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

Covid Update for Anson County

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Tuesday, February 1 showed 6,164 total Covid-19 cases, with 488 active and 90 deaths. On January 25 there were 5,738 cases, with 376 active cases and 89 deaths.

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.

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

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. That number is 1-800-232-0233.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Tuesday, February 1 there were 18,757 new cases of Covid, with 20,817 deaths and 4,786 hospitalized. The new cases were dramatically less than Tuesday, January 18. Then there were 31,902 new cases of Covid, with 20,000 total deaths and 4,630 hospitalized. On February 1, 75% of adults in NC had one dose of vaccine, 71% had both doses.

Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to www.ncdhhs.gov.

February is Black History Month

Black History Month honors the contributions of African Americans to U.S. history. The celebration of Black History Month was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976 when the month of February was chosen.

Here are only a few of the many notable achievements by African Americans throughout history. For more facts visit www.history.com.

- Jack Johnson became the first African American man to hold the World Heavyweight Champion boxing title in 1908.
- John Mercer Langston was the first Black man to become a lawyer when he passed the bar in Ohio in 1854.
- Thurgood Marshall was the first African American ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- George Washington Carver developed 300 derivative products from peanuts among them cheese, milk, coffee, flour, ink, dyes, plastics, wood stains, soap, linoleum, medicinal oils, and cosmetics.
- Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first African American ever elected to the U.S. Senate. He represented the state of Mississippi from February 1870 to March 1871.
- Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives. She was elected in 1968 and represented the state of New York.
- Madam C.J. Walker was born on a cotton plantation in Louisiana and became wealthy after inventing a line of African American hair care products. She established Madame C.J. Walker Laboratories and was also known for her philanthropy.
- In 1940 Hattie McDaniel was the first African-American performer to win an Academy Award - the film industry's highest honor - for her portrayal of a loyal slave governess in *Gone With the Wind*.
- In 1992 Dr. Mae Jemison became the first African American woman to go into space aboard the space shuttle *Endeavor*.
- In 2009 Barack Obama became the first African American president in U.S. history. He occupied the White House for two consecutive terms, serving from 2009 to 2017.

Courtesy of [Marshville Museum and Cultural Center](http://www.marshville.com)

The Month of February Marks Earthquake Awareness Month

Contact your insurance agent for the best way to protect your property.

North Carolina is not known for its earthquakes. Hurricanes, yes - but, the natural disaster that shakes the ground due to seismic waves coursing through earth's rocks below is more prevalent on the West Coast - until recently.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, there were two quakes in or near North Carolina in the past seven days. In December 2021, a small earthquake struck Henderson County in the western part of the state. A month before in November, six small earthquakes struck Forsyth County near Winston-Salem and a larger one, a 5.1 magnitude earthquake, was recorded in Sparta in Alleghany County in August 2020.

With all of this shaking going on, North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey wants consumers to know there is an easy way to protect your property.

"Earthquake damage is not covered by a Homeowners, Dwelling, Renters or Condominium policy," he said. "Residents should contact their insurance agent and request an earthquake endorsement or rider - and depending on where you live, it'll be fairly inexpensive."

An earthquake endorsement or rider defines a single earthquake as one or more earthquakes that occur within a 72-hour period. The endorsement covers repairs needed because of damage to your dwelling and may cover other structures not attached to your house, such as a garage or shed. It does not increase the limits of liability stated in the homeowners or dwelling policy.

The cost of the endorsement varies according to where you live and the construction type of your home. Also, your deductible plays a role in determining the premium. The higher the deductible, the lower the premium.

For more information on how to protect your property from earthquake damage, talk to your agent or visit the NCDOT website: www.ncdoi.gov.



To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.



Hope also collects and distributes blankets for the elderly. Gumbys on Highway 74 in Lilesville is a drop off site for donations, or a pick up point for those who need a coat. Just call to schedule it.

Faith-Based Center of Hope Donates Coats to Schools

For many years the Faith-Based Center of Hope has conducted their program called "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They distribute coats to those in need as well as to schools in Anson County.

Recently representatives donated these coats to Anson schools to be distributed to students who don't have coats.

Faith-Based Center of Hope also collects and distributes blankets for the elderly.

Record Numbers Signed up for HealthCare.gov Coverage

670,223 North Carolinians enrolled in health coverage on *HealthCare.gov* during the 2022 open-enrollment period, the most since the Affordable Care Act launched in 2013. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the national and state enrollment figures on January 27. You can read the CMS press release and view the enrollment figures at: www.cms.gov, click on "Newsroom."

The 2022 open-enrollment period ran from November 15, 2021 to January 15, 2022. "NC Navigators worked hard to help make this happen," said Mark Van Arnam, director of the NC Navigator Consortium, a group of human-services organizations that helps North Carolinians enroll in affordable coverage on *HealthCare.gov*, the Health Insurance Marketplace established by the Affordable Care Act.

