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

2,574 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

Vaccines are available. Ansonians urged to get vaccinated.

As of Monday, May 10 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 2,574 reported cases of COVID-19. 46 of those cases were active and 56 deaths. Last Monday, May 3 the number of reported cases was 2,541.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, May 10 there were 974 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,790 deaths and 951 hospitalized.

Statewide, as of Monday, April 26 there were 1,334 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,560 deaths and 1,067 hospitalized. 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.

Covid 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.

School Board Meeting for May 17 Will be Live Streamed on YouTube

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, May 17. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Governors' orders on indoor gatherings will be enforced. Social distancing requirements will be enforced and masks will be required.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can go to the public comment link on the Anson Schools website at www.ansonschools.org to sign up. Public comment sign up will be from 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. on May 17.

Anson County Schools Recognize Staff

Teacher of the Year

- Tracy Small - Anson Early College
- Courtney Morton - Anson High School
- Eric Howell - Anson Middle School
- Megan Randall - Ansonville Elementary
- Rebecca Tolson - Lilesville Elementary
- Bonita Langley - Morven Elementary
- Kaitlyn McPherson - Peachland-Polkton Elementary
- Carli Gibson - Wadesboro Primary
- Georgetta Williams - Wadesboro Elementary

Paraprofessionals of the Year

- Erica Chaney - Anson Early College
- Melissa Hildreth - Anson High School
- Sandra Spencer - Anson Middle School
- Lillian Maner - Ansonville Elementary
- Brittany Jacobs - Lilesville Elementary
- Ethel Hall - Morven Elementary
- Laura Laney - Peachland-Polkton Elementary
- Cindy Heafner - Wadesboro Primary
- Sharolyn Carpenter - Wadesboro Elementary

Principal of the Year

- Chris Stinson - Anson High School

Living Healthy at Home with Chronic Disease Workshop Has Been Postponed

Because of the malware attack on Anson County Government, Grace Senior Center has postponed the Living Healthy at Home with Chronic Disease workshop that was planned to commence today, Wednesday, May 12. The malware attack has affected telephone and internet access, so it is not possible to present the workshop.

For information, the temporary telephone number for Rita Short at Grace Senior Center is 704-695-7267.

Shelby Emrich Recognized for Ten Years of Service at the Chamber of Commerce

The Carolinas Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (CACCE) recognized its 2021 Service Award recipients during their Staff Leadership Development Conference, held April 29 and 30 via Zoom. The Service Awards recognize those members in North Carolina and South Carolina who have achieved significant years of service in the chamber of commerce industry.

Shelby Emrich, President/CEO of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, was recognized for her ten years of service in the chamber industry. She will celebrate her tenth year with the Anson Chamber on August 1.

CACCE presents a certificate of service for each five-year increment of service. Service includes a combination of executive and/or staff employment time in all chambers of commerce.



Pictured from Left are Jessica Laney (8th grade), Cheyenne Hassell (7th grade), Laura Laney (leader), Za'Kiyah Hixson (8th grade), Cynthia Huntley (leader) and Danielle Blount (AMS Principal).

Girl Scouts Present Boxes of Cookies to Anson Middle School Staff

On Monday, May 3 Girl Scouts of Troop 1389 presented teachers and staff of Anson Middle School with boxes of cookies as part of their Cookies for a Cause program in conjunction with teacher appreciation week.

Girl Scouts across the country give back to a wide variety of charities, including many that Girl Scouts nominated as causes closest to their hearts.

Committed to giving back to the community, Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Council has always had a strong cookie donation program. In the past the focus has been on military efforts (through Cookies for the Troops), but in honor of the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts selling cookies, cookie donation was expanded to include a local focus to hometown

heroes (fire, police and first responders) and local charities and nonprofits.

Girl Scouts is open for girls in grades K through 12. For more information about how to become a Girl Scout visit www.hngirlscouts.org or call 704-731-6500.

Anson County Government Suffers Malware Attack, Services Affected

This is a release from Anson County Government: Regarding the recent malware attack, the County continues to work with Local, State and Federal agencies in an ongoing investigation. Based on the evidence up to this point, it does not appear that employee or citizen personal data was compromised. However, the recent malware attack limited County services.

The following services remain functioning:

- Public Safety (Law Enforcement & EMS) are operational
- Gun Permits and Concealed Carry - expect delays
- 911 Center is operational - but, no "Text-to-911" function
- Property tax collections
- Vehicle tag renewals, transfers, and temporary tags
- Building permits will be issued manually
- Library - public computers are available
- Veteran Services Office
- Deed Recording
- Covid-19 vaccines

Unfortunately, the following services are not available, or have limitations:

- Human Resources/Job Applications (estimated return to service 1-2 weeks)
- GIS Mapping (no timetable for return to service)
- Public Health Clinical Services (estimated return to service 1-2 weeks)
- County Telephones (no timetable for return to service)
- County Email (estimated return to service 1 week, then limited)

The County has procured temporary department cell phones for the short term to communicate with citizens. Please see the phone list below for numbers.

As the County recovers from this incident, more information on services will be forthcoming, but recovery will take several months. We ask for your patience as the County and its partners work to restore services to the public and improve its overall IT security posture.

