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Serving Anson County and the Municipality of Wadesboro

Anson County Had 107 Reported Cases of COVID-19 with Two Deaths as of Monday, June 22

As of Monday, June 22 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 107 reported cases of COVID-19, with 18 of those cases active. At that point they had discharged 89 cases, 87 to baseline health and two deaths.

Fireworks Display in Wadesboro this Saturday

There will be a "drive-in" fireworks display this Saturday, June 27, beginning at 9:15 p.m. Spectators are encouraged to view the display in their cars from parking areas in uptown Wadesboro to include: the Department of Social Services (DSS), Habitat for Humanity Restore, KFC and public lots. Spectators are asked to remain vigilant in maintaining social distancing and mask wearing during the event.

Virtual Board of Education Meeting Scheduled for June 25 at 10 a.m.

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a virtual board meeting on Thursday, June 25 at 10 a.m. The public is invited to dial in. The number is (646) 749-3122, and the access code is 825-610-685.

Community Outreach Offers Household Items on Saturday

The Lamb of God Church in Wadesboro will hold a Community Outreach Event on Saturday, June 27 at 11 a.m. They are offering household items and paper products 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, please call 843-623-3777. The website is www.logomchurch.com.

Sips & Apps Open House to Benefit Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition

A Sips & Apps benefit open house for the Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Coalition will be held on Saturday, July 11, from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Vineyard at the Old Place. Guests can enjoy the scenery, try some wine, watch Pampered Chef product demonstrations and sample wine-pairing appetizers. Karen Baucom, Director of ACDVC, said, "Raising funds locally allows our organization to access matching grants and continue to provide 24-hour services." According to the National Association Against Domestic Violence, domestic violence (also known as intimate partner violence) is not a personal problem, it affects everyone, from the children and family of those directly affected to friends and the community. It can happen to anyone regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, education, religion, class, disability status or sexual orientation. Over 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in the United States have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Proceeds from Pampered Chef product sales will benefit the agency. Those who cannot attend the event can support the fundraiser through July 13 at: www.pamperedchef.com/party/acdvrcfundraiser. Vineyard at the Old Place is located at 5435 Austin Road in Peachland. Social distancing practices will be in effect. Please see www.facebook.com/Vineyard-at-The-Old-Place-316757222338031 for updates based on state guidelines, or call 704-690-7000. For more information about ACDVC visit: www.acdvrc.org.

NC Pre-K Applications

The world has changed drastically in the last four months because of COVID-19. The global pandemic has impacted our daily lives, however it is time to prepare for the upcoming school year. There is still time to reserve your spot in the NC Pre-K program TODAY! The NC Pre-K Program is FREE to qualifying families. It is a program designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-olds. Early childhood education lays the foundation for future success. Did you know children who attend high-quality programs such as NC Pre-K are more prepared for kindergarten? Applications are available at the Anson County Partnership for Children or online at ansonchildren.org. Children must be 4 years-old by August 31 to be eligible for the program. Don't miss the opportunity to enroll your child in the NC Pre-K program. The deadline has been extended to July 31, 2020. Please drop off completed application to Anson County Partnership for Children, 117 South Greene Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170. For more information please contact the Anson County Partnership for Children at (704) 694-4036.

Hampton B. Allen Library is Now Open

The Hampton B. Allen Library is now open to the public with some restrictions. The hours are: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The library is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. • They have a limit of 8 patrons allowed in the library at any given time. • Each patron will have a limit of 1 hour visit to allow other patrons equal time. • Patrons must wear a face mask. The library will continue to provide curbside service. Call 704-694-5177 for assistance.



Elder Abuse Awareness Walk, Roll and Stroll Event

On Monday, June 15 Grace Senior Center held an event called Walk, Roll and Stroll. June 15 is World Elder Abuse Day, and the event was held in commemoration. Staff dressed in purple and walked on June 15, 17 and 19 to bring awareness to elder abuse. Every year an estimated 1 in 10 older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation. COVID-19 has profoundly impacted all of our lives and required physical distancing to prevent the spread of the disease. Social isolation is one of the greatest risk factors for elder abuse. It is important now more than ever to stay connected, know the signs of elder abuse, and report elder abuse. Help raise awareness about elder abuse and encourage others to: • STAY CONNECTED! • BE INFORMED! Know the signs of elder abuse. • REPORT! Report elder abuse and neglect. To learn more about elder abuse visit ncea.acl.gov or eldermistreatment.usc.edu/weaad-home. Contact Natalie Tunney at ntunney@centralina.org with any questions.

