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

Anson Unemployment Rate Holds at 12.5% in August

For the third straight month Anson County's unemployment rate was 12.5% in August. Statewide the unemployment rate for August was 10.4%.

Anson's total labor force in August was 9,701. Of that number 8,485 were employed and 1,216 were unemployed. In July the total labor force was 9,702, with 8,491 employed and 1,211 unemployed.

Unemployment rates increased in 47 of North Carolina's 100 counties in August. Rates decreased in 32 counties and remained the same in 21.

"Just over half of North Carolina's 100 counties stayed the same or decreased," said ESC Chairman Lynn R. Holmes. "Looking at this months data, it's clear we must remain focused on assisting our customers with many services to help them find work in this static economy."

North Carolina had 42 counties that were at or below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 10.4 percent. Rates increased in 10 of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Rates decreased in three and remained the same in one.

Statewide the number of workers employed (not-seasonally adjusted) decreased in August by 45,950 to 4,038,915. The number of people unemployed decreased by 3,007. The number of unemployed people in August was 471,319 workers, compared with 474,326 in July.

Morven's 7th Annual October Festival is this Saturday

In a release from the Town of Morven: Come one, come all and don't miss the 7th Annual Free Outdoor October Festival. This exciting and thrilling event will be held on Saturday, October 1st from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on downtown Main Street in Morven. There will be BBQ (pork or beef) and chicken from the Morven Volunteer Fire Department, fried chicken, fried fish, Italian Sausage, hamburgers, hot dogs, homemade ice-cream, cakes, pies, collard green cornbread, fat back sandwiches, and shaved ice. "Mmm Good!"

Vendors will have jewelry, homemade crafts, toys, face painting, and a large moon bounce!

Free helpful information from Anson County Educational, Medical, and Community Assistance Programs. Motorcycle shows, karate demonstrations, as well as beautiful horses dancing in the street. Take part in the raffle and great prize giveaways donated by Anson County's finest! The fantastic Gospel Explosion will entertain you with great music from church choirs, praise and mime dancers, step and drill teams, and other talents. The grand finale is Morven's Spectacular Parade in which you can take part in. It's the best parade ever!

For more details call (704) 851-9321 or get information at the Morven Town Hall.

Take Advantage of the Rabies Vaccination Clinic Saturday

The 2011 fall Rabies Vaccination Clinic will be held on Saturday, October 1, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Tractor Supply in Wadesboro. The reduced cost of the rabies vaccination is \$5 per vaccination. This clinic is sponsored by Brown Creek Animal Hospital and Anson County Health Department.

Anson County animal owners need to take control and have their dogs, cats and ferrets vaccinated against rabies as required! Recently animal control has had several bites reported in which the owners of the animals were in violation of the law with no current rabies vaccinations for their animals. In one case an unvaccinated dog fought with a fox; because of delayed reporting of the incident, the fox could not be sent for testing and the dog was the victim. Be a responsible pet owner and have your dogs, cats and ferrets vaccinated to protect both the pet and yourself.

Rabies is caused by a virus that animals and people can get through certain exposures to the saliva or nervous tissue from a rabid animal and is nearly always fatal without proper postexposure prophylaxis. Rabies is zoonotic, which means it can spread from animals to people. Rabies is 100% preventable. In most cases, preventing rabies is as simple as ensuring adequate animal vaccination and control, avoiding contact with wild animals, and educating those at risk.

Rabies prevention starts with the animal owner. North Carolina General Statutes require that all dogs, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies. Consider vaccinating valuable livestock and horses; animals that have frequent contact with humans should be vaccinated. Pet owners can reduce the possibility of pets being exposed to rabies by not letting them roam free. Spaying or neutering your pet may reduce any tendency they might have to roam or fight, and thus reduce the chance that they will be exposed to rabies.

