

AHS

Anson High School Varsity Football

• **Friday, October 20 - Anson beat West Stanly 22-14. Passing** (attempts-yards): Luke Hyatt 9-17 for 164 yards, 1 TD. **Rushing** (carries-yards): Jazear Griffin 14 carries for 177 yards, 2 TD; Kendrick Maye 7 carries for 40 yards; Luke Hyatt 6 Carries for 13 yards (1 two point conversion). **Receiving** Kendrick Maye 5 catches for 55 yards 1 TD; Jayden Little 2 catches for 80 yards; Jazear Griffin 2 catches for 29 yards. **Tackles** (solo, assists): Zack Griffin 8 solo, 4 assists; Jayden Little 8 solo, 1 assist; Denez Chambers 4 solo, 5 assists; T'landis Carr 6 solo, 2 assists; D. Harrington 4 solo, 3 assists; Jase Martin 5 solo, 2 assists; Jaqualin Liles 4 solo, 2 assists; Cedrick Zeno 3 solo, 2 assists; J. Griffin 1 solo, 4 assists; Kendrick Maye 4 solo; Jazear Griffin 4 solo; Gabriel Maxwell 2 solo, 1 assist; Gage Lookabill 3 solo; Daquan Mckever 2 solo, 1 assist. **Fumble Recovery** Cedrick Zeno 1.

Anson High School Junior Varsity Football

• **Thursday, October 19 - Anson beat West Stanly 25-0. Passing** (attempts-yards): Dock Hyatt 5-5, 2 TD Passes. Jackson Stinson 1 TD catch; Nyhaij Johnson 1 TD catch; Tesean Harris 1 TD run; Dallas Lilly 1 TD run.

AMS

Anson Middle School Football

AMS Football finished the season 3-3

• **Wednesday, October 18 - AMS beat Albemarle 20-18.**

Anson Middle School Volleyball

AMS Volleyball finished regular season 9-3

• **Tuesday, October 17 - AMS beat East Montgomery 3-0**

• **Thursday, October 19 - AMS beat Albemarle 3-0**

• **Monday, October 23 - AMS beat East Middle School 3-0**

• **Tuesday, October 24 - AMS lost to North Stanly 4-1**

Anson Middle School Cross Country

• **Monday, October 16 - At Oakboro Park - Conference Championships. Boys:** Brady Hyatt 16:09; Walter Marsh 17:29; Issac Marsh 20:26; LaGrant Chisholm 21:34. **Girls:** Lorelei Woodall 18:04; Nakia Thomas 23:05.

Anson Middle School Golf

• **Thursday, October 19 - Conference Championships at Deercroft Golf Club. Anson finished 1st Place for 3rd consecutive year. 1st Place Overall Team (18 holes).** Coy Lear 78 (Lowest Score, Medalist); Griffin Hasty 93; Garret Baucom 105; Brodie Lear 106.

NCDOT HBCU/MSI Transportation Program Scholarship Application Now Open

The N.C. Department of Transportation Office of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Outreach program is now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 HBCU and Minority Serving Institutions Transportation Scholarship Program. NCDOT's HBCU and MSI Transportation Scholarship Program helps develop new, diverse transportation professionals by awarding scholarships to students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in transportation-related fields at a North Carolina HBCU or MSI.

"The scholarship program is a great way to attract the nation's brightest minds, bring innovation, expand and retain top talent in the transportation industry," said Christy Dunston, director of NCDOT's HBCU Outreach program.

The program provides \$2,500 in financial assistance to help cover costs for highly motivated future transportation professionals and leaders.

Applications must be received by midnight Nov. 17.

Interested in applying for a scholarship? Please visit NCDOT's HBCU Scholarship Program Application web page: ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/students-youth. For more information, email Christy Dunston at cdunston1@ncdot.gov.

You Decide: Which Dominates, Bad or Good Economic News?

By Mike Walden: Many experts say humans tend to focus on bad news over good news. The logic is that bad news can threaten our well-being - perhaps our very existence - whereas good news may make life better but often is not life-changing. We tend to see these reactions to economic news. For example, big declines in employment will often get headlines, whereas similar increases in jobs will receive a mention, but maybe not a headline.

