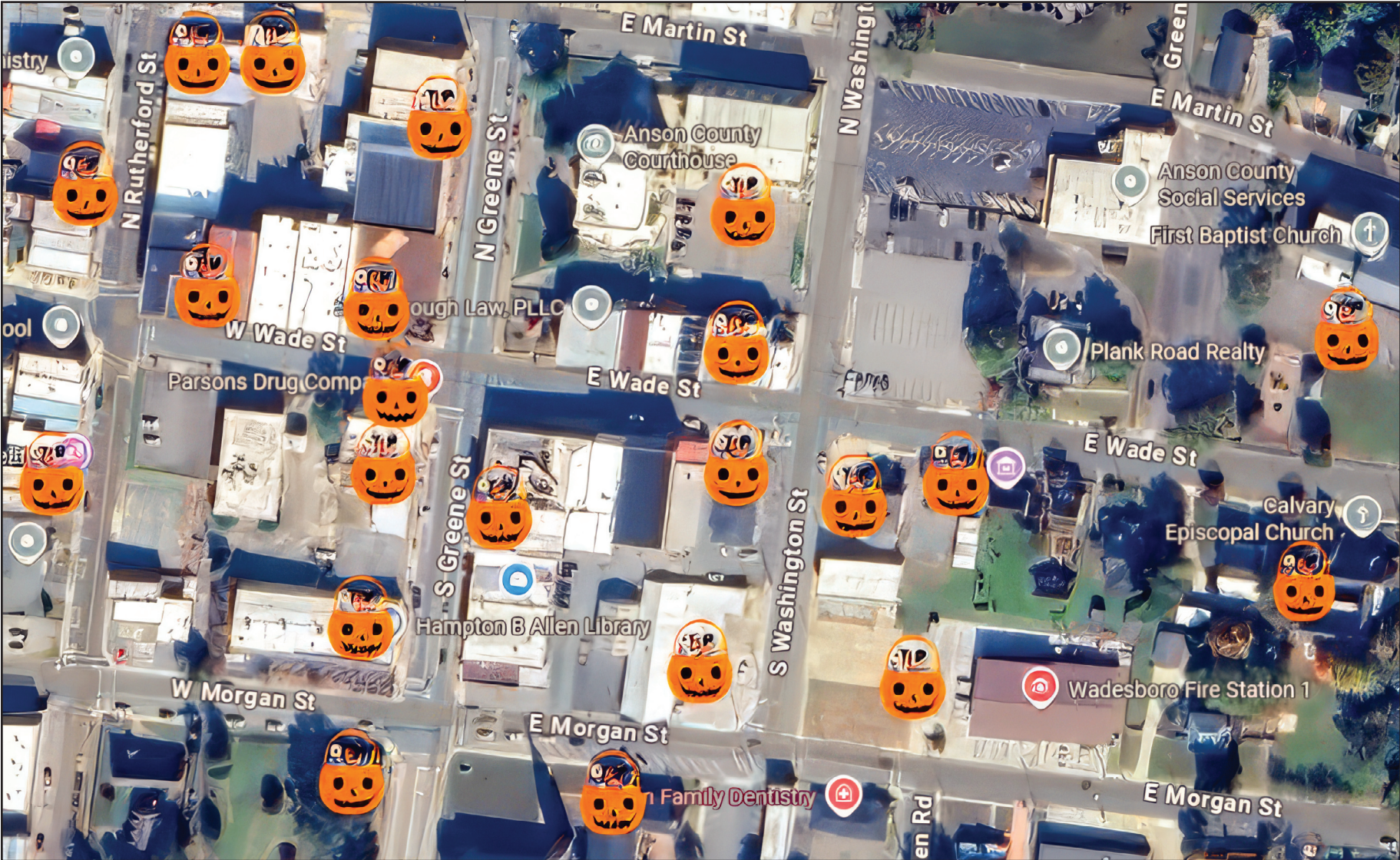


THE EXPRESS

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SNAP Benefits May Be Delayed in NC Amid Federal Shutdown

Governor Stein urges USDA to release funds to prevent hunger

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) warns that November SNAP benefits for 1.4 million residents could be delayed if the federal government shutdown continues. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) directed the delay on October 10, and as of October 27, federal funding had not been received.

