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

553 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, September 21 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 553 reported cases of COVID-19. 38 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 515 cases, 511 to baseline health and four deaths.

Recent history: March 31 - 1 case; April 28 - 23 cases; May 26 - 62 cases; June 22 - 107 cases; July 27 - 285 cases; August 3 - 306 cases; August 9 - 328 cases; August 19 - 376 cases, August 26 - 408 cases, September 4 - 461 cases, September 14 - 513 cases.

School Board Meeting September 28 to be Live Streamed on YouTube

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular board meeting on Monday, September 28 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be live streamed through YouTube. The public is invited to watch the meeting by following the Anson County Schools Youtube Channel. You can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools" or use the direct link: youtu.be/HQOLQaiwXec.

Due to live streaming the meeting, if the public wishes to sign up for public comment they can go to the public comment link on the schools website at www.anson-schools.org to sign up. Public comment sign up will be from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. on September 28. Open Session to the public begins at 5:30 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education welcomes comments from our parents, students, and community. The public comment period is open for members of the public to voice compliments, concerns or complaints about matters of public concern, the performance of school personnel, implementation of board policy, the quality of the education program or school facilities, or other matters.

The Public Comment portion of the meeting is for the Board to hear matters of interest or concern from the public; however, obscene or vulgar statements, personal attacks and statements reasonably perceived to be disruptive or imminently threatening to the orderly operation of the meeting shall not be permitted. Comments are limited to three minutes per submission, and a maximum of 30 minutes will be devoted to the public comment portion of the agenda.



Local Girl Scouts Participate in the Girl Scouts Love State Parks Event

Every year Girl Scouts explore the natural wonders found across the country during the Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend. On September 12 and 13, Girl Scouts across the country celebrated a shared love for the outdoors with local state parks, along with troops, friends, and family.

Anson County Girl Scout Troop 1389 participated by visiting Morrow Mountain State Park in neighboring Stanly County. Local Girl Scouts and their families hiked trails, learned about local plant and wildlife, and enjoyed time in the outdoors. The event was free and each of the Girl Scouts who attended received a patch to display on her uniform.

Pictured at left is Cheyenne Hassell, a cadette who is in the seventh grade at Anson Middle School. She is pictured with her mother, Cynthia Hassell, who is an adult leader with the troop.

Anson County Girl Scout Virtual Event Information

Free events are available for young ladies in Anson County to find out what Girl Scouts is all about! Join them at their Virtual Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 29th, Animal Dance Party on Saturday, Sept. 26th and Robot Building Party on Thursday, Sept. 24th. The events can be accessed via EventBrite. You can also call Customer Care at 704-731-6500 or visit www.hngirlscouts.org.

Girl Scouts is alive and well in Anson County despite the pandemic. Girl Scout troops continue to meet virtually and participate in local as well as council events. Girl Scout troops are open to young ladies from kindergarten through high school, and continue to provide experiences and opportunities for girls to learn about the world around them, including STEM programs, the arts, physical and emotional wellness, cooking, money management, outdoor activities and more. The goal is to allow young women to find their strengths, build character, try new things, make friends and have fun along the way, and learn how they can make a difference in their world today and in the future.

Five Steps to Vote by Mail in North Carolina in the 2020 General Election

No special circumstance or reason is needed to vote by mail in North Carolina. All registered voters in North Carolina may request an absentee ballot for the November 2020 general election. To vote by mail in North Carolina in 2020, follow the 5 steps below.

- 1. Request your ballot.** There are two ways to request your ballot:
 - Complete and sign a North Carolina Absentee Ballot Request Form. Available at www.ncsbe.gov. Instructions are included with the form. *Note: Only the voter, the voter's near relative or legal guardian, or a member of a multipartisan assistance team may request a ballot for that voter.* OR
 - Online through the Absentee Ballot Request Portal. [votebymail.ncsbe](https://votebymail.ncsbe.gov)
- 2. Submit your request.** If you are not using the online portal, submit your North Carolina Absentee Ballot Request Form by email, fax, mail or in person to your county board of elections. The Anson County Board of Elections is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

The deadline to submit a request for the November 3, 2020 general election is 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 27.

