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

Covid Update for Anson County

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Wednesday, August 3 there were 7,324 total Covid-19 cases, up by 99 cases since July 27. 198 cases were active, compared to 165 on July 27. Covid-related deaths still stand at 99.

If you are positive or currently awaiting test results, please stay home. If you are experiencing symptoms, please get tested.

The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Rose Slightly to 5.3% in June

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for June was 5.3%. In May was 4.7%. Here are other past rates: **2022:** April 4.6%; March 4.9%; February 5.1%; January 5.1%. **2021:** December 4.4%; November 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 5.9%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The **2020** rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%.

In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide the unemployment rate for June was 4.1%. Here are other statewide past rates: **2022:** May 3.6%; April 3.4%; March 3.6%; February 3.7%; January 3.8%. **2021:** December 3.2%; November 3.4%; October 3.6%; September 3.8%; August 4.4%; July 4.6%; June 4.9%; May 4.5%; April 4.4%; March 4.6%; February 5.6%; January 6%. **2020:** December 6%; November and October 6.1%; September 7%; August 6.8%; July 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in June was 10,193. Of that number 9,648 were employed and 545 were unemployed. In May the total labor force was 10,337, with 9,855 employed and 482 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 98 of North Carolina's counties in June and decreased in two. Edgecombe County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.0 percent while Orange and Buncombe Counties each had the lowest at 3.3 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 6.5 percent while Asheville and Durham-Chapel Hill each had the lowest at 3.4 percent. The June not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.1 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in June by 13,268 to 4,935,844, while those unemployed increased by 22,766 to 209,855. Since June 2021, the number of workers employed statewide increased 220,290, while those unemployed decreased 63,454.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

Brown Creek Soil & Water Offers Technical and Cost Share Assistance

Are there natural resources or environmental issues impacting your agricultural operation? If so, contact Brown Creek Soil & Water (BCSW) for technical assistance and potential cost share assistance.

BCSW is currently accepting application for cost share assistance. Common best management practices funded and implemented in Anson County through the various programs include:

- Cropland/Pastureland Conversion to Grass / Trees / Wildlife-Plantings
- Pasture Renovation
- Cover Crops
- Livestock Mortality Management System
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Stream Protection Well
- Water Supply Well.

Don't have a natural resource concern impacting your ag-operation, or don't have an ag-operation at all, but still need technical assistance to address natural resource concerns on your property? Feel free to contact BCSW for technical assistance.

Contact BCSW at (704) 994-3487 for additional information on technical assistance and funding opportunities to address natural resource concerns related to your agricultural operation.

State Awards \$4 Million in Grants to Expand Internet Access in Anson County

Last week The Express reported on grants that will help over 13,000 households and 582 businesses across North Carolina receive access to high speed internet. The N.C. Department of Information Technology's (NCDIT) awarded Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grants to expand broadband infrastructure. Anson County is one of the recipients. Here are the specifics for Anson County.

Anson County is set to receive \$4 million to expand access to high-speed internet. The funding from the GREAT grant program will bring broadband services to approximately 2,940 households and businesses in Anson County. The grant funding will ensure Spectrum Southeast, LLC can begin work to deploy high-speed internet in Anson County.

This round of GREAT grants leverages federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to provide matching grants to internet service providers and electric membership cooperatives that may partner with counties to expand access to broadband internet in underserved areas of the state.

For more information about the NCDIT Division of Broadband and Digital Equity, visit www.ncbroadband.gov.



Wadesboro Police Officers Provide Sweet (and Cold) Treats!

Wadesboro Police Department officers gave out popsicles on Friday, August 3 to children in the community. The delicious, ice-cold treats were perfect for the hot hot day, giving kids the extra energy they needed to keep playing hard!

Thank you to Chief Thedis Spencer and the WPD officers for thinking of the kids and making their day.



It's Fair Season!

Fair season has begun all around North Carolina. Here's a list of fairs coming up (The dates are in parenthesis):

August Surry County Agricultural Fair (5-14) surrycountyagfair.org

- Drexel Community Fair (22-27) drexelfair.com
- Alleghany Ag Fair and Pumpkin Festival (25-28)
- Hickory American Legion Fair (Aug. 31-Sept. 5) hickoryfair.com

