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

Three More 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 on Friday, September 3 showed 3,174 total Covid-19 cases, with 254 active. There were three additional deaths from Covid-19 last week, bringing the total deaths to 66. Last Monday, August 31 there were 3,085 total Covid-19 cases, with 214 active and 63 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.

Health Director Fred Thompson, PhD gave this update on September 2. "We continue to see an alarming increase in COVID-19 cases in the county caused by the Delta variant. Unfortunately, many of these are occurring in children. For example, today we have 37 new cases. Unfortunately, 14 of these 37 new cases are in children 17 and younger.

Our unvaccinated adults are spreading the virus to our children. It is critical that if you are going to be indoors, and in close contact with unvaccinated children, you mask up – especially if you are unvaccinated. Please remember that children under the age of 12 are not yet eligible for vaccination. It is up to all of us as responsible adults to protect our children from the virus.

I again want to stress the importance of everyone 12 and older getting vaccinated. The numbers speak for themselves. The COVID-19 Attack Rate is 4.5x higher in unvaccinated individuals, and the Mortality Rate is 15x higher in unvaccinated individuals.

We are vaccinating every Tuesday at the Health Department and no appointment is needed. Just come over and we will get you vaccinated.

Protect yourself. Protect our children. Please consider getting vaccinated if you have not yet done so.

For questions, do not hesitate to reach out to our Communicable Disease Nurse, Misty Puckett, at (704) 994-3355 or mpuckett@ansoncountync.gov. Thank you."

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, September 6 there were 8,590 new cases, with 14,708 deaths and 3,800 hospitalized. 66% of adults in NC were vaccinated with at least one dose, 61% were fully vaccinated.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Dropped a Bit in July

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for July was 5.9%. In June was 6.1%. In May it was 5.5%. In April it was 5.4%, 5.9% in March. In February the rate was 7.5%. The January rate was 7.7%, December was 7.1%. In November the rate was 7.2%. The October rate was 7.2%, the September rate was 8.5%, the August rate was 8%, the July rate was 10%, the June rate was 7.9%, May's rate was 10.1% and April's rate was 8.2%. In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the unemployment rate for July was 4.6%. The June rate was 4.9%. The May rate was 4.5%, April rate was 4.4%. In March it was 4.6%. The February rate was 5.6%. In January and December 2020 the rates were 6%. Other 2020 rates: In November and October the rate was 6.1%. In September the rate was 7%. In August the rate was 6.8%. In July the unemployment rate was 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in July was 10,254. Of that number 9,650 were employed and 604 were unemployed. In June the total labor force was 10,397, with 9,764 employed and 633 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 99 of North Carolina's counties in July and remained unchanged in one. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 9.1 percent, while Avery County had the lowest at 3.5 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 6.7 percent, while Durham-Chapel Hill and Raleigh each had the lowest at 3.9 percent. The July not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.6 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) increased in July by 26,529 to 4,817,155, while those unemployed decreased by 15,020 to 232,409. Since July 2020, the number of workers employed statewide increased 300,560, while those unemployed decreased 228,345.

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.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families on Saturday, September 11

A new shipment of USDA foods will be distributed on Saturday, August 7, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The items are distributed on a first come, first served basis for eligible Anson County citizens and those living near the Union and Stanly County lines.

All Ansonians will need to apply if you have not used the BRLC Emergency Pantry recently. Families or family members who receive federal food assistance automatically qualify.

Neighbors who arrive early will have the opportunity to take advantage of various Care Corner items.

The serving process is drive-thru only. All neighbors are asked to wear your masks. Please do not arrive before 10 a.m. on Saturday morning.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution Division provides these food items through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte and Feeding America.



Anson County 4-H Livestock Show Back in Action

On Saturday, August 28 the Anson County Cattlemen's Association partnered with Anson County 4-H to host the fourth show in the 2021 4-H Farm Credit Show Circuit. The annual 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit, sponsored by Carolina Farm Credit and Cape Fear Farm Credit, provides youth ages 5 to 19 an opportunity to compete against other youth from across the region. The Showmanship classes are designed to gauge the 4-H'ers knowledge and skill with the animal. By participating in the 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit, youth learn leadership skills, record-keeping, communication and responsibility, while increasing their self-esteem.

