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

Unemployment Rose to 12.5% in June

After dropping below 12% in April, for the first time since October 2010, then dropping to 11.7% in May, Anson County's unemployment rate rose in June to 12.5%. Statewide the unemployment rate for June rose to 10.4%, up from May's 9.7%.

Anson's total labor force in June was 9,681. Of that number 8,474 were employed and 1,207 were unemployed. In May the total labor force was 9,690, with 8,557 employed and 1,133 unemployed.

Unemployment rates increased in 91 of North Carolina's 100 counties in June. Rates decreased in six counties and remained the same in three.

"What we are seeing in most metropolitan areas across North Carolina is a loss in government employment," said ESC Chairman Lynn R. Holmes. "This is partially attributed to changes in local and state education at the end of the school year. The ESC's mission, along with our economic and workforce development partners, is to put people back to work. Our 89 offices statewide provide a wide range of services to help those looking for work. Also, the new Career Transition Center is now open to assist those state employees who have been laid off or affected by reduction in force."

North Carolina had 46 counties that were at or below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 10.4 percent. Rates increased in all 14 of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

The number of workers employed (not-seasonally adjusted) decreased in June by 20,203 to 4,058,744. The number of people unemployed increased by 30,039. The number of unemployed people in June was 469,472 workers, compared with 439,433 in May.

Curruck County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in June, at 5.5 percent. Meanwhile, Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate, at 17.1 percent.

No Sales Tax this Weekend for Many Items

North Carolina will have a sales tax holiday starting at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 5, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 7. Legislators hope that this weekend will help consumers afford back-to-school items for their children. Shoppers on this weekend will not have to pay the sales tax on clothing, school supplies and computers. This weekend gives families a wonderful opportunity to save money on important purchases. All shoppers are urged to take advantage of these savings, and to shop at locally owned businesses whenever possible.

The sales tax holiday was created by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2001 and went into effect on January 1, 2002. During the sales tax holiday consumers will not pay sales tax on clothing, footwear, and school supplies of \$100 or less per item; school instructional materials of \$300 or less per item; sports and recreation equipment of \$50 or less per item, computers of \$3,500 or less per item; and computer supplies of \$250 or less per item.

For more information on the sales tax holiday, including a list of exempt items and answers to frequently asked questions, go to www.dor.state.nc.us/taxes/sales/salestax_holiday.html.

Call for Artists: New Group Formed to Promote Anson County Artists Online

A new art organization called the Anson Art League has been created to promote Anson County artists on the internet. The group is open to any visual or decorative artist in Anson County. Media could include oils, watercolors, acrylics, mixed media, collage, paper, alcohol inks, pottery, wood, photography, folk art, copper enamel, stained glass, quilting, embroidery, knitting, crocheting, jewelry, metal, fiber or sculpture. There are no meetings to attend and no dues, but there is a \$15 per year fee to be listed on the website, AnsonArtLeague.com.

The Anson Art League will be a group of individual artists promoting their artwork online. It is not part of the Anson County Arts Council although we will be working with the Arts Council to promote art in Anson County. The Arts Council website promotes all the arts - whether visual, performing or decorative - but does not list individual artists. In addition to listing individual artists, AnsonArtLeague.com will also be sharing information about local and regional art galleries, gift shops and studios where our artists have work on display and for sale. They will be promoting upcoming events and art receptions where our Anson artists have work on display. If you are included on the website, they will display samples of your art along with your information so that interested customers can contact you directly. If there is a call for it, they can, in the future, add the capability of customers purchasing art online using PayPal.

If you'd like to join or have questions, please contact Merrie Datin at 704-995-5050 or 704-695-1304 or email at mlatin@yahoo.com. You may remit your \$15 fee via PayPal on the website at www.AnonArtLeague.com or call Merrie to pay by cash or check. (Please note you do not need a PayPal account to pay online through PayPal.)

There currently is no other organization promoting all of the individual Anson County artists and, unless you have your own website, the world will not hear about you. Let's work together to promote Anson County artists. AnsonArtLeague.com's purpose is to help you, the artist.

Bach's Lunch to Feature Ken Caulder & Phyllis Dunlap

In a release from the Arts Council: The Anson County Arts Council will hold the last Bach's Lunch of the season on Wednesday, August 10, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro. This event offers you a chance to have a wonderful lunch featuring chicken salad croissants, trimmings, plus dessert, visit with your friends, and then enjoy the entertainment.

