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THIS EDITION FEATURES THE 'INSIDE YOUR ANSON COUNTY SCHOOLS' SUPPLEMENT WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION

340 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County, Now Four Deaths

As of Tuesday, August 11 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 340 reported cases of COVID-19. 24 of those cases are active. At that point they had discharged 316 cases, 312 to baseline health and four deaths.

Recent history: On July 20 the Anson County Health Department reported 256 cases, on July 27 - 285 cases, on August 3 - 306 cases.

As Students Return to School, North Carolina to Remain Paused in Phase 2

Stabilizing trends are good but fragile, and now is the time to double down on safety measures

On Wednesday, August 5 Governor Roy Cooper announced that North Carolina will remain paused in Safer At Home Phase 2 for another 5 weeks as students and staff return to schools, colleges and universities and the state doubles down on efforts to decrease COVID-19 numbers.

"Other states that lifted restrictions quickly have had to go backward as their hospital capacity ran dangerously low and their cases jumped higher. We will not make that mistake in North Carolina," said Governor Cooper. "In keeping with our dimmer switch approach with schools opening, and in order to push for decreasing numbers which will keep people healthier and boost our economy, North Carolina will remain paused in Safer At Home Phase 2 for 5 weeks."

Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services shared an update on North Carolina's data trends. Dr. Cohen explained that while some of North Carolina's numbers have mostly leveled, any progress is fragile as other states have shown with sudden and devastating surges in viral spread.

"While overall we are seeing signs of stability, we still have much work to do. Our recent trends show us what is possible when we commit to slowing the spread by wearing face coverings and following those simple but powerful 3Ws," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D.

- **Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days** North Carolina's syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is declining, though remains elevated.
- **Trajectory of Lab-Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory of lab-confirmed cases has stabilized but remains high.
- **Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory in percent of tests returning positive is stable but still elevated.
- **Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory of hospitalizations is beginning to level.

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

- **Laboratory Testing** While testing turnaround times have improved, the number of tests done has decreased over the past week. Testing is a priority for anyone who has symptoms or those who may have been exposed to COVID-19, including:
 - Anyone who has attended a mass gathering including a protest.
 - Anyone who works in a setting at higher risk of exposure such as a grocery store, restaurant, gas station, or childcare program.
 - People who live or work in high-risk settings such as long-term facilities, homeless shelters, correctional facilities or food processing facility.
- **Tracing Capability** We continue hiring contact tracers to bolster the efforts of local health departments. There are over 1,500 full-time and part-time staff supporting contact tracing efforts, including the 615 Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) contact tracers.
- **Personal Protective Equipment** Our personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies are stable.

NETworX Initiative Returns to Anson County

After a two-year hiatus, NETworX, a national movement, has established a new site in Anson County. Several community members have joined the Local Advisory Board (LAB) to make this program possible. The organization will operate under its lead agency, HOLLA!, to address poverty in a holistic manner.

"NETworX is an evidence-based program that is shown to have positive outcomes," said Jim Boylin, a Community Connector on the Local Advisory Board. "We look forward to engaging, interacting and inspiring our fellow Ansonians." LAB members plan to follow NETworX's goal to nurture, educate and transform the lives of its participants. This will be completed through relationship building with community resources such as DSS and local churches.

Devin Pettiford, the Site Coordinator, said, "In addition to facilitating the weekly meetings that are the foundation of NETworX, we plan to have monthly community events. These events will provide information on social issues and personal growth."

NETworX Anson plans to begin its weekly meetings in January 2021. Monthly community events will begin in September of this year. Future activities will take place via Zoom until a safer point has been reached beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Both weekly meetings and community events will focus on the poverty that is experienced by anyone of any socioeconomic status," said Leon Gatewood, the Lead Agency Representative.

For inquiries about volunteering or registering for the upcoming weekly meetings, please contact Devin Pettiford at devintpettiford@gmail.com.

Wadesboro Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club welcomes you to become a member. For more information about the club, meetings or becoming a member, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.



Pictured above, from left, are Girl Scouts Za'Kiyah Hixson, Cheyenne Hassell, Bailey Huntley, Kacey Huntley and Jessica Laney with Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge Manager Greg Walmsley.

Girl Scout Troop 1389 Presents Cookies to the Friends of Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge

On Thursday, August 6 Girl Scouts from Anson Girl Scout Troop 1389 gathered at Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge to present the Refuge Manager Greg Walmsley with 12 cases of Girl Scout cookies as part of the Cookies for a Cause program.

"For decades, Girl Scouts have been in our local communities not only selling cookies but building relationships with hometown heroes, nonprofits and others," said Angela Woods, CEO of the Hornets' Nest Council. "These girls are pillars of the community, and the Cookies for a Cause program is a testament to their passion for giving back."

As Girl Scouts accept orders through their personalized websites and apps, traditional ordering methods such as door-to-door sales and booth sales, a person can purchase a box of cookies and designate it to the Cookies for a Cause program ultimately benefiting local food banks, police and fire departments, public service officers, animal shelters and others.

Past years' troop-nominated recipients of Cookies for a Cause have included Friends of Anson County Animal Shelter and the Anson County Partnership for Children. This year the girls in the troop selected the Friend of Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge because of its mission to preserve diverse habitats for migratory birds and waterfowl. The cookies will be used as part of the refreshments for a disabled sportsman event in the fall.

