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Anson County Covid-19 Update - Vaccines for Kids 5 and Older

The latest information posted by the Health Department on Friday, December 10 showed 4,110 total Covid-19 cases, with 53 active. The total deaths are 85.

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.

The Health Department is offering both the regular flu shot and the high dose flu shot, for those 65 and over, on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, between 1:30 and 4 p.m. No appointment is needed. Just come to the Health Department with your ID and your insurance card and they will take care of you.

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 Monday, December 13 there were 2,168 new cases, with 19,010 deaths and 1,550 hospitalized. 73% of adults in NC had at least one dose of vaccine, 69% were fully vaccinated.

Free Event, "A Night with the Grinch" in Lockhart-Taylor Center Parking Lot this Friday

Partnership for Children and South Piedmont Community College is hosting "A Night with the Grinch," a carpool cinema and literacy night on Friday, December 17, from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. in the parking lot of SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center. Carpool Cinema is free and open to the public.

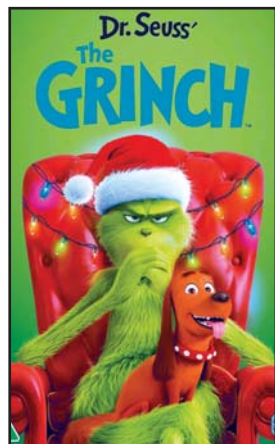
The event will begin with a reading of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Suess, followed by a game of Flash Thinking then a showing of the movie *The Grinch*.

"A Night with the Grinch is a fun way for families to spend quality time together while working on literacy and numeracy skills through the activities we have prepared," said Tracy Harrington of the Anson County Partnership for Children. "Santa and The Grinch will be on-site to visit children of all ages at each car. Participants are encouraged to stay in their cars for safety. Our special guests and carhops will visit each individual car."

Every person will receive 10 tickets to "purchase" snacks such as popcorn, water, juice, oranges and lollipops. Those attending can bring their own food to eat inside their car. No grills, large coolers, alcohol or glass are allowed.

The community is asked to carpool because space is limited. All children must always be accompanied by adults during the entire event.

For more information contact Tracy Harrington at 704-694-4036 or visit the Partnership's Facebook page.



AnsonEDP Director John Marek Offers Updates On Several Recently Announced Projects

Over the past 18 months, AnsonEDP has announced nine new projects in the county, creating 114 new jobs and more than \$33 million in new capital investment. As we approach the end of the year, let's take a look at the current status of some of those projects:

- The Pee Dee Electric Cooperative HQ at Atlantic Gateway is finished and open for business. All employees from the former Wadesboro and Rockingham facilities are now in place.
- The new Dunkin'/T-Mobile/PNC at Anson Station was originally targeting a November opening, but delays in equipment and signage have pushed that back until early 2022. The building is finished and the PNC drive-up is operating. Both Dunkin' and T-Mobile are currently hiring.
- This is Big Toys Direct's busy season, so all hands are on deck at their California facility and progress has slowed somewhat on renovations at the new Wadesboro facility (the former Walmart building). There are still contractors there every day and the company expects to begin hiring in early 2022, with logistics operations from Wadesboro in late spring.
- The new Dollar General at the intersection of US 52N and US 74 went "vertical" this week with the first structural steel rising from the concrete pad. The company has not indicated when it will begin hiring for the store or what their target opening date is, but based on similar projects, we would expect hiring sometime in the first quarter of 2022 and an opening in February or March.
- Bank Shots Bar & Grill in Uptown Wadesboro is shooting for an opening sometime after the first of the year. The sign is up (we love the shark logo!) and the interior will be painted next week.
- They are moving dirt for the new A&J Winery on Capel Dairy Road. This facility, which will also include a gem mine and petting zoo, is expected to open in time for the summer tourism season. No official word yet on hiring, but most likely will begin in April.
- Willow & Vine celebrated their first anniversary at their shop on US 74, and is already considering a move to a larger space Uptown.
- Studio 256 opened in September in Uptown Wadesboro. It's a fiber arts store. No, it's a martial arts dojo. It's BOTH a fiber arts store and a martial arts dojo.



AHS Band Members Accepted into Pfeiffer University Honor Band

Congratulations to the following Anson High School Band members who were recognized at the Board of Education's regular meeting Monday evening for being accepted into the Pfeiffer University Honor Band and participating in the Pfeiffer Invitational Honor Band Concert on November 18, 2021. The students are: A'Mya Teal, Anna Cameron, Caden Clarke, Caleb Laney, Kirra Tillman, Nevaeh Sturdivant and Sheneeka Allen.

Burn Ban Lifted for All North Carolina Counties

As of Monday, December 13 the N.C. Forest Service has lifted the statewide ban on all open burning. The ban, which went into effect Nov. 29 due to hazardous forest fire conditions, was originally lifted for just 67 counties, including Anson, on Dec. 8.

