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

Another COVID-19 Death in Anson County Over the Weekend

Vaccines are available. Ansonians urged to get vaccinated.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department posted on Monday, August 23 showed 2,968 total Covid-19 cases, with 156 active. Over the weekend there was another death from Covid-19, bringing the total deaths to 61. Last Monday, August 16 there were 2,859 total Covid-19 cases, with 95 active and 60 deaths.

Vaccines are available, including walk-in clinics. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, August 23 there were 5,184 new cases, with 14,120 deaths and 3,197 hospitalized. 64% of adults in NC were vaccinated with at least one dose, 59% were fully vaccinated.

Statewide, as of Monday, August 2 there were 2,190 new cases, with 13,670 deaths and 1,359 hospitalized. July 12 there were 562 new cases of COVID-19, with 13,499 deaths and 448 hospitalized. On June 7 there were 359 new cases of COVID-19, with 13,199 deaths and 546 hospitalized. May 3 there were 1,126 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,691 deaths and 1,007 hospitalized. April 5 there were 1,054 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,173 deaths and 907 hospitalized. March 1 there were 862,170 cases of COVID-19, 11,254 deaths and 1,219 hospitalized. February 1: 761,302 cases, 9,342 deaths and 2,781 hospitalized. January 4: 570,111 cases, 6,941 deaths and 3,192 hospitalized. December 7: 404,032 cases, 5,605 deaths and 2,373 hospitalized. November 2: 278,028 cases, 4,390 deaths and 1,146 hospitalized. October 5: 219,754 cases, 3,637 deaths and 971 hospitalized.

COVID-19 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 cases (53 deaths); March 29: 2,414 cases (56 deaths); April 30: 2,527 cases (56 deaths); May 28: 2604 cases (56 deaths); June 30: 2639 cases (57 deaths); July 26: 2,719 cases (58 deaths). Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to www.ncdhhs.gov.

North Carolina's July Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted July unemployment rate was 4.4 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from June's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.5 of a percentage point to 5.4 percent.

North Carolina's July 2021 unemployment rate decreased 4.4 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 8,361 over the month to 4,777,400 and increased 278,125 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 9,579 over the month to 222,315 and decreased 210,978 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 75,600 to 4,580,800 in July. Major industries experiencing increases were Government, 53,800; Professional & Business Services, 10,700; Construction, 4,300; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 3,800; Manufacturing, 3,100; Financial Activities, 600; and Other Services, 600. Major industries experiencing decreases were Education & Health Services, 900; and Information, 400. Mining & Logging and Trade, Transportation & Utilities employment remained unchanged.

Since July 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 270,200 with the Total Private sector increasing by 215,400 and Government increasing by 54,800. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 70,200; Government, 54,800; Professional & Business Services, 46,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 34,700; Manufacturing, 23,800; Construction, 16,100; Education & Health Services, 8,100; Information, 5,800; Other Services, 5,800; Financial Activities, 4,600; and Mining & Logging, 200.

ACTS Transportation Services is for the Citizens of Anson County

The employees at the Anson County Transportation System (ACTS) are proud of the service offered to the community of Anson County. Their fleet of vehicles regularly transport individuals to the following places:

- Doctor's appointments
- Employment
- Nutrition sites
- Post secondary school
- Recreational functions
- Shopping facilities

Different Types of Transportation ACTS offers two types of transportation, regularly scheduled routes and on-demand response.

- Regular Scheduled Routes - Regularly scheduled routes transport individuals to the same destination on a consistent basis. Regularly scheduled routes consist of the following: Dialysis treatment; Employment routes throughout Anson County; and Nutritional routes for the elderly to the Peachland, Wadesboro and Morven meal sites.
- Demand Response Transportation - Demand response transportation is very flexible and is accessible by dialing at least 24 hours in advance to schedule appointments. (To ensure availability of vehicle, one might need to call earlier than 24 hours.)

Funding The transportation system accepts the following funding sources: Cash; Elderly and Disabled Transportation Grant (These funds are handled by the transportation department and can be accessed by calling the transportation office at 704-694-2596); Medicaid; Monthly payments by established agencies and businesses.

More information is available by calling ACTS at 704-694-2596 or visiting the website www.co.anson.nc.us/199/Transportation.



Chimney Swift tower

rest of the year they are either migrating or on wintering grounds.

If you're already an eBird user, please enter your observations following these recommendations from eBird staff:

- Include Chimney Swift Roost or Chimney Swift Nest in the Location Name.
- Choose "Stationary Count".
- Include only Chimney Swifts on your checklist and select "No" to indicate you are not reporting all the species you were able to identify.
- Resist the temptation to make the chimney or tower a hotspot.

3. Construct A Chimney Swift Tower - Provide more nesting habitat to your neighborhood swifts. We recommend this book on building swift towers by Chimney Swift experts Paul and Georgean Kyle. There are also great videos available online to help you get started. Swift towers make excellent Eagle Scout projects. Schoolyards, church grounds, parks and other open areas make good sites. Register Chimney Swift towers here.

4. Save Roost Towers - Schools and industrial buildings are replacing heating and cooling systems at a rapid rate in North Carolina, causing the loss of suitable roost towers. Be proactive and write letters and arrange to meet with school administrators, facilities managers, and others who influence decisions on chimneys before plans are made to tear the chimney down. Offer to give a brief presentation to a group of people connected with the building.

To learn more about Audubon North Carolina's work to protect this priority species, visit:

nc.audubon.org/landingbirds/chimney-swift. Email swift@audubon.org for more information.

Bird-Friendly Communities is a partnership program that focuses conservation efforts where most people live - in cities and towns. To learn more about this program, visit nc.audubon.org/creating-bird-friendly-communities-2.