Reduce the risk of exposure to rabies from wildlife. Do not feed or water your pets outside. Even empty bowls will attract animals. Keep your garbage securely covered. Open garbage will attract wild or stray animals. Wild animals should not be kept as pets. Enjoy all wild animals from a distance and teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals - even if they appear friendly. Bat-proof your home in the fall and winter.

If your pet bites someone or if you are bitten, contact the local Animal Control Officer at 704-694-4947. The animal control officer is required to monitor the dog, cat, or ferret for 10 days. According to facilities available, the animal may be maintained at its home or may be required to be housed at the local animal shelter or at a licensed veterinarian's office.

Flu Vaccine Clinic is October 7th

New analysis: No link between vaccines and Autism

The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine does not cause autism or type 1 diabetes. A recent analysis of more than 1,000 studies involving vaccines by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) finds that vaccinations have few side effects, which are either short term, or easily treated. The committee examined potential side effects for certain vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The expert panel which included pediatricians, immunologists, and internists reviewed more than 1,000 studies on vaccines between April 2009 and March 2011. The report released on August 25th reaffirmed vaccine safety.

Experts evaluated studies on the following immunizations: MMR, seasonal influenza (flu), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV), varicella, meningococcal (meningitis), and tetanus. While there is evidence that a few side effects can occur, these are generally short term or treatable. There was not any evidence linking the studied vaccines to development of autism, or type 1 diabetes.

The Anson County Health Department will hold its annual flu vaccine clinic on Friday, October 7th from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For information on recommended / required vaccines or to schedule an appointment please call the Anson County Health Department at 704-694-5188.

Anson County Early College Receives School Supplies Donation



In a release from Anson County Early College: Faith-Based Center of Hope partnered with the Anson County Board of Commissioners and donated school supplies to Anson County Early College students. On behalf of ACEC faculty, students, staff, and parents, Thank you! Your kindness and thoughtfulness for our schools is much appreciated!

Pictured from left are Ghulam Din (9th), Deon Chapman (12th), Amber Morton (10th), Baonhia Vang (10th), Misty Allen (11th), and SHP Trooper Landric Reed.

Homecoming Parade Returns to the Streets of Uptown Wadesboro

After much popularity in the past years, an Anson County tradition will once again return to the streets of Historic Uptown Wadesboro. The Homecoming Parade, sponsored by H.W. Little and Company Hardware, is slated to begin on Friday, October 7 at 4:45 p.m. The parade will be led by grand marshal Center of Hope CEO, Vancine Sturdivant and the Wadesbor Police Department. They will lead more than 30 parade entries, including several custom-built floats. Float entries include the Anson High School Varsity Cheerleaders, East Polkton Alumni, and Anson New Technology High School. Other entries include: Wadesbor National Guard, South Piedmont Career Cruiser, NC Division of Forestry, local fire queens, various dignitaries, political candidates, a special guest surprise, and much, much more!

A grand prize of \$500 will be given for the best homemade float entry. Also, the school with the most school spirit will win the Spirit Cup. Judges will be set-up in front of the Anson County Court House to evaluate the entries.

Following the parade there will be tailgating at the Anson High School parking lot in preparation for the big game's kick-off at 7:30 p.m.

Farm-City Week Dinner Enjoyed by Close to 200 People

Almost 190 farmers, livestock producers, business and community leaders from across the county were in attendance at the annual Farm-City Week dinner, held Tuesday, September 20 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center of South Piedmont Community College in Wadesboro. The event was held to emphasize the collaborations between the farming industry and the business community. Outstanding individuals were also recognized and awarded plaques for their dedication to agriculture and business.

Agriculture in Anson County is big business. According to the NC Department of Agriculture, Anson County ranks 28th in the state in total agriculture production. In 2010, Anson had an income of \$127M in agriculture and natural resources.

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce and Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District joined the Anson County Cooperative Extension staff to host the evening. The event combined the annual Farm-City Week observances with Brown Creek's annual awards dinner.

Sponsored by Pee Dee Electric and catered by the Anson County Cattlemen's Association, guests were treated to a roasted sirloin dinner and an evening program highlighting agriculture, award recipients, and celebrating the rural way of life.

