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## Anson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Confirms SBI Investigation of Former President/CEO

During a meeting on Tuesday, March 14 the Board of Directors of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce removed Shelby Emrich as President and CEO of the Chamber. On Wednesday, March 15 the Wadesboro Police Department initiated an investigation into alleged embezzlement of the Chamber by Emrich using a Chamber debit card and fraudulent checks. The investigation has been turned over to the State Bureau of Investigation. SBI Spokesperson Angie Grube said, "On Wednesday, March 15, 2023, Wadesboro Police Chief T. L. Spencer requested the NCSBI to investigate an alleged embezzlement involving fraudulent transactions including unauthorized use of an Anson County Chamber of Commerce debit card and using fraudulent checks to withdraw cash from the Chamber of Commerce accounts for personal use. The investigation is ongoing."

The Investigation Report by the Wadesboro Police Department indicates that the alleged embezzlement has been ongoing since at least early 2020.

On Tuesday, April 18 the Chamber Board of Directors released this statement:

"Dear Members and Community,  
We are aware that there have been media reports circulating regarding our former President/CEO. We can confirm that those reports are accurate. However, we cannot comment on the ongoing criminal investigation related to this matter.

We want to assure our members and the community that we are committed to transparency and upholding the highest ethical standards. We will continue to cooperate with law enforcement officials as the investigation proceeds.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support to Anson County Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely, Board of Directors,  
Anson County Chamber of Commerce"

Emrich had been employed by the Chamber of Commerce since 2011. She became Interim Director in February 2016, then was appointed to the position of Executive Director on August 1, 2016.



## Deep Creek Baptist Church Holds Special Service for Law Enforcement

Anson County law enforcement officers were invited to Deep Creek Baptist Church recently for a prayer service. Pastor Mark Perko delivered the message to the officers.

Anson County Sheriff Scott Howell said, "I would like to thank Deep Creek Baptist Church for inviting Anson County law enforcement officers to a much needed prayer service. It was a great message from Mark T. Perko."

Sheriff Howell concluded, "Thank you for your continued prayers on all of the first responders in Anson County."

## One of the World's best Air Shows Coming to North Carolina in May

Unquestionably one of the world's best aerial exhibition teams, the US Navy Blue Angels will headline the Wings Over Wayne Air Show at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro on May 20 and 21. Typically held every other year and the largest air show in North Carolina, the Blue Angels attracted over 200,000 spectators to Seymour Johnson for their last headline performance in 2017.

"We look forward to showcasing the combat-proven F/A18 Super Hornet, the mainstay of modern naval air power, and the C-130J Super Hercules, the premier logistics support aircraft of the US Marine Corps," said Blue Angels Commanding Officer and Flight Leader (#1) Alexander Armatas. "Both aircraft operate worldwide carrying out the Navy and Marine Corps mission."

The first-ever female fighter pilot on the Blue Angels jet demonstration squadron, Lieutenant Amanda Lee of Minnesota, will be flying left-wing (#3) in the formation.

Gates open at 8 a.m. each day with free admission and parking. Ceremonies begin at 10 a.m., with an impressive array of flying exhibitions scheduled from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**Air show performances include:** US Navy Blue Angels; Air Combat Command F-22 Raptor demonstration; USMC C-130J Fat Albert Super Hercules; F-16 Viper Combined Arms Demonstration; Carbon Fiber MX Aircraft plane show by Rob Holland; Pearl Harbor reenactment – Tora! Tora! Tora!; Jelly Belly demonstration by Stunt Pilot, Kent Pietsch; Ace Maker T-33 air exhibition; Manfred Radius Sailplane demonstration; de Havilland Vampire jet warbird demo by Jerry "Vlad" Conley; Third Strike Wingwalkers - featuring the world's only all-female team; P-51 Swamp Fox Mustang exhibition; Pitts Model 12 show by Trevor Rafferty; and WWII-era P-40 demo (only about 20 in the world are airworthy).

New ground activities at the air show include a 40,000-square-foot hangar dedicated to STEM exhibits (science, technology, engineering, and math) from government, industry, education, entertainment, and defense. G-Force Robotics is helping to organize this educational and hands-on event with exhibitors nationwide.

**Static aircraft displays include (subject to change):** F-15E Strike Eagle; F-16 Fighting Falcon; F-22 Raptor; F-35A Lightning II; F-33B Kingfisher; T-6 Texan; B-52 Stratofortress; C-5 Galaxy; E-3 Sentry; KC-46 Pegasus; KC-135 Stratotanker; C-130 Hercules; UNC Health Helicopter; British Spitfire; Sharp Nemesis NXT; P-51 Swamp Fox; NC Highway Patrol Helicopter; Cessna-172 Skyhawk

A Blue Angels-themed Kids Zone, for children two years and up, will be available in one of the large aircraft hangars. Admission for all-day access is \$10.

Six North Carolinians serve in crucial support roles on the elite Blue Angels team of 138 active-duty Sailors and Marines. They include: Lieutenant Commander Gregory R. Jones, USN, Aircraft Maintenance, Cary, NC, Sgt. Dylan Lippard, USMC, Airframes, Statesville, NC, AO2 Leon Grant, USN, Crew Chief, Fayetteville, NC, AE2 Blade Hiatt, USN, Crew Chief, Morganton, NC, LS1 Gregory Lloyd, USN, Logistics, Murphy, NC and AD2 Dustin Beck, USN, Power Plants, from Greenville, NC.

All team members ensure everything is in perfect working order for the Blue Angels. Concessions and souvenirs will be available for purchase on the base. Free drinking water will be onsite. Attendees may bring clear, factory-sealed, reusable water bottles, 32-oz or less, and lawn chairs. Not allowed are coolers, large backpacks, pets, or tailgating. Visitors to the air show are encouraged to bring some form of hearing protection.

