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

2,541 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

Vaccines are available now!

As of Monday, May 3 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 2,541 reported cases of COVID-19. 42 of those cases were active and 56 deaths.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, May 3 there were 1,126 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,691 deaths and 1,007 hospitalized.

Statewide, as of April 5 there were 1,054 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,173 deaths and 907 hospitalized. 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 and 1,219 hospitalized. February 1: 761,302 cases, 9,342 deaths and 2,781 hospitalized. January 4: 570,111 cases, 6,941 deaths and 3,192 hospitalized. December 7: 404,032 cases, 5,605 deaths and 2,373 hospitalized. November 2: 278,028 cases, 4,390 deaths and 1,146 hospitalized. October 5: 219,754 cases, 3,637 deaths and 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 cases (53 deaths); March 29: 2,414 cases (56 deaths); April 30: 2,527 cases (56 deaths). Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to www.ncdhhs.gov.

HOLLA! 5K, Vaccine Clinic and Resource Fair is Saturday

HOLLA! was founded in 2005 to support efforts to effectively teach our children in the local school system. They have found ways to reach our community's needs by staying consistent and sincere to the cause of building strong children.

On Saturday, May 8 HOLLA! will hold their annual 5K Event, which also features a Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic and a Resource Fair. HOLLA! believes that every gathering in our community should be a gathering with a purpose. This event will feature the following:

- 5K Walk/Run (virtual and in person)
- The Impressive Livingstone College Culinary Arts Mobile Unit
- King Elite Cheer Squad
- Black Voters Matter
- W.A.R. 4 Life
- COVID-19 Vaccinations
- Stop Killing Us (SKU) Solutions Campaign...and more!

Leon Gatewood, CEO of HOLLA! said, "The 5K is our primary fundraiser. Funds generated through this event help us continue to provide services and resources to our community while we maintain our resourceful facility located at 229 East Main Street in Morven."

5K signups at runsignup.com/Race/NC/Morven/Holla5K. Gatewood continued, "In our effort to stay community-focused, we do not do a general solicitation for funds. Instead, we invite a select group of businesses, churches, etc. to make monetary or in-kind endorsements to the event. Endorsements can also include, but are not limited to the following cash donations: • Presenting Sponsor - \$5,000 • Gold Sponsor - \$2,500 • Silver Sponsor - \$1,000 • Bronze Sponsor - \$500 • Team Sponsor - \$200 Sponsors will be listed on all official event materials presented and displayed on the day of the event.

We also need In-Kind Sponsors: Volunteer; Water Stations; Tee Shirts, Water, Towels, PPE, etc.; Clean-up." HOLLA! is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax deductible donations can be made to: HOLLA!, PO Box 88, Wadesboro, NC 28170. For more information on HOLLA!, take a moment to watch a very interesting YouTube video. Search YouTube for "Holla! Community." HOLLA! is located at 229 East Main Street in Morven. For more information contact Leon Gatewood at 704-695-4698 or visit their Facebook page.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Dropped to 5.9% in March

Anson County's unemployment rate for March was 5.9%, down significantly from 7.5% in February, but still 1% higher than March 2020, before the pandemic affected the rate. In January the rate was 7.7%. In December it was 7.1%. In November the rate was 7.2%. The October rate was 7.2%, the September rate was 8.5%, the August rate was 8%, the July rate was 10%, the June rate was 7.9%, May's rate was 10.1% and April's rate was 8.2%. In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%. Statewide the March unemployment rate was 4.6%. In February it was 5.6%. In January and December the rates were 6%. In November and October the rate was 6.1%. In September the rate was 7%. In August the rate was 6.8%. In July the unemployment rate was 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in February was 10,457. Of that number 9,839 were employed and 618 were unemployed. In January the total labor force was 10,610, with 9,815 employed and 795 unemployed. Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 100 of North Carolina's counties in March. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.9 percent, while Orange County had the lowest at 3.2 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville had the highest rate at 6.4 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 3.8 percent. The March not seasonally adjusted state rate was 4.6 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 84 counties, decreased in 11, and remained unchanged in five. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 41,178 to 4,762,691, while those unemployed decreased by 50,361 to 229,665. Since March 2020, the number of workers employed statewide increased 65,867, while those unemployed increased 35,708.



