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Remote Learning in NC To Continue Through End of 2019-2020 School Year

Governor Cooper also proposes \$1.4 billion COVID-19 relief package using federal funds

On Friday, April 24 Governor Roy Cooper announced that North Carolina K-12 public schools will continue remote learning through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Cooper was joined by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson and the Chair of the State Board of Education Eric Davis for the announcement.

"School buildings will stay closed to students for this school year, but school isn't over," said Governor Cooper.

The decision to finish the year by remote learning was not made lightly, but it is the right thing to do to protect our students, teachers and communities. This is a difficult time for many children and parents, and I am grateful for all the educators, administrators, support staff and parents who have gone the extra mile to keep children learning." Cooper underscored the needs for schools to continue to provide school nutrition programs now and into the

summer, and to be looking ahead and planning for when it is safe to re-convene schools in person. This includes how to get students back on track, especially those who have not been able to access remote learning or were already behind when schools closed to in-person instruction. To help students without home internet access online learning opportunities, Cooper today announced a

partnership to equip more school buses with Wi-Fi. School buses with Wi-Fi will travel to areas that lack internet so students can turn in assignments, download materials, and connect with teachers. AT&T is providing 100 hot spots, Duke Energy Foundation is providing 80, and additional partners are expected to join the effort. State public health officials are developing safety guidelines for schools to follow when classes are able to convene

in person, as well as guidance for summer camps and other groups that use school facilities. BUDGET Cooper also released a recommended budget plan to invest \$1.4 billion in emergency funds to help North Carolina respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding for this

proposal would come predominantly from the state's share of the federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) and would be appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly in its upcoming session.

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The budget package is intended to fund immediate needs in three main areas:

- Public health and safety
- Continuity of operations for education and other state government services
- Assistance to small businesses and local governments.

'The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every North Carolinian. This emergency funding proposal makes strong investments in public health, schools, local governments and small businesses to respond to this unprecedented crisis," said Cooper.

Governor Cooper and State Budget Director Charlie Perusse worked with state agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders to identify what immediate COVID-related needs were unmet by existing federal and commercial assistance to build a budget proposal that is responsive and responsible. Key investments from this proposal include:

• \$75 million to support testing, tracing and trends analysis as well as have the Personal Protective Equipment needed to help North Carolina move into Phase 1 of easing restrictions; • \$78 million for school nutrition to continue to serve as many as 500,000 meals

a day to children who depend on these meals to meet basic nutrition needs typically

- \$75 million for rural and underserved communities and health care providers that are particularly hard hit by COVID-19;
- next school year in a "new normal." Funds are a joint request from DPI and the State Board of Education. • \$52 million to the UNC system and private colleges to help with remote learning

\$243 million for public schools to enhance remote learning and get ready for the

and COVID-19 impacts; • \$300 million to assist local governments, distributed based partially on population

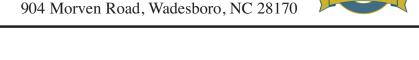
and partially on acute need. 'We know that people are hurting, businesses are struggling, and local governments are facing severe shortages. That's why we have to act now to get resources in the hands of people and organizations that provide vital support," said Cooper.

Governor Cooper and State Budget Director Charlie Perusse have been in discussions with leaders of the North Carolina General Assembly for several weeks to develop a consensus COVID-19 budget package that can be approved swiftly when the legislature returns next week. Elements of this package have already been announced as having consensus support, including a significant investment in an already operating bridge loan program for small businesses through the Golden L.E.A.F. Foundation.

This plan is a first step, and while it may not have all that North Carolina needs moving forward I present it in the spirit of compromise and consensus so that we can get relief to families fast," said Cooper.

LGBTQ+ Informational Webinar on Wednesday, May 6

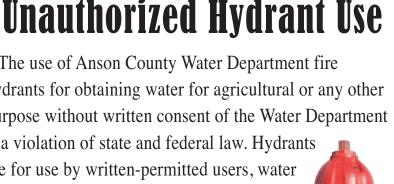
An LGBTQ+ informational webinar will be held from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on



The use of Anson County Water Department fire hydrants for obtaining water for agricultural or any other purpose without written consent of the Water Department is a violation of state and federal law. Hydrants are for use by written-permitted users, water company or fire department personnel only.

The Anson County Water Department will take legal action against any individual or business that unlawfully obtains water from the Anson County water system. Please report suspicious activity to the Anson County Sheriff's Office or the Water Department.

Hydrant use permit information is available from the Anson County Water Department. Information is available at 704-694-5208.







Explore the history of pathologizing LGBTQ+ identities as mental health disorders.

Wednesday, May 6. Dana Cea will lead discussion to: Discover the differences between sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as some common terminology

- Examine the statistics of mental health concerns, including suicide, for the
- · Discuss ways to make mental health services safe, inclusive, and inviting for the
- Emphasize do's and don't's when interacting with persons who identify as LGBTQ+.
- Respond to several case studies involving potential LGBTQ+ clients.
- Receive helpful resources for working with the LGBTQ+ community.
- Have an open, safe space for questions/concerns about the LGBTQ+ community. To register contact Adrian Standish at leeharnettfsp@yahoo.com or 877-776-6702 Upon registration, you will be sent the link to the webinar.

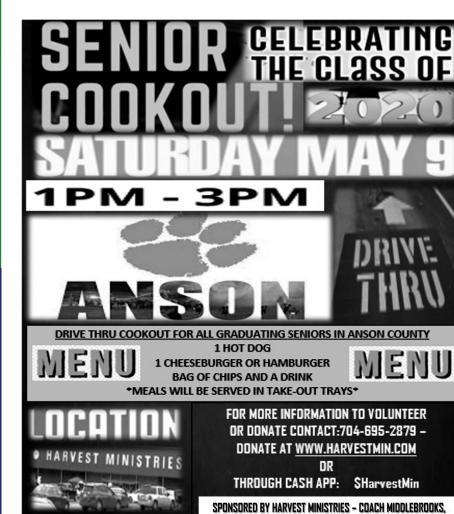
Free Groceries for Families in Need May 13

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Atrium Health Bus will be onsite too. The Anson and East Union Missional Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be at Wingate United Methodist Church, 111 Hinson Street in Wingate, on Wednesday, May 13. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m.

• Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 8 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? If so, please email <code>tschumpert@wnccumc.net</code>. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.



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