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

Two COVID-19 Deaths in Anson County in the Last Week

Vaccines are available. Ansonians urged to get vaccinated.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department posted on Monday, August 31 showed 3,085 total Covid-19 cases, with 214 active. There have been two additional deaths from Covid-19 during the last week, bringing the total deaths to 63. Last Monday, August 23 there were 2,958 total Covid-19 cases, with 156 active and 61 deaths.

Vaccines are available, including walk-in clinics. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, August 30 there were 4,569 new cases, with 14,412 deaths and 3,509 hospitalized. 65% of adults in NC were vaccinated with at least one dose, 60% were fully vaccinated.

Community Event in Morven on October 30 - Vendors Welcomed

The Town of Morven is holding a big event called Celebrating & Reuniting Morven on Saturday, October 30, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy free food, information stations, games, music, prizes, inflatables and more!

The event will take place at the Park on Highway 145 North in Morven.

Vendors are welcomed. Please call the Morven Town Hall at 704-851-9321 for more information.

The rain date is Saturday, November 6 at the same time.

School is Back in Session: Know the Rules of the Road

Violating the school bus law can cost you

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey who also serves as the Chair for SafeKids NC, reminds students, parents, and motorists to use extra caution as students walk, drive, or ride the bus to school.

"Passing a stopped school bus can result in the motorist adding four insurance points and seeing an 80 percent increase in auto insurance premiums," Commissioner Causey noted. "More importantly, making such an ill-advised and unsafe move could result in injury or death to one of our precious children."

On a typical day, more than 14,000 school buses carrying nearly 800,000 students operate on North Carolina roads. Commissioner Causey encouraged all motorists to watch for children walking to school or waiting by the roadside for a school bus. And he advised motorists to understand the rules of the road when a school bus is stopped picking up passengers.

"In most cases, vehicles must stop in either direction if the school bus stop sign is out, red lights are flashing, and the bus is stopped to load or unload passengers," Commissioner Causey said. "In some cases, where a median or physical barrier divides the traffic going in different directions, or where a center turn lane separates a four-lane road, motorists traveling the opposite direction from the school bus are not required to stop."

Commissioner Causey also offered National Safety Council tips

For pedestrians:

- Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you must walk in the street or road, walk facing traffic.
- Before crossing the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Never dart out in front of a parked car.
- Parents: Practice walking to school with your child, crossing streets or crosswalks when available.
- Never walk while texting or talking on the phone.
- Do not walk while using headphones.

For bike riders:

- Always wear a helmet that is fitted and secured properly.
- Children need to know the rules of the road: Ride single file on the right side of the road, come to a complete stop before crossing the street and walk the bike across.
- Watch for opening car doors and other hazards.
- Use hand signals when turning.
- Wear bright-colored clothing.

For bus riders:

- Teach children the proper way to get on and off the bus.
- Line up six feet away from the curb as the bus approaches.
- If seat belts are available, buckle up.
- Wait for the bus to stop completely before standing.
- If you must cross the road, walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus.

For motorists, in addition to obeying the stopped school bus law:

- Don't block crosswalks.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and take extra precaution in school zones.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Stop far enough back from a school bus to allow children room to safely enter and exit the bus. The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children.

For more information on how to keep children safe throughout the year, visit the website SafeKidsNC.org.



Pictured above with a table of donated items is, from left, DSS Director Lula Jackson, 4-H Youth Promise Case Manager Raven Spencer and Administrative Officer Kishia Dunlap.

Anson County Department of Social Services Hosts Backpack Buddies Food Drive to Contribute to Anson 4-H

On Friday, August 27, Anson Extension received some visitors who came bearing gifts. Anson County Department of Social Services had a food drive to assist Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise with the community outreach initiative they call Backpack Buddies. This program has been going on for more than eight years now in partnership with Wadesboro Elementary and Morven Elementary schools.

Youth who qualify for assistance receive the bags on Friday to sustain them with nonperishable food items through the weekend. Youth who are a part of the Community Service and Restitution Component of 4-H Youth Promise pack the bags weekly and accompany staff to deliver them to the schools. Currently 75 youth are being afforded the food bags.

This drive was led by Kishia Dunlap after hearing about this program in a monthly Community Care Meeting where individuals throughout the county get together and discuss current and upcoming events and programs that are happening for citizens of Anson County. Anson Extension is grateful for this thoughtful donation.