Like most time periods, today's economic news is a mix of bad and good. My goal in today's column is to present both, and then let you decide which should be getting top billing in the media. Let's begin with the bad news. Many surveys show inflation is the top economic issue among households. Inflation has a double-barreled negative impact on household budgets. First, by definition, higher inflation means the prices of items we buy are rising faster. Second, if our income doesn't increase at the same pace - which is often the case - our standard of living drops. Because the average worker's earnings have not kept pace with inflation since 2020, the purchasing power of household earnings has fallen 7%. This cut in our standard of living is not unique; it usually happens with rapidly rising prices. And although most household earnings will catch up when high inflation subsides, it usually takes years for this to occur.

Interest rates for borrowing are another big negative news item. In the last two years, the average interest rate on a home mortgage has doubled, and credit card interest rates have risen six percentage points. These increases have made it harder for people to buy homes and other expensive products that require borrowing. The high rates also mean households must devote more of their income to servicing their debt. Household payments on debt as a percentage of personal income are now higher than they were prior to the pandemic.

Finally, gas prices are a concern. Although today's price of \$3.50 to \$4 per gallon is well below the \$5 a gallon in mid-2022, drivers still remember the \$2 to \$3 per gallon price during the years just prior to the pandemic. Furthermore, if the new war in the Middle East restricts world oil supplies, gas prices could go much higher.

The result of this bad news is summarized in how households evaluate their personal financial situation. The Federal Reserve conducts an annual survey on this issue. The latest survey from 2022 shows the percentage of households rating their personal finances good or excellent continues to drop, extending a trend that began in 2020.

Now on to the good news. Although average consumer prices are still rising, the increases are moderating. During the summer of 2022, average consumer prices were rising 9% year-over-year. The latest year-over-year inflation rate is now 3.7%. The Federal Reserve, which is the key player in controlling inflation, has a goal of reaching a 2% year-over-year inflation rate. The 2% rate is significantly lower than the 3.8% annual average over the past 50 years.

The economy also continues to grow. The value (after removing inflation) of all products and services produced in the nation, called gross domestic product or GDP, has been rising at a similar pace in the past two years as it did in the two years prior to the pandemic. The situation is the same in North Carolina.

Of course, jobs are one of the key measures of economic progress. Both the nation and North Carolina have had full recoveries from the jobs lost during the pandemic. North Carolina now has 7% more jobs than pre-pandemic, growth that's more than twice as fast as the nation's gain of 3%. North Carolina's job growth rate has also accelerated from its pace before the pandemic, while the national job growth rate has remained the same. A tentative conclusion is that North Carolina has become even more attractive as a home for businesses and households after the pandemic than before.

It's also informative to go behind the aggregate job totals to look at what they can tell us about shifts in the economy. Again, comparing current job numbers to those immediately before the pandemic (February 2020), only two major economic sectors - manufacturing and government - have fewer jobs. The largest job gains, all over 10%, have been in transportation and warehousing, professional positions, the financial sector and technology. The smallest job growth rates occurred in clerical jobs, retail trade, personal services and the leisure/hospitality sector.

An observation from this dichotomy of fast-growing and slow-growing job sectors: On average, the jobs in the fast-growing sectors tend to pay high or medium salaries. In contrast, the sectors with slow job growth have much lower average salaries. An initial conclusion is that the North Carolina job market in the post-pandemic economy is shifting away from lower-paying employment to medium and higher-paying employment.

One last piece of good news concerns the labor shortage. Labor force participation - a measure of the percentage of potential workers who are working or looking for work - plunged during the pandemic and remained lower even as the economic recovery began. Compared to its pre-pandemic level, North Carolina's labor force participation rate dropped more than the national rate. The good news is that today, both the national and North Carolina labor force participation rates are at 99% of their pre-coronavirus rates, with more upward trends likely to come.

All together, there is both good and bad news about the economy. You will need to balance the two components and decide if the recent news is a net plus or a net minus.

