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

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Was at 7.1 Percent in July

Anson County's unemployment rate for July was 7.1 percent. In June it was 6.9 percent. In May the rate was 6.6 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate for July was 6.3 percent. In July 2014 Anson's unemployment rate was 7.6%, in 2013 it was 11.4%, in 2012 it was 12.8%, in 2011 it was 12.5%, and in 2010 it was 13.7%. Anson's total labor force in July was 11,003. Of that number 10,219 were employed and 784 were unemployed. In June the total labor force was 11,091, with 10,329 employed and 762 unemployed.

Statewide, unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 79 of North Carolina's counties in July, decreased in six counties, and remained unchanged in 15 counties.

Graham and Scotland Counties each had the highest unemployment rate at 11.7 percent while Buncombe County had the lowest at 4.8 percent. All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 9.1 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 5.1 percent.

The July not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 6.3 percent. When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 90 counties, increased in six, and remained unchanged in four. Thirteen metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year while two remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in July by 16,628 to 4,501,556, while those unemployed increased 10,863 to 302,103. Since July 2014, the number of workers employed statewide increased 111,111, while those unemployed decreased 14,127.

Peachland's Music on the Square Set for Saturday, September 26

The Town of Peachland invites everyone to come and enjoy their 9th annual "Music on the Square" which will be held on Saturday, September 26, from 2 to 9 p.m. This free event will feature the bands, Drive-N-Country from 2 to 5 p.m. and the Delmonicos from 6 to 9 p.m., along with lots of food vendors, activities for the kids and more.

Among the many vendors are youth and women's groups from local churches and the fire department. A wide variety of beverages and food will be available.

For more information contact Lynn H. Griffin at 704-272-7781.

Fundraiser for Veterans Council

A fundraiser is being held by the Anson County Veterans Council to raise funds for a new Veterans Memorial to be located at Wadesboro Park. The Memorial will be a real asset to Anson County, and located in a safe and easily accessible location.



The lucky winner of the raffle will win a beautiful building that can be used as a playhouse, storage building, potting shed, or whatever you may need it for. The tickets are only \$5 each, and can be purchased from these Veterans Council members: Ed Parker, Judy Cox, Al Dean, Sherman Cash, Dara Kelly or Gerrie Rorie. Also, you may call 704-695-5800.

The Veterans Council will have a booth at People Fest on Saturday, October 10, and you can purchase tickets there. The raffle drawing will take place during People Fest at about 1:30 p.m., so get your tickets early!

People Fest Vendor Application Deadline Extended to September 12

This is a release from the Town of Wadesboro: People Fest is getting closer and we already have tons of fun activities planned. The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 10. Local favorites Lucas Gathings and Stonewashed are already lined up to perform. Stay tuned for more.

Due to some confusion, we have decided to extend the deadline for People Fest vendor booth applications until September 11. Vendor applications are available on the Town of Wadesboro's website (www.townofwadesboro.org) or you may stop by Town Hall and pick one up or call (704)694-5171 and we will mail one to you. Give us a call if you have any questions.

Also, on the Town's website we have links to sign up to run in the Zombie Escape 5k walk/run and the Discover Anson bike ride, which are both being held the day of People Fest. More fun filled information to follow!

Todd Johnson Elected to State Board of Community Colleges

On April 16 Todd Johnson (pictured on left) was elected by the North Carolina House of Representatives to serve on the State Board of Community Colleges for a six year term. Todd was sworn into the position on August 6 by Representative Mark Brody (pictured on right) at the Union County Republican Party's Executive Meeting.



AHS Bearcat Football Players Welcome PPES Students to School

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School had some very special visitors greet them as they walked into the school building on Monday morning, August 31st. Some of our very own Anson High football players came out and opened doors for PPES students, gave them high fives, and walked them down the hallways. What a great way to start the school day! The football players also took time out of their day to recite the Pledge of Allegiance with our students during morning announcements.

Escape the Zombies 5k on People Fest Day, October 10

Registration is open for this year's 2nd Annual Wadesboro's Escape the Zombies 5k, hosted by the Town of Wadesboro and the Wadesboro Police Department. Not only will participants be facing the clock on their run or walk, but also Zombies who want to eat ... we mean, tag you, along with some other obstacles along the way.

Unlike in most races, the map of this race will not be released prior to the event, and will remain confidential. However, last year's participants may be a little familiar. Along the course a few obstacles will be encountered, however these obstacles will not be difficult to navigate. A spokesman said, "We do want to caution all participants that it is possible you will get wet, muddy and dirty during this race, so prepare, plan and dress appropriately. Yes, your clothes may get permanently stained so don't wear anything you don't want soiled."

