

# THE EXPRESS

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

## Anson County's June Unemployment Rate Higher

Anson County's unemployment rate for June was 11.5%. In May the rate was 10.4%. The state of North Carolina's unemployment rate for June was 9.3%, up slightly from May's 8.9%. It is not unusual for Anson County to experience an approximate 1 percent higher unemployment rate each June. In June 2012 Anson County's unemployment rate was 12.7%, up from May 2012's 11.7% rate. May and June 2013 unemployment rates are trending at one percent lower than 2012.

Anson's total labor force in June was 10,998. Of that number 9,734 were employed and 1,264 were unemployed. In May the total labor force was 10,997, with 9,852 employed and 1,145 unemployed. Anson County lost 118 jobs over the month of June. This ranks Anson County employment 83rd out of North Carolina's 100 counties. In June 2011 Anson County had 8,474 employed, and in June 2012 9,724 were employed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 81 of North Carolina's counties in June, decreased in 14 and remained the same in five. All 14 of the State's metro areas experienced rate increases.

Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 16.2 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 5.8 percent. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 13.3 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville at 7.1 percent had the lowest. The June not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 9.3 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 12 counties, fell in 85 and remained unchanged in three. One metro area experienced a rate increase, while 13 experienced rate decreases.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in June by 16,445 to 4,303,424, while those unemployed increased 16,163 to 439,793. Since June 2012, the number of workers employed statewide increased 11,966, while those unemployed decreased 26,257.

## Last Summer Jam of the Season is Friday

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc's Summer Jam Concert Series comes to close of a fun and successful season this Friday, August 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. The concert will be held on Rutherford Street, between Wade and Martin Streets. It will be promoting Wadesboro's new winery, Southern Medley Wine Cellar, located right in the middle of the action at 118 North Rutherford Street.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy music outdoors. The show will begin with a solo acoustic performance by Anson County's own Vincent Baynard, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Brandon Kirkley and the Firecrackers will then take the stage and play until 10 p.m.

The winery will be open during the Summer Jam. Owner Elizabeth Schafer and Winemaker Jeff Oliver will welcome guests to see their lovely winery, and perhaps sample some too. They offer a wine tasting of several of their wines for only \$5. They also sell wine by the glass and bottle. It is excellent wine at great prices, and you just may leave there with a bottle or two to take home with you!

Bring your own chairs and blankets for the concert and be prepared to be entertained! Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. is excited to provide local talent and promote local business. They thank you in advance for your support of their events.

*Here's more information about the band:* Brandon Kirkley and the Firecrackers are a Charlotte based rock 'n' roll band, true to the American way. Since forming in 2010, BKTF's sonic blend of small-town southern charm and big-city life has garnered a strong grassroots following. Their straightforward approach to rhythm and melody leave even the most musically challenged clapping and singing along.

With influences ranging from Tom Petty to Michael Jackson to Matchbox 20, members Brandon Kirkley (guitar, vocals), Chris Hensley (bass), Vincent Baynard (drums) and John B. Hightshoe (guitars) produce a tasteful mix of sincere rock and hook-laden pop.

In 2012 the band's strong work ethic and DIY approach was rewarded when they took home the Charlotte City Web Award for Best Kickstarter Campaign. This esteem from their loyal fan base was momentous in helping them release their seven song EP, Years (2012). Touring regionally in support of Years, BKTF have shared the stage with the likes of Needtobreathe, Ben Rector and Secondhand Serenade.

BKTF's latest effort, an acoustic collection entitled Timing EP, was released in June. Featuring two new songs and two reworked songs from Years, Timing EP continues to showcase their songwriting's maturity and growth.

With big plans and steadfast determination, Brandon Kirkley and the Firecrackers is a band on a thrilling journey you don't want to miss.



The Anson Extension staff is pictured here, from left, Dustin Adcock, Roshunda Blount, Pam Layfield, Janine Rywak, Richard Goforth, Aimee Rankin, Yolanda Wilson, Jessica Anderson and Erin Dempsey.

## Spotlight on Anson County Cooperative Extension

Over the next weeks The Express will feature articles about staff members of the Anson County Cooperative Extension, and examples of success they are having sharing their expertise with all of us. Their mission statement is: North Carolina Cooperative Extension partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land and economy of North Carolinians.

*We will start with a report from Janine Rywak, County Extension Director:*

The down economy and slow recovery have played havoc on everyone, including Cooperative Extension. Government agencies are currently facing more potential funding cuts from both federal and state levels. As state and county employees, we are challenged to make sure our programs are relevant, our budgets are streamlined and our efforts are transparent. Daily we rise to that challenge.