Governor Josh Stein urged the USDA to deploy available contingency funds to avoid a hunger crisis, calling the refusal to use them “a cruel abdication of responsibility.”

SNAP provides \$230–\$250 million monthly to help families afford food. NCDHHS Secretary Dev Sangvai said the department will keep processing applications and issue benefits as soon as funds are restored.

Funding for the WIC program, which supports more than 262,000 women and children, may also run out by early November.

NCDHHS offers the following guidance for those relying on food and nutrition programs:

- Continue to Apply and Renew: County DSS offices remain open. Apply or renew SNAP benefits on time to avoid delays when funding resumes.
 - Check Your Balance: Existing benefits are still usable. Check your EBT balance via the ebtEDGE app, at ebtEDGE.com, or by calling 1-888-622-7328.
 - Find Food Resources: If your family needs immediate food assistance, dial 2-1-1 to locate local pantries and support services. You can also visit www.ncdhhs.gov.
- For updates and food assistance resources, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/shutdown.

Trunk or Treat is Back at SPCC’s Polkton Campus

South Piedmont Community College is popping the trunks and piling in the goodies as Trunk or Treat returns to the L.L. Polk Campus (680 US-74, Polkton). Staff will transform their vehicles into kid-approved candy stations with the precision of a pit crew and the enthusiasm of a marching band on a sugar rush.

It’s free and open to the public, runs 6:00–8:00 p.m. this Thursday, October 30, and organizers promise thousands of pounds of candy - enough to make dentists sigh and children levitate slightly. Bring a bag, bring a buddy, bring your best “boo!”

A couple of friendly notes: service animals only (thanks for leaving pets at home), and some candy may contain nuts, so plan accordingly for allergies.

RSVP and details live at events.spcc.edu.

Senior Trick-or-Treat “Fright-Day” Event

Grace Senior Center is getting into the Halloween spirit with its Senior Trick-or-Treat Fright-Day celebration this Friday, October 31, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro - just past IGA on the left.

Seniors are invited to join the fun-filled morning of treats, games, and spooky laughter. The event will feature festive decorations, plenty of candy, and a chance for participants to show off their favorite costumes.

Grace Senior Center staff and volunteers promise a lively and lighthearted gathering where seniors can socialize, enjoy refreshments, and celebrate Halloween in a safe and welcoming space.

The center encourages all participants to come dressed for fun - whether that means a silly hat, a full costume, or just a big smile.

For more information call (704) 694-6616.

Wadesboro Candy Trail Set for Friday: A Sweet & Safe Night for Families

Downtown fun, treats, and community spirit on Halloween evening. Follow this map for adventure!

Halloween is almost here, and Wadesboro is ready to celebrate with the annual Wadesboro Candy Trail this Friday, October 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Families are invited to come downtown for a fun, safe, and family-friendly evening filled with candy, costumes, and community cheer.

The Anson County Sheriff’s Department and Anson County Arts Council will also be hosting special Halloween events, and Calvary Episcopal Church will once again serve up spooky smiles and sizzling hot dogs at its annual weenie roast.

This year’s Candy Trail features participation from many beloved local organizations and businesses, including: Sugar IQ Italian Ice & Dessert Bar • Anson County Arts Council • Edwards Martial Arts • Kennedy Intensive In-Home Services • North Wadesboro Baptist Church (set up near Wade St. Originals) • Parsons Drug Company • Studio 256 • Hampton B. Allen Library • First Presbyterian Church • First United Methodist Church • H.W. Little & Company Hardware • Oliver’s Wadesboro • Anson County Sheriff’s Office • Wadesboro Police Department • Town of Wadesboro • Atrium Health – Wadesboro • Anson Women’s League • Anson Crisis Ministries • Anson Economic Development Corporation • Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition and Rape Crisis Center • Anson County Historical Society • First Baptist Church – Lee Avenue (set up at Plank Road Realty) • Calvary Episcopal Church • Wadesboro Fire Department • Anson County EMS

At the Anson County Partnership for Children’s Resource Center, multiple groups will join forces, including Crisis Ministries, Women’s League, and Atrium Health, while Anson EMS will be set up with the Wadesboro Fire Department.