Pictured above are Myra Dalgleish & Austin Kirkland

have a two-year option to purchase the remainder of the land. The Kirklands are perfect buyers for the L. L. Polk House. Austin Kirkland is the owner of Spotted Dog Timber Frame Construction Company in Peachland. Austin is an expert in timber frame construction and builds new timber frame structures throughout the area. Austin knows what has to be done to restore the Polk House. He plans to return the house to its original appearance.

The Kirklands are so excited about saving the birthplace of L. L. Polk from almost certain destruction. The L. L. Polk Foundation has contributed funds to the project, as has the Anson County Historical Society. Preserve Mecklenburg has so enjoyed meeting so many supportive people in Anson County.

The Kirklands would like for the broader community to benefit from the restoration of the Polk House. Students from the L. L. Polk Campus of South Piedmont Community College might make use of the site. PMI has talked with the Town of Polkton about reserving a portion of the land for a pocket park. Thoughts of making the house a community meeting place or maybe a wedding venue are under consideration. There is always the possibility of using the land as a botanical garden, a farmers market or a flea market. But the first step will be to start the restoration.

Preservation Plan For The L. L. Polk House Is Complete

Preserve Mecklenburg (PMI) has completed its preservation plan for the L. L. Polk House. PMI will buy the house and 5.82 acres of land soon. It will then sell the house and approximately one acre of land to Austin and Meagan Kirkland. The Kirklands will accept a preservation easement on the one acre lot that will assure the preservation of the house in perpetuity. The easement will give PMI design review control over material alterations to the exterior of the house. The Kirklands will

Farmers Market Fridays at Health Department

The Anson County Health Department will host a new venue for area farmers to sell their products called Farmers Market Fridays. The market will operate at the Health Department from June 5 through August 28. All farmers are invited to join this endeavor. For information call 704-994-3342. The Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

Gov. Cooper Issues Executive Order to Relax State's Outdoor Mask Mandate and Ease Mass Gathering Limits

State continues to strive to get two thirds of adults at least partially vaccinated

On Wednesday, April 28 Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. gave an update on the state's current data, trends and vaccination progress. As the state's metrics and key indicators remain stable, Governor Cooper also signed an Executive Order outlining safety measures for the month of May. Executive Order No. 209 will take effect April 30 and is set to expire June 1. As more North Carolinians get vaccinated and adhere to safety protocols over the course of the next month, the state anticipates lifting more restrictions on June 1.

"While our numbers are mostly stable, we have more work to do to beat back this pandemic," said Governor Cooper. "Let's work hard in May and get as many people vaccinated as we can before summer gets here."

Under the new Executive Order, masks will still be required indoors but are no longer mandated outdoors. Masks are still strongly recommended outdoors by NC DHHS in crowded areas and higher risk settings where social distancing is difficult.

Executive Order No. 209 will also increase mass gathering capacity limits. The number of people who may gather indoors will increase from 50 to 100 and the number of people who may gather outdoors will increase from 100 to 200. Occupancy limits currently in place will remain the same.

"Fortunately, we now have enough vaccine for everyone. They are free and widely available across the state. In many places you don't need appointment," said Secretary Cohen. "For those who have questions, I encourage you to go to YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov to learn about the benefits of the vaccines, potential temporary reactions you might experience, and answers to common questions."

North Carolina continues to focus on distributing vaccines quickly and equitably. To date, the state has administered over 7 million doses. 48.7% percent of those 18 and up are at least partially vaccinated, and 39.2% percent of those 18 and up have been fully vaccinated.

State health officials are continuing to monitor COVID-19 and its more contagious variants in North Carolina, which is why it is important to continue to follow the state's mask mandate and continue to practice safety precautions, including the Three Ws—wear a mask, wait 6 feet apart, and wash hands often.

