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

2,454 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, April 5 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 2,454 reported cases of COVID-19. 25 of those cases were active and 56 deaths.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, April 12 there were 1,469 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,290 deaths and 904 hospitalized.

Statewide, as of April 5 there were 1,054 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,173 deaths and 907 hospitalized. March 29 there were 1,372 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,085 deaths and 873 hospitalized. March 1 there were 862,170 cases of COVID-19, 11,254 deaths, 10,291,482 tests and 1,219 hospitalized. February 1: 761,302 cases, 9,342 deaths, 8,908,258 tests, 2,781 hospitalized. January 4: 570,111 cases, 6,941 deaths, 7,119,201 tests, 3,192 hospitalized. December 7: 404,032 cases, 5,605 deaths, 5,678,794 tests, 2,373 hospitalized. November 2: 278,028 cases, 4,390 deaths, 4,116,019 tests, 1,146 hospitalized. October 5: 219,754 cases, 3,637 deaths, 3,188,371 tests, 971 hospitalized.

Recent history in Anson County: March 31, 2020: 1 case; April 28 - 23 cases (no deaths); May 26: 62 cases (1 death); June 22: 107 cases (2 deaths); July 27: 285 cases (2 deaths); August 31: 440 cases (4 deaths); September 28: 605 cases (4 deaths); October 26: 720 cases (9 deaths); November 30: 937 cases (14 deaths); December 31: 1,444 cases; (28 deaths); January 25: 1,957 cases (42 deaths); February 22: 2,258 (53 deaths); March 1: 2,298 cases (53 deaths); March 29: 2144 cases (56 deaths); April 5: 2,433 cases (56 deaths).

Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to www.ncdhhs.gov.



Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Hosts an Easter Egg Hunt

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center celebrated Easter with a big Easter Egg Hunt. The kids enjoyed delicious food, and there were toys and prizes.

Volunteer Tekesha Hammond has coordinated the Easter Egg Hunt and for the past 3 years. The volunteer assistants were Mitchell Kiser, Brenda Benton and Mary Hammond. With their assistance the event was safe, fun and successful, with the coordination of this event carried out differently this year. Due to the Covid pandemic last year the hunt was cancelled.

When the egg hunt began children started running throughout the playground. The children were looking high and low trying to find the most eggs or the golden egg. There also were other games such as spelling bee, musical chairs, coloring, drawing and taking pictures for all to enjoy.

After the hunt was over lunch was prepared and served to all who attended. The meal consisted of hot dogs, chips, cookies and a variety of juices. Congratulations, candies and gifts were provided to the children who participated.

All supporters and volunteers who made contributions to help with the event were appreciated.

The winners were: Cavin Hammond found the Golden Egg, and found a total of 32 eggs
 • Kennedy Williams had 32 eggs as well • Laila Hammond found 31 eggs • Gabriel Hershey found 29 eggs
 • Jayla Crowder found 27 eggs • Dylan Hershey found 15,384,384 eggs

Board of Education Budget Development Workshop is April 20

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a budget development workshop on Tuesday, April 20, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools YouTube channel for the public to see. To find the channel, you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools." The meeting will take place in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

The Governor's orders on indoor gatherings will be enforced. Social distancing requirements will be enforced and masks will be required.

At Home COVID-19 Testing Now Available for People with Disabilities

Getting tested for COVID-19 is about protecting yourself and your loved ones. To help ensure everyone has access to COVID-19 testing, the NC Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with NC-based Labcorp, has launched a pilot program to provide 35,000 no-cost, at-home COVID-19 test collection kits for North Carolinians who may face difficulties traveling to testing sites.

Eligible North Carolina residents can request a Pixel by Labcorp COVID-19 PCR Test Home Collection Kit be shipped overnight directly to their homes by visiting pixel.labcorp.com or calling (800) 833-3935. The test kit includes test supplies (nasal swab, sample container, etc.), detailed instructions and prepaid specimen return shipping materials to make mailing samples back to Labcorp for testing easy and convenient. Results are typically reported back to the individual within 24 to 48 hours from the time the specimen is received at the lab. Once processed by Labcorp, test results are accessed by the customer via the Pixel by Labcorp website.

