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

Active Covid Cases Continue to Drop in Anson County

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Tuesday, March 1 there were 6,507 total Covid-19 cases, with 89 active and 98 deaths. The previous Tuesday, February 22 there were 6,484 cases, with 229 active and 97 deaths.

Covid 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 held on 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.

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. 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 test anyone over the age of 1. Free home Covid tests are available by mail. Visit www.covidtests.gov or call 1-800-232-0233.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Tuesday, March 1 there were 1,231 new cases of Covid, with 22,608 deaths and 1,543 hospitalized.

Cezar Ryan Rasay Convicted of Sex Crimes with Child, Recording the Acts

During the February 14 session of Anson County Criminal Superior Court Cezar Ryan Rasay was convicted by a jury of Statutory Sexual Offense with a Person who is 15 Years of Age or Younger, Second-Degree Forcible Sex Offense, Taking Indecent Liberties with Children, First Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Second Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, and Third Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor.



Cezar Ryan Rasay

The case involved Rasay performing sex acts upon a child while the child was asleep and recording the acts with his phone. Rasay was arrested in November 2017, and was 36 years old at the time.

District Attorney Reece Saunders said, "This case crosses the spectrum of protecting minors, children and those who are helpless. My office is dedicated to being the voice for these victims, and when we establish our own child advocacy center we will better meet the needs of these victims."

The Honorable Stephan Futrell presided over the case and sentenced Rasay to a minimum of 296 months and a maximum of 416 months in the North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Matthew Victory and Michael Van Buren. Detective Josh Martin with the Anson County Sheriffs Office investigated the case with the help of the State Bureau of Investigations.

State Highway Patrol to Participate In Operation SafeDRIVE

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol will again join forces with law enforcement partners in adjoining states to conduct a concentrated highway traffic enforcement period as part of Operation SafeDRIVE (Distracted Reckless Impaired Visibility Enforcement). Operation efforts aim to eliminate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) traffic collisions through periods of high visibility enforcement along the southeast I-95 corridor where 13% of the nation's fatal CMV collisions occur. The enforcement period will take place March 1-3.

"The State Highway Patrol is proud to be a part of this initiative again in partnership with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and our law enforcement counterparts throughout the Southeast," said Colonel Freddy L. Johnson Jr., commander of the State Highway Patrol. "We are committed to reducing dangerous driving behaviors on our essential commercial routes. Our aim is to educate and build awareness for all motorists including both passenger vehicle and CMV drivers on how to share the road safely."

SafeDRIVE's enforcement efforts will focus on both passenger and commercial motor vehicles, and include monitoring for aggressive driving, speeding, tailgating, failing to wear safety belts, distracted driving and impaired driving. Efforts will also help ensure CMV drivers are following industry regulations, including hours of service compliance, commercial driver license compliance, medical certification and commercial motor vehicle credentialing.

SafeDRIVE's enforcement efforts complement a national campaign run by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, "Our Roads, Our Safety" campaign, which educates motorists on how to share the road effectively and safely with CMV's.

All motorists should follow these safety tips:

- Stay out of blind spots. Large trucks and buses have huge blind spots on all four sides.
- Pass safely. Make sure you can see the CMV driver in their side mirror. Signal clearly and safely pass the truck or bus. Do not linger in the blind spot.
- Do not cut off large vehicles. It takes a large truck traveling at highway speeds the length of two football fields to stop.
- Do not tailgate. Tailgating a truck or bus puts you in a blind spot.

The goal of SafeDRIVE is to eliminate highway fatalities due to CMV collisions. All road users should share the road safely.

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.



recently brought them to me. We never knew that African Americans lived there. There were only five photographs. They were an incredibly important find. However, we do not know the identities of the individuals. Surely someone in Anson County can identify them. We want to honor their memory as part of the historical essay that will be part of the National Register application."

"We want to know who these people are so that a more complete history of the Polk House can be written. Does anybody recognize the mother in the picture above? We know that a woman named Viola McLendon lived there. But Viola never married and had no children. This is someone else."

"There was a photograph in a Sweetheart Box. Maybe it is a picture of the man (above) who was the father of the child in the mother's lap. He looks like a self-confident person. Does anybody know his name?"

"We believe that African Americans lived in the Polk House from the mid-1930s until the mid-1950s. The men pictured below were wearing World War II uniforms. The U.S. military was racially segregated then. We would so much like to know who these people are. Are they part of the history of the L. L. Polk House? We just do not know."