By Roshunda Terry, County Extension Director

Anson County Man Snags First \$2 Million Premier Cash Prize in the NC Education Lottery

Darrell Ratliff of Wadesboro knows what it feels like to become the first winner of a Premier Cash \$2 million top prize in the North Carolina Education Lottery. "It was an amazing feeling," he recalled of winning. "I couldn't believe it. I'm just really excited."

On Friday, August 27 Ratliff purchased his winning \$20 ticket from the Top Mart, located at 808 Camden Road in Wadesboro. He claimed his prize Monday at Lottery headquarters in Raleigh.

Ratliff had the choice of taking an annuity of \$100,000 a year for 20 years or a lump sum of \$1.2 million. He chose the \$1.2 million lump sum and, after required federal and state tax withholdings, took home \$849,006.

"It really means a lot to me," said Ratliff.

Top Mart owner Amit Shah said, "Darrell is a long-time regular customer, and I am happy for him and his family. He is a nice guy, always smiling. It's good to have a Wadesboro winner, and I hope we have more winners in the future."

The NC Education Lottery will place banners on the Top Mart building letting everyone know that it is a winning location.

Premier Cash launched in August with four top prizes of \$2 million and eight \$100,000 prizes. Three top prizes and eight \$100,000 prizes remain to be won.

Ticket sales from scratch-offs like Premier Cash make it possible for the lottery to raise more than \$900 million per year for education.

Anson County received \$15 million in money raised by the lottery to help build the new Anson Middle School. For details on other ways Anson County benefits, visit www.nc lottery.com and click on the "Impact" section.



Bearcats Play at Piedmont this Friday

The Anson High School Varsity Bearcats take on the Panthers at Piedmont High School this Friday, September 3 at Piedmont. Gates open at 6:00 p.m. Game time is 7:00 p.m.

Purchase tickets for the game visit www.ucpsathletics.com/piedmonttickets or at the gate. No cash will be accepted!

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets Sept. 7

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Annual Contests in Prose and Poetry Open for Submissions

The Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC) is accepting submissions for its annual contests in prose and poetry beginning Sept. 1, 2021. Deadline is December 6, 2021. The contests are divided into adult, youth, and children's categories.

The adult contests are open to anyone residing in, having resided in, attending school in, or working in Anson County; or members of the ACWC. There is a \$1 entry fee that is waived for students at any institution of higher learning.

There is no entry fee for students in grades 3-12. Rules and entry forms will be provided to all Anson County schools. Home-schooled students are also invited to enter.

There are three ways to enter. Submissions in Word can be emailed to: info@ansoncountywritersclub.org with "contest" in the subject line; mailed to: Anson County Writers' Club, Box 363, Wadesboro, NC, 28170; or dropped off at the Hampton B. Allen Library.

A complete copy of the rules and an entry form that must accompany each entry are available at the Library or by writing to ACWC 2021 Contests, P.O. Box 363, Wadesboro, N.C., 28170 (enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope). Rules and entry forms may also be printed from the ACWC website at www.ansoncountywritersclub.org. Failure to follow the rules may result in an entry being disqualified.

The ACWC will award over \$400 in prize money to the winners of the annual writing contests. First, second and third place winners in the adult prose and adult poetry categories will receive \$50, \$30 and \$20, respectively. Youth winners (grades 9-12) will receive \$20, \$15 and \$10, respectively. Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8 will compete separately in the children's division. Prizes are \$15, \$10 and \$5, respectively, for prose and poetry winners in both categories.

All winners will receive a certificate suitable for framing and will be honored at a reception for friends and family on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022.

The ACWC held its first contests in 1989 and since published 10 anthologies of the winning entries. Anson Pathways XI will be published in 2021.

20th Anniversary of September 11 Memorial Ceremony

Peachland Remembers urges all of Peachland and surrounding communities to join together on Saturday, September 11 in remembrance of the 20th Anniversary of September 11, 2001, from 8:30 until 11 a.m. at the Peachland Volunteer Fire Department, located at 35 West Passaic Street in Peachland.

The memorial service will begin with the pealing of the church bells. The names of all the victims of that day born or residing in North Carolina will be read, pausing to recognize with moments of silence specific events of that tragic day at the time they took place. The moments of silence will be interspersed with patriotic music, followed by a recitation of poetry written by seventh grade student Hannah Schoechert, and shared remembrances by attendees. The ceremony will conclude with a prayer of gratitude for the freedom and safety for our service members, the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem.

For more information email Michalerwilliams@gmail.com.

Retired US Flag Box in Wadesboro

An official U.S. Flag Retirement Box has been located in REV Uptown, located at 114 West Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro.

The community thanks Anson County Veteran Services Officer Andrea Kemp for organizing this installation.

