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

Fairy Gaddy, 19, Arrested for First Degree Murder

On Monday, April 27 detectives with the Anson County Sheriff's Office arrested Fairy A'Leisha Gaddy, a female, age 19, without incident for the Murder of Cordell Gaddy.



Fairy A'Leisha Gaddy

Cordell Gaddy was found deceased earlier in the day at his residence, located at 668 Brown Creek Church Road Wadesboro.

Sheriff Landric Reid stated, "At this time we know that Fairy Gaddy stayed in an apartment that was located on Mr. Gaddy's property. There are no known family ties between the two."

Sheriff Reid continued, "This is an ongoing joint investigation between the Anson County Sheriff's Office and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI). Anyone who may have information pertaining to this case needs to contact Major Tim Watkins at 704-694-4188."

Gaddy is currently in the Anson County Jail with no bond on the charge of First Degree Murder. She has a court date of May, 11, 2020.

New Free Food Delivery Program for Anson County Children

Deadline to sign up is May 4

Anson County Schools Superintendent, Michael Freeman issued a release about a new child nutrition program: We are informing you that our child nutrition team wants to continue providing food and nutrition to our students during this time while school is closed due to COVID-19. We are announcing a new free program that will deliver meals for your children to your home. The program is Emergency Meals-to-You, which is a partnership between Anson County Schools and the state of North Carolina.

All students enrolled in Anson County Schools are eligible to participate in the program. To enroll, please access the online form by visiting:

ncmealstoyou.formstack.com/forms/apply

After signing up to get Emergency Meals-to-You, you'll get an Emergency Meals-to-You box delivered to your home for each child ages 1 through 18 in your household, every other week. Each box will include 10 breakfasts and 10 lunches/suppers - 2 meals per day for each kid for two weeks! All foods are shelf stable, which means they will be good for a long while. With Meals-to-You, kid-friendly meals are delivered - for FREE - directly to your door! All you have to do is fill out an online sign-up form and submit it by Monday, May 4.

Anson County Had 23 Reported Cases of COVID-19 as of April 28

Health Department released COVID-19 infection information by zip code

On Tuesday, April 28 the Anson County Health Department reported that Anson County had 23 reported cases of COVID-19, with 10 of those cases active.

In a release from the Health Department on Tuesday We are now up to 23 total cases, with 10 of those cases being active. We have discharged 13 cases so far.

As you are aware, Governor Cooper has extended the Stay At Home Order until May 8, 2020. Please follow this order in order to keep you and your families protected.

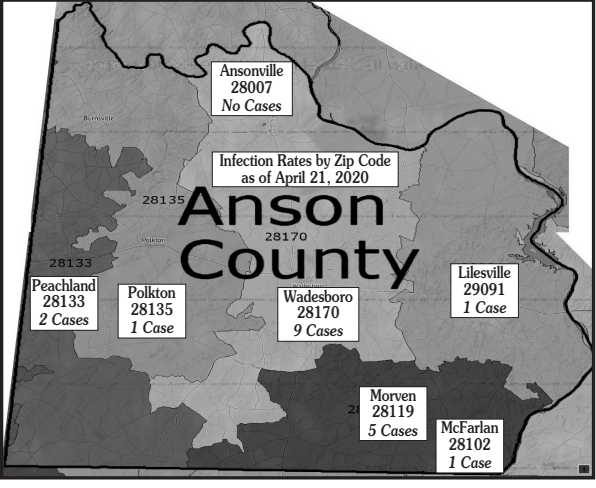
Most of the recent cases have been determined to be community spread. Please do not gain a false sense of security at this time. Remember, "Community Spread" means that the patient DOES NOT KNOW where they came in contact with the virus.

On April 21 the Health Department released zip code information. COVID-19 infection rates in Anson County by zip code as of April 21 showed cases of the virus in every zip code except for Ansonville.

