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

Active Covid Cases on the Decline

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Tuesday, March 8, there were 6,532 total Covid-19 cases, with 69 active and 98 deaths. On March 1 there were 89 active cases. The number of active cases is significantly lower than January 18, when there were 668.

Covid 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 held on Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

Covid Testing Free testing is available Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. without an appointment. They are closed for lunch 12 noon to 1 p.m. 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.

Free home Covid tests are available by mail. Visit (www.covidtests.gov) or call 1-800-232-0233.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services reported that statewide as of Tuesday, March 8 there were 894 new cases of Covid, with 22,817 deaths and 1,157 hospitalized. The case numbers are down significantly from January 18 when there were 31,902 new cases.

Shamrock Shuffle 5K Run/Walk & Vendor Event in Uptown Wadesboro

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce invites you to join them on Saturday, March 19 for their Shamrock Shuffle 5K Run/Walk & Vendor Event. This event will take place in uptown Wadesboro on the Town Square and West Wade Street, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come enjoy the run/walk, food, music by Al G & Friends Band, Wheels on Wade Cruise In, shop in town, and, if you like, visit the beer and wine garden.

Would you like to sponsor this fun community event? Contact Shelby Emrich at 704-694-4181 or semrich@ansoncountychamber.org for more information. To have your logo or name on the event t-shirt, registration is due by Monday, March 14.

Runners/walkers can pre-register or register on race day. Visit:

form.jotform.com/ansonchamber/5k-run-registration-form to register. The race will begin at 11 a.m., registration opens at 10 a.m. Timing will be provided by Vac and Dash. T-shirts only guaranteed for those who pre-register. Each adult runner/walker over 21 years of age (with proof of ID) will receive a coupon for one free beer.

Want to be a vendor? Visit: form.jotform.com/ansonchamber/vendor-registration to register. All vendor registration forms and fees are due no later than Wednesday, March 16 by 5 p.m.

Please note that participants of the Wheels on Wade Cruise In will still be able to park on West Wade and East Wade Streets. For more information contact Derrick & Heather Matthews Edwards at: mshetheredwards@icloud.com.

4-H Online Auction is Happening!

Anson County 4-H's fundraiser and auction is in full swing! The fundraiser and auction will both run until Thursday, March 31.

Sam Cole, 4-H Agent with Anson County Cooperative Extension said, "The goal is to raise \$10,000 and we thank you in advance for your support! Check out the link below to see for bid items:

sites.google.com/ncsu.edu/ansoncounty4-h4-hyouthpromisea/home

Ashley Turner Drake Arrested with Drugs and Weapon on School Grounds

On Thursday, March 3 officers from the Wadesboro Police Department received a call about a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of the Anson High School after school hours. When officers arrived on scene they made contact with the suspected vehicle which was occupied by Ashley Turner Drake. Drake was asleep in the driver's seat with the vehicle in drive with his foot on the brake pedal.



Ashley Turner Drake

Officers woke Drake up and observed drug paraphernalia in plain view inside the vehicle. After a short investigation, officers located several items of drug paraphernalia, approximately 213 Tapentadol pills, 167 Alprazolam pills and a loaded firearm.

Drake, 48, of Peachland was charged with: Possess Gun on Educational Property; Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance; Possession of Schedule IV Controlled Substance; Carry Concealed Weapon; and Possession of Marijuana Paraphernalia.

His bond was set at \$10,000 secure and his court date was set for March 8, 2022.

The Compassionate Friends Meet the Second Thursday of Every Month

Next meeting is this Thursday, March 10

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings who have lost a child of any age, welcomes you to attend their monthly meetings. They meet on the second Thursday each month, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. "We need not walk alone."

For more information please call Ken Caulder at 704-694-2524.



Pictured above from left, front row: Kevin Jimenez, Amiyah Watson, Alianna Martinez, Johnathon Byrd and Cornelio Sosa Bustos. Back row: Elizabeth Kersey, Ernestine Gaddy, Winnie Bennett and Judy Simon.

place acknowledgement in the essay contest was Alianna Martinez. Also participating in the contest were Kevin Jimenez and Cornelio Sosa Bustos.

This year's theme for the Dr. King Essay Contest was "Living the Dream." A writing workshop to assist students with composition of their essays was part of the competition and was conducted by Ms. Devin Pettiford. Alianna's award winning essay is as follows:

Living the Dream in Anson County

There is no power greater than the power that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave us when he spoke the "I have a dream" speech. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. He wanted all adults and children of all races to come together and share equal rights.

In Anson County, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream is seen in people of all races being able to interact with each other in schools and in the community. Back then, during Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s time, schools were segregated and they had Black and White people using separate water fountains, schools, and restaurants. Black people were made to sit at the back of the bus while White people took their rest at the front.

Today, in Anson County, all people of different races go to the same schools, churches, restaurants, and bathrooms. They no longer have separate settings. Black and White people even date and get married and have children together. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream years ago and the people of Anson County are living the dream. The dream may be hard for some but as one, we can make it happen so that we can one day all be equal.

More than \$330 Million in State Directed Grants Disbursed to Aid Local Community Improvement Projects, Including 10 Grants in Anson County

The Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) distributed more than \$330 million in directed grants to local governments and community organizations in the last two weeks. More than 170 entities across North Carolina received funds in this first round of grant disbursements.