Temporary County Department Phone Numbers

General Anson County Government	704-690-6754
ACTS	704-690-6735
Utilities	704-690-6745
Inspections	704-690-6733
Elderly	704-690-6729
DMV	704-690-6750
Finance	704-690-6739
Health Department	704-690-6757
Human Resources	704-690-6760
Jail	704-690-6752
Parks & Rec and Building Maintenance	704-690-6734
Planning/Tax Ass.	704-690-6738
Register of Deeds	704-690-6726
Sheriff's Office	704-690-6748
DSS	704-690-6749
Waste Water	704-690-6731
Child Support	704-690-6732
Soil & Water	704-690-6741
Tax Collector	704-690-6756

This is Hurricane Preparedness Week

Citizens urged to update emergency plans and kits and to Know Your Zone

Governor Roy Cooper has declared May 9-15 as Hurricane Preparedness Week, joining the national effort to make people more aware of the dangers of hurricanes and encouraging all North Carolinians to prepare for tropical weather. Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30.

"All North Carolinians should take this time to prepare for the possible impacts of a hurricane or other severe weather by updating their family emergency plans and supply kits," Governor Cooper said. "Having a plan and supplies will help you to survive through a hurricane and to recover faster should one adversely affect your home."

Severe tropical weather is common in North Carolina. The state is currently recovering from the devastating effects of multiple large storms including Hurricane Isaias and the remnants of Hurricane Eta in 2020; Hurricane Dorian in 2019; Hurricane Florence as well as Tropical Storms Michael and Alberto in 2018; and Hurricane Matthew in 2016. "There are things everyone can do to prepare for severe weather long before it hits, such as having flood insurance and knowing if you live in a coastal evacuation zone," said Mike Sprayberry, Executive Director of NC Emergency Management and the NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency.

Twenty North Carolina coastal counties have established pre-determined evacuation zones, based on the threats of storm surge and river flooding. Residents can find out if they live in one of these zones by visiting KnowYourZone.nc.gov. Residents should learn their zone and watch or listen for it if evacuations are ordered before or after a storm.

"I also encourage everyone to look out for one another, especially for those who may be more vulnerable such as the elderly," said Sprayberry. "It is easier get through a disaster by helping your friends and neighbors and working together."

By practicing an emergency plan periodically, everyone will be comfortable with his or her role in the plan. The plan should also include details on a meeting place and family phone numbers. Be sure to write down your plan and gather important documents, such as copy of driver's license, insurance policies, medical records, and prescriptions, and put them somewhere you can quickly access in case of emergency.

Make sure to review and update homeowners or renters' insurance policies to ensure they are current and include adequate coverage for your current situation.

Having an emergency kit allows people to survive independently if no other resources are available. Assemble an emergency supplies kit that includes enough non-perishable food and water to last each family member three to seven days. Other essential items include: First-aid kit; Weather radio and batteries; Prescription medicines; Sleeping bag or blankets; Changes of clothes; Hygiene items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and deodorant; Cash; Pet supplies including food, water, bedding, leashes, muzzle and vaccination records; and Face masks and hand-sanitizer.

Residents should pay attention to weather and evacuation information on the local media stations and have a battery-powered radio in case there is a power outage. If asked to evacuate, residents should promptly follow evacuation instructions.

To help mitigate damage to your home from severe weather, people can take common sense measures such as trimming trees, covering windows, securing loose outdoor items before severe weather strikes.

More information on hurricanes and overall emergency preparedness is online at ReadyNC.org.

Free Support Groups for Foster Parents & Caregivers

Free Workshops for Families, Community Members and Providers

Registration is required for the upcoming webinars. Please register by calling Suzanne Maness at 910-627-1769 or emailing connectionsfs@gmail.com.

- **May 13** 12 noon - 1:00 pm. Mental Health Crisis: What is Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and does it work? Marilyn Gilliam, MH/SA Justice Systems Specialist with Sandhills Center & Alexander Herrera, Police Specialist with Fayetteville Police Department
- **June 24** 1:00 - 2:00 pm. From Tragedy to Advocacy: A journey of hope and healing after losing a loved one to suicide. Alicia Steinley, Health Education Specialist with FirstHealth Community Health Services
- **July 22** 1:00 - 2:00 pm. Life Rolls On: A story of turning tragedy into triumph. Kandace Frye, Motivational Speaker from Richmond County

***Participants receive a certificate of attendance with contact hours and any materials or handouts the presenter(s) provide.

Grace Senior Center Health Expo is May 27

Grace Senior Center invites Anson County seniors to come to their 2021 Health Expo. The drive-through event will be held at the Center on Thursday, May 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Attendees will receive a goody bag full of great items, including healthy snacks and information about senior services.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities

Kay McMillan, president & chair of the North Carolina Youth Leadership Forum (NCYLF) and NCCDD Council member, invites you to the virtual North Carolina Youth Leadership Forum. It will be held July 12 to 23.

The North Carolina Youth Leadership Forum (NCYLF) will be a free two-week web series in July that will model online college life for youth with disabilities. Participants will be treated like college students.

Register at ylfnc.org/ncylf-application.html.

Topics for webinars will focus on advocacy, individual goals, leadership, independent living skills, and making change in the community. Delegates will be assigned a small group where they will have the opportunity to get to know others who share similar experiences. Participants will also have the opportunity to participate in other fun activities throughout YLF to mirror an in-person forum.

Interested in experiencing college life while social distancing? Find more information at www.ylfnc.org.

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