- Wadesboro (28170) - nine cases
- Morven (28119) - five cases
- Peachland (28133) - two cases
- Polkton (28135) - one case
- Lilesville (28091) - one case
- McFarlan (28102) - one case

In releasing the zip codes, the Health Department wants readers to please keep the following in mind:

- Places that are not in city limits also carry zip codes for their respective towns, please do not allow this map to provide you with a false sense of security.
- Also, the Health Department will update this as they are able. They cannot promise that this will be done every day, as their staff is small and busy working to protect the citizens of our beautiful county.



Free Food Drive on Saturday

The Lamb of God Church in Wadesboro will hold a Free Food Drive this Saturday, May 2 at 11 a.m. They are offering fresh fruit, vegetables and non-perishable food on a first come, first served basis.

The event will be held at 118 West Wade Street in Wadesboro.

If you would like to donate or volunteer for the event, call 843-623-3777. The website is www.logomchurch.com.



Drive-Through Easter Event at Harvest Ministries

On Sunday, April 12 Harvest Ministries Outreach Center in Wadesboro held an event that featured a visit from the Easter Bunny for the kids and a grocery giveaway for the adults and their families. Attendees stayed in their vehicles, as the event was a "drive-through" for everyone's safety.

Governor Extends Stay At Home Order Through May 8

On Thursday, April 23 Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 135 extending North Carolina's Stay At Home order through May 8. The orders extending closure of restaurants for dine-in service and bars and closure of other close-contact businesses are also extended through May 8.

Governor Cooper shared details about North Carolina's plan to lift restrictions in three phases once the data show that key metrics are headed in the right direction.

"The health and safety of people in North Carolina must be our top priority," Cooper said. "This plan provides a roadmap for us to begin easing restrictions in stages to push our economy forward."

Last week, Governor Cooper laid out the path forward centered on three things: testing, tracing and trends. Today, Governor Cooper and Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of NC Department of Health and Human Services, shared more specifics on those key metrics. The Stay At Home and other orders are extended today because North Carolina has not yet seen a downward trajectory of those metrics needed to begin gradually lifting restrictions.

"North Carolina cannot stay at home indefinitely," added Governor Cooper. "We have to get more people back to work. Right now, the decision to stay at home is based on the public health data and White House guidance. North Carolina needs more time to slow the spread of this virus before we can safely begin lifting restrictions. I know that this pandemic has made life difficult for many people in our state and I am focused on keeping our communities safe while planning to slowly lift restrictions to help cushion the blow to our economy."

"Data has driven our decisions, starting with the aggressive measures Governor Cooper took early on to slow the spread of COVID-19. Those actions combined with North Carolinians' resolve to stay home to protect their loved ones have put our state on the right path. If we stick to these efforts right now we will continue to see a slowing of virus spread and we can slowly begin easing restrictions," said Secretary Cohen.

A detailed look at where North Carolina stands on testing, tracing and trends and more information about the three-phase plan can be found at governor.nc.gov. The metrics that North Carolina is considering aligns with the White House guidance for Opening Up American Again.

- In order to begin lifting restrictions, North Carolina needs to see progress in these key metrics:
- Sustained Leveling or Decreased Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days. Currently, North Carolina's syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is decreasing over the last 14 days.
- Sustained Leveling or Decreased Trajectory of Lab-Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days. Currently, North Carolina's trajectory of lab-confirmed cases over the last 14 days cases is still increasing, although at a slower rate.
- Sustained Leveling or Decreased Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days. Currently, North Carolina's trajectory in percent of tests returning positive over the last 14 days is increasing at a slow rate.
- Sustained Leveling or Decreased Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days. Currently, North Carolina's trajectory of hospitalizations over the last 14 days is largely level with a slight trend upward.

In addition to these metrics, the state will continue building capacity to be able to adequately respond to an increase in virus spread. These include:

- Increase in Laboratory Testing. Currently, North Carolina is testing approximately 2,500 to 3,000 people per day and is working to increase to at least 5,000 to 7,000 per day.
- Increase in Tracing Capability. Currently, North Carolina has approximately 250 people doing contact tracing across its local health departments and is working to double this workforce to 500.
- Availability of Personal Protective Equipment. The state is working to ensure there are adequate supplies to fulfill requests for critical PPE for at least 30 days. This includes face shields, gloves, gowns, N95 masks, and surgical and procedural masks. Currently the state has less than 30 days supply of gowns and N95 masks. Availability of PPE is calculated based on the average number of requests for the last 14 days compared to the supply that the state has on hand.

