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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 Friday, January 20 the county was at 8,295 total reported Covid-19 cases, with 61 active and 101 deaths. On Friday, January 13 the county was at 8,225 total cases, with 78 active and 101 deaths. On December 14 the county was at 8009 total cases, with 37 active and 100 deaths.

On November 17 the county was at 7,940 total cases, with 25 active and 100 deaths. The Health Department stated that Covid cases have increased since the holidays. If you have not received your updated booster, please come and see them.

The Health Department offers Moderna COVID Vaccines on Thursdays. They offer the primary series and the bivalent "Fall" booster. They are offered on Thursdays in a walk-in clinic. No appointment is necessary.

Flu Shots Please note that flu numbers are high right now so if you have not gotten a flu shot, please do so. If you would like to schedule an appointment for a shot, please call (704) 694-5188.

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 and they will send some to you. The Health Department is also offering N-95 masks.

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.



Little Folks School Students in Wadesboro Circa October 1967

This four-year-old group at the "Little Folks School" in Wadesboro were photographed as they made plans for their Halloween program for family and friends at the school. The program was presented on Friday, October 27, 1967.

They are, from left, front row: Sara Constantian, Dwight McCormick, Mary Charles Howell, Maxine Thomas and Kim Wallace. Back row: Mary Ellen McRorie, Anita Gilmore, Robbie Marsh, Lynn Watts, Richie Livingston, Gene Wall and a very sharp-dressed Gable Gathings.

Governor Cooper Highlighted Investments in NC Racetracks

Governor and NASCAR brass held event celebrating racing's return to North Wilkesboro Speedway

It's been 75 years since the first race at North Wilkesboro Speedway on May 18, 1947, and on the eve of that historic day in 2022, Governor Roy Cooper visited the speedway to highlight the significant investments it would receive for repairs from the state budget and celebrate the return of racing. The Governor was joined by Speedway Motorsports President and CEO Marcus Smith, NASCAR Hall of Fame team owner Richard Childress, legendary NASCAR driver Harry Gant and local Wilkes County officials. For the first time in more than a decade, North Wilkesboro Speedway hosted races in August and October 2022 with Racetrack Revival.

"North Carolina's speedways are strong economic drivers for communities across the state that bring friends, families, and neighbors together for a rip-roaring good time," said Governor Roy Cooper. "North Wilkesboro Speedway is just one of many racetracks that will be able to cross the finish line on much-needed repairs with these state funds — racing on these tracks is back and here to stay."

"From grassroots to NASCAR and from the mountains to the coast, motorsports are truly an economic engine for North Carolina," said Marcus Smith, President and CEO of Speedway Motorsports. "We're grateful for Governor Cooper and the state legislature's support of motorsports. This investment will not only revive North Wilkesboro Speedway, but also support tourism and jobs statewide for the future."

"In addition to being an economic engine, motorsports are an important part of North Carolina history and culture," North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Secretary Reid Wilson said. "The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is excited to announce that the Moonshine and Motorsports Trail will launch in 2023 to help celebrate the rich and diverse history of distilling and racing in our state. The trail aims to drive tourism and benefit local economies across the state, particularly in smaller communities."

"North Carolina is the birthplace of motorsports and NASCAR," said N.C. Commerce Chief Deputy Secretary Jordan Whichard. "The industry contributes millions to our economy, employs thousands of North Carolinians, and offers special training through our state's colleges, universities, and technical schools. With these new investments, motorsports can positively outpace its pre-pandemic impact."

During the visit RCR Chairman and CEO Richard Childress drove Governor Cooper around the track in a vintage racecar (Chevrolet Camaro pace car), and the Governor toured the speedway to see the proposed restoration project. Taylorsville, N.C. native Harry Gant, who won 18 premier series races during his career including the Southern 500 in 1984 and 1991, also joined the Governor's visit to celebrate the return of racing at North Wilkesboro Speedway.

In his budget proposal in 2021, Governor Cooper first included funds to revitalize speedways across North Carolina and in November 2021, he signed state budget including these funds into law. The budget allocates American Rescue Plan funding to speedways across the state, with North Wilkesboro Speedway receiving \$18 million.

Governor Cooper and the North Carolina Department of Commerce announced that 15 local governments have been awarded \$45.8 million to help 17 motorsports venues recover from the pandemic. The money can be used for water, sewer and other infrastructure projects pertaining to the speedways. The grants will enhance local tourism, travel and hospitality industries that benefit from the many motorsports events held in North Carolina.

North Wilkesboro Speedway is one of the first NASCAR tracks and was home to two Winston Cup Series races for several decades. The final NASCAR Cup Series race at North Wilkesboro was held in 1996 and won by NASCAR Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon. The track sat largely abandoned in recent years, but community efforts have helped to bring racing back. The Racetrack Revival event featured nearly a month of grassroots racing on the current pavement in August 2022. Then following removal of the old asphalt, racing returned on the original dirt in October 2022.