Anson County Cooperative Extension boasts a proud history of programming to community needs and we work to continue that tradition. For example, last year we provided educational programs that included: a Southern Piedmont Winter Beef Conference for 65 producers who learned about utilizing forages and soil fertility, indicating a total potential cost savings of \$82,000; an after-school program with 92% of court referred participants completing with no new adjudications or complaints; a shiitake mushroom workshop where Anson County producers diversified into production with 2013 yields expected to quadruple in response to demand from dependable and profitable markets; a summer 4-H day camp program of five weeks in collaboration with 13 different partners for 109 youth; a poultry composting workshop where 100% of the respondents indicated they would use or consider composting mass mortality and 67% would consider making a mass mortality plan for their farms; and the 10,000th acre was enrolled in the Anson County Voluntary Agricultural Districts farmland preservation program, representing 49 farms and 135 tracts of land.

Our staff is proud of the work we do, and proud to serve Anson County.

## Back to School with Pride Needs Your Help

*In a letter from Vancine Sturdivant, Coordinator for Back to School with Pride:* Dear Friends, each year we, the volunteers of Faith-Based Center of Hope, host an annual "Back to School with Pride" project. This year it is scheduled for Saturday, August 17th at Hatcher's Park in Lilesville at 2 pm. This is to allow parents and guardians an opportunity to bring their youth to the event. On Sunday, August 18th we will be at Centenary A.M.E. Zion Church beginning at 11 a.m. State Trooper Landric Reid's Shoe Rally will also be a part of the festivities.

Each year the children's needs grow larger. Last year we were able to supply school supplies and uniforms to over seven hundred kids, from every school in the Anson County and several in the Richmond and Union County areas. Through the contributions of great friends and community leaders I know we will be able to bless more families this year.

The Back to School with Pride is open to the less fortunate youth of all diversities. We invite various community leaders, officials, ministers and medical advisors in to speak to the kids. We will have entertainment provided by HOLLA (DJ Leon Gatewood) and M&L Fun-Fun from in Morven. I humbly ask for your support as we endeavor to do God's will and help our kids go back to school with the needed supplies.

All contributions - whether monetary, school supplies or uniforms - will be greatly appreciated. We invite you to come be a part of a very worthwhile event. If you know any youth who would like to come and assist in passing out supplies, please contact me at 704-848-4412. You may also contact Ester Lindsey at 704-848-8452.

We Sincerely Love You. Signed, Vancine Sturdivant.

## Tips for Cleaning the Outdoor Grill

Outdoor grilling is one of summer's delights. Even basic foods seem to taste better when cooked outdoors. Whether the grill of choice is charcoal or gas, keeping your grill clean is important.

Here are some tips for peak performance all summer long. Begin by checking the grill manufacturer's instructions for specific cleaning requirements.

Rust is the major enemy of charcoal grills, and the major cause of rust is failing to clean out the ashes regularly. To do this, turn off the grill, make sure it is completely cool. If there is no ash catcher underneath the bowl, use a garden trowel to scoop out the ashes. If the grill has an ash catcher, be sure to clean it, too, once the ashes are removed. Carefully discard the ashes in a plastic trash bag. Otherwise, they will fly all over, covering everything, including yourself, with soot.

Clean the grate and the inside of the grill with a spray-on cleaner. Check the label to make sure the cleaning product is safe for both these surfaces, and follow the grill manufacturer's use instructions. Let the cleaner sit long enough to soften the accumulated grease and grime. Then, wipe the cleaner with paper towels. Follow by washing with a hand dishwashing detergent and water. Clean the outside of the grill, too, using a warm detergent and water solution and a non-abrasive cloth. Rinse and wipe dry.

Gas grills should be checked to make sure there are no leaks or blockages. Make sure the grill is turned off and completely cool. Then, inspect the burner and gas supply tubes for spider webs, grease build-up, rusted areas or anything that would slow down the gas flow. Clean these areas following the grill manufacturer's cleaning instructions.

Clean a gas grill after every use by turning the grill on high and letting it cook for 10 to 15 minutes with the lid closed. Then, loosen the residue with a brass bristle brush. Once the grill is completely cool, wipe the inside and outside surfaces with a soft cloth and warm, soapy water. Rinse and wipe dry.

## NC Pre-K Available for this School Year - Apply Today!

Anson County Partnership for Children is continuing to accept applications for NC Pre-K, a kindergarten readiness initiative that is proven to help four year olds gain basic skills needed for success in elementary school. Children who are four years of age before August 31, 2013 are eligible to apply for the program, which is free to qualifying families.