The State Board of Elections strongly encourages voters to request a ballot as soon as possible to avoid problems due to postal delays and to allow for time to correct any issues with your request.

- 3. Complete your ballot.** Your county board of elections will mail your ballot to you, beginning September 4. Complete your absentee ballot in the presence of one witness and insert the ballot into the return envelope.
- A witness should not observe so closely that they are able to see what votes the voter marked. What is required is that the witness sees the that the voter is voting the ballot.
- 4. Complete and sign the absentee ballot return envelope.** Sign the outside of the ballot return envelope. Have your witness complete and sign the witness certification. If you receive assistance marking or mailing the ballot, the assistant must fill out the voter assistant certification.
- 5. Return your ballot to your county board of elections.** Only the voter or the voter's near relative or legal guardian may possess the absentee ballot to return it to the board of elections.

In 2020, there are a few ways to return your absentee ballot:

- By mail to your county board of elections, postmarked on or before Election Day, and received by 5 p.m. November 6. Address: Anson County Board of Elections, 402 Morven Road, Wadesboro NC 28170.
- By commercial courier service (DHL, FedEx or UPS)
- Dropped off in person at your county board of elections office by 5 p.m. Election Day (November 3).
- Dropped off in person at any early voting site in your county during voting hours

Find more information: Read through the list of 2020 vote-by-mail FAQs, or see the detailed instructions for voting by mail - all at www.ncsbe.gov. You can also call the Anson County Board of Elections at 704-994-3223.

Cub Scout Sign Ups on Thursday

This is a release from Cub Scouts: Cub Scouts is a year 'round family program for ages 5-10. This educational program builds character, citizenship and personal fitness.

Registration for Cub Scouts will take place this Thursday, September 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Tractor Supply parking lot in Wadesboro.

The cost is \$33.35 for National Registration through December 2020 (plus a \$25 one-time fee for all first time scouts). Boys' Life Magazine is available for \$4 (optional). Special assistance is available upon request.

For more information contact Melissa Ewing at 910-334-2050 or melissa.ewing@scouting.org.

Construction Brings Temporary Closure to Blewett Falls Lake Grassy Island Access Area

Due to construction activities at the Blewett Falls Dam by Duke Energy, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Grassy Island Access Area has been closed for public use until further notice starting September 23. During the construction, which is estimated to take approximately 24 months, water levels on Blewett Falls Lake will be maintained at a range of six to eight feet below full-pond elevation.

The Pee Dee Public Access Area will remain open during the construction, but should be used with caution as boaters may experience navigational hazards due to the lower lake levels. The Commission reminds boaters to always wear a life jacket, be alert for floating debris and contact local law enforcement if you observe a hazardous situation that needs immediate response.

To locate other boat ramps in the area or for more information on boating in NC, visit ncwildlife.org/boating.

Public Schools Now Able to Implement Plan A for Elementary Schools

After several weeks of stable COVID-19 trends and continued low virus spread in school settings, Governor Roy Cooper announced last Thursday that beginning on October 5, North Carolina public school districts and charter schools can choose to implement Plan A for elementary schools (grades K-5). Plan A continues to include important safety measures like face coverings for all students, teachers and staff, social distancing, and symptom screening, but does not require schools to reduce the number of children in the classroom.

"We are able to open this option because most North Carolinians have doubled down on our safety and prevention measures and stabilized our numbers," said Governor Roy Cooper. "North Carolinians are doing the hard work to improve our numbers and trends. Many people are wearing masks, keeping social distance and being careful to protect others as well as themselves. We have shown that listening to the science works. And I'm proud of our resolve."

