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

670 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County as of October 12

Two more deaths over the weekend bring total Anson County deaths from COVID-19 to eight

As of Monday, October 12 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 670 reported cases of COVID-19. 46 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 624 cases, 616 to baseline health and eight deaths.

In a release on October 12 the Health Department stated, "Unfortunately, we have to report 2 more deaths over the weekend that are related to COVID-19. Our thoughts are with those families who have lost loved ones. Our total number of deaths is now at 8."

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Tuesday, October 13 there were 234,481 total cases of COVID-19, with 3,816 deaths, 3,437,598 completed tests and 1,103 currently hospitalized. On Monday, October 5 there were 219,754 total cases of COVID-19, with 3,637 deaths, 3,188,371 completed tests and 971 currently hospitalized.

Recent history in Anson County: 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, September 21 - 553 cases, September 28 - 605 cases, October 5 - 649 cases.

Anson County Board of Education Approves Re-Entry Plan at Meeting

During a special meeting held on Monday, October 12 the Anson County Board of Education voted to return students to in-person instruction in a phased plan (commonly referred to as Plan B) that begins on Monday, November 2, with students in grades K-5.

Under this plan:

- All kindergarten students will have the option to attend daily.
- Students in grades 1-5 will have the option to attend in-person on a three-cohort rotating basis.
- High school students will have the opportunity to take any assigned end-of-course, standardized assessments during the week of December 14.
- Students in grades 6-13 will be able to return to in-person instruction on January 4 on a rotational basis as well.

Rotations will follow the group A, group B, group C assignments, and will be communicated to parents in the coming days.

Students will also have the option to continue instruction 100% remotely. The district will release an official registration for families wishing to continue their child's instruction solely online.

The vote took place during the special meeting, and followed a comprehensive discussion of the plan. The plan also includes guidelines aligned to CDC requirements to keep our schools as safe as possible.

A graphic of the Re-Entry Cohort Plan is on page 5.

RETURN TO ATHLETICS During the board of education's special meeting Monday evening, the board also approved a Return to Athletics Plan for high school students. Athletic workouts and conditioning may begin under guidelines as set forth by the NC High School Athletic Association. High school and athletic administrators and coaches will communicate details about these optional workouts.

Athletics will start for High School athletes on Monday, October 19. These will be unofficial workouts. They will start with volleyball, cross country and football. Basketball workouts will start on Monday, November 9.

Extracurricular activities may also be eligible to begin as well. Please contact your coach, sponsor or teacher for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION You can call the Anson County Schools Hotline to direct questions to them today, Wednesday, October 14, from 3 to 4 p.m. The number is 704-694-4417 x932.

Or, you can inbox a private question on the Anson County Schools Facebook Messenger Page.

COVID-19 Outreach Meals at BRLC

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center is announcing to the community that they offer a free home cooked lunch every Tuesday and Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. These meals are for members of the community, especially senior citizens who need assistance.

Participants are asked to call in by 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, then drive by and pick up your home cooked meal.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

For more information visit www.burnsvillelc.org.

BRLC Annual Home Made Chicken Dumpling Fundraiser is this Saturday

Volunteers Joe and Sara Thomas of the Peachland Community continue to lead the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) Annual Chicken Dumpling fundraiser. BRLC will host its Annual Chicken Dumpling Fundraiser this Saturday, October 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until all the food is gone.

This is an opportunity for the community and the surrounding areas to enjoy lunch and financially give in support of BRLC. Funds will continue to help BRLC provide resources and services to families who are in need throughout Anson and the surrounding areas weekly.

This fundraiser was started by former volunteer Lynn Thomas along with his brother Joe and wife Sarah Thomas, who are very supportive of this organization. The Chicken Dumpling event always reminds BRLC of the earlier years during the life of volunteer Lynn Thomas.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

For more information visit www.burnsvillelc.org.



Recently Anson County received a permanent medicine drop box through the State Bureau of Investigations. The Wadesboro Police Department generously houses the medicine drop box, and you can stop by during business hours and dispose of your expired medications. Each year the DEA host a medicine drop in efforts to raise awareness to the opioid crisis and drug abuse. This year the national event will be held on October 24 and Safe Kids Anson in collaboration with the partnership of Safe Kids North Carolina, the River keepers of North Carolina, NC State Bureau of Investigation, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of North Carolina and local law enforcement agencies will work together to encourage the public to safely dispose of unused, unwanted and expired medication.

Anson County Department of Social Services, Cooperative Extension Office, Health Department, Partnership for Children, Sheriff's Office, Wadesboro Police and Fire Department, and Anson Emergency Services all work diligently to keep our children and community safe. If you are interested in making sure children (birth to age 18) are safer, please contact Katie Sewell at (704) 694-4036 about joining the Safe Kids Anson Coalition.