Who is eligible for the no-cost test collection kit program?

- Persons who receive Food and Nutritional Services (FNS) benefits
- Persons with disabilities such as cognitive/intellectual, physical and sensory, substance abuse, mental health and other disabilities that impact their ability to access COVID-19 testing sites

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or think you may need to get tested, please get tested.

Unemployment Rate Rose in February

Anson County's unemployment rate for February was 7.5%, down a bit from January's 7.7% rate. In December it was 7.1%. In November the rate was 7.2%. The October rate was 7.2%, the September rate was 8.5%, the August rate was 8%, the July rate was 10%, the June rate was 7.9%, May's rate was 10.1% and April's rate was 8.2%. In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%.

Statewide the February unemployment rate was 5.6%. In January and December the rates were 6%. In November and October the rate was 6.1%. In September the rate was 7%. In August the rate was 6.8%. In July the unemployment rate was 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in February was 10,610. Of that number 9,815 were employed and 795 were unemployed. In January the total labor force was 10,576, with 9,764 employed and 812 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 96 of North Carolina's counties in February, increased in three, and remained unchanged in one. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 10.9 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 4.0 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville had the highest rate at 7.8 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill and Raleigh each had the lowest at 4.7 percent. The February not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 5.6 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 99 counties and decreased in one. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in February by 46,644 to 4,722,326, while those unemployed decreased by 14,589 to 281,902. Since February 2020, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 215,747, while those unemployed increased 107,577.

Anson County Now a Part of the Visit NC Farms Mobile App

This is a release from Roshunda Terry, County Extension Director: Anson County is one of the newest communities on the Visit NC Farms App, created by the NC Department of Agriculture. The app is intended to connect the community and tourist to local agriculture, local foods, and agriculture related events. While the Visit NC Farm App is a statewide program of NCDA, administration of the app is handled locally. The app captures all aspects of local grown, raised, caught and made and has eight different sections that include: Farms & Fisheries, Pick Your Own, Farmers Markets, Local Food & Drink, Shop Local, Farms Stays & Lodging, Tours & Trails and Special Events. The app can be downloaded for free from the Apple App Store or Android App.

Visit NC Farms is facilitating a statewide marketing campaign for the spring starting mid-April. This campaign will run until mid-June. Marketing is an important component to a successful business. It's used to keep customers informed about the products or services they are offering. This creates brand awareness and keeps customers engaged with these businesses.

Anson County Cooperative Extension will be highlighting all of our assets in weekly promotional social media posts and promoting the app through media releases. As we continue to promote Visit NC Farms to the general public, Anson Extension is putting together a raffle prize basket filled with items from our participating farm assets. More details about how you can participate will be released soon. Currently Anson County's local assets are Anson Agri-Science FFA-Greenhouse Innovation Center, Abundant Living Farm, Bountiful Harvest Farms, Brown Creek Creamery, Coble's Landing, Horne Farm, Hyatt Farm Sporting Clays, Old Blue Farms, Pee Dee Orchards, They Will Be Done and Vineyards at the Old Place.

To find out more about the Visit NC Farms App or to see if your farm or farm business qualify to be a part of this initiative, please call the Extension Office at 704.694.2915.

North Carolina's COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Opens for 16 and Older

Last week Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. gave an update on the state's current data, trends and vaccination progress as April 7 also marked the opening of vaccine eligibility for Group 5. This means anyone 16 years and older who wants a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination is eligible to get one.

"We remain focused on getting people vaccinated as quickly and as equitably as possible and continuing to slow the spread of the virus," said Governor Cooper. "The more people we vaccinate, the more we can safely do."

North Carolina continues to focus on distributing vaccines quickly and equitably. To date, the state has administered over 5.2 million doses. 39 percent of those 18 and up is at least partially vaccinated, and 26 percent of those 18 and up have been fully vaccinated.

