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

## Covid Cases Continue Upward Trend

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Tuesday, January 11 showed 4,743 total Covid-19 cases, with 452 active. The total deaths are 88. There were 322 active cases reported on January 4. On December 28 there were 123 active cases. 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 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

**Covid Testing** Free testing is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. without an appointment. 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.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Tuesday, January 11 there were 17,705 new cases, with 19,706 total deaths and 3,991 hospitalized. Vaccination rates were 74% adults with one dose, 70% with two doses. On Tuesday, January 4 there were 10,276 newly reported cases (up from 4,889 new cases on December 27).

## Elementary School Teacher Clinton Jones Arrested for Sexual Exploitation

Clinton Jones, a teacher at Ansonville Elementary School, was arrested on Thursday, December 30 and charged with 18 counts of 3rd degree Sexual Exploitation after investigators found him in possession of hundreds of child pornography images and videos. The Anson County Sheriff's Office and North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation obtained a search warrant after investigating Jones. During the search they found the child pornography on smartphones, computers and media storage devices in Jones' home, which is located in Wadesboro.



Jones, 41, was jailed with a \$150,000 bond. The investigation began when the Anson County Sheriff's Office was contacted by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which had received Cyber Tips in December 2020 and March 2021 about child sexual exploitation material. The SBI joined the Sheriff's Office in the investigation. Anson County Schools issued this release on Wednesday, January 5:

Mr. Howard E. McLean, Superintendent of the Anson County Schools, announced that Clinton Justin Jones resigned today from his appointment as a teacher with the school system. Mr. Jones began his employment with the Anson County Schools as a substitute teacher in February, 2011, and became a full-time teacher on September 9, 2013, at Ansonville Elementary School. Mr. Jones is currently released on bond, following his December 30 arrest.

Based on the information currently available to the school system, we have no indication of any involvement by any Anson County Schools students with Mr. Jones or in connection with any of these charges. We currently have no reason to believe that any Anson County Schools students have been involved or affected. We do understand, however, that this is an ongoing investigation.

## Priscilla Tillman Sentenced for 2020 Shooting Into Home with Occupants

During the January 3, 2022 session of Anson County Criminal Superior Court a jury returned verdicts of guilty against defendant Priscilla Yvonne Tillman, 56 years old, on five counts of Discharging a Firearm into an Occupied Dwelling and two counts of Attempted Discharging of a Firearm into an Occupied Dwelling. The Honorable Stephan R. Futrell presided over the case and sentenced Tillman to a minimum of 400 months and a maximum of 480 months in the North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections.



The trial lasted for three days and was tried by Assistant District Attorney T. Matthew Victory. Lieutenant Detective Joshua Beam, Detective Joshua Martin and Detective David Spencer with the Anson County Sheriff's Office investigated the case that involved the discharging of a firearm into a home where three adult victims and a ten year old child were present. On June 25, 2020, Tillman fired a handgun multiple times into the residence in Wadesboro. She was arrested on the scene. District Attorney Reece Saunders said, "We have had several cases of people shooting into homes throughout the district and some of those cases have involved the loss of innocent life. Violence of this nature will be aggressively prosecuted, and my office will fight for appropriate prison sentences."

## Wadesboro Town Council Meeting Rescheduled

In a release, the Town of Wadesboro stated that the town council meeting scheduled for Monday, January 10 has been rescheduled to Tuesday, January 18 at 5 p.m.



## Food Boxes Given to Families in the Community

Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church had its first reverse Advent Giving box event on Sunday, December 19. These non-perishable food boxes were given to families in the community. The pastor is Dr. T.J. Horne.

## SPCC and Wingate University Offer Free and Low Cost Educations

John Marek, Director of the AnsonEDP, shared this excellent summary of the education opportunities available nearby at SPCC and Wingate University:

The "Anson Advantage" could refer to a lot of things, our abundant water resources, our strategic location along the US 74 Corridor, or our low costs of doing business. But, when AnsonEDP talks about the Anson Advantage, we are specifically referencing our post-secondary education programs through SPCC and Wingate University. Programs that we believe are unique in the state and offer local residents, new and old, unprecedented access to free and low-cost education while providing businesses with a steady stream of workers trained in the most in-demand fields.

- **Career in a Year** - South Piedmont Community College offers a number of courses for individuals that are seeking to complete their career in less than a year. Flexible schedules include weekend and evening classes. Classes range from 4 weeks to 12 months and are offered at zero out-of-pocket cost to Anson County residents.
  - **Free Community College** - Starting your college career at a community college can save you money and future debt. With South Piedmont's free tuition and fees program, students can complete their Associate's degree in two years or less with zero out-of-pocket expenses.
  - **Low-Cost Bachelor's Degree** - Once students have their two-year degree, they can transfer to Wingate University where they can continue on to a bachelor's degree. Students who are admitted into Wingate University and hold an associate's degree from SPCC may have their tuition capped at \$2,500 per year or less.
- For more information about SPCC call (704) 272-5300 or visit [spcc.edu](http://spcc.edu).  
For more information about Wingate University call 704-233-8000 or visit [wingate.edu](http://wingate.edu).

