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GRADUATION SPECIAL EDITION...CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ANSON COUNTY GRADUATES

Covid Update for Anson County

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Wednesday, June 15 there were 6,773 total Covid-19 cases, with 73 active and 99 deaths. On Friday, June 3 there were 6,714 cases, with 64 active and 99 deaths.

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

Please note that if you have taken a home test with positive results, you are not required to report it to the Health Department. However, if you would like to report it, you can give the Health Department a call (704-694-5188) and they will take down your information and report in the state system.

Moderna Covid vaccines are available for everyone 5 years old and older, including walk-in clinics. (Children 5-11 by appointment only.) Vaccine boosters are available. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information. Walk-in clinics are held on Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Vaccines for children ages 6 months to 5 years old. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approved the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines on Saturday, June 18 for kids ages 6 months to 5 years old. Call the Health Department to learn more.

N-95 masks and Rapid COVID tests are offered at the Health Department. Stop in to pick one up. (Limited supply.) The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.

Covid Testing Free testing is available Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. without an appointment. They are closed for lunch 12 noon to 1 p.m. Testing takes place in the old hospital parking lot at 500 Morven Road in Wadesboro. No appointment is needed and there is no charge for the Covid test. Results will be called or emailed directly to the person tested or, in the case of children, to their parent or adult caregiver, in 2-3 days. They will test anyone over the age of 1.

Free home Covid tests are available by mail. Visit (www.covidtests.gov) or call 1-800-232-0233.

Free Fans Provided to Seniors and Those with Disabilities

Operation Fan Heat Relief Program 2022

The Anson County Council on Aging/Grace Senior Center has been awarded a grant this summer from Progress Energy called Operation Fan Heat Relief (OFHR). Fans are purchased through this wonderful grant for the summer. This program is intended to provide a more comfortable living environment and reduce heat related illnesses.

The Applicant eligibility criteria are:

1. Must reside in Anson County
2. Must be an adult: 60 years of age or older or with a disability
3. Must have a home situation where a threat to health and well-being exists

Funds will not be used for:

1. Direct cash assistance
2. Payment of utility bills

If you meet the requirements and need a fan please call Wanda Talbert, Elderly Services Director (704) 694-6616.



Anson County Schools 2022 Junior Marshals

Congratulations to the 2022 Junior Marshals from Anson High School and Anson County Early College.

The Anson County Early College Junior Marshals are: Mallory Chey' Anne Cox, Jada Alexandria Harrington, Angelica Anabel Lugo-Pineda, Mayci Grace McCollum and Tyler Nguyen.

The Anson High School Junior Marshals are: Madison Elizabeth Benton, McCormick Dewitt Brock, Gideon Alexander Clements, Kaylee Elizabeth Eckersley, Malayasia Demetress Gabriel, Humza Hassan, Emma Claire Horne, Audrey Blake Hyatt, Brooklyn Camille Lear, Cierra Jordan Lear, Joshua Nathan Lomax, Camryn Jessica Martin, Lynlee Paige Martin, John Trenton, Taylor and Natalie Blair Threadgill.

Anson County Farmers Market Opens Saturday

It's that time of year again, the Anson County Farmers Market will open this Saturday, June 25. The market will be open each Saturday and Wednesday, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 "noonish." If you would like to sell at the Farmers Market there is a \$10 annual registration, and an additional \$3 table fee per day.

Contact Francis Campbell to secure your table and start selling, 704-690-0638.

Get Tickets Now for Ghost: The Musical, Coming to the Ansonia

Ghost: The Musical is the next play coming to the Ansonia Theatre, August 5 through 14.

Ghost: the Musical is a timeless fantasy about the power of love. Longtime couple Sam and Molly are happily in love and living together in Brooklyn. Walking back to their apartment one night, they are mugged at gunpoint, leaving Sam murdered on a dark street. Sam is trapped between this world and the next as a ghost and unable to leave Molly - who he quickly learns is in grave danger. With the help of a storefront psychic named Oda Mae Brown, Sam tries to communicate with Molly in the hope of protecting her. Featuring such popular songs as "With You" and the Righteous Brothers' classic "Unchained Melody," this powerful love story is sure to become a fan favorite!

You can purchase tickets now by visiting: ansoniatheatre.com or by calling 704-694-4950.

Cheraw Arts Commission Summer Art Classes for Kids

The Cheraw Arts Commission is offering Summer Art Classes for Kids in June & July. The "Young at Art" classes are geared for 1st through 4th grades and 5th grade & up. The initial classes will be June 27-30 at the Cheraw Community Center. Ella Prevatte will be the instructor for all classes.

- 1st -4th graders will attend from 9am -10:30am and will create art & crafts inspired by famous artists. The June fee for this group is \$35 with all supplies provided. The class for 5th grade & up is scheduled from 11:00am-1:00pm. This group will receive instruction in basic drawing and painting. The June registration fee is \$40 with all supplies provided.
- Additional classes will be held July 25-28 for the same age groups. The July registration fees will be \$35 and \$40. Registration is now available for the June Classes at the Cheraw Community Center, located at 200 Powe Street. Call the Cheraw Arts Commission for additional information at 843.537.8420 x 12.

