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Covid Update for Anson County

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Friday, January 13 the county was at 8,225 total reported Covid-19 cases, with 78 active and 101 deaths. On January 6 the county was at 8,200 total cases, with 103 active. On December 14 the county was at 8009 total cases, with 37 active and 100 deaths. On November 17 the county was at 7,940 total cases, with 25 active and 100 deaths.

The Health Department stated that Covid cases have increased since the holidays. If you have not received your updated booster, please come and see them.

The Health Department offers Moderna COVID Vaccines on Thursdays. They offer the primary series and the bivalent "Fall" booster. They are offered on Thursdays in a walk-in clinic. No appointment is necessary.

Flu Shots Please note that flu numbers are high right now so if you have not gotten a flu shot, please do so. If you would like to schedule an appointment for a shot, please call (704) 694-5188.

You can stop by the health department and pick up test kits to keep at home. If you aren't feeling well you can send someone and they will send some to you. The Health Department is also offering N-95 masks.

For more specific information related to Anson County and NC please visit: covid19.ncdhs.gov.

The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.



PPES Mighty Milers Participated in Youth Invitational Challenge

During the month of November, the Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Mighty Miler afterschool run club participated in the 2022 Virtual Rising New York Road Runners Youth Invitational. Students were challenged to run 1.5 miles during their normal scheduled run time.

Pictured above are the students who completed that challenge. To this date, PPES runners have collectively run 813 miles! The PPES teachers and staff are very proud of all the runners and especially those who completed this task! Congratulations runners, and keep up the hard work!

Early Release Wednesday on Jan. 25

All Anson County students will have early release on Wednesday, January 25.

- Elementary schools dismiss at 12:30 p.m.
- Middle and high schools dismiss at 1:30 p.m.



Learn More About Public Opinion on the Future of Transportation

A survey which will be released January 23 explores public opinion on the future of transportation in North Carolina.

Are you interested in knowing what people think about the future of transportation in North Carolina? Then, join the N.C. Department of Transportation for a webinar from noon- 1 p.m. Jan. 23. The agency will reveal the results of its "North Carolina Public Perception Survey: Transportation Funding and Electric Vehicles."

The session, which will be hosted on the GoToWebinar platform, is free. Anyone is welcome to tune in. Registration is required at this website: register.gotowebinar.com/register/8952977266599763805.

"Transportation is changing rapidly and that will affect how we will get to where we're going and how we will pay for the transportation network of the future," said state Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette. "This survey is another tool we can use to help us prepare for the future."

The webinar will provide the findings from the 2022 public perception survey, including perceptions on how transportation is funded and peoples' opinions of electric vehicles.

The research was conducted by N.C. State University's Institute of Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) under the direction of Daniel Findley. Mr. Findley is the Associate Director of Education and Training at ITRE.

NC Forest Service's Fire Learning and Mitigation Education Webinars

Join N.C. Forest Service staff and partners for a series of online webinars to explore and learn about wildfire and prescribed fire. Over a period of four days, staff and participants will discuss prescribed burning, using weather forecasts and modeling to anticipate wildfire activity, forest protection burning laws and wildfire risk in North Carolina.

On the fifth day, educators can register to participate in a Project Learning Tree workshop at Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest. Participants in this workshop will visit fire-maintained areas of the forest and observe a live prescribed burn, weather permitting.

To attend any portion of the FLAME Week event schedule, registration is required. Spots are limited so register early.

Ignite the flame for FLAME Week. Download the FLAME Week information sheet using the QR code. (Point your phone camera at the QR code and click on the link that appears.) Or, register here: forms.office.com/g/BZ8SiseTqD.



Webinars

- "Lighting the Fire: Planning and Executing a Prescribed Burn" Presented by: Phil Wallace and Julian Wilson, NCFS, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m., Monday, February 6.
- "Forest Protection Burning Laws" Presented by: Matt Gordon, CFI, NCFS, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m., Tuesday, February 7.
- "Fire Behavior Forecasting" Presented by: Terry Lebo, NWS and David Greathouse, NCFS, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m., Wednesday, February 8.
- "Wildfire Risk in NC" Presented by: Hannah Thompson-Welch, NCFS, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m., Thursday, February 9.
- Fire-focused Project Learning Tree Workshop for Educators. Facilitators: Carrie McCullen, Hannah Thompson-Welch, NCFS, Janina Millis, DAQ, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Friday, February 10, 2023. Register at go.ncsu.edu/ncpl_firefocus

Application Period Now Open for Summer STEM Program in State Government

High school girls interested in STEM-related public service careers can apply

Know a high school girl interested in public service and a future career in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics? The NC Department of Administration (DOA) is accepting applications for the summer Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program. This four-week, paid annual mentorship program with state government leaders is open to North Carolina high school girls, grades 9-12.

Established in 2019 by DOA's Council for Women and Youth Involvement, the Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program seeks to improve gender inequity by providing college bound girls an opportunity to explore STEM-based careers within North Carolina state government.

"This program is designed to nurture the interest of our young women in public service while preparing them for careers that are often male dominated," said DOA Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell. "We aim to change the current trajectory of STEM careers, building a better future for women, families and for the state of North Carolina."