## Pee Dee Electric to Add Utility-Scale Battery Energy Storage to Local Grid

Pee Dee Electric recently announced the planned installation of cutting-edge battery energy storage technology in Rockingham. The battery project will be integrated at an existing electric substation, adding local energy resources that will enhance system resilience and reliability for co-op consumers-members.

"Pee Dee Electric is committed to innovation that advances our Brighter Future vision for electricity that is affordable, reliable and supports our sustainability goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050," said Donnie Spivey, CEO of Pee Dee Electric.

The battery in Rockingham is one of 10 substation batteries being deployed in rural locations this year by North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, including Pee Dee Electric. Collectively, the batteries will provide 40 MWs of power, and will be charged when demand for electricity is low and discharged during moments of peak demand for power. This not only enhances electric reliability but is expected to provide cost savings over the lifetime of the batteries. Because cooperatives are not-for-profit, at-cost energy providers, co-op members will benefit from those savings.

Installation of the battery energy storage system will begin early this year, with activation anticipated in the summer. The installation will create temporary construction jobs and help enhance area resources for future investment.

In addition to substation batteries, Pee Dee Electric and the network of cooperatives in North Carolina have worked together for years to lead innovative energy strategies, including community solar, microgrids, demand response programs and solar plus storage initiatives.

"We will continue to lead the integration, management and optimization of resources and technologies that benefit our community and local consumer-members, now and in the decades to come," said Mr. 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](http://www.pdemc.com).

## Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard Updated 1-7-2022

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	1	0	3	0
Anson High School	27	8	11	7
Anson Middle School	36	7	10	3
Ansonville Elementary	14	2	6	1
Lilesville Elementary	9	1	3	0
Morven Elementary	12	1	3	1
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	18	1	4	3
Wadesboro Elementary	2	3	2	2
Wadesboro Primary	8	3	2	2
District Office	N/A	1	N/A	0
Transportation	N/A	0	N/A	1
Maintenance	N/A	1	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	1	N/A	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total Students + Employees</b>	<b>156</b>		<b>65</b>	

\*Student Enrollment as of 01/07/22 2,951  
\*Enrollment changes daily  
# of Employees 513  
% of Students Positive 1.49%  
% of Employees Positive 4.09%

A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.

## Sandhills Center Family Support Programs - January Events

### Family Support Program Webinars

The Family Support and Community Collaboration Programs are funded by Sandhills Center and conducted through a contract with North Carolina Families United. The programs support families of children with emotional, learning, and behavioral challenges.

• **January 19: Autism 101 webinar** will be held virtually from 11:30pm to 12:30pm. Judy Smithmyer, Associate Director of Family Support from Autism Society of North Carolina will present. To register, contact Charmaine Ford at [randmontadvfsp@gmail.com](mailto:randmontadvfsp@gmail.com) or 336-870-3802. Upon registration, you will be sent the link to the webinar.

### Anson and Richmond Counties

• **January 13: Parents, Foster Parents and Caregivers Support Group meeting** will be held from 5:30-7:00 pm via WebEx. It is a support group for families of children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges.

Suzanne Maness will be the facilitator. For more info or to register, call (910) 627-1769 or email: [connectionsfsf@gmail.com](mailto:connectionsfsf@gmail.com).

• **January 14: Five County System of Care (SOC) Community Collaborative meeting** will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 am via WebEx.

System of Care is a network of community-based services and supports that are organized to meet the challenges of children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families. The System of Care Collaborative brings together the perspectives of families, youth, providers, child and family services, community members and other stakeholders. The SOC Collaborative meeting provides networking opportunities and time for working in partnership with public and private organizations so services and support are effective, build on the strengths of individuals, and address each person's cultural and linguistic needs. The Five County SOC Community Collaborative includes the following counties:

- Hoke
- Moore
- Richmond
- Anson
- Montgomery.

The meeting is held monthly on the 2nd Friday at 9:30 am. If you'd like to receive the WebEx link, contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769 or email [connectionsfsf@gmail.com](mailto:connectionsfsf@gmail.com).

## January Information

**January 1** is New Year's Day.  
**January 5** brings Twelfth Night, an English folk custom that marked the end of Christmas merrymaking.

**January 6** is Epiphany. According to the New Testament's Gospels, on this date the Magi - the three wise men or kings - venerated and brought gifts to the infant Jesus.

**January 17** is Benjamin Franklin's birthday. He was not only a world-renowned statesman, inventor, and scientist, but was also fascinated by agriculture.

**January 17** is also Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed). This holiday is held on the third Monday in January and honors the principles of this civil rights leader and Nobel Prize Winner dedicated to nonviolence.

**January 17** is also the Full Wolf Moon  
January's birthstone, the garnet, is thought to keep the wearer safe during travel.  
January's birth flowers are the carnation and snowdrop.