Take Swift Action to Help the Chimney Swift

This is a release from the Audubon Society: Chimney Swifts, over the past century, have been extremely adaptable - learning to roost in urban chimneys as large hollow trees and caves, their natural roosting sites, disappeared. But populations are decreasing steeply - 53 percent between 1966 and 2007 in the United States - as chimneys are capped or removed, leaving fewer places for swifts to nest and raise their chicks. Chimney Swifts are now listed as "near threatened."



Now, we are asking for your help for another bird in need that can benefit greatly from the power of Audubon North Carolina's Bird-Friendly Communities, the Chimney Swift - our 2016 Bird of the Year.

Because the swift has become a truly urban bird, they frequently co-exist with humans. But with changes in our human behaviors and landscapes their ability to adapt even more is questionable. This is where you come in. There are so many ways to help this unique bird thrive in your own community.

Here are four things you can do to support Chimney Swifts:

1. Keep Your Chimney Open - The practice of capping older chimneys makes them inaccessible to swifts. One solution is to hire a chimney sweep to cap the chimney in November and open it up again before Chimney Swifts arrive in the spring. Or simply keep your chimney open. Newer chimneys tend to have metal liners that are too slick for the swifts to perch on, so older chimneys with brick linings are really important. Share your commitment to keep your chimney friendly for swifts here.

2. Become a Community Scientist - Report nesting and roosting Chimney Swift sightings at surveymonkey.com/r/WTQ9H6V or at eBird.org. The more we know about Chimney Swift roost sites, the better we can protect them. Chimney Swifts are in North Carolina from late March through October. The

Friday Airplane Crash Near Airport Kills Both Onboard

According to a release from the Town of Wadesboro, on Friday, August 20 at about 10:15 a.m. the Wadesboro Fire Department, along with Anson County



Emergency Services and several other local fire departments, responded to a reported aircraft crash north of the Anson County Airport. Upon arrival crews located the aircraft in a wooded area already fully engulfed in flames. After extinguishing the fire, it was determined that there were no survivors. As of press time the men were not identified.

It was reported that the plane, identified as a newly purchased Piper PA-24 Comanche that had not flown in 15 years, had landed at the Anson County Airport after leaving a nearby airport, with two men aboard. They fueled up using the self serve pump. Witnesses said that after fueling the engine was difficult to start up, and did not seem to be running right, backfiring and popping. Upon takeoff, as the plane passed over the end of the runway, a witness said they heard two very loud pops, almost like shotgun blasts. The plane climbed a few hundred feet, then crashed into the woods not far from the runway, just off Little Duncan Road, near Highway 52.

Aviation fuel service was stopped temporarily while the fuel at the airport underwent a quality test. It passed the check and the airport is dispensing fuel again.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) are investigating the crash.

FDA Approves Pfizer Vaccine for Those 16 and Older

The Food and Drug Administration has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, which Pfizer is calling Comirnaty, for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older.

"Vaccines are our most important tool in the fight against COVID-19," said NC Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "All authorized vaccines have met rigorous testing and scientific standards. Millions of North Carolinians have been safely vaccinated, but for some people full FDA approval provides additional confidence. If you are not vaccinated, we urge you: please don't wait to vaccinate."

The Pfizer vaccine will continue to be available under emergency use authorization for teens 12-15. FDA approval for this age group will require additional time as the vaccine was not authorized for younger teens until May 2021, six months after it was granted EUA for people 16 and older. All available vaccines in the United States have been under an EUA. Rigorous clinical trials among thousands of people have proven that vaccines are safe and effective. More than 170 million Americans have been safely vaccinated against COVID-19.

Vaccines are widely available in North Carolina. Through Aug. 31, anyone 18 and older who gets their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at a participating location will receive a \$100 Summer Card* in the form of a Prepaid Mastercard while supplies last.

Last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shared new data showing vaccines continue to be remarkably effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant. There is urgency to get vaccinated now. North Carolina is experiencing the fastest acceleration in cases since the pandemic started. Earlier this month, the state had the largest single-day jump in ICU admissions since the beginning of the pandemic.

Anyone who has symptoms of or has been exposed to COVID-19 should get tested as soon as possible. To find a testing site in your community, go to www.ncdhhs.gov/GetTested.

People who are not experiencing serious symptoms should not go to the emergency department for routine COVID-19 testing. People should seek medical attention immediately for serious symptoms such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face.

While vaccines are the best protection against serious illness, hospitalization and death, monoclonal antibody therapy can reduce the severity of COVID-19 symptoms and decrease the likelihood of hospitalization, especially in high-risk patients. If you test positive for COVID-19, monoclonal antibody therapy must be administered within 10 days of your first COVID-19 symptoms, so it is crucial to get tested early.

Visit MySpot.nc.gov for accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccine and to find a vaccine location near you. We need to layer up our protection to fight this more contagious Delta variant and weather the storm: Vax up, Mask up and urge others to do the same.

Read the FDA's press release regarding the approval of the Pfizer vaccine at www.fda.gov.

School Board Meeting for August 30 to be Live Streamed on YouTube

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, August 30. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 3:30 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.

Masks will be required for visitors.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in person or go to the public comment link on the Anson Schools website at www.ansonschools.org to sign up. Public comment sign up will be from 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. on Monday, August 30.

Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program throughout the year, even during the pandemic. Normally they distribute coats and blankets to several of the churches and schools in Anson County as well as directly to those people in need. For now, if you or someone in your household needs a coat, children and adults, call Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or 704-294-0480 and tell her what you need. She will deliver the coat to you.

Do you have a coat or blanket that you can contribute to this cause? Or, would you like to make a donation in support of this important charity? Please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or 704-294-0480.