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

Anson Had 90 Reported Cases of COVID-19 as of Tuesday, June 16

As of Tuesday, June 16 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 90 reported cases of COVID-19, with 10 of those cases active. At this point they have discharged 80 cases, 79 to baseline health and one death.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate was 8.2% in April, Up from March's 4.2%

Anson County's unemployment rate for April moved significantly higher, to 8.2%. In March the unemployment rate was 4.9%. Statewide the unemployment rate was 12.5% in April, a large jump up from March's 4.2% rate. The last time Anson County's unemployment rate was at this amount or higher was in August 2014, when the unemployment rate was 8.7%. Anson's total labor force in April was 10,052. Of that number 9,226 were employed and 826 were unemployed. In March the total labor force was 10,814, with 10,281 employed and 533 unemployed. Over 1,000 more Ansonians were unemployed from March to April. Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased all 100 of North Carolina's counties in April. Dare County had the highest unemployment rate at 24.5 percent, while Bertie County had the lowest at 6.4 percent.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton had the highest rate at 17.6 percent and Durham-Chapel Hill and Greenville each had the lowest rate at 9.5 percent. The April not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 12.5 percent. When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in all 100 counties. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in April by 676,373 to 4,090,238, while those unemployed increased by 372,497 to 585,304. Since April 2019, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 781,342, while those unemployed increased 406,392.

COVID-19 Testing at Anson Regional Medical Services

This is a release from Anson Regional Medical Services: Until further notice, Anson Regional Medical Services, Inc. (ARMS) will provide coronavirus swab testing for active infection only. Drive through testing will be scheduled every Tuesday at 203 Salisbury Street, Wadesboro, NC, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. By appointment only.

- Call 704-694-6700, ask for extension 230: Leave the following information:
- Name • Telephone number (working numbers only)
 - Date of Birth
 - ARMS will contact you within 24 hours to determine your eligibility for a test appointment. We will ask you:
 - screening questions to determine if testing is appropriate
 - If an appointment time is scheduled ARMS will complete a lab requisition for testing. On the day of your appointment you will need to bring the following information: (Your appointment may be rescheduled if you do not bring the required information.)
 - A copy of your Insurance card (if applicable) Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, etc.
 - A signed statement that you are uninsured
 - Only orders from your primary care provider will be accepted (it must include the Provider name and fax It). At the time of your appointment you will be given instructions by an ARMS provider for "stay at home" until we contact you with your swab test results. We should receive results in 2-3 days. An ARMS provider will contact you regarding your test results in 2-3 days, your results will also be forwarded to your primary care provider by the lab.
 - If you require a physician excuse for days you must "stay at Home" you must obtain this from your primary care provider.
 - Please do not contact our office for results, we will contact you.
 - ARMS will not assume responsibility for completing requests for test results.
 - ARMS will not provide antibody testing.

"Get Ready, Get Set, Have Fun" BRLC Summer Fun Day Camp

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center will hold their annual Summer Fun Day Camp again this year. The camp includes:

- Home Cooked Breakfast and Lunch daily
- Inspirational Time
- Creative Arts Enrichment
- Exercise/Outdoor Activities
- Academic Enrichment & Life Skill Training
- Technical Training
- Weekly Librarian Activities

The camp is for kids 5 years old and up. It is held two days a week - Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - from June 23 to July 30. This program is proven to be extremely valuable to both children and parents during the summer. Because of COVID-19 guidelines only 10 children will be able to attend at the start. You must register your child now. There is a possibility for 10 more campers, but as for now 10 is the limit. If you as parents or guardians feel that this is an opportunity for your child/children please enrolled them today. You may call 704-778-7478 for more information. Remember once the slots have been taken there will not be any extra space. BRLC apologizes, but due to social distancing van transportation is not available for SFDC. Parents will need to provide transportation for their children. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737. For more information visit www.burnsvilleelc.org.