June 19 Declared as Juneteenth Day in North Carolina

Governor Roy Cooper has proclaimed June 19 as Juneteenth Day in North Carolina to honor the oldest known commemoration of the abolition of slavery in the United States. "As we celebrate Black heritage, liberation, freedom and the great progress we have made, we must continue to be aware that systemic racism still persists," Governor Cooper said. "Although we've come a long way since 1865, there's more work to do." Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 that the news of freedom reached some of the last enslaved men and women in the United States.

Despite over 150 years of progress since the abolition of slavery, Black communities still face economic, institutional and social barriers. To address the barriers that communities of color face, Governor Cooper established two task forces in June 2020. The Andrea Harris Task Force addresses the social, economic and health disparities in communities of color. The North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice works on developing solutions to ensure racial equity in the state's criminal justice system.

On June 1, the North Carolina Department of Administration's Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) reopened applications for grant funds for certified HUBs and disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) firms impacted by COVID-19 through the RETOOLNC grant program. This program awards up to \$25,000 to eligible certified small, underutilized businesses to help with pandemic recovery efforts. Since the RETOOLNC Program started in 2020, it has distributed over \$21 million to HUBs and DBEs across the state.

- Learn more about the Andrea Harris Task Force at ncadmin.nc.gov/ahtf
- Learn more about the North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice at governor.nc.gov/issues/public-safety/task-force-racial-equity-criminal-justice-trec

SHIIP Helps Save N.C. Medicare Beneficiaries Millions

On Monday, June 13 North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey announced that the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) saved the state's seniors \$30 million last year. Many retirees and Medicare beneficiaries on a fixed income want to save money wherever they can. Each year, thousands of people contact the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) throughout the state to help them identify savings in their Medicare coverages.

Throughout the year, but particularly during the Medicare Open Enrollment period from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, Medicare beneficiaries are urged to compare their current coverage for the Part D prescription drug plan to determine if their current plan is still the most appropriate for the coming year. Each year formularies change, prices change and programs change. Often, Medicare beneficiaries are unaware of the differences.

In 2021, SHIIP and its coordinating sites statewide assisted 58,000 consumers in saving on their healthcare. In addition, nearly 1,500 consumers received assistance applying for the Extra Help program.

If you have questions about Medicare or the Extra Help program, contact SHIIP at 1-855-408-1212 to speak with a trained counselor or to request a free brochure. Locally you can call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616. Contact information for local coordinating sites in each county in North Carolina can be found by visiting www.ncshiip.com.

About SHIIP SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance that assists people with Medicare, Medicare Part D, Medicare supplement, Medicare Advantage and long-term care insurance questions. We also help citizens recognize and prevent Medicare billing errors and possible fraud and abuse through our N.C. Senior Medicare Patrol program.

SHIIP counselors are not licensed insurance agents, and they do not sell, endorse or oppose any product, plan or company. If you have questions about your specific plan, we encourage you to contact your insurance agent or the insurance company.

North Carolina's May Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted May 2022 unemployment rate was 3.4%, remaining unchanged from April's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 3.6%.

North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased 1.6 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 33,419 over the month to 4,916,580 and increased 218,327 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 2,361 over the month to 170,970 and decreased 76,321 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 7,000 to 4,728,200 in May. Major industries experiencing increases were Manufacturing, 3,700; Financial Activities, 2,200; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,700; Education & Health Services, 1,300; Construction, 1,200; Professional & Business Services, 1,200; Other Services, 1,000; and Information, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 4,300; and Government, 1,100. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Since May 2021, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 165,300 with the Total Private sector increasing by 154,600 and Government increasing by 10,700. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 43,500; Professional & Business Services, 43,300; Manufacturing, 15,600; Financial Activities, 14,500; Education & Health Services, 13,200; Government, 10,700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 9,600; Other Services, 7,500; Information, 5,400; and Construction, 2,200. The only major industry experiencing an over-the-year decrease was Mining & Logging, 200.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since May 2021

	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022
N.C.	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.4
U.S.	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6



"That's a million dollars right there," Sister Tells Anson County Winner

Polly Burns of Polkton said she couldn't believe her eyes when she saw a \$1 million prize on her \$10 scratch-off ticket. "I had to get my sister to look to make sure my eyes were working," Burns said. "She said, 'Girl that's a million dollars right there.'"

Burns, 72, bought her lucky 50X The Cash ticket from B&D Mart on NC Highway 24/27 in Midland.

"I stopped at the station I normally use but the line was so long I decided to try another place," Burns said. "My brother pumped the gas while I ran in and got my ticket." Her impatience became her good luck when she got home and scratched her ticket.

"It scared me to death when I saw I won because I was just so surprised," Burns said.

When Burns arrived at lottery headquarters to collect her prize she had a decision to make. She could choose to receive the prize as an annuity of \$50,000 over 20 years or a lump sum of \$600,000. She chose the lump-sum amount of \$600,000 and, after required state and federal tax withholdings, took home \$426,063.

Burns said she wants to use her winnings to pay off her mortgage and planned to share some with her family.

The \$1 million prize is the last top prize available in the 50X The Cash game that began in February 2021 so the lottery will start the process of ending the game. A new version of the game started this February with six \$1 million prizes still available to be won.

Ticket sales from scratch-off games make it possible for the lottery to raise more than \$900 million per year for education. The state provided \$24 million in grants, using money raised by the lottery, to help Anson County build a new middle school. For details on other ways Anson County benefits from lottery funds, visit: www.nc lottery.com and click on the "Impact" section.