This is Teacher Appreciation Week - May 3 to 7

Governor Roy Cooper has proclaimed May 3 - 7, 2021 as Teacher Appreciation Week and May 4, 2021 as Teacher Appreciation Day, to honor and support North Carolina's educators and recognize their significant impact on our children and the future of our state.

"North Carolina's educators work tirelessly to teach and support our children, including through a pandemic, and they deserve our gratitude, admiration and respect," Governor Cooper said. "Educators also deserve to be paid like the professionals they are. North Carolina must do better in teacher pay."

According to an April 2021 report by the National Education Association, North Carolina ranks 33rd in the nation for teacher pay, down from 31st in the 2018-19 school year and well below the national average. Governor Cooper has long sought better pay for North Carolina's public school teachers, including meaningful raises for teachers in each of his annual budget proposals.

Governor Cooper proposed a budget this year that includes a 10 percent raise for K-12 teachers over the next two years. Additionally, Cooper proposed that public school teachers receive bonuses totaling \$3,000 this year and an additional \$1,000 bonus in October 2022. State legislators have yet to act on Cooper's most recent teacher pay proposals.

During budget negotiations in 2019, General Assembly leadership and the Governor could not reach an agreement on teacher raises, and as a result, teachers did not receive a raise in the last budget cycle. Governor Cooper has vowed to work with legislators to get this year's budget passed and is committed to ensuring better pay for teachers.

Visit NC Farms Scavenger Hunt Starts May 10

Are you interested in local foods? Want to win a basket of items from Anson County local farms and businesses?

North Carolina Cooperative Extension - Anson County is organizing a scavenger hunt to support and promote Anson County's local farms. This scavenger hunt will start Monday, May 10 and run through Tuesday, June 1. A winner will be announced on Wednesday, June 2 via Facebook live.

To participate download the free 'Visit NC Farms' app from Google Play or the App Store. A questionnaire about the farms listed on the app will be available June 10 on the Cooperative Extension website (anson.ces.ncsu.edu), Facebook page, or printed out in the office. Each question will be about a different Anson County farm or business that is featured on the app and all questions can be answered by exploring the profiles of each farm or business.

For more information about how you can get involved call the local office at (704) 694-2915. Help support local producers this season!

Yard Sale & Bake Sale is this Sat.

The Burnsville Ladies Auxiliary is holding a yard sale and bake sale this Saturday, May 8, beginning at 7 a.m. All proceeds will go towards community outreach.

The event will take place at the Burnsville Fire Department, located on Highway 742 North.

If you have donations, please contact a Burnsville Fire Department member.

Living Healthy at Home with Chronic Disease Workshop

Grace Senior Center is offering a virtual workshop called Living Healthy at Home with Chronic Disease. In the comfort of your home you can improve your health.

Participate weekly in an interactive virtual setting with people just like you living with chronic disease. Ask questions, get answers, and learn practical ways to manage your conditions. Learn how to relax, reduce frustration and stress, explore healthy eating, set weekly goals you can achieve, incorporate exercise, understand medications, and get good sleep.

The workshop takes place once a week on Wednesdays, May 12 to June 16, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. To register call Rita at 704-994-3494.

Audition for Upcoming Ansonia Play

Are you ready to let your creative talents loose? The Ansonia Theatre is holding auditions for the upcoming play, *Once On This Island*. Strong singers of all types are urged to come on Tuesday, May 18 at 6 p.m. at the Ansonia. Please prepare a song that best showcases your voice, and be prepared to dance.

Once On This Island runs at the Ansonia August 6 - 15. It is the universal tale of Ti Moune, a fearless peasant girl in search of her place in the world, who is ready to risk it all for love. Guided by the mighty island gods, Ti Moune sets out on a remarkable journey to reunite with the man who has captured her heart. This is a sweeping tale about life, pain, love, grief, faith and hope.

The Ansonia Theatre is located at 112 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-694-4950.