As the Governor announced in July, every district will continue to have flexibility to select Plan A, B or C based on their unique needs. In addition, districts should still provide an option for families to select all remote learning for their students. Read the Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit to learn more about the requirements under each plan.

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 North Carolina has seen a sustained leveling or decrease of key metrics.

"Our trends show that we are on the right track. It's up to all of us to protect our progress. Our individual actions like those 3 Ws will help keep our school doors open," said Secretary Cohen.

Dr. Cohen also explained that as schools have opened, the current science shows that younger children are less likely to become infected, have symptoms, experience severe disease or spread the virus.

"It's great news today that we are a step closer to providing the option of in-person learning to families who want their children to return to school," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson. "While the Governor, the State Board of Education, and I have our differences, I join with them today to encourage local school board members to take advantage of this change and open all schools safely. I thank the many parents and teachers across North Carolina who have been vocal advocates on this important issue."

September Named International Underground Railroad Month

Governor Roy Cooper has proclaimed September 2020 as International Underground Railroad Month in North Carolina. Often called the nation's first Civil Rights movement, the Underground Railroad included many prominent abolitionists, such as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas, John Brown, William Still and many others.

In North Carolina, many former slaves became abolitionists through the Underground Railroad. Among these were Harriet Jacobs of Edenton, a noted feminist who fled enslavement and went into hiding for seven years, and Abraham Galloway, who returned to North Carolina at the beginning of the Civil War and worked as a spy for the Union Army, and later became one of the first Black members of the N.C. Senate. The Underground Railroad in North Carolina used locations such as the Great Dismal Swamp, Elizabeth City, Hatteras Island, Guilford College Woods and Roanoke Island as stops on the path to freedom.

"Enslaved men and women hid in swamps, woods, and, if they could, the basement or attic of an abolitionist's home," Cooper said. "We must remember their struggle and the brave people who helped them and honor them by working to make the North Carolina of today a better place for everyone."

The National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom lists 17 North Carolina sites connected to the Underground Railroad. Explore the Network to Freedom sites here: www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/explore-ugrr-locations.htm

Included in those sites are Somerset State Historic Site, part of the N.C. Division of State Historic Sites, a division of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Somerset Place in Washington County offers a 75-minute walking tour, "Somerset Place in the New South: From Plantation to State Historic Site, 1865 - Present," the third Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. for a fee of \$3 per person. Visitors will learn about the post-Civil War history of Somerset Place, including the demise of slavery, the period after the Collins family's ownership, and the lives of newly freed African Americans. Interpreters will examine how Somerset Place was preserved as a public site and how memories and interpretations of its history changed from the Jim Crow Era to the present. The tour is designed for high school students, college students, and adults.

Historic Edenton State Historic Site offers historical information on abolitionist Harriet Jacobs, as well as video resources, on its website at historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/historic-edenton.

Learn more about the Underground Railroad in North Carolina from NCPedia: www.ncpedia.org/underground-railroad.

Safe Kids Anson Hosting Car Seat Clinic

Safe Kids Anson will host a Child Passenger Safety Clinic FREE of charge on Friday, September 25, beginning at 1 p.m. and ending at 3 p.m. at the Anson County Partnership for Children. In efforts to keep Safe Kids staff and your family safe, register by calling 704-694-4036.

"Safety seats save lives. It's that simple," Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey, who also serves as Safe Kids N.C. Chair.

According to Safe Kids N.C., motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death among children ages 1 to 19. Of those children ages 12 and under who died in vehicle crashes in 2017, nearly 40% were not restrained. Also, children ages 2 to 5 who use safety seats prematurely are four times more likely to suffer a serious injury if in an accident.

Many of our families are struggling with the burdens of COVID-19 and the purpose of this clinic is to help educate as many of our parents and caregivers as possible on the proper way to install their child's seat. The car seat check is free of charge, but safety seats will be available for a donation of \$15.

For additional information or to schedule your appointment, please contact Katie Sewell at (704) 694-4036.