"Availability in this program is limited," said Kim Wilson, NC Pre-K Coordinator. "If parents are interested in enrolling



the children in the NC Pre-K program I strongly encourage them to act quickly." A high priority is placed on serving children who are "at-risk." A child is considered to be at-risk if the child's family is at or below 75% of the state median income level or if a disability has been identified. Enrollment is also open to students who have limited English proficiency, developmental differences, chronic health conditions, or a parent who is active service personnel.

NC Pre-K classes operate on a regular school calendar and are designed to address emotional and social development, physical health, language development, and cognitive functioning. Teachers are highly qualified and hold a minimum of a BA/BS degree as well as specific early childhood credentials. Through incorporation of indoor and outdoor learning environments, students participate in active learning experiences to foster a lifetime love of education.

Parents interested in learning more about the NC Pre-K program should contact Kim Wilson at 704-694-4036 or [kim.wilson@windstream.net](mailto:kim.wilson@windstream.net).

## Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club Asking Your Help to Donate School Supplies

*In a release from Lynn Edwards of the Chamber of Commerce:* The Anson County Chamber of Commerce along with the Wadesboro Rotary Club will be collecting school supplies throughout the month of August and we need your help!

There are two ways to help:

1) Paper - college and wide ruled, #2 pencils, pens, crayons and markers are just a few of the supplies the children of Anson will need when schools start back in just a few weeks. We need your help to make sure that all of our children have the basic necessities to achieve their highest level of learning!

Please join us in our efforts by purchasing school supplies and bring them to the Chamber during the month of August.

We will also accept monetary donations and purchase the items for you if you would like. If your place of business has any items with your logo on it we can use those as well. You can mail your monetary donation to Anson County Chamber, P.O. Box 305, Wadesboro, NC 28170. Please mark it for school supplies. Keep in mind that NC Tax Free weekend is August 2-4, so you can save a little money while helping our children!

We encourage all citizens, businesses and officials to support our students as they head back to school very soon. Not having the essential tools for learning should not be a problem for any student, no matter what their economic situation is. After all, they are our future! Let's give them a great start to the 2013-2014 school year! Donations may be dropped off at the Chamber office or given to any Wadesboro Rotarian.

2) There is also another way you can help Anson County Schools. "Box Tops for Education" earns money for schools. Please remember to cut off all box tops on any of the participating brands from the grocery store and turn them in to an elementary school of your choice. Box tops earn cash for our schools to use on essential items for our children.

The box tops can be collected by all of us and turned in even if you don't have any children or grandchildren in our school system. So, cut off those box tops and turn them in! We will be glad to collect those here at the Chamber as well! For more information call us at 704-694-4181.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Chamber with our efforts to keep our Mission Statement constantly working for the people of Anson County and surrounding areas!

## Veteran Services and Community Enhancement Fair is Saturday

The Anson County Veterans Service Office is hosting their second annual Veteran Services and Community Enhancement Fair, to be held this Saturday, August 3, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The event will be held in the Ingram Room at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Representatives with the US Department of Veterans Affairs from the W. G. (Bill) Hefner Medical Center in Salisbury, NC will be in attendance. Former military personnel, families and friends all are invited to come and receive information and assistance.

Admission is free and the information is abundant. Among the services available that day are:

- First hand advice from Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Experts.
- Talk to the Counselors from the Vet Centers about your concerns.
- Get guidance and information from VA Staff on the many programs the VA has to offer.
- Speak directly with local programs on health care and community resources services.
- Get one-on-one assistance on how to enroll for Health Care Benefits from Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Staff. (Bring a copy of your DD-214.)
- Games and prizes - fun for all ages!

For more information contact Anson County Veteran Services Officer Ted Ward at 704-694-4418 or [ward@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:ward@co.anson.nc.us).

## Special Meeting Called for Wadesboro Town Council

Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell has called a special meeting for the Town Council on Thursday, August 1 at 5 p.m. in the Town of Wadesboro Conference Room. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss:

- Closure of South Rutherford Street on August 2, from 4 until 11 p.m. for the Summer Jam
- Closed Session for legal matter as specified in statute G.S. 143-318.11
- Closed Session for personnel matter as specified in statute G.S. 143-318.11

## Filing Update for Municipal Election

Anson County Board of Elections Director Steven Adams announced that candidate for Wadesboro Town Council Reece Dutton has withdrawn his candidacy for the November 5th election.