Awards for the fastest and healthiest runners will be handed out to ages from 7 to 100+ in both gender categories, as well as awards for the fastest and healthiest overall. Zombies along the course will be of all shapes and sizes. Some can run, some can't. However, the Zombies will not attack or hurt you, so they encourage our participants to do the same. Zombies can sign up through the registration site as either a volunteer or a paid participant. Paid participants will receive the official event t-shirt. Zombie participants (volunteer or paid) are encouraged to do their own hair, makeup and wardrobe. Wardrobes are required to be suitable for all age groups. With that said, an onsite makeup artist will be available for 'Zombification.' "Yes, we made that word up!" the spokesman added.

Runners can register at the following link, but don't wait too long because early registrants will receive a free event t-shirt as part of their registration fee. Zombies can register as either paid or volunteer zombies on the registration page as well. Paid zombies will receive the official event t-shirt as part of their registration. The site is runsignup.com/Race/NC/Wadesboro/WadesborosEscapetheZombies5k.

Volunteers Needed for Anson County Day of Caring October 17

Volunteers will show they care throughout Anson County by raking leaves and washing windows during the 11th annual Day of Caring being held Saturday, October 17. The Day of Caring is a community-wide service project that serves as the official kickoff to the Anson County United Way campaign.

"Last year's Day of Caring was comprised of over 200 volunteers making up 24 teams taking on 29 project sites," Ashley Rivers Scarborough, Day of Caring chair said. "We are hoping to top the number of teams and projects this year."

Typical chores include cutting grass, pruning shrubs, trash pickup, window washing, and cleaning gutters at the homes of elderly and disabled citizens. Other projects include sprucing up non-profit agencies and organizations. Volunteer teams can consist of two to ten people and must pre-register so they can be given an assignment.

Day of Caring volunteers will gather for the 7:30 a.m. kickoff and a continental breakfast at the Wadesboro Town Square. Teams from a variety of businesses, churches and civic organizations will scatter across the county to predetermined sites. First Baptist Church of Wadesboro has partnered with United Way to complete community service projects as well as serve lunch to volunteers.

Anson County raised over \$86,000 through United Way of the Central Carolinas, last year. United Way in Anson County funds nine programs through nine health and human service agencies that serve individuals and families that need a helping hand. They use United Way dollars to help solve the issues these individuals and families face each and every day.

In conjunction with United Way's Day of Caring, canned goods are being collected for families in need. Canned goods will be distributed by Anson Crisis Ministry. Donations can be dropped off at the Grace Senior Center located on Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, the week prior to the event. There will also be collection barrels on the Square at the Kickoff on October 17.

If you would like to register to volunteer, or if you would like to request help from volunteers, call Ashley Rivers Scarborough at 704-848-4121 or Ashley Bourke at 704-694-2600. Team and Project Site Applications are available through the Anson County Chamber of Commerce website www.ansoncounty.org. The deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, October 1.

On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive Campaign Continues this Labor Day Weekend

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, State Highway Patrol and Mothers Against Drunk Driving will continue the "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign throughout Labor Day weekend, September 4-7.

According to data provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, alcohol was the leading factor in 21 percent of recreational boating deaths in 2014. Additionally, alcohol remains the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.

"Be safe and have a designated driver for the road and the water," said Lt. Sam Craft, a spokesman for the campaign. "Don't let an arrest or accident spoil your end-of-summer fun. Boat operators charged with operating while impaired must make a court appearance and could face a maximum \$1,000 fine and jail time."

"On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" concentrates on the three major summer holidays: Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day, with an increased law enforcement presence around popular recreational boating areas. The campaign is supported and coordinated by the Wildlife Commission, State Highway Patrol and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, along with Forensic Tests for Alcohol, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Governor's Highway Safety Program and local police and sheriff's offices.

There are more than 200 wildlife officers across the state who patrol 5,000 miles of inland streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waterways and instruct certified boating safety education courses. The public can assist officers by reporting boating violations to 1-800-662-7137.

Dancercise Class Offered at Grace Senior Center

Dancercise, which is exercising while dancing, is being offered at Grace Senior Center. Dancercise is a blend of aerobics and dance moves, something that many people find to be lots of fun. Participants enjoy great music and learn actual dance moves. The class being offered is a beginners class.

The class began Wednesday, August 12, from 1 to 2 p.m., and will be ongoing. So, if you didn't make it to the first class there is still plenty of opportunity to join in later. Each month the schedules will be given out with class dates and times.

For more information and to register call Findey Knotts or Eva Diggs at 704-694-6616.

Anson Singers Rehearsal Every Tuesday Beginning September 8

The Anson Singers, a community choir with members from Anson and surrounding counties, will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, September 8 at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, located at 118 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro. The Singers, directed by Emily Privette, meet on a weekly basis each Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in preparation for winter and spring concerts.

The Anson Singers is a non-profit, self-supporting group that is maintained solely through donations from community members and businesses. They would like to invite anyone who enjoys good choral singing to come join them for the kick-off rehearsal on September 8. The Anson Singers will gladly welcome current members, and hope to see many new faces and hear beautiful new voices this upcoming season!

Bring a friend and come join the Anson Singers as they journey together to create magnificent choral music this year! If you have any questions please call Emily Privette at 704-475-0491.