Piano and vocals with Ken Caulder and Phyllis Dunlap will start about 12:20. You will be out in plenty of time to get back to work.

Tickets (\$10) to this event are available at Lacy's, Fancy Crafts, the Chamber of Commerce, the Arts Council, and from any board member. The Arts Council appreciates it when tickets are purchased ahead of time since we need to know how much food to buy and prepare. Take out plates will be available by 11:30 a.m. if you let us know.

For more information contact the Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or ansonart@windstream.net. The website is www.ansoncountycouncil.org.

Tourism Meeting August 10

The regular meeting of the Anson County Tourism Development Authority will be held Wednesday, August 10 at noon in the Lady Bug Restaurant. The public is invited to participate.

For more information contact Dave Smith, Director, at 704-681-5087.

BRLC Enjoys an Evening of Fun and Competition



Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center youths and adults enjoyed an evening outside after the sun went down recently. There was fun, food, snow cones, music and beverages for all. Special guests was Rufus, the Bobcats' mascot and his assistant. Rufus' bright orange suit and jersey stood out even in the night. He made sure that all children were able to get his autograph along with one of his brochures. There was also a dance competition. It was enjoyed by

all those young at heart. County Commissioners Bobby Sikes and Department of Social Services Director Lula Jackson were on hand to support and judge the dance competitors. Music was provided by 14 year old DJ Quahmale of the Cottonville Community.

The children who attended were from Burnsville, Monroe, Norwood, Cottonville, Wadesboro and Charlotte. All the school children were given a goodie bag to carry home with them.

"Gimme A SEA"

As a sports enthusiast I know that some of the most widely used cheers around the country would be the spelling of words. "Gimme a C! Gimme an A! Gimme a T! Gimme an S! Whatcha got? Cats!" And thus the urge to yell, "Gimme a SEA!" has been difficult to resist.

Having recently vacationed at the shore, I returned with a little SEA in my soul and some sand in my shoes, paying homage to the summertime SEASON, my favorite of the four. The yearly wait to visit the SEA becomes an ongoing fantaSEA, and I do grow impatient. But those trips are always worth the wait, as each brings great joy and offers time to commune with the SEA and all her glorious giving's.

Loving the SEA and her simple pleasures, some favorite moments of total content are while sitting quietly on a SEAside porch, peering over the dunes and into the horizon. The sunsets are magnificent on sun-kissed days and the immaculaSEA is enthralling.

The SEA can soothe the soul; it touches you from deep within and brings a sense of sheer ecstaSEA and well being. The SEA and surf and the sounds thereof, enable you to fall asleep, as if to be SEAduced by her lullaby. You awaken a little less weary and a little more relaxed.

At the SEA you inadvertently find yourself searching, searching for treasures while sifting through the sands on the shores of wherever your SEA happens to ebb and flow. CurrenSEA isn't really what you're in search of, but rather, the tranquility and peace she brings, as you spend time on the breeSEA beach with her winds blowing gently through your hair and against your skin. Your eyes search for SEAshells and other wonders the SEA splays out onto her banks, trinkets and tokens of her love for all who love her in return.

Watching the SEAoats sway and dance in a synchronized, graceful ballet, their splendor is magnificent. The exhibit is a poised silhouette, and once the sun dips behind the dunes and faintly glows against the SEAscape, the sight is pure ecstaSEA. Like watching a theater performance, complete with magnificent costuming created by the hands of a devoted SEAmstress, using threads of gold, yellow, red and orange in her needlework, leaving her legaSEA with each stitch she sews. Brush on hues of blues for efficaSEA, you then have the full picture, like a painting on canvas. Can you SEA it, envision it?

It is for "shore" that I have been SEAduced and that SEAduction will continue evermore. Because once you have a love of the SEA, you never outgrow that love. It continues to grow like the love in a happy marriage. The SEA—the bride, her gown— diaphanous and laySEA, white with foam.

Whether your time is spent in privaSEA and SEAclusion or follows specified consistenSEA, either way you'll find an urgenSEA to return to the sights and sounds of the SEAside, the beautiful SEA.

By Melanie Lyon

Monetary Donations Go Farther at Feed My Lambs

In a release from Feed My Lambs: Feed My Lambs, Inc. is a local food and clothing ministry located on Highway 74 West in Wadesboro. We take in food, clothing and household donations either to be distributed to people caught up in a crisis situation, or the clothing and household items are sold in our thrift store.