Girl Scouts in Anson Girl Scout Troop 1389 participate in several outdoor events each year, including camping, hiking and archery. Additionally, they learn about first aid, cooking, STEM, art, wellness, etiquette, civics and community service at the local and council levels.

Currently meetings are being held virtually twice a month. They hope to return to in-person meetings in late autumn. Girl Scouts is open to young women in grades K to 12, and adult volunteers are always welcome. To find out more and join the Girl Scouts, visit www.hngirlscouts.org or call Customer Care at 704-731-6500.

Census Too Costly To Ignore

This oped is by Stacey Carless, Executive Director of the NC Counts Coalition, and Patrick Woodie, President of the NC Rural Center: To say that our state, our nation, and our world have changed dramatically in the past few months would be an understatement. At the NC Rural Center and the NC Counts Coalition, we know how much our work and the communities we serve have changed - and will change - because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also know that as we move through this year with more uncertainty than ever before, there is one thing we can do to ensure the future health of our communities, and that's getting counted in the 2020 census. However, we can't stop at counting ourselves and our household, we have to ensure that every household in our communities and state are accurately counted. And, in light of the recent decision to push up the census deadline from October to September 30, 2020 - a decision that will disproportionately affect our state's rural communities and people of color - it is now more crucial than ever that we take immediate action to count our communities.

Census data helps determine funding for federal programs that address community and public health, education, economic development resources, housing - all of which have taken on even more importance in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. Census has tremendous power to influence what a community can become, but an accurate count depends on full participation.

According to census.nc.gov, a 3 percent undercount in North Carolina would ultimately cost our state more than \$4 billion in funding. That means that we would lose \$1.8 billion in funding for our rural communities, \$930 million in funding for our Black and African American communities, \$545 million for Hispanic and Latino communities, \$50 million for North Carolina's Native Americans, and more than \$1.6 billion for veterans, children under five, and North Carolinians over 65.

What's more, the census only happens every 10 years. This means that if we are undercounted today, we will be underfunded tomorrow and every year until the next census, which will happen in 2030.

Simply put, the costs of an undercount are just too great to ignore - especially now. In addition, if North Carolina receives an accurate count in the 2020 census, we could gain another seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. This increase in our state's representation at the federal level could be a crucial step in ensuring a more vibrant future for North Carolina as we recover and rebuild in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the first time ever, you can complete the census online at my2020census.gov. If you do not have broadband access, you can also complete the census by phone and by mail. If you need assistance, you can contact the 2020 census hotline at 844.330.2020 (English) or 844.468.2020 (Spanish). The census deadline has been amended to September 30. Households who have not yet responded will receive a visit from an official census taker beginning August 11.

Count yourself in the 2020 census and encourage others to do the same. North Carolina's future depends on it.

Governor Cooper Signs Executive Order Limiting the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages After 11 p.m.

With actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 beginning to have impact, Governor Roy Cooper is doubling down on prevention measures with Executive Order 153 stopping the sale of alcoholic drinks in restaurants, breweries, wineries, and distilleries at 11 pm. North Carolina bars that are currently closed will remain closed. This order took effect Friday, July 31.

"Slowing the spread of this virus requires targeted strategies that help lower the risk of transmission," said Governor Cooper. "This will be particularly important as colleges and universities are scheduled to start, bringing people all over the country to our state. We have seen case numbers increase among younger people, and prevention is critical to slowing the spread of the virus."

The order will not apply to grocery stores, convenience stores or other entities permitted to sell alcohol for off-premises consumption. Local governments that have implemented orders that end alcohol sales before 11 pm or that apply to other entities remain in effect.

Also NC DHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen gave an update on North Carolina's data trends. Dr. Cohen explained that while North Carolina's numbers appear to be stabilizing, officials need more time to watch the data and current levels of cases and hospitalizations remain high.

"Seeing glimmers of potential progress does not mean we can let up -- it means it's time to double down," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, MD. "The positive signs in our trends should only strengthen our resolve to keep at it with those 3 Ws - wear a face covering, wait six feet apart, and wash your hands often."

Bach's Lunch To Go is Set for August 19

Although the Anson County Arts Council would like to be able to have their Bach's Lunches like they normally do, at this time they do not see a safe, feasible way to do this, so they have announced their "Bach's Lunch To Go." They will have a to-go lunch setup starting Wednesday, August 19, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the 108 Drake Gallery location on Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The delicious menu features Brown Creek Creamery pimento cheese lunch with sides, dessert and drink.

You can call now, 704-694-4950, and leave your name, number and how many plates you would like to reserve. Plates will be \$10. You can also pick up plates at the door the day of the luncheon, but the Arts Council asks that you call ahead which will help with their planning. Everyone calling in an order will be automatically entered to receive one of three fabulous raffle prizes!

To help reduce contact, no actual tickets will be printed.

Upcoming Events at Grace Senior Center

• **Chocolate Chip Cookie Day** Thursday, August 27, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, with a Goodie Bag Handout

• **Drive-Thru Picnic** Tuesday, September 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. A bagged lunch which includes hotdog with all the fixings, chips, cookie and a drink.

• **Eat Better, Eat Together** held on Tuesday, October 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, with a Goodie Bag Handout

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

For more information call 704-694-6616.