"Thanks to our increased funding from CMS," Van Arnam said, "we doubled the number of navigators in the field, we increased spending on advertising, boosted outreach efforts - both virtually and in person - secured more earned media than ever before, and offered more enrollment opportunities. We are happy that our efforts have paid off and overjoyed that so many North Carolinians will enjoy the peace of mind that comes with quality, affordable health coverage."

This unprecedented outcome was made possible by the \$5 million grant awarded to the NC Navigator Consortium by CMS for the 2022 open-enrollment period, a \$4.25 million increase from the previous year.

Free Webinar: Parent Counseling & Training

Parent counseling and training means:

- assisting parents in understanding the special needs of their child
- providing parents with information about child development
- helping parents to acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child's IEP or IFSP.

You are welcome to join this even virtually on Thursday, February 17, from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

This presentation will share information about the use of Parent Counseling and Training as a Related Service under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Together, we will discuss how this service can be implemented by IEP teams in order to support students with disabilities and their families. We will learn of the current rates of use in North Carolina, explore a few case studies of students from NC who have this service, and provide both research to support its use and guiding questions for IEP teams to consider when discussing the addition of this service to a child's IEP.

Presented by: Debra Pickens, ECAC Parent Educator, Co-Director - NC Deaf-Blind Project and by Virginia Madorin, M.A., LSLS Cert. AVEd, Consultant for Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Co-Director, NC Deaf-Blind Project, Exceptional Children, Office of Educational Equity, NC Department of Public Instruction.

For information or to register contact Suzanne Maness at Sandhills Center at 910-627-1769 or connectionsfsfp@gmail.com.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Was 4.4% in December

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for December was 4.4%, down slightly from November's 4.7% rate. Here are other 2021 rates: October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 5.9%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The 2020 rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%. In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the unemployment rate for December was 3.2%, down slightly from November's 3.4% rate. Here are other statewide 2021 rates: October 3.6%; September 3.8%; August 4.4%; July 4.6%; June 4.9%; May 4.5%; April 4.4%; March 4.6%; February 5.6%; January and December 2020 6%. Other 2020 rates: November and October 6.1%; September 7%; August 6.8%; July 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in December was 10,438. Of that number 9,981 were employed and 457 were unemployed. In November the total labor force was 10,513, with 10,024 employed and 489 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 91 of North Carolina's counties in December, increased in four, and remained unchanged in five. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.9 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 2.2 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.0 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 2.5 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.2%.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in December by 13,301 to 4,909,662, while those unemployed decreased by 9,893 to 160,692. Since December 2020, the number of workers employed statewide increased 199,479, while those unemployed decreased 146,441.

Arts Council Spaghetti Valentine's Dinner for Two to Go

Make this Valentine's Day extra special AND support the arts! The Anson County Arts Council is taking orders for baked spaghetti dinners that will be available for pickup on Friday, February 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Arts Council. All you have to do is heat and eat!

The menu is: baked spaghetti for two (heat & eat); 2 garden salads with choice of dressings; garlic bread sticks for two; and brownies for two...all for only \$30.

Text your order to 704-221-3038 or call 704-694-4950 to leave a message. All orders must be received by Sunday, February 6.

The Arts Council is located at 110 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro, next door to the Ansonia Theatre.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard Updated 1-28-2022

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	0	1	5	2
Anson High School	20	5	3	1
Anson Middle School	29	3	10	1
Ansonville Elementary	10	1	3	1
Lilesville Elementary	13	2	4	2
Morven Elementary	4	1	2	1
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	10	2	10	1
Wadesboro Elementary	6	0	3	0
Wadesboro Primary	19	4	3	1
District Office	N/A	0	N/A	0
Transportation	N/A	0	N/A	2
Maintenance	N/A	0	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	1	N/A	1
Total	111	20	43	13
Total Students + Employees	131		56	

*Student Enrollment as of 01/28/22 2,947
 *Enrollment changes daily
 % of Students Positive 1.46%
 # of Employees 513
 % of Employees Positive 2.53%
 A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.

Auditions for Upcoming Ansonia Play

The play *Alice in Wonderland: Down the Rabbit Hole* is scheduled for May 13-22. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, March 8 at 6 p.m. at the Ansonia Theatre.

Be prepared to read from the script.

Based on the beloved classic by Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland: Down the Rabbit Hole* is a reimagining of *Wonderland*, with an unexpected twist ending. When Alice tumbles down a rabbit hole, she is immersed into a fantastical, wacky land.

The Ansonia is located at 112 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-4950 and the website is ansoniatheatre.com.