Mike Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

Church

OCTOBER 28

Rainbow Tea

At Pleasant Hill AME Zion Church, 3:30pm with Min. Mary Neal, Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church, Sikes Ave. in Wadesboro. You are cordially invited.

NOVEMBER 3 & 4

BBQ Dinner Sale

At Pleasant Hill AME Zion Church, Hwy 109 S, Wadesboro, starting at 11am both days. \$12 plate includes chopped BBQ, baked beans, cole slaw, hush puppies or bread & dessert. For info call James Ratliff 704-380-7142 or Robert Moore 704-475-2967.

NOVEMBER 4

Youth Summit

At Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Lilesville, 3-5pm. All youth 12-25 are welcome. The theme is "Uncovering the Truth."

NOVEMBER 12

Friends & Family Day

Reunion at East Rock Ford Missionary Baptist Church, 2pm with Rev. David Gaddy of East Macedonia Baptist Church in Norwood. Theme is Coming Home. Dinner served after the program. All are invited.

Annual Usher's

Ministry Program at Divine Unity H.O.R.M., located at 6090 Hwy 109 S, Wadesboro, 2:30pm with Pastor Vashon Ingram, Pastor of Sandy Ridge MBC in Morven.

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Events

OCTOBER 26

Beekeepers Meeting

At Extension Office, 501 McLaurin St. in Wadesboro, 7pm. Guest speaker Phillip Haines will discuss his involvement in the UBO trials that Kaira Wagoner and Phoebe Snyder developed that will soon come to market. Open to anyone interested in having bees for honey & pollination. Info Facebook page, "Anson Beekeepers Association."

OCTOBER 30

Board of Education

Regular Meeting Closed Session begins 4:00pm. Open Session begins at 5:30pm. View at Anson County School's YouTube page. (Search YouTube for Anson County Schools.) Meeting takes place in Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. For public comment sign up in-person. Sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting.

NOVEMBER 7

Board of Commissioners Meet 6pm in Board Room, Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. Now there are two regular monthly meetings, with the second November meeting on November 21. Meetings are available online at youtube.com, search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

ONGOING EVENTS

After School Program

Kid Cafe Mon-Fri from 2:30-5:30p.m. at the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, 704-826-8737

Cub Scouts Pack #530

Meets each Thursday at Peachland UMC at 7pm. Info 704-994-9173

Free Food Distributed by Anson Crisis Ministries

Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8am-1pm. It is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. Telephone is 704-694-2445

Bridge Club

2nd Thursday each month, 1-3pm at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

Senior Cafe

4th Thursday each month, 2:30-3:30pm at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

Free Food

Distribution at Feed My Lambs every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 1-4pm. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820

Writers' Club Meets

Fourth Sunday each month at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, 3pm (except July & Dec). Open to public, new members of all ages invited. Info 704-694-5211 or sandybruney@gmail.com

Lions Club Welcomes

New Members The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at Papa Joes Restaurant the 2nd & 4th Thursday each month at 6:30pm For more info or to purchase a broom please call Jim Chandler 910-571-1448

Popcorn & a Movie

4th Thursday each month, 1-3pm at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

Compassionate

Friends Meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month.at 7pm, at the Training Room at First Baptist Church, Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. Bereaved parents, family and friends who have lost a child of any age are invited. Info 704-694-2425

Direct and Counter Cyclical Program Sign-ups

Call the Farm Service Agency Office at 704-694-3516 ext. 2 to complete eligibility forms

Senior Box

Program at Feed My Lambs starts the third Tuesday each month for seniors only. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820

Food Pantry

Free food every Wed, 9-11am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center 704-826-8182

Book Club

1st Thursday each month, 10am-12 noon at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

Craft & Workshops

3rd Thursday each month, 12-2pm at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

Chair (seated) Exercise

Every Tuesday & Thursday, 10-11am at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Regular meetings on Mondays at 7:30pm and Wednesdays at 12 noon. AA welcomes all who are seeking help, as well those wanting to help another person. The AA building is located at 2177 Country Club Rd. in Wadesboro, across from the Anson EMS building.

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