"These tested, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines will help us get back in control of our lives and back to the people and places we love - like safely hugging a grandmother, traveling to see vaccinated family or friends, or having a potluck dinner with your vaccinated neighbors," said Secretary Cohen.

State health officials are continuing to monitor the presence of COVID-19 and its more contagious variants in North Carolina, which is why it is important to continue to follow the state's mask mandate and practice safety precautions, including the Three Ws - wear a mask, wait 6 feet apart, and wash hands often.

2021 NC Strawberry Season Underway

April signals the start of strawberry season in North Carolina, and local growers are optimistic about the 2021 season and anticipate a crop that should last through Memorial Day.

"The recent hard frost kept strawberry growers busy protecting the plants' tender blooms, but farmers have reported that those efforts seem to have been successful and consumers will be able to find local berries," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "I enjoy seeing fresh North Carolina strawberries at pick-your-own farms, roadside stands, farmers markets and grocery stores. I know they will be the freshest and best tasting berries available."

The N.C. Strawberry Association provides a listing of you-pick strawberry farms with contact information at www.ncstrawberry.com/farm-locator.

North Carolina ranks fourth nationally in strawberry production, growing 1,100 acres of strawberries annually.

Last year, the strawberry season began around the time the first COVID-19 case was diagnosed in North Carolina. Growers responded by taking additional measures to protect employees and consumers, including installing additional hand washing stations; providing hand sanitizers for employees and customers; requiring employees to wear disposable gloves while handling produce; and ensuring sick employees stay home.

In addition, several pick-your-own farms encouraged social distancing by limiting the number of rows that could be picked and limiting groups to 10 people or less. Many strawberry farms are continuing the practices started last year for this season.

The N.C. Strawberry Association will host two contests on its Facebook page, @NCstrawberry. A recipe contest and a strawberry photo contest will be held during the strawberry season, and winners will receive a prize. Visit the association's Facebook page to enter the contests, beginning April 15.

Community Outreach Offers Household Items on April 24

The Lamb of God Church in Wadesboro will hold a Community Outreach Event on Saturday, April 24 at 10 a.m. This will be a drive-in service, and they will be giving out free household items and paper products on a first come, first served basis.

The event will be held at 118 West Wade Street in Wadesboro.

If you would like to donate or volunteer for the event, please call 843-623-3777. The website is www.logomchurch.com.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic is Saturday

You can have your pet vaccinated for only \$6

The Fall Rabies Vaccination Clinic will be held this Saturday, April 17, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Brown Creek Animal Hospital on Highway 74 in Polkton. This is the perfect opportunity for you to vaccinate your pet for only \$6.

The clinic will be set up at the back.

All dogs, cats and ferrets four months of age and older must have a current rabies vaccination that is administered by a licensed veterinarian.

The vaccination clinic is sponsored by Anson County Health Department and Brown Creek Animal Hospital.

Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament is Saturday

The 7th Annual Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament, sponsored by Gum Springs Baptist Church Youth, will be held this Saturday, April 17. The event will take place at Twin Valley Golf Club with 8 a.m. and 12 noon shotgun starts.

This is a two man Captains Choice with 1 A player per team. The cost is \$50 per person which includes golf, a cart and lunch. Mulligans will be sold. There will be a split the pot on hole 14.

There will be cash prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place. Also closest to the pin prize and a longest drive prize.

For registration and sign up sheets contact Twin Valley at 704-694-2336.

Sponsorships are available. There are four levels of sponsorship:

- Gold Sponsor - Company name on hole sign, fees & lunch paid for 2 teams, name on scoreboard, name on drink stations. \$525
- Silver Sponsor - Company name on hole sign, fees & lunch paid for 1 team, name on scoreboard. \$300
- Bronze Sponsor - Company name on hole sign, name on scoreboard. \$200
- Hole Sponsor - Company name on hole sign. \$115

Sponsorships will be available until Wednesday, April 14. You can call Lynn Whitlock for more information at 704-695-2200.

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