Interested students can apply for the Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program now through Feb. 24. Program and application information can be found on the DOA website (ncadmin.nc.gov/divisions/council-women-youth/lady-cardinal-mentorship-program). Candidate interviews will occur in mid-March and selected applicants will be notified of placement in April. The mentorship program will run weekdays July 10 through August 4. All mentees are expected to work 40 hours a week, with time divided between working side-by-side with women leaders 24 hours per week and working on a group project 16 hours each week. The summer enrichment opportunity also includes lunch and learn sessions and field trips to various state government agencies. Students will earn a \$1,700 stipend at the end of the program.

This year's participating state agencies include the departments of Administration, Commerce, Environmental Quality, Health and Human Services, Information Technology, Natural and Cultural Resources, Public Safety, Revenue, Transportation, Governor's Office, and the Office of State Human Resources.

In addition to working on a sustainability project, last year the Lady Cardinal mentees participated in a geology tour with the NC Department of Environmental Quality, explored the NC Museum of Natural Sciences' Nature Exploration Center, and engaged in lunch and learn sessions with state government leaders among many other educational activities.

The Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program purpose and goals are based on recommendations from the 2018 Status of Women in NC Employment and Earnings Report released by the Council for Women and Youth Involvement in collaboration with the Institute for Women's Policy Research. The report highlights the growing disparity in employment and earnings among women and men in North Carolina. If unchanged, the gender wage gap will not begin to close until year 2060. The report also underscores Governor Roy Cooper's NC Job Ready Initiative, which advocates for more internships, training, and apprenticeships to prepare North Carolinians for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Visit the DOA website to learn more about and apply for the Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program for summer 2023. The site is: ncadmin.nc.gov/divisions/council-women-youth/lady-cardinal-mentorship-program.

About NCDOA and the NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement The N.C. Department of Administration acts as the business manager for North Carolina state government. The department oversees government operations and advocacy programs. The department's advocacy programs help to promote and assist diverse segments of the state's population that have been traditionally underserved. NCDOA's Council for Women and Youth Involvement division advises the governor, state legislators and state leaders on issues that impact women and youth.

Get it Poppin' with a Movie!

Grace Senior Center invites all seniors to come and enjoy the movie *Turning Red* on Thursday, January 19 at 12:30 p.m. The movie is free, and refreshments will be served.

For information call 704-694-6616. They are located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

Artist Reception for Photographer Lisa Jakobs

The Anson County Arts Council invites you to an artist reception they are hosting on Sunday, January 22. The featured artist is photographer Lisa Jakobs, and her reception will take place at the Drake Gallery from 2 to 4 p.m. Come and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful photography, drinks and refreshments...and great company!

The Drake Gallery is located beside the Ansonia Theatre, at 110 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-4950.

Hampton B. Allen Library Author Talk with Elbert Marshall

Hampton B. Allen Library invites you to join them on Monday, January 23 at 11:15 a.m. on the library's Facebook and YouTube pages for an author talk with Elbert Marshall. Elbert, formerly an Anson County citizen, has a number of published books. His latest book is *Mooneye*, published in September 2022. He will be talking about his writing journey as well as current projects.

For more information call the library at 704-694-5177.

Crafts and Workshops with Yarn for Seniors

Let's have some fun! Seniors, would you like to create something out of yarn? How cool would it be to exercise your fingers and wrist without feeling exhausted?

Grace Senior Center is offering "Crafts and Workshops" for our Seniors on Thursday, January 26 at 12:00 noon. What a fun way to craft and enjoy one another.

For more information please call Tonja Smith, Activity Director, at (704) 694-6616. They are located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

DMV Customers: Beware of Scam Targeting NC Residents

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV) routinely receives complaints from customers who have been targeted by scammers claiming to be representatives of either the DMV or the N.C. Department of Transportation. Recently, several law enforcement agencies have reported that many unsuspecting DMV customers are receiving scam emails from a group claiming to be from the "Department of Transportation" and encouraging targeted individuals to click on a link to pay a fine for an alleged driving violation.

Customers are encouraged to be aware of any emails from an individual or individuals using the address "notice@penalty-gov-us" claiming to be from the Traffic Division of the Department of Transportation. The email includes a link to make a payment for a fine.

"DMV customers must remain vigilant as criminals try newer ways to defraud customers and steal their identities," said DMV Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. "If you receive any unexpected email alleging you owe the DMV or the State money, then be very wary and contact the agency to verify the truth of the communication from an official telephone number or email address, but do not use the contact info appearing in the email."

Commissioner Goodwin further said, "The NCDMV and the NCDOT will never send customers an email regarding driving records, driving history, or notices to pay fines related to driving violations. All notifications to customers concerning such violations would be on official letterhead or forms through regular mail."

To limit confusion when searching for bona fide DMV services and information:

- Some websites exist that contain DMV information and forms, but they are not officially approved websites. Web searches may return results with other websites, but only the official state DMV website ends in ".gov."
- Beware of third-party websites offering forms or other information that could be out-of-date or erroneous.
- While not illegal, many of the sites are for profit and ask users to pay for forms.
- Many sites exist to obtain your information for future marketing, or worse, for using your personal information in fraudulent activities.
- If you provide payment information on a third-party website, beware that your payment card information may be stolen.
- Check the "Terms and Conditions" page of the website, where the site states that it is not affiliated with any state government agency.
- Always remember to look for a website that contains ".gov" in its address to assure you are receiving accurate governmental information.
- Go to the official NCDMV website www.MyNCDMV.gov.