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

Active Covid Cases Drop in Anson

New hours at Morven Road Free Covid test site.

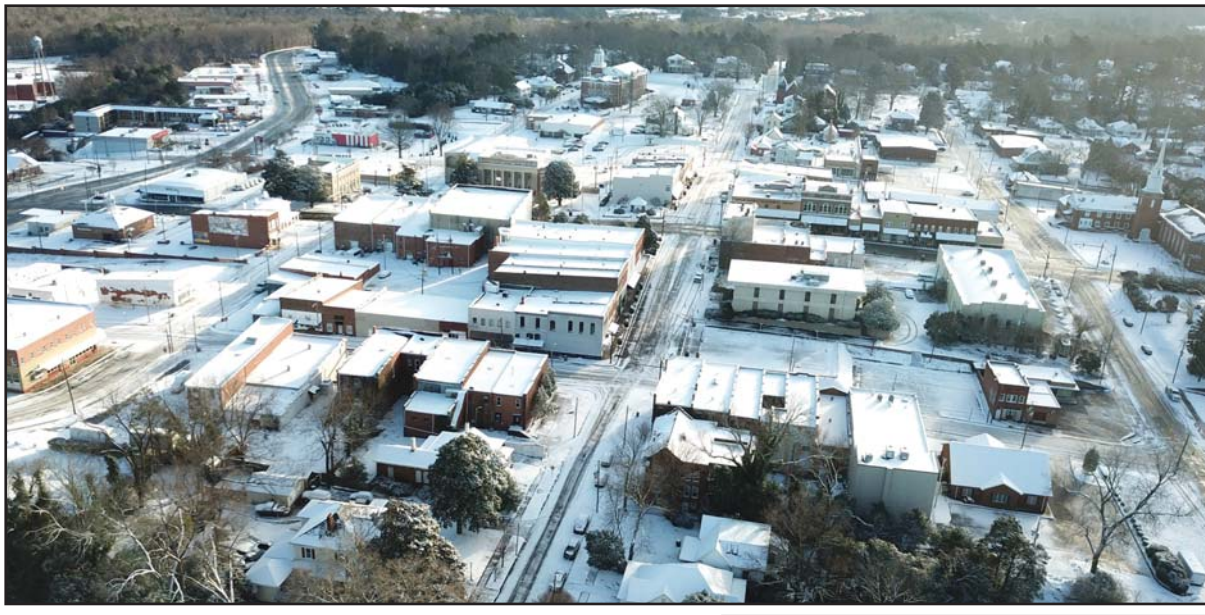
The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Tuesday, January 25 showed 5,738 total Covid-19 cases, with 376 active and 89 deaths. January 18 showed 5,362 total Covid-19 cases, with 668 active and 88 deaths. January 11 showed 4,743 Covid-19 cases, with 452 active. There were 322 active cases reported on January 4. On December 28 there were 123 active cases.

Vaccines are available for everyone 5 years old and older, including walk-in clinics. (Children 5-11 by appointment only.) Vaccine boosters are available. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information. Walk-in clinics are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Covid Testing Free testing is available Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. without an appointment. They are closed for lunch 12 noon to 1 p.m. Testing takes place in the old hospital parking lot at 500 Morven Road in Wadesboro. No appointment is needed and there is no charge for the Covid test. Results will be called or emailed directly to the person tested or, in the case of children, to their parent or adult caregiver, in 2-3 days. They will test anyone over the age of 1.

Free home Covid tests are available by mail. The government has set up a website (www.covidtests.gov) and an 800 number for people to order the tests. It is 1-800-232-0233.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Tuesday, January 25 there were 13,017 new cases of Covid, with 20,335 deaths and 5,055 hospitalized. The new cases were dramatically less than the previous Tuesday, January 18. Then there were 31,902 new cases of Covid, with 20,000 total deaths and 4,630 hospitalized.



Several Inches of Snow Friday Evening, Early Saturday Meant Fun for Some!

Snow was forecast for last Thursday, and school in Anson County was cancelled on Friday. The snow didn't come until Friday evening, but it was enough to give a coating of several inches by the time it stopped in the early morning hours of Saturday. Sunny weather on Saturday slowly began melting the snow, but not before people had a chance to enjoy the beauty and play a bit.



Sunday's warmer temperatures cleared away most of the remaining snow. Because some snow and ice remained on a few rural roads, schools were closed on Monday, with a two hour delay on Tuesday. Pictured at top is uptown Wadesboro Saturday morning. Above...fun in the snow for Beckham and for Charlie Lockhart.

The Barn Blast is Thursday!

You are cordially invited to Anson County Partnership for Children's Barn Blast 2022 this Thursday, January 27 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Please join in for a night of virtual fun and fellowship to celebrate the generosity of the community the Partnership serves. This event is made possible because of our presenting sponsors Poisson, Poisson, & Bower, and Uwharrie Bank.

Since its founding in 1996, more than 6,500 children across Anson County have received Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books in the mail every month to add to their library. Approximately 50,000 educational resources from the Early Childhood Resource Center have been used by childcare providers, caregivers, and community members.

"But there was so much more that needed to be done during the pandemic," said Caroline Goins, Executive Director. "The generous support in previous years gave the Partnership the flexibility to offer additional resources during the pandemic."