Locally, for the fiscal year 2021-2022, these entities received grants. (The source of funds was the State Capital & Infrastructure Fund):

- Anson County \$8,000,000
- Ansonville Volunteer Fire Department \$30,000
- Gulledge Volunteer Fire Department \$30,000
- Lilesville Volunteer Fire Department \$30,000
- Morven Volunteer Fire Department \$30,000
- Peachland Volunteer Fire Department \$30,000
- Polkton Volunteer Fire Department \$30,000
- South Piedmont Community College \$15,000,000
- Wadesboro Fire Department \$30,000
- Atrium Health for Anson & Forsyth Counties \$1,000,000

"These grant funds will help local communities invest in projects that can improve the lives of those they serve," said Governor Roy Cooper. "I expect to see great work from our partners in local government and the nonprofit sector as these projects move forward."

The state budget contained more than 900 Directed Grants of which over 640 are being administered by the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM). The agency expects to distribute more than \$1.4 billion in directed grants over the next 12 months.

This is largely a new grant program, leading OSBM to set up a website and training webinars for the directed grant recipients to help them meet state grant requirements and receive their grant funds as quickly possible.

OSBM is an agency within the Governor's Office responsible for administering the state budget and providing objective information and analysis to ensure effective stewardship of public resources.

Preservation Work to Begin for Pee Dee River Bridges

A trio of bridges over the Pee Dee River will soon undergo preservation work thanks to a contract recently awarded by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

The two U.S. 74 bridges at the Richmond-Anson county line and the N.C. 731 bridge at the Montgomery-Stanley county line will receive a variety of upgrades, including deck treatments, new joints and substructure repairs.

American Civil Constructors of Benicia, California was awarded the contract with the low bid of about \$4.1 million. The contractor can start working in late March and is scheduled to be complete by spring 2024.

The work will take place under lane closures at both locations, which means traffic will alternate use of a single lane on the N.C. 731 bridge. Drivers should be mindful of crews working close to the travel lanes at these locations until the work is complete.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard March 4, 2022

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
	Anson Early College High School	0	0	0
Anson High School	2	0	0	0
Anson Middle School	2	0	1	0
Ansonville Elementary	1	0	1	1
Lilesville Elementary	0	0	0	0
Morven Elementary	0	0	0	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	0	0	0	0
Wadesboro Elementary	0	0	0	0
Wadesboro Primary	0	0	0	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	5	0	2	1
Total Students + Employees	5		3	

*Student Enrollment as of 03/04/22 2,953

*Enrollment changes daily

% of Students Positive 0.07%

of Employees 513

% of Employees Positive 0.19%

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

MES Students Receive Awards for Essay Submissions

Three students from Morven Elementary School were awarded financial gifts and certificates in recognition of their essays in the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest sponsored by the Morven Chapter of Las Amigas, Incorporated. The Award recognition took place on Tuesday, February 22.

Johnathon Byrd placed third in the competition. Receiving second place recognition was Amiyah Watson. And, receiving first

place recognition was Alianna Martinez.

Also participating in the contest were Kevin Jimenez and Cornelio Sosa Bustos.

This year's theme for the Dr. King Essay Contest was "Living the Dream." A writing workshop to assist students with composition of their essays was part of the competition and was conducted by Ms. Devin Pettiford. Alianna's award winning essay is as follows:

In Anson County, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream is seen in people of all races being able to interact with each other in schools and in the community. Back then, during Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s time, schools were segregated and they had Black and White people using separate water fountains, schools, and restaurants. Black people were made to sit at the back of the bus while White people took their rest at the front.

Today, in Anson County, all people of different races go to the same schools, churches, restaurants, and bathrooms. They no longer have separate settings. Black and White people even date and get married and have children together. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream years ago and the people of Anson County are living the dream. The dream may be hard for some but as one, we can make it happen so that we can one day all be equal.

Masks Became Optional in State Agencies Starting Monday, March 7

Agencies May Continue to Require Masks in High-Risk Settings Such as Health Care, Corrections

Based on improving trends with COVID-19, masks will become optional in most state agencies and facilities beginning March 7. This coincides with updates to guidance from state health officials based on the emerging science and evidence to best protect North Carolinians.

"COVID-19 levels are declining rapidly, and we have vaccinations, boosters, and effective treatments that are making this step possible," Governor Roy Cooper said. "This virus is still causing serious illness and death mostly in unvaccinated people and the best way to protect yourself is to get vaccinated and boosted."

Under Executive Order No. 253 the Office of State Human Resources has updated policies for face coverings for state government agencies that are part of the Governor's cabinet. Agency heads may require face coverings in settings that they determine to be high-risk including long term care facilities, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and health care facilities, and federal regulations continue to require masks in certain facilities.

Requirements remain in place that employees who are not vaccinated must be tested for COVID-19 at least once a week.

As of March 7, employees may use at-home rapid antigen tests to meet the testing requirements in addition to PCR tests.

New Telephone Numbers for Anson County Environmental Health Office

The Anson County Health Department would like for the community to know the new phone numbers for Environmental Health.

- Joe West 704-994-3398
- Lynne Ezzell 704-994-3399