Governor Cooper also shared information about how North Carolina can gradually re-open over three phases to prevent hot spots of viral spread while also beginning to bring our economy back. These phases are based on the best information available now, but could be altered as new information emerges.

In Phase 1 Modify the Stay At Home order allow travel not currently defined as essential allowing people to leave home for commercial activity at any business that is allowed to be open, such as clothing stores, sporting goods stores, book shops, houseware stores and other retailers.

- Ensure that any open stores implement appropriate employee and consumer social distancing, enhanced hygiene and cleaning protocols, symptom screening of employees, accommodations for vulnerable workers, and provide education to employees and workers to combat misinformation
- Continue to limit gatherings to no more than 10 people
- Reopen parks that have been closed subject to the same gathering limitation. Outdoor exercise will continue to be encouraged.
- Continue to recommend face coverings in public spaces when 6 feet of distancing isn't possible
- Encourage employers to continue teleworking policies
- Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings
- Local emergency orders with more restrictive measures may remain in place.

Phase 2 At least 2-3 weeks after Phase 1

- Lift Stay At Home order with strong encouragement for vulnerable populations to continue staying at home to stay safe
- Allow limited opening of restaurants, bars, fitness centers, personal care services, and other businesses that can follow safety protocols including the potential need to reduce capacity
- Allow gathering at places such as houses of worship and entertainment venues at reduced capacity
- Increase in number of people allowed at gatherings
- Open public playgrounds
- Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings

Phase 3 At least 4-6 weeks after Phase 2

- Lessen restrictions for vulnerable populations with encouragement to continue practicing physical distancing and minimizing exposure to settings where distancing isn't possible
- Allow increased capacity at restaurants, bars, other businesses, houses of worships, and entertainment venues
- Further increase the number of people allowed at gatherings
- Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings

Governor Cooper and Dr. Cohen both underscored the need for the testing, tracing and trends to move in the right direction for each of these phases to move forward. If there is a spike in infections, tightening of restrictions may be needed temporarily.

Better Business Bureau Provides Consumer Resources to Shop Local

Amidst the coronavirus pandemic, Better Business Bureau serving Southern Piedmont and Western North Carolina (BBB) continues to build marketplace trust among consumers and businesses. The need for social distancing has urged people to work from home, led to the closing of storefronts, and caused some businesses to shut down altogether. In an effort to support the local economy, BBB has created a resource page, bbb.shoplocal.org, to educate consumers on how they can continue to participate in the marketplace and support the local economy. In conjunction with BBBs of Eastern NC, and Central & NW NC, businesses are broken down into eight geographical regions and provide insight on how consumers can still purchase their products, goods and/or services from a safe distance.

"We are urging consumers to shop local in any capacity they can for the duration of this pandemic," said Tom Bartholomy, President and CEO of BBB serving Southern Piedmont and Western NC. "Local business transactions are vital to the stability of our communities and this website helps build trust between businesses and consumers in these trying times."

BBB offers consumer tips for supporting small businesses while complying with social distancing regulations:

- Buy a gift card for later.
- Skip the refund and take a rain check.
- Commit to future work.
- Shop (local) online.
- Look for virtual classes.
- Get take-out or delivery.

Although not everyone can pay in advance and may be facing financial difficulties themselves, you can still support small businesses by:

- Writing an online review at bbb.org/leave-a-review.
- Liking/sharing the business on social media, and
- Improving morale by letting businesses know you appreciate them.

Supporting local businesses is crucial to the economic development of a region, especially during a crisis. BBB encourages consumers to be smart when shopping locally by researching business profiles on bbb.org before conducting business to see their letter rating and confirm it's a legitimate company.

For marketplace news and scams related to coronavirus, visit bbb.org/coronavirus.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com