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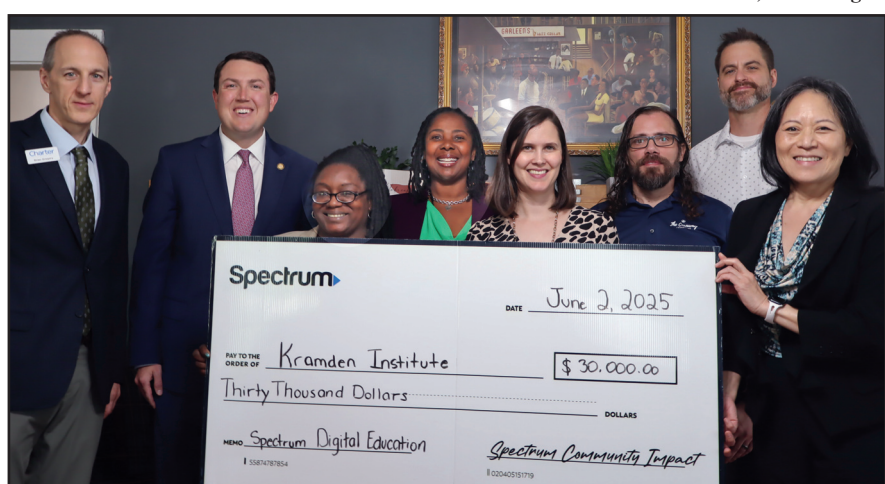


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Spectrum Awards Grant to Support Computer Basics Curriculum at Caraway Foundation in Anson County

Spectrum announced Kramden Institute has received a \$30,000 grant through its 2024 Spectrum Digital Education program for their Digital Skills curriculum. Since launching in 2017, Spectrum Digital Education has committed more than \$10 million to nonprofits focused on improving digital literacy, workforce development and educational access in unserved and underserved communities across Charter's 41-state service area.

Funding will support Kramden's Computer Basics program which is taught at various housing authorities and community organizations, including the Caraway Foundation in Ansonville. In addition to the comprehensive, basic computer training, Spectrum will provide the class at the Caraway Foundation with helpful tips for efficiently using Wifi services, protecting your identity and information online, and a Xumo demonstration. Each participant is also awarded a refurbished laptop computer with one year of complimentary tech support.

"Connectivity is the foundation for meaningful learning, professional growth and human connection, and helps to build strong, thriving communities," said Rahman Khan, Group Vice President of Community Impact, for Spectrum. "Spectrum Digital Education supports programs that empower community members to enhance their lives with connectivity, from providing digital literacy training to seniors to connecting students with important resources and tools for their education."

A check presentation took place at the Caraway Foundation on Monday, June 2. The Computer Basics class immediately followed.

"It's important to continually look for ways to bridge the digital divide throughout our local communities," said state Sen. David Craven. "Thank you to Spectrum, and Kramden for their commitment to expanding digital literacy skills for residents in Anson County."

"Initiatives like this are vital for equipping our communities with online safety skills and resources to thrive in our digital world," said Maggie Woods, Director, N.C. Department of Information Technology and Office of Digital Opportunity. "Spectrum's commitment to digital literacy and significant support for partners like Kramden Institute and the Caraway Foundation help residents build their understanding of technology and stay connected, informed and engaged."

The \$30,000 grant is the seventh Spectrum Digital Education grant for Kramden Institute, bringing total Spectrum support for the organization to \$225,000 over the past seven years.

"Kramden applauds Spectrum's continued commitment to expanding digital opportunities in North Carolina. With this grant, Kramden is able to provide computer education and devices for residents of Anson and Cumberland counties," said Cyndy Yu-Robinson, Executive Director, Kramden Institute. "Everyone should be connected to learning, working, news, safety, health and other services via the internet."

