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

Covid Update for Anson County

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Tuesday, March 29 there were 6,562 total Covid-19 cases, with 38 active and 99 deaths. On March 22 there were 44 active cases.

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. The government has set up a website (www.covidtests.gov) or call 1-800-232-0233.

Fire Safety Outdoors

Those who have felt the warmth of a fire and enjoyed its friendly glow understand that fire is not always a devastating blaze. Our ancestors considered fire to be a basic element, the same as air, water and earth. Long ago, they learned to use fire and to control it. Fire was, perhaps, their first tool.

Most of us are careful with fire. We build fires in the right places, at the right time. We keep a fire at the proper size and put it out before leaving it. Some of us don't, which can result in catastrophic wildfires. Wildfires can do terrible damage. With North Carolina's growing population and wildland urban interface, wildfire risk also grows. You are the best defense against wildfire.

• Debris Burning Check for any burning bans or fire restrictions that may be in effect for your area. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours while others forbid it entirely. Make sure to get a valid burn permit. Contact your NCFS county ranger's office for the names and locations of the nearest local permitting agent or use our online burning permit system.

Keep an eye on the weather. Don't burn on dry, windy days. Consider alternatives to burning. Some types of vegetative debris, such as leaves, grass and stubble, may be of more value if used for compost.

It is always illegal to burn household trash or anything other than natural vegetation.

• Burning Agriculture Residue and Forestland Litter Be fully prepared before burning off your field or garden spot. To control the fire, you will need a water source, bucket, a steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. If possible, a fire line should be plowed around the area to be burned. Large fields should be separated into small plots for burning one at a time. Never leave your fire unattended. Be sure to stay with your fire until it is out. Before burning in a wooded area, contact your NCFS county ranger. The ranger will weigh all factors, explain them to you and offer technical advice.

• Using Lanterns, Stoves and Heaters Cool a lantern, stove or heater before refueling. Before filling, place it on the ground in a cleared area. If fuel spills, move the appliance to a new clearing before lighting it. Recap and store flammable liquid containers in a safe place. Never light lanterns and stoves inside a tent, trailer or camper. If you use a lantern or stove inside a tent or trailer, be sure to have adequate ventilation. Always read and follow instructions provided by the manufacturer.

• Spark arrester Several types of equipment and vehicles are required to have spark arresters. Chainsaws, portable generators, cross country vehicles and trail bikes -require spark arresters if used in or near grass, brush or wooded areas. To ensure a spark arrester is functioning properly, contact the dealer or your NCFS county ranger's office.

• Smoking Grind out your cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco in the dirt when smoking outdoors. Never grind it on a stump or log. It is unsafe to smoke while walking or riding a horse or trail bike. Use your ashtray while in your car. Never dump used cigarettes out the window.

• Charcoal briquettes After burning charcoal briquettes, douse them thoroughly with water. Don't just sprinkle water over the coals. When the coals are soaked with water, stir the coals and soak them again. Be sure they are wet. Carefully feel the coals with your bare hands to be sure they are extinguished and out cold!

• Building and putting out campfires Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass and leaves. Pull any extra wood away from the fire. Keep plenty of water handy, and have a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control. Start your campfire with dry twigs and small sticks. Add larger sticks as the fire builds up. Put the largest pieces of wood on last, pointing them toward the center of the fire, gradually pushing them into the flames. Keep your campfire small. A good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat. Scrape away litter, duff and any burnable material within a 10-foot (3 meter) diameter circle around the fire. This will keep a small campfire from spreading. After lighting a campfire, be sure your match is out. Hold it until it is cold and then break it so you can feel the charred portion before discarding. Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze could quickly cause a fire to spread. After use, drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers, coals and sticks are wet. Move rocks because there may be more burning embers underneath. Stir the remains. Add more water and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been extinguished and is cool. If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix enough soil or sand with the embers. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool. Feel all materials with your bare hand. Make sure that no roots are burning, and do not bury your coals. They can smolder and ignite.

• Burn Bans Check for any current local and state burn bans that may restrict outdoor burning. Contact your fire department or NCFS county ranger's office to make sure you are not violating any open burning regulations.

We all have a part in preventing wildfires. We can be more careful. We can influence others to be more careful. Remember, a little extra care takes only a few minutes of your time, and it could prevent a wildfire.



Pictured above are, from left, front row: Alyvia Gerald, Andie Gerald and Connor Hildreth. Back row: from left, Jayden Kitrell Lindsey, Isabella Maria Zamora-Saldana, Hilary Gaun, Charles Kaska, Talia Tallman and Sandy Bruney.

Anson County Writers' Club Awards Contest Winners Honored Sunday

Winners of the 2021 contests sponsored by the Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC) were celebrated with an awards ceremony on Sunday, March 27 at the First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. Accompanied by family and friends, the authors of poetry and prose received a certificate, cash prize, and a goody bag filled with writing materials such as pens, notebooks, sticky notes and copy paper. They also received a copy of Anson Pathways XI, an anthology of the winning entries from the 2019, 2020, and 2021 contests.

