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

Only 6 New Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County in the Last Week

Vaccines are available. Ansonians urged to get vaccinated.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department was 2,634 total reported cases of COVID-19, with only 9 active as of Monday, June 28. This was an increase of only 6 new cases since last Monday, June 21. The total deaths are 57.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, June 28 there were 294 new cases of COVID-19, with 13,420 deaths and 368 hospitalized.

Health Department's Main Telephone Number is Back in Service

This is a release from the Anson County Health Department: Great news! The main telephone number at the health department is now working, Please call 704-694-5188 to schedule an appointment for clinical services or to schedule an appointment for your COVID shot, or if you just need to speak to someone about a question you may have.

The WIC telephone number is still not working, but they are continuing to work on it to get it back up and working. As soon as it's working we will let everyone know here on our Facebook page and in The Express. If you need to speak to someone in WIC please call 704-690-6757.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support as we continue to work thought this ransomware attack.

Update on Anson County Government Ransomware Attack

This is a press release dated June 25 from Interim County Manager Ray Allen: Anson County Government reports that it is continuing its efforts to recover from the ransomware attack it experienced in early May. This attack compromised a significant number of internal servers and resulted in severe disruptions to telephone and email communications. In addition to the services that have already been restored, the following services are anticipated to be restored as follows:

- The County GIS system is expected to return to service by the end of the day on June 28, although some functionality may take longer.
 - New County email addresses are anticipated to be functional by the end of the week of June 28, as well as most County owned desktop computers. Currently approximately 60% of County government telephones are now working. Restoration of most County government telephone service is expected by early July.
- Full recovery will take several months or longer, although most public facing operations should be restored to normal before the end of July. In addition, the County is focusing on making its operations as secure as possible to prevent future incursions. We continue to ask for your patience as we move forward.

Officials Urge Everyone to Avoid Drinking and Driving During 4th of July

Sobriety checkpoints will operate in all 100 NC counties during the holiday weekend.

Do your part to keep the Fourth of July safe by never driving if you are impaired.

That was the key message at the kickoff of the annual North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program's Fourth of July Booze It & Lose it campaign, dubbed 'Operation Firecracker.'

Operation Firecracker aims to prevent alcohol-related crashes by targeting impaired drivers during the July 4th holiday season. This year's campaign runs June 28-July 4 with law enforcement agencies running sobriety checkpoints in all 100 counties to help catch drunk drivers and reduce fatalities.

"With the summer, upcoming holidays and people emerging after quarantine -- emergency departments across the state, and the first responders you see here today, will unfortunately see increases in people (especially teenagers and young people) injured or killed after making the unforgivable decision to drink and drive - a tragedy that is completely avoidable," said Dr. Jason Hack, emergency medicine physician for East Carolina University and Vidant Medical Center in Greenville.

The kickoff event celebrated the hard work and sacrifices made by health care workers, emergency medical services, law enforcement, military personnel, and other first responders during the pandemic. Speakers urged North Carolina drivers to help emergency responders by not drinking and driving.

"They have been keeping us and our families, friends and neighbors safe during the COVID-19 pandemic in North Carolina," said Mark Ezzell, director of the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program. "And they will be working again to keep us safe this Fourth of July, when many of us are vacationing and enjoying time with friends and family. "We are grateful for their hard work. But I hope they will not have to handle any impaired driving cases this July 4th holiday."

So far in 2021, 145 people have died in alcohol and drug-related crashes in North Carolina. While that is a decrease from this time last year, it's not enough.

"Law enforcement will be proactively assuring our roads are safe from those that persist in drinking and driving," said Pitt County Sheriff Paula S. Dance. "We want everyone to survive by calling a taxi, Uber, Lyft or a friend. "This one decision - drive or don't drive - will affect everyone on the road. Make it a good decision. Save a life. It could be your own."

The 'Booze It & Lose It' campaign is one of the many traffic safety campaigns led by NCGHSP, which also funds Click It or Ticket, BikeSafe NC, Watch For Me NC, and North Carolina's Vision Zero initiative.

Please support this cause by taking pictures and use the hashtags #BoozeIt&LoseIt #DriveSoberGetPulledOver and #NCGHSP this Fourth of July holiday.



Director of the Anson County Partnership for Children. "With the heightened cleaning procedures in place, we are opening the doors and welcoming the community to visit once again."

Beginning, Tuesday, July 6 patrons can visit the ECRC to hand-select resources and let children explore in the play areas. The Early Childhood Resource Center will be open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m. No appointments are needed to check out items or visit.

The Partnership will continue to make appointments on Thursdays for community members needing car seat checks and installations.

Guests must follow state health guidelines when visiting the ECRC. Do not visit if you are sick or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

With more than 6,000 resources, including games, puzzles, dress-up clothes, and much more, community members are sure to find many items to keep young children learning and actively engaged. Additional resources were recently added, including an expanded infant/toddler selection and science resources.

To celebrate the reopening of the ECRC, visit in July and receive a free annual ECRC membership. ECRC members can check out resources and receive discounts on trainings offered by the Partnership. For more information on the benefits of being an ECRC member, visit www.ansonchildren.org.

The Partnership's Early Childhood Resource Center is located across from the Hampton B. Allen Library at 117 South Greene Street in Wadesboro.

Early Childhood Resource Center to Open Again, Welcomes the Community

The Anson County Partnership for Children will reopen the Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC) to the public on July 6, in time to beat the summer heat with new toys and activities for young children.

