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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 Wednesday, August 17 there were 7,448 total Covid-19 cases to that point, with 58 active cases and 99 deaths. The number of active cases was down significantly from 124 cases reported on August 10.

If you are positive or currently awaiting test results, please stay home. If you are experiencing symptoms, please get tested.

The Health Department stated, "The Covid Testing site on Morven Road is temporarily shut down due to changing vendors. We hope that it will be back up and running very soon. In the meantime, please note you can stop by the Health Department and pick up test kits to keep at home. If you aren't feeling well, you can send someone up here and we will send some to you.

We still offer Moderna vaccine on Thursdays (Walk-In). We are also offering N-95 masks and Rapid Covid tests here at Anson County Health Department. Stop in to pick one up."

For more specific information related to Anson County and NC please visit: covid19.ncdohhs.gov.

The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.

School Board Meeting for August 29 Will be Live Streamed on YouTube

Closed Session begins at 3 p.m.
Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, August 29. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Open Session will begin at about 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.

Family Fall Fest at 2022 Ag Expo & Fair

The 2022 Anson Ag Expo & Fair is set and planning is underway for another great festival for families to enjoy. Family Fall Fest is scheduled for Friday night, September 23 on the square and West Wade Street in Wadesboro, NC. Mark your calendars to come visit, and better yet, participate.

The Anson Ag Expo & Fair Planning Committee has planned an evening of fun, food, music and games for the whole family to enjoy. Festivities will begin at 6:00 pm and conclude around 8:00 pm. Plan to enjoy a fun night for everybody. Carnival type games will be available for all youth and will be located on West Wade Street. There will also be a cupcake walk going on in the street. Games will wrap up around 7:30pm.

Max Millstone BBQ and Emergensweets will be set up for the evening offering food truck fare and drinks. In addition, complimentary popcorn and snow cones will be offered for children and adults.

For those interested in the Ag Fair, it will also be on display on Saturday at the Cooperative Extension Center in Wadesboro from 10 am until 2 pm.

Complete event information is available on the web at anson.ces.ncsu.edu and Facebook, under 2022 Anson Ag Expo & Fair. Like that page to receive event updates and be on the lookout for more postings.

Plan to come out and enjoy the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!

Beekeepers Meet this Thursday

All Anson County Beekeepers members are reminded of the monthly meetings, held on the fourth Thursday. The upcoming meeting will be held this Thursday, August 25 at Welika Fish House in Lilesville. If you would like to eat come at 6 p.m. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. The guest speaker has not been confirmed yet.

Beekeepers meetings are open to everyone who is interested in beekeeping and pollination.

For more information call 704-272-7154 or check their Facebook page, "Anson Beekeepers Association."

North Carolina's July Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted July 2022 unemployment rate was 3.4 percent, remaining unchanged from June's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.5 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased 1.5 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 14,216 over the month to 4,943,277 and increased 213,715 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 558 over the month to 171,711 and decreased 70,710 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 31,400 to 4,788,700 in July. Major industries experiencing increases were Government, 12,900; Professional & Business Services, 5,100; Education & Health Services, 3,600; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 3,600; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,800; Construction, 1,200; Manufacturing, 1,100; Financial Activities, 700; Information, 700; and Other Services, 700. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Since July 2021, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 154,500 with the Total Private sector increasing by 158,800 and Government decreasing by 4,300. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 46,500; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 31,400; Education & Health Services, 22,600; Manufacturing, 13,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 13,100; Financial Activities, 13,000; Other Services, 7,700; Construction, 6,800; and Information, 4,800. Major industries experiencing decreases were Government, 4,300; and Mining & Logging, 200.



Commissioner and NCACC Past President Frank Williams' 100 Counties Prepared presidential initiative.

"County governments perform a number of important functions, but the stakes are higher during an emergency," said NCACC Past President Frank Williams. "I commend every county commissioner and county official who completed this class for their willingness to strengthen their knowledge and skills of how to lead more effectively when it matters the most."

N.C. Director of Emergency Management Will Ray joined Past President Williams in signing certificates of completion for all attendees. Director Ray also provided a video keynote address, in which he stated, "thank you to Commissioner Williams and to the 100 Counties Prepared task force co-chairs and members for the important work done on this critical initiative. This training course is a vital piece to continuing the sustainment and improvement of emergency preparedness across our state. We know that we will continue to have events and incidents that impact North Carolina that will be across all hazards, and we will need counties' continued partnership, standing shoulder-to-shoulder together as we continue to serve our communities."

Williams announced the 100 Counties Prepared initiative upon being sworn in as NCACC President at the NCACC annual conference in 2021 and appointed a statewide task force shortly thereafter. The initiative was born out of Williams' experience serving as Chair of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners during Hurricanes Florence, Dorian, and Isaias, through which he observed a lack of emergency preparedness training suitable for elected officials. The 100 Counties Prepared training was created to fill that void by equipping elected officials with the tools, resources and information needed to lead effectively during emergencies such as natural disasters, public health crises, and other critical incident situations.

"Through my experience serving as Chair of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners during multiple hurricanes, including Florence, I observed that our staff was well trained, but there was little to no emergency preparedness training suitable for elected officials," said Williams. "Thanks to the hard work of our task force and NCACC staff and the commitment of the county officials who completed our first class, we have taken a major step toward filling that void. I'm also grateful to the steadfast support of N.C. Emergency Management Director Will Ray throughout this process, and we look forward to a continued partnership."

- The full day of training included:
- A high-level overview of the complex myriad of legal terminology, roles, and responsibilities related to emergency preparedness and management presented by Kate Van Tol, N.C. Emergency Management Legal Fellow.
 - A discussion about the proper role of commissioners in the emergency management process led by Brunswick County Commissioner Randy Thompson and Washington County Commissioner Ann Keyes, both of whom are retired county-level emergency managers.
 - A session on crisis communication led by Julie Parker of Julie Parker Communications and Meagan Kascsak, Brunswick County's Director of Communications.
 - A panel discussion featuring former N.C. Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry and former FEMA Director Brock Long.

