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

Anson County Covid-19 Update

Kids' vaccine & booster doses are available.
Flu shots are available at the Health Department.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Friday, December 3 showed 4,015 total Covid-19 cases (only 10 more than 11/15), with 164 active. The total deaths are 84.

Vaccines are available for everyone 5 years old and older, including walk-in clinics. (Children 5-11 by appointment only.) Vaccine boosters are available. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information. Walk-in clinics are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Covid Testing Free testing is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. without an appointment. Testing takes place in the old hospital parking lot at 500 Morven Road in Wadesboro. No appointment is needed and there is no charge for the Covid test. Results will be called or emailed directly to the person tested or, in the case of children, to their parent or adult caregiver, in 2-3 days. They will test anyone over the age of 1.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, December 6 there were 2,101 new cases, with 18,860 deaths and 1,307 hospitalized. 73% of adults in NC had at least one dose of vaccine, 69% were fully vaccinated.

Anson EDP Director John Marek Speaks on Rural Economic Development at ACT Virtual Workforce Summit

AnsonEDP Executive Director John Marek was a featured speaker at the ACT Virtual Workforce Summit this past week. His presentation on "Redefining Rural for a Post-Pandemic Economy" was viewed by more than 100 of the nation's top workforce and economic development professionals, representing organizations from Maui to Maine.

Marek's presentation focused on how rural areas can make the most of several trends resulting from the pandemic to bolster their economic positions. Remote work, broadband expansion, restoring, and evolving priorities were noted as four trends that rural communities need to consider in their economic development strategies coming out of the pandemic.

As examples, he explained how Anson County has worked to create collaborative spaces, make education and training less expensive and more accessible, improve broadband accessibility, and promote the county's proximity to all the amenities of a major city without many of the headaches of urban living.

Candidate Filing for the 2022 Primary Election has Begun

Candidate filing for the 2022 statewide primary and rescheduled municipal elections began at noon on Monday, December 6, and ends at noon on Friday, December 17.

Depending on the office sought, candidates will file their Notices of Candidacy with either their county board of elections or the State Board of Elections.

Primary candidates for the following offices will file with the State Board of Elections: U.S. Senate; U.S. House of Representatives; N.C. Supreme Court Justice; Judge of the N.C. Court of Appeals; Superior Court judge; District Court judge; and District attorney.

Primary candidates for the following offices file with their county board of elections: N.C. Senate; N.C. House of Representatives; and All county and municipal offices

Once filed, the deadline for a candidate to withdraw a Notice of Candidacy is 5 p.m. Tuesday, December 14.

The 2022 general election is Tuesday, November 8, 2022. For more information contact the Anson County Board of Elections at 704-994-3223. The BOE office is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

Ansonia Play An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas Opens Friday

The Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro is getting ready for its holiday production of *An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas* by Todd Wallinger, opening this Friday, December 10. The play runs through December 19, with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

During the day Miss Margie's shop may look like any other used bookstore, but at night it's a place where magic happens. That's when the characters inside the books come alive. As the play begins it's four days before Christmas and Miss Margie, the scatterbrained owner of the shop, is thrilled to have two very special guests - her serious-minded sister Ellen and book-loving niece Annabelle. Ellen was recently laid off from her position as an Astronomy professor and she's certain she'll never find a job again. Her luck changes, however, as some of the most beloved literary characters ever come to life to help her find her place in the world.

Pajama Nights! Saturday nights are Pajama Nights for the play! Wear your Christmas PJs and get snuggly. Hot chocolate and Christmas cookies will be served at intermission, with a little extra shopping time in the gallery!

The cast is led by Carri Hilson as Miss Margie, with Megan Rogers as Ellen, Aubry Holmes as Annabelle and Cleve Baxley as billionaire Philip Brantley. The storybook characters include Ayla Perkins as Dorothy Gale, Greyson Helms as the Nutcracker Prince, Caleb Wilson as Tom Sawyer, Cali Green as Pollyanna, Chip Long as Dr. Doolittle, Glenn Caulder as the Velveteen Rabbit, Lela Chaney as Amy March, Robert Graves as Scrooge, Gemma Brinson as Little Match Girl, Rocky Moore and Beverly Eddins as Jim and Della Young from *The Gift of the Magi*. Rounding out the cast are Donnie Lewis as the Book Fairy and Iwan Hilson as Bombalurino.

The show is directed by Tommy Wooten, with Maggie Gibson. Sound and lights are by Joe Blocker and Paige Mercer, costumes are by Donnie Lewis and Betsy Watts, with set design by Mike Phillips and Marshall Ray. The set crew includes Teri Brown, Cheryl Stewart and Donald Perkins.

Tickets are \$18 and available at ansoniateatre.com or by calling 704-694-4950. The Ansonia Theatre is located at 112 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro.



Everybody Loves a Parade!