This is a release from Pee Dee Electric: Pee Dee Electric is proud to award Feed My Lambs Ministries, Inc. the CoBank/Pee Dee Electric "Sharing Success" matching grant. Feed my Lambs Ministries, Inc. will receive two checks totaling \$20,000 - \$10,000 from Pee Dee Electric and \$10,000 from CoBank, a national cooperative bank that partners with industries across rural America. The funds will be used to purchase a new walk-in cooler and a separate walk-in freezer. The purchase will allow the organization to replace two older units in need of costly repairs. "In April, Feed my Lambs number of clients increased by a third due to the pandemic's impact on our area," explained Lisa Holt, Executive Director. "As our numbers increased for assistance, our need for the new cooler and freezer became a priority. Our current units were old and in need of costly repairs. On behalf of Feed My Lambs, I would like to thank Pee Dee Electric and CoBank for their contribution and continued support of our organization. Located in Anson County, Feed my Lambs provides food and other essentials to families in Anson County. Since March, the organization has served 630 families, 1,444 individuals, and added 30 new families. The Sharing Success grant opportunity is a joint grant in partnership with CoBank, a national cooperative bank. The matching grant program is designed to support individual communities across the country. "Thanks to CoBank and our board of directors, the Sharing Success Grant allows Pee Dee Electric to give back to the communities we serve," said Pee Dee Electric, CEO Donnie Spivey. Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. Pee Dee's service area consists of Anson, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly and Union counties. For more information about Pee Dee Electric, please visit www.pdemc.com.

Pee Dee Electric Partners with CoBank to Award Sharing Success Grant to Feed My Lambs Ministries

This is a release from Pee Dee Electric: Pee Dee Electric is proud to award Feed My Lambs Ministries, Inc. the CoBank/Pee Dee Electric "Sharing Success" matching grant. Feed my Lambs Ministries, Inc. will receive two checks totaling \$20,000 - \$10,000 from Pee Dee Electric and \$10,000 from CoBank, a national cooperative bank that partners with industries across rural America. The funds will be used to purchase a new walk-in cooler and a separate walk-in freezer. The purchase will allow the organization to replace two older units in need of costly repairs. "In April, Feed my Lambs number of clients increased by a third due to the pandemic's impact on our area," explained Lisa Holt, Executive Director. "As our numbers increased for assistance, our need for the new cooler and freezer became a priority. Our current units were old and in need of costly repairs. On behalf of Feed My Lambs, I would like to thank Pee Dee Electric and CoBank for their contribution and continued support of our organization. Located in Anson County, Feed my Lambs provides food and other essentials to families in Anson County. Since March, the organization has served 630 families, 1,444 individuals, and added 30 new families. The Sharing Success grant opportunity is a joint grant in partnership with CoBank, a national cooperative bank. The matching grant program is designed to support individual communities across the country. "Thanks to CoBank and our board of directors, the Sharing Success Grant allows Pee Dee Electric to give back to the communities we serve," said Pee Dee Electric, CEO Donnie Spivey. Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. Pee Dee's service area consists of Anson, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly and Union counties. For more information about Pee Dee Electric, please visit www.pdemc.com.

Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen Coming To Wadesboro

This is a release from the AnsonEDP: Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, a Miami-based quick-service restaurant chain, has announced its new Wadesboro location on U.S. Highway 74 near uptown. The 1,900 square foot facility will be built on a currently vacant lot between Autozone and Arby's. Construction will begin immediately and should be completed in about four months. Popeyes is expected to invest about \$2 million in the new restaurant and will create about 30 new jobs. The announcement continues a boom in investment along the U.S. 74 "Strip" in Wadesboro, Anson County, North Carolina, where Wendy's, McDonald's, Bojangles, Burger King, Roses, and KFC have all built new stores or remodeled existing locations over the past two years. Founded in 1972, Popeyes distinguishes itself with a unique New Orleans style menu featuring spicy chicken, chicken tenders, fried shrimp, and other regional items. This unique and flavorful food has allowed Popeyes to become one of the world's largest chicken quick-service restaurants, with over 2,700 units in the U.S. and around the world.