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base is home to the 4th Fighter Wing, formed in 1942 for the air war over Europe. Today, the F-15E Strike Eagles of the 4th Wing provide operational support worldwide, whenever and wherever needed. In addition, two Air Force Reserve units reside at Seymour Johnson, the 916th Air Refueling Wing, and the 414th Fighter Group.

For more information visit the Wings Over Wayne website:  
[www.wingsoverwayneairshow.com](http://www.wingsoverwayneairshow.com).



## NC By Train Continues Record Breaking Ridership Trend

After reporting record breaking ridership in 2022, NC By Train, North Carolina's intercity passenger rail service, achieved record ridership for the first quarter of 2023. January, February and March all broke monthly records and the quarter as whole was more than a 30% increase over 2019 pre-pandemic first quarter ridership. Ridership is up more than 50% over last year's first quarter ridership. In the first quarter of 2023, the Carolinian and Piedmont trains carried over 135,000 passengers.

"Last year we had the highest ridership that we've ever had in our 32-year history of providing intercity railroad service here in North Carolina," said Jason Orthner, the Rail Division Director at the N.C. Department of Transportation. "We are starting out very well for another record year for ridership on NC By Train."

NCDOT encourages people to take advantage of the comfortable convenient transportation available on NC By Train with its large seats, charging outlets at each seat and free WiFi. NC By Train offers a variety of everyday discounts for children, students, active military personnel, veterans and seniors and Share Fare, which allows groups of up to eight people to save money with each additional ticket that is purchased. With festivals, concerts and sports in full swing, passengers can skip the traffic and hassles of parking and take the train to a variety of NC events.

Visit NC By Train ([ncbytrain.org](http://ncbytrain.org)) for more information, to plan a trip and to buy tickets.

## Beekeepers Field Day is Saturday

Are you interested in learning about beekeeping? Would you like to see beehives and beekeepers in action? Come to the Anson County Beekeepers Field Day this Saturday at 9 a.m. and enjoy seeing this important and interesting hobby. You will learn how to take care of bees.

A North Carolina State Bee Inspector will be in attendance and will go through the steps involved with a bee hive inspection.

For information about the Field Day location please call Rodney Allen at 704-690-8520.

## Anson County Beekeepers Meet Next Tuesday

All Anson County Beekeepers members are reminded that the upcoming meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25 at the Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Come one, come all who are interested in honey bees regardless if you have bees or not.

Anson County Beekeepers meeting are open to everyone who is interested in having bees for honey and pollination as well.

For more information call Beekeepers Association President Jody Taylor at 704-475-7939 or check the Facebook page, "Anson Beekeepers Association."

## Class of 1973 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman High School Class of 1973 will hold a meeting to finalize plans for the upcoming 50th Reunion. The meeting will take place at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 at Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro. All classmates are encouraged to attend.

For info contact Brenda S. Rorie at 704-695-5196.

## Wonders of Science Event at SPCC this Saturday

South Piedmont Community College is hosting the Wonders of Science event at the Horne Library on the Polkton campus on Saturday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be an interactive day to explore STEM topics, and it is free and open to everyone ages 10 and up!

Explore the topics of science, math, engineering and technology through an interactive open house.

The SPCC L.L. Polk Campus is located at 680 US Highway 74 in Polkton. For information visit [ncsciencefestival.org](http://ncsciencefestival.org).

## AnsonEDC Welcomes Brook Ainsworth and Tom Cureton

**Brook Ainsworth** This is a March 31 release from the Anson Economic Development Corporation: Anson Economic Development Corporation welcomes Brook Ainsworth to our team. As Business Services Consultant, Brook will be working with our local entrepreneurs and our existing industry. Brook is a lifelong Ansonian, and a graduate of Anson High School and Wingate University. An entrepreneur herself, she started and operated her own business in Uptown Wadesboro for several years and worked with the United Way on several fundraising campaigns. She brings a wealth of practical experience navigating business start-ups and will offer a unique perspective to our existing industry.



Brook Ainsworth

**Thomas Cureton** This is a April 6 release from the Anson Economic Development Corporation: We are thrilled to introduce our new product development consultant, Thomas Cureton, who will be overseeing all current and ongoing construction projects. With his extensive experience in the industry and proven track record of successful project management, we're confident Thomas will be a valuable addition to our team.



Thomas Cureton

Thomas is a graduate of Wingate University and a veteran of the U.S. Army who served with distinction in Vietnam before returning to Wadesboro and working for many years in the textile industry, where he was responsible for building maintenance and construction. He founded Cedar Hill Manufacturing in 1992, and built that facility in Ansonville.

We are looking forward to working with Thomas and benefitting from his decades of construction experience in our projects at the Wadesboro Industrial Park, the Atlantic Gateway Logistics Park, and future sites to come.

You can contact him at [Thomas@AnsonEDC.com](mailto:Thomas@AnsonEDC.com) or 704-787-5896.

## Board of Education Budget Development Workshop is April 20

Regular monthly meeting is scheduled for April 24

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their budget development workshop this Thursday, April 20 at 3:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Prior to the budget development workshop, the Board of Education will hold a hearing in closed session at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday to hear matters related to student information per NCGS 143-318-11(a)(1). The hearing will be held in the Administrative Board Room.

The Board of Education will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 24. The meeting will be held in the Administrative Board Room. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 5:30 p.m. If the public wishes to sign up for public comment at the regular meeting on April 24 they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.

## Class of 1971 Reunion Meeting

All classmates of the Bowman Senior High School Class of 1971 are invited to attend a meeting to discuss plans for this year's reunion. The meeting will take place on Saturday, April 29 at 1 p.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library. For information call Patricia Little at 704-695-6724.