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

## Former Chamber of Commerce President Shelby Emrich Pled Guilty to Felony Embezzlement Charges

According to a release from the Anson County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, on Thursday, October 3 Shelby Emrich, the former President of the Chamber of Commerce, pled guilty to felony embezzlement. Emrich will pay restitution to the Chamber. She was arrested on July 26, 2023, and was facing 29 counts of embezzlement. **Chamber release dated October 3:** "On October 3, 2024, legal matters regarding the former President/CEO of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce were resolved. Shelby Emrich entered a plea of guilty to felony embezzlement and will pay restitution to the Chamber. The Board of Directors is pleased with the resolution and is grateful to be able to fully focus on promoting Anson County.

The Board expresses the deepest gratitude to the Wadesboro Police Department, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and the Anson County District Attorney's Office for their assistance, professionalism, and dedication to pursuing this case and seeking justice.

Most importantly, the Board thanks our members for unwavering support for the past year and a half. The overwhelming generosity and understanding given are a testament to the tenacity of the community we serve."

**Details of the felony charges against Emrich** On Wednesday, March 15, 2023, former Wadesboro Police Chief T. L. Spencer requested the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) investigate allegations of 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 accounts for personal use.

On Wednesday, July 26, 2023, SBI agents with the Southern Piedmont District office arrested former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, Shelby Emrich. Emrich turned herself in at the Anson County Jail.

Emrich was charged with 29 counts of embezzlement. After going before a magistrate, she was issued a \$29,000 secured bond.

## Atrium Health Women's Care Mobile Health Event is Saturday

'Drive to Thrive' provide a wide range of services. Event takes place at a new location - Food Lion parking lot in Wadesboro.



Atrium Health Women's Care Drive to Thrive is mobile care unit that provides a range of women's care services in a warm, welcoming environment. It will be in the front parking lot of Food Lion in Wadesboro this Saturday, October 12, from 9:00 a.m. until 2 p.m.

**Food Lion is located at 1043 East Caswell Street (Highway 74) in Wadesboro.**

- Services include:
- Cervical cancer screening (Pap smear)
  - Screening for urinary tract infections
  - Screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
  - Birth control (contraception), including same-day access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), like intrauterine devices (IUDs) • Ultrasounds
  - First-time prenatal visits, if not established with an OB/GYN • Postpartum visits • Mammogram referrals
  - A social worker will be on-site to help connect with additional resources

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended. You can call 704-468-0137 to schedule an appointment.

Visit [AtriumHealth.org/MobileHealth](http://AtriumHealth.org/MobileHealth) or scan the QR code for the Drive to Thrive mobile health schedule, locations and more information. The website includes information on the Community Sliding Fee Discount Program that can provide up to a full 100% discount for qualifying patients.

## Mobile Food Market is October 17

The next Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, October 17, starting at 4:00 p.m. at Wadesboro Primary School, located at 1542 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

Food will be given away, including fresh vegetables, fruit and bread (if available). There will be blood pressure and blood sugar checks, along with other healthy living topics and booths.

This free event offers citizens of Anson County six to eight different types of fresh produce monthly. This is a free initiative, so please come and get some produce. **Nothing is required for you to receive produce, just come.**

The event is sponsored by the Anson County Extension and its partners.

This event is to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county. It will also serve as an educational event to offer education on the two targeted areas of the county health assessment which are tobacco use and hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas.

## Wadesboro Fire Department Community Safety Day is Saturday

The first responders in Anson County are excited to announce that Community Safety Day will be held this Saturday, October 12, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The event will feature free food and fun!

Everyone is invited to come to the Food Lion parking lot, located at 1043 East Caswell Street (Highway 74) in Wadesboro, to join in the festivities.

For information call the Fire Department at 704-694-1014.

## Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes on Thursday, October 10 and Thursday, October 24. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.



## WPS Kindergarten Students Sampled Sweet, Sour, Salty and Hot!

For the conclusion of the CKLA unit on the five senses at Wadesboro Primary School on Tuesday, October 8, the Kindergarten team had a popcorn bar with sweet, sour, salty, and hot treats! Students also got their own 3D glasses to watch a cool 3D movie!

Kindergarteners were definitely immersed in each of their senses!

## Medicare Beneficiaries Urged to Check Their Options for 2025

Medicare beneficiaries are reminded that it's time to compare and evaluate their current plans and make necessary changes during the annual Open Enrollment Period.

"What worked for you this year may not be the best plan for you in 2025," NC Insurance Commissioner Causey said. "It is important to take advantage of the Open Enrollment Period by contacting local Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselors to save money, improve your coverage or both."

In Anson County SHIIP counselors are standing by at Grace Senior Center, located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-6616.

The Open Enrollment Period begins on Oct. 15 and runs for eight weeks to give you enough time to review and make changes to your Medicare coverage. Changes must be made by Dec. 7 to guarantee your coverage will begin without interruption on Jan. 1, 2025.

