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

Chamber of Commerce President Shelby Emrich Awarded Scholarship

Chamber of Commerce President Shelby Emrich received the 2022 IOM (Institute for Organization Management) Tuition Scholarship at the CACCE (Carolinas Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives) Staff Leadership Development Conference in Hilton Head, SC last week. Institute for Organization Management was designed to enhance individual performance, elevate professional standards, and recognize association, chamber of commerce, and other nonprofit professionals who demonstrate the knowledge essential to the practice of nonprofit management. It is the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



IOM is held at four locations across the country annually. While on-site, attendees participate in 24 hours of course instruction and engage in lively discussions on a multitude of matters affecting the association and chamber industries. Course topics include advocacy, media training, membership, finance, legal issues, human resources and much more. Shelby will graduate the four-year Institute for Organization Management program this June at the University of Georgia. She will receive the IOM Graduate Recognition, signifying 96 hours of course instruction in nonprofit management.



Bearcat Pride 5k Run/Walk Was a Smash Success!

This is a release from Anne Hyatt from Anson County Schools: The 2022 Bearcat Pride 5k Run/Walk would not have been successful without our volunteers, participants, sponsors, AHS and AMS cheerleaders, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church for providing snow cones, The Express Newspaper, Vac and Dash, emergency services and fire department personnel as well as the Town of Wadesboro. With your support, events like this only make our schools and community stronger!

Thank You for your partnership and support of the Bearcat Pride 5k Run/Walk! The event had 145 total registered participants; that number is typically unheard of in a small community like Anson. The community spirit and pride was evident during the race event as everyone gathered together to support each other! Please know that your support has a huge, positive impact on our school system and community. As we begin looking ahead to planning the 2023 Bearcat Pride 5k, we look forward to continuing our partnership with each of you for years to come!

On behalf of the Anson Middle School PTO, a sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who volunteered, participated and sponsored the Bearcat Pride 5k Run/Walk. Your support of our inaugural race on April 30, 2022, is greatly appreciated.

Stay tuned for our 2023 Bearcat Pride 5k Run/Walk date!

Only 3 Active Covid Cases in Anson County on May 2, None in Schools

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Monday, May 2, Anson County total cases were 6,571, an increase of five cases since April 18. 3 cases were active on May 2. The total Covid-related deaths are 99.

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

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Fell Slightly During March

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for March was 4.9%, slightly lower than February's 5.1% rate. Here are other past rates: January 2022 5.1%. **2021:** December 4.4%; November 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 5.9%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The **2020** rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%. In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the unemployment rate for February was 3.7%. In February it was 3.7%; January 3.8%. Here are other statewide past rates: **2021:** December 3.2%; November 3.4%; October 3.6%; September 3.8%; August 4.4%; July 4.6%; June 4.9%; May 4.5%; April 4.4%; March 4.6%; February 5.6%; January 6%. **2020:** December 6%; November and October 6.1%; September 7%; August 6.8%; July 8.9%. Anson's total labor force in March was 10,207. Of that number 9,708 were employed and 499 were unemployed. In February the total labor force was 10,115, with 9,603 employed and 512 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 85 of North Carolina's counties in March, increased in three, and remained unchanged in 12. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.7 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 2.4 percent. Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases and one remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 6.1 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 2.8 percent. The March not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.6 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year. The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 55,989 to 4,903,187, while those unemployed decreased by 3,303 to 182,334. Since March 2021, the number of workers employed statewide increased 234,982, while those unemployed decreased 77,108.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

New Ansonia Play Coming May 13, Alice in Wonderland: Down the Rabbit Hole

The Ansonia Theatre is preparing for its production of *Alice in Wonderland: Down the Rabbit Hole*, running May 13 to 22. This is a modern-day adaptation of Lewis Carroll's trip to Wonderland, in which the restless birthday girl chases after a very busy bunny and ends up in a bizarre world. Mark Landon Smith's witty new adaptation brings Alice into the 21st century with sharp-edged humor as she traverses the land of the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts and many more as she tries to find her way back home.



Leading a cast of 27 actors from five counties, eight year old Rebekah Forsyth of Marshville makes her stage debut as the curious Alice. She is supported by Gracilee Bricker as Edith, Logan Tallman as the White Rabbit, Marcus Covington as the Cheshire Cat, Karen Johnston as the Queen of Hearts, Robert Graves as The King, Amanda Traywick as the Duchess and John Caudle as the Mad Hatter. The rest of the cast includes Audrey Barringer, Cleve Baxley, Maria Bennett, Teri Brown, Glenn Caulder, Lela Chaney, Andrew Forsyth, Jeremiah Forsyth, Regina Forsyth, Cali Green, Greyson Helms, Animah Jackson, Donnie Lewis, Taniqua Lindsey, Rocky Moore, Abigail Moree, Ayla Perkins, Donald Perkins and Eversmith Tallman.

The show is directed by Tommy Wooten, assistant direction by Maggie Gibson, set design by Mike Phillips and Teri Brown, sound by Joe Blocker, lights by Paige Mercer and costumes by Donnie Lewis, Chipper Long, Teri Brown and Brittany Price. There is something for everyone in this production! It is sure to be fun for the whole family. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are available online at ansoniateatre.com or call 704-694-4950.

Relay for Life Yard Sale this Saturday

The Anson County DSS (Department of Social Services) will host a yard sale this Saturday, May 7, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon. All proceeds will be donated to Anson County Relay for Life. Come shop for bargains while supporting a great cause.

DSS is located 188 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

Morven Cemetery, Inc. Membership Meeting

The annual general membership meeting for Morven Cemetery, Inc. will be held on Monday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Morven United Methodist Church, located at 318 East Main Street.

Ansonia Auditions for Ghost the Musical

The Ansonia Theatre will hold auditions on Tuesday, May 17 for their upcoming play, *Ghost the Musical*. The auditions will be held at the theatre at 6 p.m. Be prepared to sing and read from the script. The Ansonia is located at 112 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro.

NCWorks Workforce Transition and Community Assistance

The North Carolina NCWorks Transition and Community Assistance website (www.ncworks.gov) contains links to resources to assist during transition from employment to unemployment or retirement, or unemployment to re-employment. It includes other community or social service programs, such as health, families and children, temporary assistance programs, legal issues, government benefits, caregiver resources, and more.

Anson Women's League Meets May 10

This is a release from the Anson Women's League: The Anson Women's League will hold their May meeting at Welika Fish Camp in Lilesville on Tuesday, May 10 at 12:00 p.m. We are so excited to have Winnie Bennett present our program! Come join us for wonderful food, fellowship, and entertainment! If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Caroline Goins at cmgoins@gmail.com by Friday, May 6.

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	0	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	0	0	0	0
Total Students + Employees	0		0	

*Student Enrollment as of 04/29/22	2,942	# of Employees	513
*Enrollment changes daily		% of Employees Positive	0.00%
% of Students Positive	0.00%	A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.	