Black History Program this Saturday

Covid vaccine and K-95 masks available at the event

The Anson County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamkeepers Association is sponsoring a Black History program, titled "Answering the Call of Our Ancestors: Where We Go From Here" on Saturday, March 5 at 5:00 p.m. The event will be held at the South Piedmont Community College Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

Atrium Health will be on hand from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. to administer Covid-19 vaccines. K-95 masks will be given out as well. If you need transportation to the Vaccine Clinic please contact Sarah Dean at 704-475-8113.

For more information about the program contact Winnie Bennett at 704-465-0867.

Ansonia Play *The Spitfire Grill* Debuts Friday

"Have you ever dreamed of a town so small, they roll the sidewalk up? The waitress spills the gossip as she fills your coffee cup. Where the post office and the barber shop are in the general store, and the only street is Main Street, and it runs past your front door" These are lyrics that run at the heart of *The Spitfire Grill*, opening at the Ansonia Theatre this Friday, March 4 and running through Sunday, March 13. *The Spitfire Grill* is the heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance and finding family.

Percy Talbot, played by Kimberly Smith of Marshville, has just been released from a five-year prison sentence for manslaughter and looks to make a fresh start in the small town of Gilead, Wisconsin, a place she found on a page in an old travel book. She finds a job working for Hannah, played by Terra Medlock of Marshville, at the Spitfire Grill. Like most small towns, folks take a minute to warm up to the new girl but soon she starts to take root and both she and the town are forced to come to grips with their past.

Jennifer Gilmore, Matthew Thompson, Amanda Traywick and Lance Barber of Richmond County, and newcomer David Strong, all round the cast out and help bring this beautiful folk/country score to life. The live orchestra is led by Musical Director Catherine Taylor-Wyatt, with Larry Moree, Reagan Thomas and Glenn Fox. The show is directed by Tommy Wooten.

Tickets can be purchased online at ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950. Don't miss this wonderful show!

The Ansonia Theatre is located at 112 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The show runs Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard

February 25, 2022

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	2	0	3	0
Anson High School	4	0	3	0
Anson Middle School	1	0	0	0
Ansonville Elementary	2	0	0	1
Lilesville Elementary	0	0	0	0
Morven Elementary	0	0	0	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	0	0	2	0
Wadesboro Elementary	0	0	0	0
Wadesboro Primary	3	0	0	0
District Office	N/A	0	N/A	1
Transportation	N/A	0	N/A	0
Maintenance	N/A	0	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	0	N/A	0
Total	12	0	8	2
Total Students + Employees	12		10	

*Student Enrollment as of 02/25/22	2,946
*Enrollment changes daily	
% of Students Positive	0.27%

# of Employees	513
% of Employees Positive	0.39%
A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.	

Can You Help Preserve Mecklenburg Identify These People?

Preserve Mecklenburg (PMI) has found a few photographs and letters that were scattered on the floor of the L. L. Polk House in Polkton. PMI Administrator Dan Morrill is asking Anson County citizens if they can help identify the people in the photographs.

Morrill said, "Some years ago a friend entered the house when it was empty and found some letters and photographs scattered on the floor. He

Does anybody recognize the mother in the picture above? We know that a woman named Viola McLendon lived there. But Viola never married and had no children. This is someone else."

"There was a photograph in a Sweetheart Box. Maybe it is a picture of the man (above) who was the father of the child in the mother's lap. He looks like a self-confident person. Does anybody know his name?"

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Masks, Covid Test Kits and Toboggans Given Out Sat.

James D. Henderson VFW Post 10403 Auxiliary will be passing out masks, toboggans and Covid-19 test kits this Saturday, March 5, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. All veterans are asked to come!

Financial Literacy Workshops

HOLLA!, NETworX Anson and Roger's Heart have partnered to bring Uwharrie Bank's financial literacy workshops to Anson County. Uwharrie Bank's series, *The Path Forward*, is free to all community members. Community Outreach Coordinator Tina Townsend of Uwharrie Bank will teach the hour-long sessions.

These in-person classes will take place at HOLLA!. They are open to anyone interested in taking steps towards gaining financial freedom. Registration is Sunday, March 6, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Classes will take place on March 15, 22, and 29, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Students will learn about credit, credit reporting, budgeting, goal setting and the pathway to home ownership.

"Our organizations are grateful that Uwharrie cares about investing in the communities that it serves," stated Rachel Melton of Roger's Heart. "We have organized this opportunity in the hopes that it will empower people to make better informed decisions about their finances."

HOLLA! is located at 229 East Main Street in Morven. For questions contact Tina Townsend at 704-244-3811 or 704-991-1139.