"We saw some much-needed rain during the weekend, and that has thankfully helped bring fire danger down, allowing us to lift burn ban restrictions statewide," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Still, I'd caution residents to remain vigilant about burning responsibly and safely. Make sure you have a valid burn permit and contact your NCFS county ranger for wildfire prevention and fire safety tips."

As of noon, burn permits are available statewide. Residents can obtain a burn permit from any authorized permitting agent or online at www.ncforests.gov/burnpermit. All burn permits granted before the statewide burn ban were canceled when the ban became effective. A valid permit must be obtained.

Residents with questions regarding their specific county can contact their N.C. Forest Service county ranger or county fire marshal's office. To find contact information for your local NCFS county ranger, visit www.ncforests.gov/contacts.

Booze It and Lose It Holiday Enforcement Campaign Began Monday

The Christmas lights won't be the only thing lighting up the night this holiday season. From now through Jan. 2, law enforcement officers will be stepping up patrols across the state to stop impaired drivers as part of the Booze It and Lose It holiday enforcement effort.

"If you're out celebrating this holiday season, make sure you have a sober ride home," said Mark Ezzell, program director of the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program, or NCGHSP. "If you drive under the influence, you have a lot to lose. Not only could you kill yourself or someone else, but you could face thousands of dollars in court costs and fines, jail time, or a revoked license."

The "Booze It & Lose It" holiday enforcement effort is the largest of such campaigns operated each year by the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program. During the 2020 campaign, officers issued more than 1,700 violations for driving while intoxicated.

NCGHSP will be supporting the campaign through a combination of paid media advertising and social media outreach.

To date, 326 people have lost their lives on North Carolina roads in impaired driving crashes in 2021.

The NCGHSP reminds all travelers to stay safe on the roads this holiday season by:

- Never driving impaired and always finding a safe ride home;
- Buckling your seatbelt when riding in any seat in the vehicle; and
- Following the speed limit.

For more driver safety tips and program information, follow the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program on Facebook and @NC_GHSP on Twitter and Instagram.

Looking for the Perfect Gift?

One of the best gifts is a broom, but not just any broom, a Lions Club broom. Yeah, sounds crazy and sounds like work, but brooms are the ideal presents. Everybody needs one!

You can never go wrong giving the gift that keeps on giving.

The Wadesboro Lions Club sells brooms to help meet humanitarian needs worldwide, and help local causes right here in Anson County.

In support of that mission the Lions Club sells brooms, and the brooms are of excellent quality. The Original Soft Sweep Magnetic Action Broom features a unique magnetic cleaning action that picks up lint and dust, especially human and pet hair. It will not scratch any floor, and rinses clean and dries quickly. The kitten soft bristle is approximately 12" long and comes with a metal handle.

Pick up yours at Allen's Restaurant in Peachland or Lacy's and Martin Furniture in Wadesboro for only \$12. The Lions Club's purple handled straw broom is also available. Want information regarding the Lions Club? Call 704-690-5092.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	1	0	1	0
Anson High School	2	1	0	0
Anson Middle School	9	1	2	0
Ansonville Elementary	2	0	0	0
Lilesville Elementary	0	0	0	0
Morven Elementary	4	0	0	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	0	0	0	0
Wadesboro Elementary	2	0	0	0
Wadesboro Primary	0	1	1	0
District Office	N/A	0	N/A	0
Transportation	N/A	0	N/A	0
Maintenance	N/A	0	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	0	N/A	0
Total	20	3	4	0
Total Students + Employees	23		4	
*Student Enrollment as of 12/10/21		2,947	# of Employees	513
*Enrollment changes daily			% of Employees Positive	0.00%
% of Students Positive		0.14%		

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

Animal Shelter Reopens Monday

The Anson County Animal Shelter closed on Nov. 23 for animal intakes for both owner surrender and community strays in order to repair floors in the back kennel. The shelter reopens this coming Monday, December 20.

Shelter Director Maureen Lett said, "Thank you for your understanding. We hope this is our last structural project to cause a closure for quite some time."

For questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Lett at 704-994-2738 or mlett@ansoncountync.gov.

Last Weekend for Ansonia Play An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas

The community is invited to come to the Ansonia Theatre for their Christmas play, *An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas*. The last performances are this Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Remember, Saturday is Pajama Night. Wear your Christmas PJs and get snugly. Hot chocolate and Christmas cookies will be served at intermission, with a little extra shopping time in the gallery!

Tickets are available at ansoniatheatre.com or by calling 704-694-4950. The Ansonia is located at 112 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Countywide Zoning Ordinance is Now Posted Online

A draft proposed county zoning ordinance has been posted online at the Anson County government website, www.co.anson.nc.us. The public is welcome to view the ordinance.

Virtual Barn Blast Scheduled for January

The Anson County Partnership for Children is pleased to announce Barn Blast 2022 will be hosted virtually on Thursday, January 27, 2022, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The fun of Barn Blast continues with interactive games and prizes, despite being a virtual event.

Executive Director Caroline Goins said, "We look forward to you seeing you there!" Sponsorship and donation opportunities are available. This event will be open to the public. For information call 704-694-4036.