Another Season

Please consider a donation of shoes or money to help less fortunate students

The Shaundasia T. Smith Stride with Pride has begun their 7th annual season of collecting donations of new tennis shoes and/or money used to purchase tennis shoes that will be provided to underprivileged youth of all diversities in Anson County. These shoes are given to youth ranging in age from kindergarten to 12th grade, and all sizes are needed.

Stride with Pride is a joint effort of Sheriff Landric Reid and Patti Poulcott of Judy's Tax Service. Through the generous contributions of our community, last year Stride with Pride was able to give over 420 pairs of tennis shoes out. For 2017 the goal is to put a smile on as many faces as possible! Collections for the upcoming school year will be going on through August 15, but you can contribute at any time during the year.

Sheriff Reid said, "Patti Poulcott and I will be working to collect new shoes and monetary donations from area supporters. We hope that you will consider joining us in this important effort to help a child walk the halls of success this new school year."

Patti Poulcott said, "Through your generosity we can help our youth 'stride with pride' this coming school year. Collections are going on now. We hope that you will consider joining us to help our local children."

If you would like to donate shoes or money, you can go to Judy's Tax Service which is located at 102 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. If you would like for someone to pick up your donation, or if you want more information, you can contact Patti Poulcott at 704-694-8386 or ppoulcott@carolina.rr.com or Sheriff Reid at 704-695-7771 or lreid@co.anson.nc.us.