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

## Covid Update for Anson County

**Active cases in Anson County are climbing**

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Wednesday, June 29 there were 6,939 total Covid-19 cases, with 170 of those cases active and 99 deaths. On June 22 there were 6,868 total cases, with 127 active and 99 deaths. On Friday, June 3 there were 6,714 cases, with 64 active and 99 deaths. The active cases continue climbing.

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

Moderna Covid vaccines are available for everyone 6 months and older, including walk-in clinics. (Children 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.

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

## COVID-19, Know the Symptoms

COVID-19 has symptoms similar to the flu. Symptoms are typically mild to moderate, but some cases lead to severe illness and death due to the virus. The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

- Congestion or runny nose
- Cough
- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**Steps to Take for Serious Symptoms** Anyone with more serious symptoms should seek medical attention immediately, by calling their doctor, the Health Department (704-694-5188) or 911 right away. More serious symptoms can include trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face.

## NC Turnpike Authority Encourages Safe Driving Habits During this Busy Travel Season

As holiday travel picks up, the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) is highlighting the safety benefits on the Triangle Expressway and Monroe Expressway while reminding drivers to practice safe driving habits.

“Delivering safe travel options for our drivers is the reason we get up in the morning,” said Dennis Jernigan, Interim Chief Engineer of the NC Turnpike Authority. “We are asking all North Carolinians to drive with safety in mind as we work together to make North Carolina roads among the safest in the country.”

NCTA has designed its roadways and operations with safety as a top priority. These designs and modifications on both Triangle Expressway and Monroe Expressway include:

- Wide shoulders to provide drivers with ample room to pull their vehicles off the road if an emergency occurs
- Clear mile marker signage every 2/10 of a mile so drivers can more accurately report their location in an emergency
- Highway lighting and interchange lighting along the Triangle Expressway to help increase visibility for drivers
- On-call maintenance crews remove debris from both roadways when necessary
- Wrong-Way Vehicle Detection Systems:
  - Notifications to State Traffic Operations Center operators when a wrong-way vehicle is detected
  - Flashing red lights on wrong way signs that illuminate when a vehicle is detected
- Enhancements to intersections associated with two off-ramps, modifications to traffic signals, and lane striping
- A partnership with State Highway Patrol to allow monitoring to ensure motorists are following traffic laws and to respond quickly to roadway incidents
- Incident Management Assistance Patrol trucks that are equipped with specialized tools to assist stranded motorists or first responders

Drivers can sign up for an NC Quick Pass transponder that can be used on all toll facilities in North Carolina and saves travelers up to 35% compared to Bill by Mail rates. For driving safety tips review the DMV Driver Handbook starting at page 38.

## Change in Fire Extinguisher Requirements for Recreational Boaters

Effective April 20, 2022, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) implemented a change in the fire extinguisher requirements for recreational vessels. If your vessel is currently required to carry a fire extinguisher, and the disposable (non-rechargeable) fire extinguisher has a date of manufacture stamped on the bottle, it is considered expired and must be removed from service if it is older than 12 years.

All recreational vessels of model year 2018 and newer meeting the current requirement to carry fire extinguishers must carry 5-B or 20-B rated fire extinguishers that are date stamped. Vessels older than model year 2018 may carry either 5-B or 20-B rated fire extinguishers that are less than 12-years-old or B-I or B-II rated fire extinguishers that are in good and serviceable condition. Once they are no longer in good and serviceable condition, they must be replaced with a 5-B or 20-B date stamped fire extinguisher.

**Good and serviceable conditions means all the following are true:**

- Pressure gauge reading or indicator is in the operable range or position.
- Lock pin is firmly in place.
- Discharge nozzle is clean and free of obstruction.
- Extinguisher does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage.

The fire extinguisher type may be found on the label on the bottle that will state “Marine Type – USCG Approved.” If your boat is currently required to carry a fire extinguisher, it is still required to do so under the new regulation. There is no change to the quantity of fire extinguishers required.

For more information visit the USCG website: [uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/fire-extinguisher-faq.php](http://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/fire-extinguisher-faq.php).



## Partnership for Children Offers Storytime in the Garden

The Anson County Partnership for Children is hosting weekly summer storytime sessions on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Garden in uptown Wadesboro through August 18. Children will learn about science, math, history, and much more while participating in literacy-rich activities. Each storytime session will include an interactive reading of a popular children’s book and a hands-on activity to build knowledge and skills.

“We are thrilled to offer families an in-person activity during the summer where children learn through play in a community setting,” said Tracy Harrington of the Anson County Partnership for Children.