Governor Cooper Establishes Task Force to Address Racial Inequity in the State Criminal Justice System

Executive Order Sets Path to Eliminate Systemic Racial Bias in Criminal Justice

Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order No. 145 forming the North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice. The task force will recommend solutions to stop discriminatory law enforcement and criminal justice practices, and hold public safety officers accountable. "We must acknowledge racial inequities in our systems of law enforcement and criminal justice, and then work to eliminate them. This task force will address policies and procedures that disproportionately burden communities of color," said Governor Cooper. Led by Attorney General Josh Stein and North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls, the task force will convene a wide range of stakeholders including: community policing advocates, state and local law enforcement agencies, justice-involved individuals, representatives of the judicial branch, individuals from marginalized populations and more. The task force will develop and help implement policy solutions to address systemic racial bias in criminal justice and submit legislative and municipal recommendations on or before December 1, 2020. Additionally, the Order creates a Center for the Prevention of Law Enforcement Use of Deadly Force within the State Bureau of Investigation to track statistics and improve training related to the use of force. This week, Secretary of the Department of Public Safety Erik Hooks directed law enforcement agencies under the purview of DPS to ensure each division has a duty to intervene policy in place. He also directed that divisions conduct policy reviews on use of force, de-escalation techniques, arrest procedures, cultural sensitivity training and internal investigation processes. Executive Order No. 145 directs cabinet agencies and encourages non-cabinet state agencies with sworn law enforcement officers to do the same. "We can stop the use of excessive force by police and we know what is needed to achieve racial equity, now is the time to put that knowledge to work," said North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls. "I am grateful to the Governor and the Attorney General for recognizing that the Judicial Branch has a crucial role to play in eliminating racial disparities in the criminal justice system, and I am committed to a collaborative process with meaningful community involvement to achieve those goals in short order." "The Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice will consider and implement strategies to bring about real change in the criminal justice system. For way too long, Black people have not been treated equitably in the United States. We have to fix that," said North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein. "I look forward to working closely with co-chair Justice Anita Earls and the full Task Force to making North Carolina a safe place for every person, no matter who you are." Communities of color are disproportionately affected at each stage of the criminal justice system, with national data showing the following:

- Black adults are 5.9 times as likely to be incarcerated than white adults;
- Hispanic adults are 3.1 times as likely to be incarcerated than white adults;
- Black drivers are approximately twice as likely as white drivers to be pulled over by law enforcement for a traffic stop;
- Black defendants are more likely to be jailed before trial than white defendants;
- The murders of white people are more likely to be solved than the murders of Black people;
- When Black men and white men are convicted of the same crime, Black men receive a prison sentence that is 20 percent longer;
- Black women are imprisoned at twice the rate as white women; and
- Black men are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by law enforcement than are white men, and Black women are 1.4 times more likely to be killed by law enforcement than are white women.

This task force follows Governor Cooper's Executive Order 143, which will address longstanding social, environmental, economic, and health disparities in communities of color that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. People interested in being on the task force can visit the Governor's website to apply, bc.governor.nc.gov/Apply.

NC 4-H Virtual Camp Out

North Carolina 4-H is excited to offer a 4-H virtual summer camp experience for school-aged youth on June 22-26. Registration is free! Registration is open now. You can follow the event on Facebook or contact Sam Cole at the Anson Cooperative Extension for more information at 704-694-2415. The website is anson.ces.ncsu.edu. Also if you aren't already, follow the Anson County 4-H Facebook page for local 4-H opportunities, programs, and updates.

Free Household Items on June 27

The Lamb of God Church in Wadesboro will hold a Community Outreach Event on Saturday, June 27 at 11 a.m. They are offering 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.

June Mobile Food Pantry Info

Here are statistics from the June Mobile Food Pantry which was held on Wednesday, June 3 at Forestville United Methodist Church. An excellent variety of fresh produce, dairy and meat products were available.

- Total Families: 50
- Children & Youth up to Age 18: 31
- Youth & Adults Ages 19-64: 66
- Adults Over Age 65: 28

"Anson Crisis Ministry received 13,225 pounds of undistributed food that is continuing to be given out," added Barnes. "We are experiencing increased requests for food because of the current crisis." The next Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, July 1 at Marshville United Methodist Church, located at 310 Ross Street in Marshville. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. Anson Crisis Ministry is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-2445, email is ansoncrisisministry@windstream.net and the website is: www.ansoncrisisministry.org.

Farmers Market Opens for the Season this Saturday

Purchase locally grown vegetables and other items at the Anson County Farmers Market. The market will open for the season this Saturday, June 20 at 7:30 a.m. It is open on 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.