Through direct support of nonprofit partners across Spectrum's service area, Spectrum Digital Education has helped distribute over 18,500 laptops and sponsor more than 40,000 digital education classes, benefiting over 163,000 community members since 2017. Kramden Institute is one of 66 nonprofit organizations that has been awarded a 2024 Spectrum Digital Education grant.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet June 17

The second June meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners takes place on Tuesday, June 17 at 6 p.m.

Meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

SPCC Offers Free Education - the Anson Advantage

The "Anson Advantage" program provides free tuition and fees for Anson County residents enrolled in one of South Piedmont Community College's short-term workforce training programs. These programs can be completed in less than a year and are designed to lead to immediate employment opportunities in fields including:

- Construction • Early Childhood Education • Healthcare • Manufacturing
- Truck Driving • Welding • More!

The only requirements are a high school diploma, Anson County residency, and to be registered in a qualifying program.

Are you ready to take advantage of your chance for a free college education? Scan the QR code, visit spcc.edu, or call 704-272-5300.



State Advisory Council to Bring Order to Cannabis Market

On Wednesday, June 4 Governor Josh Stein released the following statement on the need to protect young people by bringing order to the unregulated cannabis market:

"Today all across North Carolina, there are unregulated intoxicating THC products available for purchase: just walk into any vape shop. There is no legal minimum age to purchase these products! That means that kids are buying them. Without any enforceable labeling requirements, adults are using them recreationally without knowing what is in them or how much THC there is. Our state's unregulated cannabis market is the wild west and is crying for order. Let's get this right and create a safe, legal market for adults that protects kids.

"That is why I am announcing a State Advisory Council on Cannabis. I am charging this group with studying and recommending a comprehensive approach to regulate cannabis sales. They will study best practices and learn from other states to develop a system that protects youth, allows adult sales, ensures public safety, promotes public health, supports North Carolina agriculture, expunges past convictions of simple THC possession, and invests the revenues in resources for addiction, mental health, and drugged driving detection.

"I want to thank members of the General Assembly for their interest in addressing this gaping loophole in state law. Let's work together on a thoughtful, comprehensive solution that allows sales to adults and that is grounded in public safety and health. We can work together and get this right."

Governor Stein signed the Executive Order creating the Council on Tuesday morning. The Council will include representatives from the Office of State Budget and Management, the State Highway Patrol, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the General Assembly, and the Departments of Health and Human Services, Public Safety, Revenue, Transportation, and Justice.

Hemp and marijuana are both types of cannabis. The difference used to be how much THC was in the plant. Today, due to the cannabis industry's unchecked and creative product development and packaging, the terms "hemp" and "marijuana" have lost their traditional meanings and are essentially the same thing. They both contain intoxicating levels of THC. As a result, anyone, no matter their age, can legally buy cannabis products in vape shops with high concentrations of intoxicating THC here in North Carolina. The status quo of zero protection of our kids is absolutely unacceptable. That's why the work of this Advisory Council to recommend a regulatory structure for cannabis sales is important and urgent.

In the meantime, at a minimum, the General Assembly should prohibit the sales of products that contain intoxicating THC to anyone under 21 by requiring photo ID age-verification and require packaging that lets adults know what is actually in cannabis products, including the amount of THC.

Snapping Great Pics – A Cellphone Photography Class

The Cheraw Arts Commission and Northeastern Technical College are featuring a Photography Class in June. Three sessions (June 14 – June 21- June 28) will be held at the Burr Gallery (Cheraw Community Center- 200 Powe Street) from 11:00am- 12:30pm. Instructor for the sessions is photographer Ron Stafford.

Participants will learn essential photography techniques, and photos will be featured in a gallery exhibit. Cost of the 3 sessions is \$100. Contact NETC 843.921.6900 to register & contact Ron Stafford 843.921.6953 for additional information.

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Monday- Western Shirt
Tuesday- Western Hat
Wednesday- Bandana

**Thursday- Family Matching (Family Fun Night)
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