Because of Barn Blast supporters, children were fed, comforted and supported during this global pandemic in addition to the literacy and early educational programs provided.

"I don't know how we would have made it without the extra help of the Partnership. There were so many unknowns in the beginning. It meant so much knowing they were there ready to help," said a local mother of young children.

Now, the Anson County Partnership for Children is ready for the next chapter. The first goal of the Partnership is to offer a larger Early Childhood Resource Center for the community. This will include a large space for children to explore core subjects with parents. This space will also lend room to host more trainings for parents, families and childcare professionals.

"We cannot let the past two years deter us from the great potential we have in Anson County. Our children are the key to unlocking that potential, said Goins. "But we must learn from this pandemic and plan for the future"

Goins went on to say, "The success of Barn Blast and the Partnership as a whole is a testament to the determination and love of Anson County."

All proceeds benefit the Partnership's early childhood education programming.

The Anson County Partnership for Children is a nonprofit organization formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child."

How to join the Barn Blast The easiest method is to visit the Zoom website. Here's that information:

- Go to the website: us02web.zoom.us/j/82008839828?pwd=OGpmbzZ3MjJLMnhpL3FQRlFvTmVnZz09
- Meeting ID: 820 0883 9828
- Passcode: BarnBlast

Check out the Partnership's Facebook page for updates about Barn Blast and for more ways to join virtually. For more information on the Barn Blast or the Partnership call 704-694-4036 or visit www.ansonchildren.org.

Family Dollar Store Coming to Ansonville

Those stacks of steel beams you see on US 52 just south of Ansonville Elementary are the structure for what will be a new Family Dollar store, opening at that site later this year.

County Commissioner JD Bricken, who represents the Ansonville area, spearheaded the effort to bring the national retail chain to the community. "I asked the residents what they wanted and they told me a Dollar Tree or Family Dollar," said Bricken, who was elected in 2020. "It turned out that they do not build free-standing Dollar Trees, but were happy to talk to us about a Family Dollar."

Bricken worked with the company to assemble the necessary property, which was originally divided between four owners, and consulted with state and county agencies, including AnsonEDP, on the site's development potential. Although Family Dollar has not provided an opening date, these stores typically take 3-4 months from ground-breaking to opening and employ 8-10 in full-time and part-time roles.

Courtesy John Marek, Director of AnsonEDP

New Grant Opportunity for Vets from AnsonEDP

VETrepreneur Grants are available to honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who are seeking to open a business in Anson County. Business opportunities must be new and in operation for six months or less at the time of the grant application, and the business must be majority (51%) veteran-owned.

The grant is aligned with the N.C. Rural Center Thread Capital program, and is designed to promote and enhance participation in that program (www.threadcap.org). The VETrepreneur Grant will compensate qualifying veteran-owned businesses for the first three payments of the Thread Capital loan, up to a total of \$10,000.

Veterans wishing to apply for a VETrepreneur Grant must first apply for and be accepted into the Thread Capital program. Once a loan has been approved through Thread Capital, the veteran may request a VETrepreneur Grant by filling out the online grant application form at www.AnonEDP.com.

AnsonEDP staff will acknowledge receipt of the form and will contact the applicant with any questions about their application. The application will be reviewed, and procedural vote taken at the next scheduled meeting of the AEDC board. Funds will be disbursed to the business owner within 10 business days of the board vote. Veterans may request only one VETrepreneur Grant within any 24-month period. You can contact AnsonEDP at 704-690-4936.

North Carolina's December Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted December unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from November's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.3 of a percentage point to 3.9%

North Carolina's December 2021 unemployment rate decreased 2.4 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 25,884 over the month to 4,869,342 and increased 138,178 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 9,881 over the month to 188,391 and decreased 120,492 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 20,000 to 4,579,300 in December. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 7,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 5,500; Education & Health Services, 4,200; Professional & Business Services, 2,000; Manufacturing, 1,500; Construction, 800; and Information, 500.

Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 700; Other Services, 600; and Financial Activities, 300. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Since December 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 143,500 with the Total Private sector increasing by 141,400 and Government increasing by 2,100. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 49,100; Professional & Business Services, 27,700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 18,500; Manufacturing, 16,600; Construction, 13,000; Education & Health Services, 6,700; Information, 5,100; Other Services, 4,600; Government, 2,100; and Mining & Logging, 100. Financial Activities employment remained unchanged over the year.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets February 1

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

School Board Meeting for January 31 to be Live Streamed on YouTube

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, January 31. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at about 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Masks will be required for visitors.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard Updated 1-21-2022				
Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	16	2	5	2
Anson High School	26	6	7	4
Anson Middle School	108	4	8	2
Ansonville Elementary	16	2	4	1
Lilesville Elementary	14	1	5	1
Morven Elementary	3	0	2	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	32	0	5	0
Wadesboro Elementary	13	0	3	0
Wadesboro Primary	18	5	2	3
District Office	N/A	0	N/A	1
Transportation	N/A	1	N/A	3
Maintenance	N/A	1	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	3	N/A	1
Total	246	25	41	18
Total Students + Employees	271		59	
*Student Enrollment as of 01/21/22	2,945		# of Employees	513
% of Students Positive	1.39%		% of Employees Positive	3.51%

A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.

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