September Amer. Leg. Post #76 Ag. Fair (TBD) stanlyfair.com

- Iredell County Agricultural Fair (2-10) statesvillekiwanis.org/Page/13138
- Cumberland County Fair (2-11) crowncomplexnc.com/events/cumberlandcountyfair
- The Great Americas Alamance County Fair (3-11)
- Avery County A & H Fair (7-10)
- Cabarrus County Fair (9-17) cabarruscountyfair.com
- N.C. Mountain State Fair (9-18) wncagcenter.org/p/mountainstatefair
- Lee Regional Fair (13-18) sanfordlionsclub.com
- Stokes County Agricultural Fair (13-17) stokescountyfair.org
- Davidson County Agricultural Fair (19-24)
- Rowan County Agri. & Ind. Fair (19-24) rowancountyfair.net
- Pitt County American Leg. Agri. Fair, Inc. (20-25) pittfair.com
- Wilson County Fair (20-25) wilsoncountyfair.org
- Macon County Agricultural Fair (21-24) themaconcofair.com
- Chatham Co. Agri. & Industrial Fair (22-25) chathamcountyncfair.com
- Chowan County Regional Fair (Sept. 27-Oct. 1) chowanfair.com
- Moore County Agricultural Fair (Sept. 27-Oct. 1) moorecountyfair.upweb.com
- Cleveland County Fair Association (Sept. 29-Oct. 9) clevelandcountyfair.com
- Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair (Sept. 29-Oct. 8) waynefair.com
- Robeson Regional Agricultural Fair (Sept. 30-Oct. 8) robesoncountyfair.com
- Carolina Classic Fair (Sept. 30-Oct. 9) carolinaclassicfair.com

October Lenoir County Fair (4-8) lenoircountyfair.org

- Haywood County Fair (5-9) smokymountaineventcenter.org
- Columbus County Agriculture Fair, Inc. (11-16) columbuscountyfair.com
- Onslow County Agricultural Fair (11-15) onslowcountyfair.com
- Richmond County Agricultural Fair (13-16)
- N.C. State Fair (13-23) ncstatefair.org
- Duplin County Agricultural Fair (21-23) duplinfair.com

SPCC to Expand Advanced Manufacturing Programs With Gift From Collins Aerospace

South Piedmont Community College and Collins Aerospace recently announced a new partnership to expand advanced manufacturing education locally. As part of the partnership, Collins Aerospace presented the community college with a grant of \$35,000 for the purpose of establishing an apprenticeship program with Collins Aerospace and the general promotion of advanced manufacturing education.

"Establishing this partnership with Collins Aerospace to advance educational programming in an important industry like advanced manufacturing is critical for the economic outlook of our region," Dr. Maria Pharr, President of SPCC, said. "This contribution will allow our college to expand access to new students, create innovative programs, and develop a highly-skilled workforce that can support local businesses. We are incredibly grateful for this partnership and the opportunities it provides."

This donation from Collins Aerospace allows SPCC to look for new ways to develop manufacturing education on top of the courses and programs it currently offers, giving the community college the ability to better serve a major industry in Union County.

"I couldn't be more pleased to build the next generation of talent right here in Monroe with Southern Piedmont Community College," said Mary DeStaffan, Monroe site general manager at Collins Aerospace. "I look forward to building out many pathways to invest in our community and get more of our residents excited about what's ahead for manufacturing technology."

According to the Monroe-Union County Economic Development organization, Union County is home to nearly 15,000 manufacturing employees and 195 manufacturing firms, including Collins Aerospace.

SPCC currently partners with 22 firms to provide registered apprenticeship programs and offers credit and non-credit courses in manufacturing. In addition to these programs, the college is also exploring a pre-apprenticeship program that will provide greater opportunities for workers in the region to learn a trade or new career path.

"Work-based learning gives employees in our region the ability to expand their skill set and the potential to enter higher paying jobs without having to relocate," Dr. Pharr said. "When we invest in this form of education, we create an incredible economic opportunity that serves as a win-win-win for workers, businesses and the community as a whole."

The donation was presented to South Piedmont Community College at a private event on June 10th at the Monroe location of Collins Aerospace.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday

A new shipment of USDA perishable and non-perishable foods will be distributed via drive-thru this Saturday, August 13, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon, or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC).

All families that are eligible will be served as long as food remain. All neighbors that are served must have a current application on file. Neighbors that have not previously registered will be asked to complete an eligibility application on August 13 before being served.

Registration will start approximately at 9 a.m. Neighbors who arrive early will have the opportunity to take advantage of various Care Corner items.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesdays. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information check their Facebook page or burnsvillelc.org.

Bach's Lunch To Go is August 17

The Anson County Arts Council invites you to enjoy a delicious lunch while supporting the arts. The next Bach's Lunch takes place on Wednesday, August 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu includes lunch, dessert and a drink, and it is curb-side pickup at the Arts Council's Drake Gallery & Studio. The cost is \$15 per plate.

Please text your order to 704-221-3038 or call 704-694-4950.

The Drake Gallery is located at 108 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro, next door to the Ansonia Theatre.

Anson County Beekeepers Meet Every Month

Next meeting is Thursday, August 18

Anson County Beekeepers members are reminded of the monthly meetings, held on the fourth Thursday. The upcoming meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18 at Welika Fish House Restaurant in Lilesville. If you would like to eat come at 6 p.m. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Anson County Beekeepers meetings are open to everyone who is interested in beekeeping and pollination.

For more information call 704-272-7154 or email hlcarpenter11@yahoo.com.

Wadesboro Lions Club Meets at Papa Joe's

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at Papa Joe's Restaurant in Wadesboro every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. They welcome new members. If you are interesting in learning more about the Lions Club and the many good causes they support locally, you are invited to visit. Join in and enjoy the fellowship...plus delicious Papa Joe's pizza!

For more information regarding Lions, membership and their services to our community, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

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