Event organizers thank the many community members who work together to provide safe, family-friendly Halloween fun for everyone. Additional groups may also participate - if your business or organization is planning to join the fun, please email or call Elizabeth Rizzo at elizabeth.rizzo@ansonchildren.org or 704-694-4036 so you can be added to the event list and community map.

Mark your calendar, dress up, and come downtown - Wadesboro’s sweetest night of the year is almost here!

Super Saturday is November 8!

The Anson County Schools Professional School-Based Mentoring Team, in partnership with Dr. Adolph Brown, is excited to invite students, parents, and mentors to the next Super Saturday event on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 10:30 a.m. at Wadesboro Elementary School.

What is Super Saturday? Super Saturday is not just another weekend program - it’s a personal and professional development retreat designed to uplift and equip students, parents, and educators. These sessions focus on meeting the real, urgent needs of today’s school communities, offering meaningful strategies, encouragement, and connection at just the right time.

For Students From 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m., students will participate in powerful group sessions led by mentors and facilitators. These sessions are designed to empower young people, build confidence, and strengthen the skills they need to succeed in both school and life. A meal will be served!

Why Attend? Super Saturday provides a unique opportunity for students, parents, and mentors to come together in one space, sharing experiences that encourage academic success, emotional well-being, and community support. With the expertise and energy of Dr. Adolph Brown, nationally recognized educator, psychologist, and motivational speaker, attendees can expect an inspiring and impactful day. The Professional School-Based Mentoring Team encourages all families to mark their calendars, come ready to learn, and leave with renewed motivation and tools for success.

‘Booze It & Lose It’ Campaign Returns for Halloween

The North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program has relaunched its annual “Halloween Booze It & Lose It” campaign, reminding everyone that Halloween should be scary for the costumes - not the consequences of drinking and driving.

Starting Monday, law enforcement in all 100 counties will increase patrols and sobriety checkpoints to stop impaired drivers before tragedy strikes.

“Driving under the influence is a choice that can have devastating consequences,” said NCGHSP Director Mark Ezzell. “Plan ahead and use a designated driver.”

Last Halloween, officers made 588 DWI arrests, and in 2024 there were 361 alcohol-related deaths statewide.

The campaign also includes a new “Don’t Play With Death” media message promoting safe and sober driving. For more information, visit ncdot.gov.

Ceremony to Honor Victims of Domestic Violence

The Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center (ACDVC) will host its annual Silent Witness Program on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Anson County Courthouse, honoring victims of domestic violence, celebrating survivors, and promoting awareness.

Between July 2024 and June 2025, ACDVC assisted 224 victims and received 465 hotline calls. The center continues to raise awareness as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, first observed nationally in 1987.

Residents are invited to attend the remembrance ceremony and stand with the community in solidarity, hope, and healing.

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

Meet Your Local Farmers Event November 3

The community is invited to come out and meet the farmers who help feed Anson County! A Local Farmer Meet & Greet will be held on Monday, Nov. 3, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro.

This friendly drop-in event is open to everyone and offers a great opportunity to connect with local farmers, learn about what they produce, and discover the variety of products available right here in the community. You may even have the chance to purchase some local goodies while you’re there!

Organizers say the goal is to strengthen community ties and celebrate the hard-working farmers who make local food possible.

For more information, contact Lydia Stegall at 704-694-2915 or lydia_stegall@ncsu.edu.

The event is sponsored by Cooperative Extension – Anson County Center.

THE INSIDE ANSON SCHOOLS INFORMATION SECTION IS ONLINE AT THE EXPRESS WEBSITE FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR.

www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

INSIDE THIS EDITION...SAVE COUPON BOOK

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Omaha Steaks • CeraVe Lotion • Gas-X • Boost • Secret • Aleve • Dove