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

## 2,433 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, April 5 the Health Department posted that Anson County had 2,433 reported cases of COVID-19. 19 of those cases were active and 56 deaths.

**Health Director Fred Thompson, PhD gave this update,** "Some important updates about operations at the Health Department and Covid vaccinations. Effective immediately, the Health Department is offering Covid vaccinations to all adults 18 and over. Anyone 18 or older can fill out the registration form and email it to: [covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us) or drop it off at the Health Department.

The county has set up a direct link to the registration form on the county government home page, [www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us). You can also request the form via email at [covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us) or by calling the Health Department at 704-694-5188.

People who do not have an active email account can drop off the completed registration form in our drop box located at the front door of the Health Department, located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. Or they can call us at (704) 694-5188, press 1, and we will take their information over the phone."

Once we receive the registration form or have their information via the phone, we will contact the individual to schedule their vaccination.

While people 16 and 17 are also now eligible to get vaccinated, only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for the 16 and 17 year old age group. The Health Department does not offer the Moderna vaccine. We vaccinate with the Moderna vaccine, which is authorized for adults 18 and over. Our local 16 and 17 year old young adults who wish to get vaccinated - which I recommend - can find a Pfizer vaccine site at the state's You Have a Spot Get Your Shot website ([myspot.nc.gov](http://myspot.nc.gov)) and schedule their vaccination at a Pfizer vaccine site.

Also, starting next Monday, April 12 the Health Department is reopening to our normal in-person clinical services on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We will continue to offer the Moderna Covid vaccine at the EMS base on Country Club Road on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We are making these changes as we have seen a significant decrease in the demand for the vaccine over the last few weeks, combined with the need to start seeing patients again at the Health Department. Also, there are many more vaccine sites opening up across the state, some of which will be offering the Johnson and Johnson single dose vaccine.

As always, please reach out to us with your questions.

Finally, I want to encourage all eligible adults to get vaccinated. The vaccines are safe and effective, and they play a critical role in helping to finally put the pandemic behind us."

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, April 5 there were 1,054 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,173 deaths and 907 hospitalized.

Statewide, as of Monday, March 29 there were 1,372 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,085 deaths and 873 hospitalized. March 1 there were 862,170 cases of COVID-19, 11,254 deaths, 1,219 hospitalized. February 1: 761,302 cases, 9,342 deaths, 2,781 hospitalized. January 4: 570,111 cases, 6,941 deaths, 3,192 hospitalized. December 7: 404,032 cases, 5,605 deaths, 2,373 hospitalized. November 2: 278,028 cases, 4,390 deaths, 1,146 hospitalized. October 5: 219,754 cases, 3,637 deaths, 971 hospitalized.

**Recent history in Anson County:** March 31, 2020: 1 case; April 28 - 23 cases (no deaths); May 26: 62 cases (1 death); June 22: 107 cases (2 deaths); July 27: 285 cases (2 deaths); August 31: 440 cases (4 deaths); September 28: 605 cases (4 deaths); October 26: 720 cases (9 deaths); November 30: 937 cases (14 deaths); December 31: 1,444 cases; (28 deaths); January 25: 1,957 cases (42 deaths); February 22: 2,258 (53 deaths); March 1: 2,298 cases (53 deaths); March 29: 2144 cases (56 deaths).

Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to [www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov).

## Pee Dee Electric Accepting Bright Ideas Grant Applications from Teachers

**Educators can apply April 1 for grants up to \$2,000 to fund innovative projects**

Local educators can apply for a Bright Ideas grant from Pee Dee Electric starting on April 1. The grants, offered annually to teachers to bring creative classroom learning projects to life, support innovative projects that energize classroom learning and enhance student success. Educators can learn more and apply online at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

"As students and teachers face the challenges of the past year, we're pleased to continue our long history of supporting them with grants that fulfill needs in local classrooms," said Seth Allen, communications specialist of Pee Dee Electric. "As a community-focused organization, we are committed to building a brighter future for our students and our region, and we encourage all educators with 'bright ideas' to submit an application."

Pee Dee Electric awards grants to K-12 teachers across its service area in Anson, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly, and Montgomery and counties. Grants of up to \$2,000 are available in all subject areas, and teachers can apply individually or as a team.