Plaques given during the evening were Outstanding Farmer of the Year, awarded to peach grower Chesley Greene, and presented by Aimee Rankin, Agricultural Agent. Outstanding Agri-Business was awarded to Hildreth Farms and presented by Lynn Edwards, Executive Director with the Anson County Chamber of Commerce.

Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District Board Chair Ronnie Morgan recognized Roddy Purser of White Rock Farms as the 2011 Anson County Conservation Farm Family. Purser is also the winner of the 12-county level Area VIII competition and is currently in consideration for the Mountain Region level Conservation Farm Family.

Tina Rowell, District Administrator, recognized Resource Conservation Workshop Participants Ciara Melton and Matt Carpenter for their participation in the named program they sponsored at NC State this summer.

Motivational speaker and humorist Kelly Swanson of High Point entertained the group after dinner with her view of life, our individual personal stories, and the importance that laughter plays in our lives.

Sharon Edwards, chair of the Anson Cooperative Extension Advisory Board, welcomed guests following dinner, while Ronnie Morgan gave greetings. Other remarks came from Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent, who shared the week's events and activities for the Anson Ag Expo & Fair. Erin Dempsey, 4-H Youth Promise Program Director, recognized special guests, while Richard Goforth, Area Poultry Agent, recognized the evening's sponsor. Todd Moore, Marketing Representative with Pee Dee Electric, also addressed the group.

Janine Rywak, County Extension Director, led the group in a quick scavenger hunt to identify agricultural and natural resource statistics in the county. Winners received Celebrate Anson Agriculture t-shirts. Tyler Chenwing, Resource Conservationist, introduced the evening speaker while Jessica Anderson, Agricultural Extension Agent closed the evening by thanking the community for its support of agriculture in Anson County.

Anson County is fortunate in its recognition and pride of the county's abundance of agriculture and natural resources.

Great Things are Happening in Child Nutrition

In a release from Anson County Schools: We are pleased to share with you some additional options that child nutrition is offering when it comes to managing your child's cafeteria account. LunchPrepay.com allows parents to track what their child is purchasing in the cafeteria, see account balances and make online prepayments.

For a one time fee of \$10 parents get a premium service that includes meal history as well as the ability to prepay for school meals. There is not a one time fee if you choose the basic service. Basic service is for prepayments only. When parents make payments on the website, there is a \$1.50 flat fee per payment charge to cover the cost of processing the debit or credit card transaction. This fee applies to payments made only on the website.

To learn more visit www.LunchPrepay.com. To set up your child's account with www.LunchPrepay.com you will need their NCWISE number. This number is on your child's report card or you can contact the school to obtain the number.

We hope you find this service beneficial. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 704-694-4417. For some helpful information go to www.LunchPrepay.com and click on the link "frequently asked questions."

School Board Meeting Date Changed to October 26

The October Board of Education meeting date has been changed to Wednesday, October 26 at 4 p.m. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Class of 1996 Reunion is Sat.

The Anson Senior High class of 1996 is planning their 15th year class reunion for Saturday, October 1 at the Twin Valley Country Club at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person.

Any questions please contact Natacha Melton at 704-851-3440.

Bowman Class of 1981 Reunion is October 7

Bowman Senior High School Class of 1981 will be holding a class reunion on Friday and Saturday, October 7th and 8th. The events will take place at Twin Valley Country Club both evenings.

On Friday there will be a party at 8 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person at the door. On Saturday there will be a banquet at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person at the door.

Grace Senior Center Spaghetti Fundraiser

Grace Senior Center's Annual Spaghetti Fundraiser will be held on Friday, October 7th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the center. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy delicious spaghetti along with garlic bread, tossed salad and a dessert. Funds raised by the dinner will help with the Senior Christmas Luncheon.

Plates are \$6, eat in or take out. Those eating in will receive a free tea. Five plates or more can be delivered. Persons interested should call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

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