Last Thursday, December 2 was a perfect day for the Wadesboro Christmas Parade, with warm weather, a large and enthusiastic audience and lots to enjoy. Thank you to Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. for putting on this annual tradition.

The HOLLA! float won "2021 Wadesboro Christmas Parade Best Homemade Float" trophy for their locally produced *Lion King, Jr.* inspired entry.

Pictured at right, Leon Gatewood from HOLLA! (on the left) accepts the 2021 Wadesboro Christmas Parade Best Homemade Float Trophy from Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. Director Julian Swittenberg.

As always, The Express will publish a special edition on the Wednesday between Christmas and New Years (December 29) that features lots of parade pictures.



North Carolinians Urged to Prepare for Winter Weather

Winter Weather Preparedness Week is December 5 - 11 and Governor Roy Cooper is encouraging North Carolinians to plan and prepare now, before potentially dangerous winter weather arrives.

"North Carolina's winter weather can be challenging and everyone should be prepared for dangerous conditions," Governor Cooper said. "Make a family emergency plan, update your emergency supply kit and pay attention to weather alerts from trusted sources. These steps will help you survive inclement weather and recover faster from it."

Meteorologists expect La Niña conditions to last throughout the winter, which means North Carolina is favored to see warmer and drier than normal conditions. However, this does not mean that wintry precipitation will not develop across the state this winter, leading to icy roads and other hazards.

Governor Cooper urges residents to monitor winter weather conditions and forecasts by listening to local media and paying close attention to winter weather watches, warnings and advisories. While the criteria for these may vary across North Carolina the premise is the same so remember: **Winter Storm Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for either heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain within the next 24-48 hours.

Winter Storm Warning is issued when confidence is high that a winter storm will cause significant impacts within the next 24 hours.

Winter Weather Advisory is issued when wintry weather is expected and residents should exercise caution as light to moderate amounts of snow, sleet, or freezing rain are expected within the next 24 hours, causing travel difficulties.

To help ensure you are ready for winter weather, North Carolina Emergency Management officials urge you to:

- Always keep at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food and a supply of medication.
- Keep fresh batteries on hand for weather radios and flashlights.
- Dress warmly. Wear multiple layers of thin clothing instead of a single layer of thick clothing.
- Properly vent kerosene heaters and ensure any electric generators are operated outside and away from open windows or doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Use a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio or a weather alert app on your phone to monitor changing weather conditions.
- Keep alternative heating sources and fire extinguishers on hand. Be sure your family knows how to use them.
- Store an emergency kit in your vehicle. Include scraper, jumper cables, tow chain, sand/salt, blankets, flashlight, first-aid kit and road map.
- Make an emergency supplies kit for your pet and include medical records, first-aid kit, enough canned/dry food and water for three to seven days and pet travel bag or carrier.
- Ensure your pet has a well-fitting collar.
- **Do not leave pets outside for long periods of time.**
- **Bring pets inside when temperatures drop below freezing.**
- **Move livestock and other animals to a sheltered location with food and water.**

If you must travel during bad weather, emergency officials remind motorists to leave plenty of room between you and other vehicles and, if driving on snow- or ice-covered roadways, reduce your speed. If conditions worsen, pull off the highway and remain in your vehicle. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you can take shelter.

The Department of Public Safety and the National Weather Service work together to help North Carolinians plan and prepare for winter weather by providing accurate weather and safety information.

For more information on how to prepare for winter storms and other hazards that affect North Carolina, visit www.readync.gov.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard Updated 12-3-2021

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	1	0	1	0
Anson High School	2	0	1	0
Anson Middle School	5	0	0	0
Ansonville Elementary	2	0	0	0
Lilesville Elementary	2	0	1	0
Morven Elementary	1	0	0	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	5	0	1	0
Wadesboro Elementary	2	0	0	0
Wadesboro Primary	0	1	1	0
District Office	N/A	0	N/A	0
Transportation	N/A	0	N/A	0
Maintenance	N/A	0	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	0	N/A	0
Total	20	1	5	0
Total Students + Employees	21		5	

*Student Enrollment as of 12/03/21 2,951
*Enrollment changes daily
of Employees 513
% of Employees Positive 0.00%
% of Students Positive 0.17%

A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday, December 11

A new shipment of USDA perishable and non-perishable foods will be distributed via drive-thru this Saturday, December 11, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon, 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 are asked to please wear masks.

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.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesdays. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Dept. For more information check their Facebook page or www.burnsvillelc.org.

Community Outreach Offers Household Items on Saturday

The Lamb of God Church in Wadesboro will hold a Christmas Community Outreach Event this Saturday, December 11 at 10 a.m. They will be giving out free household items and paper products on a first come, first served basis. There will be Christmas Bags for the youth too.

The event will be held at 118 West Wade Street in Wadesboro.

If you would like to donate or volunteer for the event, please call 843-623-3777. The website is: www.logomchurch.com.

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