Previously, as the Coronavirus cases rose in Anson County, the ECRC operated by appointment-only visits to reduce the spread of the virus.

"For safety, we felt that it was necessary to limit in-person interactions during the height of the Coronavirus," said Caroline Goins, Executive Director of the Anson County Partnership for Children. "With the heightened cleaning procedures in place, we are opening the doors and welcoming the community to visit once again."

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Stride with Pride Shoe Drive is Back for Its 11th Year

Parents, please contact organizers with needs. Donors asked to help area students.

This is a release from Stride with Pride organizers Sheriff Landric Reid and Patti Poulcott of Judy's Tax Service: As I know this pandemic is taking its toll on us all, we want the community to know Stride with Pride is still collecting new tennis shoes and money for the kids in the county. Even with the uncertainty of them returning to school in August, these kids will still need shoes to wear.

This is our 11th annual season of collecting and distributing new tennis shoes to the underprivileged youth of all diversities in Anson County. We will need all sizes, male and female, from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Message to parents "Covid-19 has changed our world and forced us to do things much differently than we have in the past. Instead of having a large gathering to distribute the shoes as we have in the past, we plan to give out the shoes door to door. This will keep contact as little as possible. So, with that in mind, we need to stress the importance of parents contacting us in the next few weeks so that we can buy the shoe sizes that are needed. The quicker you can contact us, the quicker we can get the shoes to the kids.

As a reminder, we need you to either email or text Patti Poulcott or Sheriff Landric Reid with the shoe sizes, ages, and names of each child, along with your current address and contact phone number. That way we will have all the information to make the purchases and deliveries. If you do not contact us we will not know who needs new shoes."

Message to donors "We do this because we care about our kids here in our county, and hope that our donors will join with us and help us continue to help our youth. If you would like to make a donation please mail them to: Shaundasia T Smith Foundation, Stride With Pride Shoe Drive, c/o Judy's Tax Service, 102 South Rutherford Street, Wadesboro NC 28170.

We will be collecting and making deliveries through August 9."

If you have any questions please contact Patti Poulcott or Landric Reid.

• Patti Poulcott - Email: ppoulcott@carolina.rr.com or Text: 704-694-8386

• Landric Reid - Email: trooperone@live.com or Text: 704-695-1371

We hope that you will consider joining us so that we can help our youth "Stride With Pride" their way to success.

Summer Storytime Sessions for Young Children

Starting Thursday, July 8, the Anson County Partnership for Children hosts summer storytime Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the First Presbyterian Church gardens.

These weekly storytime sessions will include a story with a guest reader and a hands-on activity. Storytime activities are geared towards children 3-5 years old, but all are welcome to participate. Children will learn about science, math, history, and much more while participating in literacy-rich activities.

"We have a great group of community volunteers to read and share hobbies and learning activities with the community," said Tracy Harrington. "We are thrilled to engage the public with our first in-person events in more than a year."

The following summer storytime sessions are planned for July:

- July 8th Helping Plants Grow with Aimee Colf, Anson County Co-Operative Extension
- July 15th Lucky Day with Karen Gerald, Anson Partnership for Children
- July 22nd Science Experiments with Justin Jones, Ansonville Elementary School
- July 29th Kindness Rocks with Officer D'Anyia Chance, Wadesboro Police Department

An adult must accompany all children. Families are encouraged to bring beach towels or chairs for added comfort. Children are encouraged to wear play clothes because some of the planned activities include paint, dirt, water, glue, and more.

The First Presbyterian Church Garden is located at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

In case of inclement weather, storytime will occur in the Early Childhood Resource Center, but space will be limited.

For updates on Partnership events, visit their Facebook page or www.ansonchildren.org.

Grace Senior Center is Distributing Free Fans for Eligible Ansonians

"We have a wonderful program being offered this spring and summer to our seniors of Anson County," said Wanda Talbert of Grace Senior Center. "The Operation Heat Fan Relief Project is being offered at Grace Senior Center this spring and summer. Contributions from Duke Energy Progress through the Division of Aging and Adult Services are made available to Area Agencies on Aging to purchase fans in support of Operation Fan Heat Relief, a summer program intended to provide a more comfortable living environment and reduce heat related illnesses.

- The Eligibility Criteria are:
- Must reside in Anson County
- Must be an adult: 60 years of age or older or with a disability
- Must have a home situation where a threat to health and well being exists

If you meet the eligibility criteria and are in need of a fan (limited supply), please call Grace's new temporary phone number (704) 690-6729 or come by the Center during office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Grace Senior Center continues to require mask and temperature checks before entering the building. The Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

Anson County Commissioners Meet July 6

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, July 6 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 County Commissioners."

Did You Attend Movies at the Ansonia Theatre?

Do you have memories of old photos of the Ansonia Theater? First date, what you saw, where you sat, how much you paid for a ticket? The Anson County Arts Council wants to hear from you!

Please send memories, stories, photos, etc to Beth Traywick at: etraywick1@msn.com. Please include as much information as possible, such as dates, names, and details! Your story may be published, so don't be shy!

Beth said, "Thank you to those who have been sharing your stories and experiences. Please keep them coming."

Anson Farmers Market is Open Wednesdays and Saturdays

Purchase locally grown vegetables and other items at the Anson Farmers Market. It is open Wednesdays and Saturdays through the end of September. The hours are 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Farmers Market is located 1736 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro, just past Wadesboro Primary School. For more information contact Francis Campbell at 704-690-0638.