The workers and volunteers at Feed My Lambs work hard for the residents of Anson County, helping them get through some tough situations, and helping them provide nourishing meals for their families through our food program. We receive some of our non-perishable food items through individuals or organizations who sponsor our ministry with food drives, but most of our supply is purchased at the 2nd Harvest Food Bank in Charlotte.

We are constantly looking for sources of monetary support to purchase food for our food bank because we are able to purchase food there for 16¢ per pound. The following is an example of how monetary doantions go farther at Feed My Lambs to feed the residents of Anson County: If someone donates 1 can of Progresso soup it will cost you roughly \$2 per can. If you donate the same \$2 to Feed My Lambs we can buy a whole case of soup!

The 2nd Harvest Food Bank recently had such quantities of food needing to be moved that we were able to purchase food for 5¢ per pound! That goes a long way to feeding many people in need.

We appreciate any and all food donations for our ministry, but we wanted you to know that your monetary donations go further at Feed My Lambs.

Last Chance to Register for SPCC Fall Classes, Have Chance at Prizes

Time is running out for those who wish to register for fall classes at South Piedmont Community College, and to have a shot at some great prizes.

College curriculum classes start August 15. Registration will be conducted every weekday except August 8 between now and then. Everyone who registers for college-credit classes and attends class through at least September 20 will have his or her named placed in a drawing for a Toshiba Satellite C655-S5212 laptop (with a copy of Microsoft Office 2010 Professional), a Samsung ST65 digital camera with memory card, or an HP Mini 110 series netbook.

The drawing is open to anyone who registers for a 16-week, 12-week or first eight-weeks class. Students must apply, take the placement test and complete orientation prior to registering. The application and orientation may be done online at www.spcc.edu.

Remaining registration dates and times are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on August 2-4; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on August 5; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on August 9-11; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on August 12.

For more information, call 704-272-5300 or 704-290-5100.

David Tamura Wins Gold at Special Olympics State Games

David Tamura, son of Richard and Sarah Tamura, won gold at the North Carolina State Special Olympic games held near Raleigh on June 3-4. "David was a bit nervous and shaky at first. He does not like large crowds," said his father. But David soon overcame his fears and stepped up his game, while winning a Gold Medal in the softball throw, a Silver Medal in the 25-meter dash and took fourth place in the standing long jump.

David is a rising sophomore at Anson High School and is 14 years old. He enjoyed his time at the state games, and spent much of it with many of the 2,000 athletes and 1,500 volunteers.

Congratulations to David, Anson County's only Gold Medal winner at the state level. The entire community is very proud of you. By Melanie Lyon



Loaded Dice to Play at Summer Jam Friday

Uptown Wadesboro is holding the last Summer Jam for this year on Friday, August 5 at 7 p.m. with great music by Loaded Dice. Everyone is invited to come enjoy the surprisingly different music on offer that night - hits by Lynyrd Skynyrd, Eric Clapton, the Eagles, Jimmy Buffett, beach music and country. Also Lilesville Baptist Church will offer refreshments.

Also, the Rotary Club is holding a Cornhole Tournament on Friday in conjunction with the Uptown Wadesboro Summer Jam. Everyone is welcome to come join in the fun in the parking lot beside Plank Road Realty at the corner of Washington and Wade Streets.

"Toss the bags, win prizes, enjoy the band, have fun...all while helping Rotary fund scholarships and other community projects," said Kim Wilson of the Wadesboro Rotary Club. "Registration begins at 5 p.m. and the tournament begins at 6."

The tournament will be double elimination with winner and loser brackets. Official cornhole rules will be followed. The top three teams will be awarded cash prizes.

The cost to enter is \$20 per team. To register or for questions contact Wesley Horne at 704-695-5497. Also, sponsorships are still available

Free Groceries August 9

The Mobile Food Pantry is coming to the Ansonville United Methodist Church in Ansonville on Tuesday, August 9 at 10 a.m. Please bring bags or carts with you to carry your food. Do not arrive before 9 a.m. If you have not yet done so, you must bring proof of your income. Please note, you can no longer pick up food for more than one household. You may only pick up food for yourself.

This event is sponsored by W.A.C.O.M. and local United Methodist Churches.

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