Applications will be accepted April 1 through Sept. 15, 2021. Teachers who submit their application by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

To apply, teachers must include a budget; explain the implementation, goals, creative elements and evaluation of the project; and have approval from their school's principal. Applications will be judged through a competitive evaluation process, with judges looking for projects that feature inventive and creative approaches to learning. Grant-writing tips can be found at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

For more than 25 years, Pee Dee Electric has joined North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives in offering Bright Ideas grants to teachers. Since the program began in 1994, educators statewide have received more than \$13.6 million in Bright Ideas grant funding, and more than 2.7 million North Carolina students have participated in close to 13,000 Bright Ideas-funded projects.



First Responders vs. Community Basketball tournament. The event was the brainchild of Officer Helms in an effort to unite local police and first responders and the community. Helms reached out to Pastor Steve Adams of Harvest Ministries to host the event at the outside basketball court on the property of the ministry.

Officer Helms and Adams shared that in the beginning the plan was for a one game event featuring First Responders and Community members, however the response and excitement of the game was so overwhelming that it became a double elimination tournament. When "tip-off" happened 12 teams had signed up to participate. Teams included former Anson Athletes, current players, a team from Twin Valley Country Club, teams from local volunteer fire departments, and many others. Players received free tournament t-shirts, however in the end there could only be one winner - Team "Pastor" was victorious - taking home the trophies. This team consisted of BJ Tyson, Pastor Steve Adams, Brice Carpenter, John Ingram, Dekwan Burns, Jamosio Burch and Delaync Shuler.

In response to the overwhelming support of the event, Officer Helms stated, "This is much needed. This is an event to let the community know we put our pants on the same way, and we can come together." Pastor Adams added, "This is amazing to see so many police officers, first responders and the community together, laughing, sharing, and having fun - it shows the true meaning of Community - it's really a blessing." Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer and a large number of his officers joined in - with Spencer sharing with the crowd, "I am blessed to be your chief, and please reach out to me if I can help you in any way."

WSOCTV ( Channel 9 ) News was on hand. A crowd of a few hundred came through to enjoy the event, support the event, and show togetherness. Guest were able to enjoy a free cookout courtesy of many community donations, including burgers and hot dogs donated from Twin Valley Country Club of Wadesboro. Anson County Commissioner Vance Sturdivant joined the fun, while Commissioner Robert Mims provided the cooker and the cook to prepare the free meals for all. Volunteer referees Rodney Hyatt and Steve James kept the games clean and ongoing.

To summarize the event Pastor Steve said, "This is what we can be, what we should be, and what we need to be - together, building bridges, and uniting our community."

Special thanks to all of the players and teams who participated, Harvest founder Pastor Tim Adams, along with the people of Harvest Ministries for their dedication and service to this community, Chief Spencer and the Wadesboro Police Department, the many officers who joined, served and more, Officer Josh Helms for his desire, efforts and dedication to bring people together - it matters! Many thanks to Twin Valley Country Club, Gloria Howard, The Express Newspaper, Coach Fred Davis, Commissioner Robert Mims, Coach Rodney Hyatt, Coach Steve James, Coach Jamosio Burch and the AAU Basketball Team - the Carolina Jayhawks who helped keep score, provide water, and more. Helms and Adams are grateful for the many who donated online, brought items, or simply supported in any way - this is only the beginning.

Officer Helms, Pastor Steve, and others are already planning future events to continue to bring the community together and expand relationships. For more information or to partner contact Officer Helms at the Wadesboro Police Department or Pastor Steve at 704-695-2879.

## 4-H Fundraiser is a Huge Success!

Anson County's 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise's Fundraising Campaign & Auction concluded on Wednesday, March 31. The campaign was a huge success, as more than \$7,000 was raised.

Sam Cole, 4-H Agent at the Anson Cooperative Extension said, " We are extremely grateful for all of the amazing support that we received! Clover Crawl was missed this year, but we plan to be back in 2022. Mark your calendars for Friday, March 11, 2022, for the next Clover Crawl event!"

## Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament is April 17

The 7th Annual Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament, sponsored by Gum Springs Baptist Church Youth, will be held on Saturday, April 17. The event will take place at Twin Valley Golf Club with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

This is a two man Captains Choice with 1 A player per team. The cost is \$50 per person which includes golf, a cart and lunch. Mulligans will be sold. There will be a split the pot on hole 14.

There will be cash prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place. Also closest to the pin prize and a longest drive prize.

For registration and sign up sheets contact Twin Valley at 704-694-2336, or you can call Lynn Whitlock at 704-695-2200.