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Pee Dee Electric Invests in the Area's Future

Not-for-profit electric cooperative Pee Dee Electric is looking to the future as it announces plans for a new industrial park and co-op facility to be located on U.S. Highway 74, near Vintage Road in Lilesville and the I73/74 Rockingham Bypass being built nearby. Pee Dee recently completed the purchase of 70 acres for the industrial park and 50 acres across the road for a new facility to be completed in 2022. "This is an investment in the future of the local area, as well as Pee Dee Electric," said Donnie Spivey, Pee Dee Electric's CEO and EVP. "Anson County has been in need of land and infrastructure to attract new business and industry. Our Board of Directors has had an ongoing discussion about an industrial park in the county as a way to create jobs and spur economic activity," said Spivey. "Right now, we need new jobs more than ever before," he continued. "At the same time, we've been examining the need for a new, centrally-located facility for the cooperative. When this land became available with its location and proximity to the new highway, it presented an opportunity for land for both an industrial park and a new facility for Pee Dee Electric," said Spivey. "Action needed to be taken now in order to secure this investment before it was no longer an option and the land and construction costs would be higher than currently projected." An extensive study of Pee Dee's facilities in 2019 by an outside firm recommended that the cooperative transition from its two offices, built around 40 years ago, to one centrally-located office within the cooperative's seven-county service area. This includes parts of Anson, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly and Union counties. Pee Dee has grown from serving 11,737 meters when the Wadesboro office was built in 1978 to more than 21,000 meters. "A new facility will allow Pee Dee to better secure our power delivery support system, integrate new technologies, be more energy efficient, offer employees a layout to help them work more efficiently, improve safety, allow room for future growth, and most importantly, offer an even better service experience for members," said Spivey. "The new approach will also allow us to streamline our business operations, saving money through cost efficiencies, as we move from two sets of facilities, such as two warehouses, to one central facility." The new facility will include a customer service center, operations and engineering facility, a warehouse, fleet parking, dispatch center, a hardened secure data center, and administrative offices for the cooperative's 66 employees. A member services area and drive-thru will be available for Pee Dee members who want to continue to drive to the office, once it's completed in 2022. The cooperative is exploring payment centers and kiosks, which would allow members to pay at various locations throughout the service area. "We've seen a change with COVID-19 as more and more members chose to do business with the cooperative online or over the phone," said Spivey. "And with a more centrally-located office, we can organize outage responses more quickly." The Cooperative Finance Corporation will provide financing with a 30-year fixed interest rate of around 3 percent. Proceeds from the sale of the Rockingham and Wadesboro offices would be used to pay toward the loan. However, those offices will remain open until the new facility is completed. Pee Dee Electric is working with Anson County, the local economic developer, and the state to expand sewer infrastructure to the industrial site. This will make the area even more attractive for residential and commercial development. As the land is rezoned from farmland to industrial use, the tax benefits will mean more revenue to help area schools and services. This is not the first time Pee Dee Electric has energized job creation in the area. In January 2019, the cooperative announced it had secured nearly \$1 million through the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program (REDLG). Pee Dee provided the funding to Richmond County Economic Development for the construction of a shell building in the Rockingham West Industrial park off of Highway 74. Shell buildings are used by economic developers to entice industry and manufacturing prospects to the area because of the ability to quickly start operations. "This partnership with Pee Dee has been an overwhelming success," said Martie Butler, Richmond County management analyst/economic developer. "We currently have five new industries thanks to the successful partnership and the shell building program," she explained. "A new industrial park in the region will benefit the entire area. When it comes to bringing new jobs to the region, everyone wins."

Democratic Party June Meeting

The Anson County Democratic Party will meet with a Virtual Monthly Meeting this Thursday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. All Democrats and candidates are invited to participate. Special guests will be NC Senate Candidate Helen Probst Mills and NC House Candidate Gloria Overcash. The candidates will respond to questions and concerns of voters during the meeting. To receive a Participation Code or receive assistance in using Zoom, contact Dannie Montgomery at 704-694-8326 or send an email request to: danniemontgomery@hotmail.com.

Free Groceries for Families in Need July 1

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Missionary Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, July 1 at Marshville United Methodist Church, located at 310 Ross Street in Marshville. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m. • Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 8 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household. Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email tschumpert@wnc-cumc.net. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need. If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.

Farmers Market is Now Open

Purchase locally grown vegetables and other items at the Anson County Farmers Market. It is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The hours are 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Farmers Market is located 1736 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro, just past Wadesboro Primary School.



The land for the new facility is in the center of the photo between Vintage Road in Lilesville and Highway 74. The new industrial park will be located directly across on U.S. Highway 74.