It is important to contact your local SHIIP counselor before deciding about coverage for 2025. This may help you receive a more affordable and better Medicare health and/or drug plan in your area. For example, even if you are satisfied with your current Medicare Advantage or Part D plan, there may be another plan in your area that covers your health care and/or drugs at a better price.

SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and offers free, unbiased information about Medicare, Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance issues. SHIIP counselors can also help people find out if they are eligible for Medicare cost savings programs.

### Here are some of the ways to review and compare plans available for 2025:

- Get one-on-one help from your local SHIIP office - Grace Senior Center.
- Get one-on-one help from SHIIP by calling 1-855-408-1212, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Visit [www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan](http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan) to compare your current coverage with all the options that are available in your area and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.
- Review the Medicare & You handbook. It was mailed to people with Medicare in September.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Contact your trusted licensed insurance agent.

SHIIP counselors are not licensed insurance agents, and they do not sell, endorse, or oppose any product, plan or company. If you have questions about your specific plan, we encourage you to contact your insurance agent or the insurance company.

For more information about SHIIP and the Medicare Open Enrollment Period, call 704-694-6616, 1-855-408-1212 or visit [www.ncshiip.com](http://www.ncshiip.com).

## Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil is October 24

This is a release from the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. According to the NCADV website, Domestic Violence Awareness month was first observed in 1987. Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center (ACDVC) participates in the Silent Witness program during the month of October to mourn those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

During October, life-sized wooden figures will be placed in the county, each one bearing the name of a person who once lived, worked, had friends, family - whose life ended violently at the hands of a partner, spouse, ex-spouse, or acquaintance.

Domestic Violence often goes unreported. In Anson County from July 2023 to June 2024, ACDVC assisted 250 victims of domestic violence. The age bracket with the highest incident is 26-40 years old. We had 494 calls to our crisis hotline. According to statistics, one in three women and one in four men have been victims of some form of physical violence by their intimate partner. According to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, every nine seconds a woman is assaulted. From January 1 to September 27, 2024, there were 83 domestic violence related deaths in North Carolina alone.

On Thursday, October 24 at 6:00 p.m., ACDVC invites anyone who has a friend or loved one represented here or if you have been or know someone that has been affected by domestic violence to come and join us during this special time of remembrance. This year's event will be held at the Anson County Courthouse.

Our known victims include Argatha H. Clark, Cindy B. McIntyre, Rebecca B. Morrow, Connie Newton, Laura Parker, Mary Polk, Danette Streater, Mary Jane Suess, Linda Kay Walters, Daisy Coleman Melton, Larry Thomas Lindsey, Jennifer Howell, Esther Brooks Hildreth, Sherri Feely Marshall, Elnora Sturdivant, Sherika Monique Little, Doretha Polk Smith, Rodney Smith, Kim Campbell, Deborah Wall Smith, Linda McCain, Daejunae Williams, Joseph Michael Hall, Dorothy Allen, three unnamed victims and two unborn children.

For more information, please contact the staff at Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center at 704-694-4499. Our 24-hour crisis line is 704-690-0362.

## SPCC Polkton Trunk or Treat Event is October 24

South Piedmont Community College's eighth-annual Trunk or Treat event will take place at the L.L. Polk campus from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, October 24.

The event is free and open to the public.

Each year, departments, student clubs/organizations, and academic programs create festive trunk displays for Trunk or Treat attendees to enjoy.

The College also ensures there's plenty of candy for trunk-or-treaters, giving away nearly 5,000 pounds of candy each year!

In addition to trunk-or-treating, South Piedmont admissions personnel will be available to talk to attendees about college and career opportunities.

The event begins at 6 p.m., but attendees are encouraged to arrive early. The L.L. Polk campus is located at 680 U.S. 74 in Polkton.

For more information contact Director of Student Life, Engagement & Leadership Alen Doty at [rdoty@spcc.edu](mailto:rdoty@spcc.edu).

## Bluegrass Acoustic Music Jam is Thursday

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a bluegrass acoustic music jam on Thursday, October 10, 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. in the Little Theater. Musicians, singers and spectators are welcome. Jam sessions are open to all age levels and skill levels. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have any questions please contact Dianne or Caroline at the library, 704-694-5177. You may also contact event volunteer Randy Collins at 336-430-6318 (call or text) or via email at: [vaguitar@msn.com](mailto:vaguitar@msn.com).

A second Jam will be held on Thursday, October 24 at the same time.

## Elvis Tribute Artist Roy Gaddy to Perform at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting a music program on Monday, Oct. 14 at 10:30 a.m. The featured guest will be Elvis Presley tribute artist Roy Gaddy. This will be in the library's Little Theater. Everyone is invited to come enjoy the music of Elvis greatest hits.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

## Parent / Teacher Conferences for Elementary Schools is October 17

Elementary schools will dismiss early on Thursday, October 17 for Parent / Teacher Conferences.

Dismissal will be at 12:30 p.m. and conferences will be held from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

## Peachland Fall Festival on the Square is Oct. 26

The Town of Peachland's "Fall Festival on the Square" will be held on Saturday, October 26, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

The event will feature trunk or treating, costume contests, music and food.

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)