This awards ceremony was the first held since 2019 because of the COVID pandemic. The ACWC has held contests in prose and poetry since 1989.

Winners
• **Youth Poetry, grades 3-6:** Alyvia Gerald, first place for "Tourette's Awareness;" Andie Gerald, second place for "My Dog Bella;" Connor Hildreth, third place for "My Love of Four Wheelers."

• **Youth Prose, grades 3-6:** Isabella Maria Zamora-Saldana, first place for "Alexander's Adventure." All youth winners are students of Tracy Preslar at Ansonville Elementary School.

• **Youth Poetry, grades 9-12:** Hilary Gaun, first place for "Our Ribbons of Life."

• **Youth Prose, grades 9-12:** Jaydan Kitrell Lindsey, first place for "Beautiful Tragedies." Gaun and Lindsey are both students at Anson County Early College.

• **Adult Poetry:** Talia Tallman, Wadesboro, first place for "Type One;" Sandy Bruney, Wadesboro, second place for "The Minstrel;" Mario Kersey, Raleigh, for "Among Friends;" Abigail Gano, Peachland, honorable mention for "A Summer's Dream, a Winter's Memory."

• **Adult Prose:** Sandy Bruney, first place for "How Maude Kittrick (Maybe) Saved the Planet;" Charles Kaska, Heath Springs, S.C., second place for "Post Card from Phinda."

Copies of Anson Pathways XI are available at the Anson County Arts Council or by sending a request to info@ansoncountywritersclub.org.

The Anson County Writers' Club was formed in 1989 with the mission of fostering the art of writing in Anson County. The club is open to anyone who expresses an interest in supporting the club's mission. For more information, visit www.ansoncountywritersclub.org or email info@ansoncountywritersclub.org.

North Carolina's February Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted February 2022 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from January's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point to 3.8 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased 1.7 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 18,085 over the month to 4,827,774 and increased 183,269 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 10,157 over the month to 187,258 and decreased 75,556 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 22,400 to 4,688,000 in February. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 6,200; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 5,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 4,700; Manufacturing, 3,300; Education & Health Services, 2,300; Financial Activities, 1,700; and Construction, 500. Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 1,100; and Other Services, 500. Information and Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Since February 2021, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 182,600 with the Total Private sector increasing by 164,000 and Government increasing by 18,600. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 56,400; Professional & Business Services, 43,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 19,800; Government, 18,600; Financial Activities, 11,900; Education & Health Services, 10,000; Manufacturing, 8,100; Other Services, 5,400; Information, 5,200; and Construction, 4,200. The only major industry experiencing a decrease over the year was Mining & Logging, 100.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since February 2021

	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022
N.C.	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.7
U.S.	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.8

Please note: 2021 numbers have undergone annual revision

Family Yard Sale April 2 in Support of Walk for MS

The community is invited to a giant family yard sale on Saturday, April 2, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. All funds raised by the yard sale will go towards Walk for MS (Multiple Sclerosis), a fundraiser organized by Anna Hammonds Gillespie.

Among the many items available will be clothing, furniture, toys and lots more! There will also be delicious baked goods. Come out to support a local family and a great cause.

The sale will take place at 13015 Highway 742 North, Polkton, in the Burnsville Community.

If you would like to make a donation of money or items for the yard sale, please contact Olivia Edwards at 704-826-6212 or godwinsbs1@yahoo.com.

Anson County 4-H Online Auction Ends Thursday

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

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard

March 25, 2022

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	0	0	0	0
Anson High School	0	0	0	0
Anson Middle School	1	0	0	0
Ansonville Elementary	0	0	0	0
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	1	0	0	0
Total Students + Employees	1		0	

*Student Enrollment as of 03/25/22 2,949

*Enrollment changes daily

% of Students Positive 0.00%

of Employees 513

% of Employees Positive 0.00%

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

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets April 5

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live-streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Art Walk in Downtown Cheraw this Thursday

The Cheraw Arts Commission will present "Art Walk" on Thursday, March 31. The evening event will feature art and music downtown Cheraw from 5:30-8:00pm. There will be demonstrations by artists with an opportunity for participants to create art. Sweetgrass Basket artist Mary Graham Grant will be demonstrating the Gullah artform of Sewing Sweetgrass Baskets during the event.

This is a free event. Maps designating location of artists and musicians will be available at Market Hall that evening. Restaurants will be open for dining options. The local farmers will also have produce and plants available at Market Hall. The winners of the Cheraw Arts Commission's Fine Art Exhibit will be announced that evening near the Market Hall area at 6pm. Market Hall is located at the corner of Market and Second Streets in downtown Cheraw.

For additional information, contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843.537.8420 x 12.