**Sponsorships are available.** There are four levels of sponsorship:  
 • Gold Sponsor - Company name on hole sign, fees & lunch paid for 2 teams, name on scoreboard, name on drink stations. \$525  
 • Silver Sponsor - Company name on hole sign, fees & lunch paid for 1 team, name on scoreboard. \$300  
 • Bronze Sponsor - Company name on hole sign, name on scoreboard. \$200  
 • Hole Sponsor - Company name on hole sign. \$115  
 Sponsorships will be available until Wednesday, April 14. You can call Lynn Whitlock for more information at 704-695-2200.

## Burning Yard Debris During Spring Wildfire Season

In North Carolina, March through May is historically recognized as spring wildfire season, a period when conditions are more favorable for wildfire. As residents begin working in their yards, the N.C. Forest Service urges them to think before burning yard debris.

"Every year, almost 40% of wildfires in North Carolina are the result of careless debris burning," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "To protect ourselves and our forestland from wildfire, we have to be responsible and vigilant. Check the weather. Make sure you're prepared to burn before you do. Never leave a debris fire unattended, and always have a water source and phone nearby in case you need them."

There are many factors to consider before burning yard debris. The N.C. Forest Service encourages residents to contact their local county forest ranger for technical advice and options to help ensure the safety of people, property and the forest. To find contact information for your local NCFS county ranger, visit [www.ncforestservice.gov/contacts](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/contacts). **The N.C. Forest Service offers the following tips to protect property and prevent wildfires:**

- Consider alternatives to burning. Some types of debris, such as leaves, grass and stubble, may be of more value if they are not burned, but used for compost or mulch instead.
- Check local burning laws. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours. Others forbid it entirely.
- Make sure you have a valid permit. You can obtain a burn permit at any open authorized permitting agent or online at [www.ncforestservice.gov/burnpermit](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/burnpermit).
- Local fire officials can recommend a safe way to burn debris. Don't pile vegetation on the ground. Instead, place it in a cleared area and contain it in a screened receptacle away from overhead branches and wires. Keep your pile small, not tall.
- Stay informed about the weather and possible weather changes. Postpone outdoor burning during high winds or gusts, or periods of low relative humidity. Even if you have a valid permit, stop burning if strong winds develop.
- Be sure you are fully prepared before burning. To control the fire, you will need a hose, bucket, steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. Keep a phone nearby, too.
- Never use kerosene, gasoline, diesel fuel or other flammable liquids to speed up debris burning.
- Stay with your fire until it is completely out.

To learn more about fire safety and preventing wildfires and property damage or loss, visit [www.ncforestservice.gov](http://www.ncforestservice.gov). To learn more about actions you can take to prepare your home and property for wildfire, visit [www.resistwildfire.org](http://www.resistwildfire.org).

## First Annual Wadesboro Police & First Responders Vs. Community Basketball Tournament Unites Anson

This is a release from Harvest Ministries Outreach Center: Saturday April 3rd, 2021 Harvest Ministries hosted, in partnership with the Wadesboro Police Department, Chief Thedis Spencer, and Tournament Coordinator Officer Josh Helms the 1st Annual Officer Helms in an effort to

unite local police and first responders and the community. Helms reached out to Pastor Steve Adams of Harvest Ministries to host the event at the outside basketball court on the property of the ministry.

Officer Helms and Adams shared that in the beginning the plan was for a one game event featuring First Responders and Community members, however the response and excitement of the game was so overwhelming that it became a double elimination tournament. When "tip-off" happened 12 teams had signed up to participate. Teams included former Anson Athletes, current players, a team from Twin Valley Country Club, teams from local volunteer fire departments, and many others. Players received free tournament t-shirts, however in the end there could only be one winner - Team "Pastor" was victorious - taking home the trophies. This team consisted of BJ Tyson, Pastor Steve Adams, Brice Carpenter, John Ingram, Dekwan Burns, Jamosio Burch and Delaync Shuler.

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## Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday, April 10

A new shipment of USDA foods will be distributed on Saturday, August 29, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The items are distributed on a first come, first served basis for eligible Anson County citizens and those living near the Union and Stanly County lines.

All Ansonians will need to apply if you have not used the BRLC Emergency Pantry recently. Families or family members who receive federal food assistance automatically qualify.

The serving process is drive-thru only. All neighbors are ask to wear your masks. Please do not arrive before 11 a.m. on Saturday morning.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political belief, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information check their Facebook page or [www.burnville.org](http://www.burnville.org).

**The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)**