The Anson Heifer Show was hosted in Ansonville, NC and all parties were happy to resume an in-person livestock show. It is always amazing to see the young men and women confidently leading around six- and seven-hundred-pound animals as they are judged and receive feedback from the judges and this show was no exception! The event included 22 young people from Anson and surrounding counties. These youth brought with them more than 20 beef heifers to compete in the showmanship and breed classes.

Anson County 4-H'ers placing in the showmanship classes included Cloverbud Showmanship (non-competitive) participants EB Carpenter. In the Junior Showmanship class Mason Mills placed 4th. In the Intermediate Showmanship class Madalyn Carpenter placed 2nd and Clinton Mills placed 3rd. In the Senior Showmanship class Lynlee Martin placed 4th. Within the British Breed division heifers were classed by their age. In the after January 1, 2021 class Lynlee Martin placed 1st and EB Carpenter placed 2nd. In the Nov/Dec 2020 class Maddie Carpenter placed 2nd and EB Carpenter placed 3rd. In the Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 class Madalyn Carpenter placed 2nd. There are six more shows remaining in the circuit and. Once the circuit concludes, heifers will be shown at the State Fair.

We would like to thank The Anson County Cattlemen's Association along with Bruce and Carla Shankle, and the various sponsors for all their hard work and support in bringing this event together. For more information about this project and other ways that you can get involved with 4-H, contact Samuel Cole, 4-H Agent, at 694-2915 or by email at srcole3@ncsu.edu.

About the N.C. Cooperative Extension N.C. Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership of NC State Extension, The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA), and local governments statewide.

Extension professionals in all 100 counties and with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians connect millions of North Carolinians with research-based information and technology from NC State and N.C. A&T. Educational programs specialize in agriculture, food and nutrition, 4-H youth development, community development and the environment.

Find your local center at www.ces.ncsu.edu/local-county-center. Follow us on social media at facebook.com/anson4h.



Former Wadesboro Fire Chief Marc Sessions Honored

Sessions and the Wadesboro Fire Department presented with SAVE Awards

On Friday, September 3 North Carolina Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey traveled to Anson County to present grants and honor a retired fire chief whose efforts to install smoke alarms is credited with saving the lives of five people.

Retired Wadesboro Fire Chief Marc Sessions and the Wadesboro Fire Department were given SAVE Awards, which go to firefighters and first responders who go above and beyond the call of duty.

On March 17 Wadesboro firefighters responded to a residential fire at an apartment. One adult and four children, ages 2 to 6, escaped a fire that started when a pizza box was left on the stove and one of the children accidentally turned on a stove burner. The fire department determined that retired Chief Sessions, who was passionate about making sure homes had working smoke alarms, had himself installed the alarm that saved their lives.

Commissioner Causey also presented ceremonial grant checks totaling more than \$250,000 to 14 volunteer fire departments from Richmond and Anson counties. The money is part of a statewide matching grant program providing more than \$9.8 million to 554 volunteer fire departments.

Insurance Commissioner also honored the memory of 25 who died in Hamlet chicken plant fire 30 years ago.

Also on September 3, Causey spoke during a service at the former Imperial Foods memorial site on the 30th anniversary of the tragedy that took place on September 3, 1991. Causey was joined by Chief State Fire Marshal Brian Taylor in addressing the families and friends of those who died that day. The Imperial Foods Memorial Service was held at 10 a.m. Friday at the corner of Bridges and Spear streets in Hamlet. Dr. Tommy Legrand gave the invocation and offered remarks.

In addition to the 25 who died, 54 others were injured in varying degrees.



Anson High School vs. Albemarle Football Games Postponed

Both football games with Albemarle for this week have been postponed due to Covid-19. There are 19 quarantines at the schools.

We will now play Albemarle on the following dates:

- Varsity Football is Friday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.
- Junior Varsity Football is Thursday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m.

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