Safe Kids Anson is Hosting Operation Medicine Drop on Oct. 24

Safe Kids Anson will host Operation Medicine Drop on Saturday, October 24, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at Anson Station, beside Food Lion in Wadesboro. Bring your unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines to be safely disposed. Syringes and needles will not be accepted for collection.

The average North Carolinian fills 17 prescriptions annually, and studies show that as much as 40% of the drugs dispensed are never used. Abuses of unused and/or expired prescription medications is a public health issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose and abuse, as well as contaminating our water system. Poisoning is the number-one cause of injury-related deaths in the United States. Over the last 20 years, 91% of all unintentional poisonings were caused by prescription or over-the-counter medications according to NC Injury and Violence Prevention, DHHS. From 1999 to 2016 more than 12,000 North Carolinians died from opioid-related overdoses. This epidemic is devastating families and communities.

Five Steps to Vote by Mail in NC in the 2020 General Election

One-Stop Early Voting begins tomorrow, Thursday, Oct. 15. Info on page 3.

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

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 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.

Upcoming Dates

October 15 ONE STOP EARLY VOTING BEGINS

October 27 LAST DAY TO REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL

October 31 ONE STOP EARLY VOTING ENDS

November 2 UOCAVA ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE & REGISTRATION DEADLINE

November 3 ELECTION DAY (POLLS OPEN 6:30 A.M. TO 7:30 P.M.)

November 3 CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN DEADLINE

November 3 UOCAVA ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN DEADLINE (ELECTRONIC)

Free Tobacco Cessation Sessions Offered at Health Department

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Worldwide, tobacco use causes nearly 6 million deaths per year, and current trends show that tobacco use will cause more than 8 million deaths annually by 2030. The Anson County Health Department is now offering free one-on-one tobacco cessation sessions for Anson County residents who are interested in quitting.

The nicotine in cigarettes is a very powerful and addictive drug. For most people, quitting isn't easy. Current statistics show that it can take a person 30 attempts before becoming successful in quitting, and 1 in 20 smokers attempting to quit are successful without some form of help.

Smokers may have a much better chance of quitting with a support program. Smoking cessation sessions are intended to help individuals quit smoking. Smoking cessation programs combine several methods and targets the fears and problems people have when quitting. They also provide ongoing support for staying away from tobacco.

It doesn't matter how long an individual has been a smoker, quitting is always beneficial. Not only does it lower the risk of getting various cancers, including lung cancer, it also reduce the chances of having heart disease, a stroke, emphysema, and other serious diseases. Quitting also will lower the risk of heart disease and lung cancer in nonsmokers who otherwise would be exposed to secondhand smoke.

The Anson County Health Department is offering free one-on-one tobacco cessation sessions provided by their Health Educator and Certified QuitSmart leader, Dinikia Savage. QuitSmart success rates are high and are proved to be more effective than other methods. QuitSmart also produced impressive quit rates in published research studies, such as the V.A. Medical Center in Durham North Carolina with a 51% quit rate over a 6 month period. With QuitSmart, tobacco users are assured of high quality professional help.

The QuitSmart tobacco cessation sessions will be scheduled on a monthly basis. For more information or to schedule a QuitSmart smoking cessation session, please contact Dinikia Savage at 704-994-3342.

The Anson County Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

FFA Pie-Pumpkin Sale this Saturday at Tractor Supply

The Anson County FFA Alumni will be holding a Pie-Pumpkin sale this Saturday, October 17 at Tractor Supply in Wadesboro, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The costs are \$7 for small pumpkins and \$10 for large pumpkins. Proceeds will support the Anson High FFA program.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Celebrating Dizzy Gillespie's Legacy...Still Bebopping in Cheraw

The 2020 South Carolina Jazz Festival goes virtual!

The 2020 South Carolina Jazz Festival is going virtual. The Town of Cheraw has hosted this annual event honoring native son and jazz great Dizzy Gillespie in his hometown for 13 years. Plans are to remember Dizzy Gillespie's legacy this year with a virtual festival.

The 14th South Carolina Jazz Festival will be presented online celebrating Gillespie's birthday week beginning October 18 through October 24. Free weeklong concerts will feature regional and national musicians who have performed at the festival and some new to the event.

The South Carolina Jazz Festival "Goes on the Road" with online concerts from New Orleans to New York to South Carolina. Delfeayo Marsalis performs from NOLA, while the Emmet Cohen Trio performs from NYC. Musicians across South Carolina will be featured from the Upstate to the Midlands and to the Coast.

The free virtual concerts will be available via the South Carolina Jazz Festival website beginning Oct. 18.

For festival information, concert schedules and access to the presentations, visit this website: www.scjazzfestival.com.

Please contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843.537.8420 x 12 for additional information.

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