Storytime activities are geared towards children 3-5 years old, but all are welcome to participate.

Children are encouraged to wear play clothes because some planned activities include paint, dirt, water, glue and more.

An adult must accompany all children. Families are encouraged to bring beach towels or chairs for added comfort.

The First Presbyterian Church Garden address is 208 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. At the intersection of South Greene and West Morgan Streets.

In the event of inclement weather storytime will be postponed to the following Tuesday.

For more information about summer storytime contact Tracy Harrington by email at [tracy.harrington@ansonchildren.org](mailto:tracy.harrington@ansonchildren.org) or by phone at 704-694-4036. For updates on Partnership events visit the Partnership Facebook page or [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org).



## Invasive Plants and Pests are Spreading Faster, and They’re Getting a Lot of Help

Now that the months have turned to summer, folks are spending more time outdoors. Whether that makes you an outdoor enthusiast, or simply puts you in the yard, in front of a grill or by the pool, you may notice new tree damage and unfamiliar insects. While many people associate tree damage with weather events, invasive species can crawl their way onto the scene quicker than one might expect. In fact, they don’t have to crawl very far because they’re getting plenty of help from outdoor recreationists.

Insects and diseases claim more timber each year than any other forest menace. Invasive forest pests including insects, diseases, plants and animals can have a dramatic effect on forest resources in North Carolina. These pests can, and have, hitchhiked their way to our state by way of wood packaging material and infested nursery plants. However, the primary cause for the spread of invasive pests continues to be human activity.

Fortunately, the process to help slow the spread of invasive species is a simple one. Think of it as washing your hands to prevent spreading germs. These non-native species can attach themselves to a variety of things such as RVs, camping tents, bicycle tires, boats, jet skis, clothes, boots or shoes and even pets. As people wrap up their outdoor activity and move on to a different area, if gear isn’t thoroughly washed or wiped off, there’s a good chance these uninvited guests are well on their way to finding a new home. Having the awareness to clean any and all gear and equipment used during outdoor activities continues to be the best defense against spreading invasive species. For simple steps and resources to help stop invasive species in your tracks, visit [playcleango.org](http://playcleango.org).

## Funny, Random & Weird Holidays this Week

- July 7 - Tell the Truth Day
- July 8 - Video Games Day
- July 8 - Math 2.0 Day
- July 9 - Sugar Cookie Day
- July 10 - Teddy Bears' Picnic Day
- July 10 - Clerihew Day
- July 11 - Cheer Up the Lonely Day
- July 12 - Simplicity Day
- July 13 - Embrace Your Geekness Day

## Food/Yard Sale \$1 Day is Friday

This event will take place Friday, July 8 at Harvest Ministries, Wadesboro, beginning at 10:00 a.m. – until. There will be items there costing \$1 to \$3 and all proceeds will go directly to Anson County Toys for Tots. Plates will sold.

If there are any questions please contact Vance Sturdivant at 704-294-0480.

## The Compassionate Friends Meet Every Month

**Next meeting is July 14**

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings who have lost a child of any age, welcomes you to attend their monthly meetings. They meet on the second Thursday each month, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. “We need not walk alone.”

For more information call Ken Caulder at 704-694-2524.



## Anson Rookie Team Wins District Tournament

The Rookie team from Anson Athletic Youth Association All Star team won the 2022 District 1 Tournament earlier this month. The team remained undefeated throughout the tournament until their championship game where they took one loss to a very talented Mt. Pleasant team. But they came back in Game 3 and won the District. By winning the district, the team won a bid to the 2022 NC Dixie Youth AA State Tournament in Winnabow, NC. The tournament starts July 8 and runs through July 13.

The team of twelve players and four coaches was chosen after the 2022 AAYA spring season was completed. The coaches drafted from three regular season teams. This year’s team has seven members and three coaches who competed in the 2021 NC Dixie Youth AA State Tournament in Dunn, NC. They are excited for the opportunity to make appearances back to back at the state level.

If anyone would like to support the team’s efforts to attend their state championship, please reach out to one of the coaches or Anson Athletic Youth Association. All donations are tax deductible.

The players are pictured here, from left: Arion Marshall, Caleb Randall, Jacob Allen, Grady Sikes, Vann Eudy, Aiden Sheppard, Austin Sheppard, John Carter Chewning, Jax Hyatt, Reese Conklin, Brandon Stansberry and Marshall Hyatt. The coaches are, from left: Brian Allen, Kyle Eudy, Neal Conklin and Trent Sheppard.