For more information about the 100 Counties Prepared initiative, please visit www.100countiesprepared.com.

About the NCACC The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is a non-partisan organization representing the official voice of all 100 counties on issues considered by the General Assembly, Congress and federal and state agencies. The Association provides expertise to counties in the areas of advocacy, research, risk management and education and leadership training. ncacc.org

2021 Visitor Spending Increases in All 100 North Carolina Counties

Anson County saw 32.9% spending growth rate from 2020 to 2021

Recovery in visitor spending was felt statewide in 2021 with all 100 counties seeing increases, according to data released today by the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The preliminary findings reflect the economic impact of tourism on local economies across the state, and come from an annual study commissioned by Visit North Carolina, a unit of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.

Here are the 2021 visitor numbers for Anson County (in millions): Lodging \$4.26; Food & Beverage \$7.45; Recreation \$2.61; Retail \$1.54; Transportation \$5.21; Total Spending \$21.07; Share of Statewide .1%; Spending Growth Rate 2020-2021 32.9%; Employment 135; Share of Statewide .1%; Labor Income \$4.8; State Taxes \$1.0; Local Taxes \$0.7. The 2021 State & Local Tax Savings Per Resident of Anson County due to visitor spending was \$76.08.

"The strong economic results for one of our most vital industries speak to the resilience of our local tourism partners and to the state's enduring appeal," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "We celebrate the qualities that make North Carolina an attractive destination and are inspired by the people who provide visitors to our state an outstanding travel experience."

The visitor spending study, commissioned by VisitNC and conducted by Tourism Economics in collaboration with the U.S. Travel Association, provides preliminary estimates of domestic and international traveler expenditures as well as employment, payroll income, and state and local tax revenues directly generated by these expenditures. The statistical model draws on detailed data from VisitNC as well as data derived from federal and state government sources, nationally known private and non-profit travel organizations, and other travel industry sources.

Key findings from the study:

- Strong recovery was seen statewide compared to 2020 with visitor spending across the state up 45 percent. Each of the state's 100 counties experienced increases in spending from 2020 to 2021.
- Mecklenburg County received \$4.1 billion (up 46 percent) in traveler expenditures to lead all 100 counties. For the first time, Buncombe County ranked second with \$2.6 billion (up 81 percent), followed by Wake County with \$2.3 billion (up 40 percent), Dare County with \$1.8 billion (up 30 percent) and Guilford County with \$1.3 billion (up 52 percent) in visitor spending.
- Top percentage spending increases from 2020 were Gates County (up 83 percent), Buncombe County (up 81 percent), Beaufort County (up 71 percent), Moore County (up 70 percent) and Alexander County (up 68 percent).
- Seventy-five counties had 2021 spending that topped 2019's record sums. Four of these counties had spending up 50 percent or more from two years ago: Warren County (up 68 percent), Stokes County (up 66 percent), Madison County (up 59 percent) and Alexander County (up 57 percent).
- Mecklenburg County had the largest number of direct tourism employees (28,438), an increase of nearly 6 percent from 2020. Three other counties had more than 10,000 direct tourism employees: Wake (21,357, up 23 percent), Buncombe (18,278, up 31 percent) and Dare (12,295, up 4 percent).
- Top counties for percentage increases in tourism employment were Buncombe (up 31 percent), Gates (up 25 percent), Wake (up 23 percent), Cabarrus (up 21 percent) and Alexander (up 20 percent).

As previously reported, domestic travel statewide reached new heights in 2021, though international visitation lagged. The spending total of \$28.9 billion fell about 1 percent below the record set in 2019. The sum represents a 45 percent increase from pandemic-stricken 2020.

"Just as we're gratified by the achievement statewide in 2021, the county-level report underscores the value of each destination," said Wit Tuttle, director of Visit NC. "This is where travelers experience the state, from its natural beauty to the character of our people. It's also the heart of the economic impact, the sustenance for thousands of businesses and local governments. We look forward to raising the arc even higher as we welcome more people to places they won't find anywhere else."

Full tables can be accessed at partners.visitnc.com/economic-impact-studies.

Anson Commissioner Jarvis T. Woodburn Completes Emergency Preparedness Training

Anson County Commissioner Jarvis T. Woodburn (pictured at left holding a certificate) completed the 100 Counties Prepared Emergency Preparedness Training for County Commissioners at the NC Association of County Commissioners' (NCACC) 115th Annual Conference in Cabarrus County on August 11.

Commissioner Woodburn was one of 61 county officials to complete the class, which was the culmination of Brunswick County

The WannaBeatles Return to Cheraw in September

The Cheraw Arts Commission presents the WannaBeatles at the Theatre on the Green in Cheraw on Thursday, September 22. The WannaBeatles are Grammy finalists who receive standing ovations at theatres, festivals, and events across the country. They have appeared on both national television and on stage where they use their multi-instrumental skills to recreate all eras of the Beatles' songbook and more.

Lewis Realty of Cheraw will host a Meet and Greet for attendees at 6 p.m. followed by the 7 p.m. concert. There will be Photo Opportunities, a Costume Contest, Art and more activities that evening.

There is also an opportunity for a talented musician or singer to perform with the WannaBeatles that evening. The Cheraw Arts Commission is accepting videos until September 9. All entries should be emailed to: lbennett@cheraw.com.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at the Cheraw Community Center, located at 200 Power Street. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843.537.8420 x 12 for additional information.

The Express is on the web at www.TheNewspaper.com