Free Movie at the Library is *The Mulligan*

Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing the movie *The Mulligan* on Monday, January 30 at 10 a.m. in the Pritchett room. The movie is based on the book "The Mulligan" by Wally Armstrong and stars Pat Boone and Eric Close. Everyone is invited to come. Any questions call 704-694-5177.

North Carolina's December Employment Figures

The state's seasonally adjusted December 2022 unemployment rate was 3.9 percent, unchanged from November's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.5 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed decreased 2,447 over the month to 4,923,281 and increased 138,612 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 486 over the month to 200,940 and decreased 6,123 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 5,400 to 4,846,400 in December. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 4,900; Other Services, 1,100; Construction, 900; Education & Health Services, 300; and Professional & Business Services, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 700; Manufacturing, 600; Government, 500; and Mining & Logging, 100. Information and Financial Activities employment remained unchanged.

Since December 2021, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 190,300 with the Total Private sector increasing by 175,300 and Government increasing by 15,000. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 47,100; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 46,100; Education & Health Services, 29,800; Government, 15,000; Financial Activities, 13,600; Construction, 11,000; Other Services, 9,100; Manufacturing, 9,000; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 6,800; and Information, 2,900. The only major industry experiencing a decrease over the year was Mining & Logging, 100.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since December 2021

	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	Jun 2022	Jul 2022	Aug 2022	Sep 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022
N.C.	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9
U.S.	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.5

ACORNS Alert System Keeps the Anson Community Informed During Emergency Situations

Public safety officials encourage residents to create and update their information in the Nnew ACORNS platform

In May 2022 public safety officials in Anson County announced that ACORNS was now available to all residents, replacing the previous ACORN system. ACORNS is a free service that allows individuals to receive notifications sent from National Weather Service (NWS) and local authorities to stay informed on potentially hazardous situations involving weather, traffic and other emergencies, including the spread of the coronavirus.

The switch to ACORNS allows residents to receive alerts via phone, text and email, and answer poll questions that will give Anson County officials critical information during emergency situations. Individuals who are signed up for alerts will receive reliable information from county officials, including tailored updates based on their specific needs and geographic location.

Individuals who were previously signed up for ACORN will need to enroll in ACORNS, and to review and update their information in the new platform to ensure accuracy. Residents and travelers to Anson County who were not previously signed up for ACORN should sign up for free at www.co.anson.nc.us to receive timely and actionable emergency alerts via email, text or voice message. They can also identify when and how they are alerted and communicated with before, during and after emergencies.

"ACORNS strengthens Anson County officials' ability to communicate with residents when it matters most," said R. Diggs, Chief, Anson County Emergency Services. "This service allows for critical communication with the public and provides individuals with the information needed to stay safe or take precautions during hazardous or emergency situations, especially during severe weather."

ACORNS is powered by Rave and is trusted by thousands of institutions including state and local authorities, business and educational institutions. Rave sends millions of messages daily and during critical situations such as severe weather.

Community members are encouraged to sign up for ACORNS and input or update their information and notification preferences today at www.co.anson.nc.us.

School Board Meeting is January 30

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, January 30. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Open Session to the public 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.

Crafts and Workshops with Yarn for Seniors

Let's have some fun! Seniors, would you like to create something out of yarn? How cool would it be to exercise your fingers and wrist without feeling exhausted? Grace Senior Center is offering "Crafts and Workshops" for our Seniors on Thursday, January 26 at 12:00 noon. What a fun way to craft and enjoy one another. For more information please call Tonja Smith, Activity Director, at (704) 694-6616. They are located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

Beekeepers Meet January 26

Anson County Beekeepers members are reminded of the monthly meetings, held on the fourth Thursday. The upcoming meeting will be held this Thursday, January 26 at Welika Fish House Restaurant in Lilesville. If you would like to eat, come at 6 p.m., pay your own meal. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. The guest speaker has not been confirmed yet.

Anson County Beekeepers meeting are open to everyone who is interested in having bees for honey and pollination as well. For more information call 704-272-7154 or check their Facebook page, "Anson Beekeepers Association."

Bowman High School Class of 1973 Reunion

All classmates of the Bowman High School Class of 1973 are invited to attend a meeting to plan the 50th class reunion.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, January 28 at 3 p.m. at the Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro.

For information contact Brenda S. Rorie at 704-695-5196.

Discover Your Inner Artist

The Cheraw Arts Commission is offering 3 weeks of oil painting classes in February. Class dates are February 1, 8, & 15 from 12noon to 2pm at the Cheraw Community Center – 200 Powe Street.

The class instructor is artist Vicky McLain. All skill levels can participate including beginners. Cost for 3 weeks is \$60. A Supply list will be provided upon registration. Participants will create a Blue Jay Bird painting in oils.

Call the Cheraw Arts Commission for additional information and to pre-register by January 30 at 843.537.8420 x 12.

Grace Senior Center Sweet Heart Drop In

Be sweet to your heart! Grace Senior Center invites all seniors on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 12 noon. Music will be provided by N2HIM.

They are located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA. For information call 704-694-6616.