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

Shelby Emrich Appointed Interim Director of Chamber of Commerce



The Anson County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has appointed Shelby Emrich as Interim Executive Director, immediately replacing long term Executive Director Lynn Edwards who resigned last month. Mrs. Emrich has worked for the Chamber for over four years.

In making the announcement, Chamber Board Chairman Richard Allen said that the Board wanted to keep continuity in the office and keep Chamber activities on track, so moving Mrs. Emrich was the logical choice. "Shelby knows our goals and expectations and has been a part of all of our projects, Allen said. "She has worked side by side with Lynn, so the learning curve is very low. We are looking forward to Shelby stepping up and taking on this higher profile role. We will make a more permanent decision in the next few months."

In accepting the position, Emrich said that she is excited about this opportunity and expects 2016 to be a great year for the Chamber. "I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the Board and businesses here in Anson County. We have a lot of great programs going on and I will work hard to make them successful," Emrich said.

School Board Meets February 22

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular meeting on Monday, February 22 in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open session to the public should begin around 6:30 p.m.

Local Food Drive Celebrates Annual Small Farms Week

Anson County Cooperative Extension together with NC A&T University is conducting a local food drive through March 11. The food drive is in conjunction with the 30th Annual Small Farms Week celebration, March 20-26. Designated to benefit local communities, all food collected as part of the Anson County drive will be donated to Harvest Ministries of Anson County for their Helping Hands Food Pantry.

Anyone interested in donating to this worthy project can drop off their non-perishable food items at the Anson County Cooperative Extension Center, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. during the drive.

For each item donated donors can write their names on tag decals that will be posted through the lobby and front entrance of the building. Sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Small Farms Week pays tribute to the state's small-scale growers.

By expanding the scope of this year's observance to include a food drive, Cooperative Extension acknowledges farmers' indisputable contribution to the health and economy of North Carolina.

In addition, the food drive recognizes the incidence of food-insecurity in our counties, state and nation, and underscores the outreach and impact of Cooperative Extension's statewide and national network.

All 100 counties and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians are collaborating with N.C. A&T by collecting canned and non-perishable food items. This project is also in keeping this year with the 125th anniversary of N.C. A&T's founding in 1891.

Town of Lilesville to Hold 6th Annual Catfish Stew Cookoff

The Town of Lilesville has issued a challenge to anyone and everyone who cooks catfish stew. Bring it on and find out who the real champion is! There will be a select panel of judges to make this year's decision. Lilesville will hold their 6th annual Catfish Stew Cookoff on Saturday, March 12. If catfish stew isn't your forte, enter the Stew of Your Choice contest! This event is open to anyone who would like to enter, and everyone is invited to come sample the stews too. Prizes are:

- Catfish Stew \$250 to winner, \$100 for 2nd, \$50 for 3rd
- Stew of Your Choice \$100 to winner, \$75 for 2nd, and \$50 for 3rd. Entries judged by patrons.

"We would like to invite all cooks who enjoy a challenge," said Lilesville Town Clerk Lynn Whitlock. "Come join us and let's find out who is really the best, because we are going to crown a champion!"

If you're not cooking, you can join the fun and root for your favorite team. You can also try your hand at being a judge for \$5 - pick up a bowl and spoon and get a taste of each entry and compare your selection with that of the official judges.

Once again there will also be the crowning of Miss Catfish and Master Catfish. This contest is open to two age groups - girls and boys from Kindergarten through 3rd grade (winner has best colored picture of a catfish using outline provided by town hall), and girls and boys from 4th through 6th grade for best colored picture of an original drawing of a catfish. Rules and entry forms are available at town hall.

There will also be special singing, t-shirts for sale, giant slides...and lots of fun for all ages!

If you would like to be a vendor or set up a booth, contact town hall at 704-848-4711 by the March 9 deadline.

This event will take place at Hatcher Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The judging will take place at noon. To enter the cookoff you can pick up forms at Lilesville Town Hall, Scotty's Bait and Tackle and Whit's Convenience at all 3 locations. There is no cost to enter, the deadline is March 11.

The Town of Lilesville plans to have lots of fun on Saturday, March 12. Don't mess around and miss this fun-filled event. You will definitely be sorry you did. Lilesville wants YOU to cook up some STEW!

By Melanie Lyon



The Ansonia Theatre a Long Time Ago

The Ansonia Theatre has hosted many events over its long lifetime. Primarily a movie theatre in its early days, the venue was still used for other functions as well. Pictured above, a large audience and large stage group appear to be in prayer. Does anyone have any idea what was going on, and what year this was?

Governor McCrory's Statement on Connect NC Bond

Connect NC Bond will be part of March 15 Vote

This is a release by North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory: Governor Pat McCrory has signed the Connect NC Bond Act into law, which will allow the people of North Carolina to vote on a \$2 billion bond package that will invest in education, parks, National Guard facilities and water and sewer infrastructure throughout the state.

"We fought hard for this legislation because I truly believe the Connect NC investments in education, our parks, agriculture, along with water and sewer infrastructure will increase North Carolina's economic competitiveness and quality of life," said Governor McCrory.

- **Education** The University of North Carolina System will receive \$980 million, primarily to build and repair facilities that prepare students opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) as well the medical sciences and business.
- **The North Carolina Community College System** will receive \$350 million for needed repairs and renovations at all 58 campuses across the state. These improvements are needed to retrofit and repair existing space to meet the demands of a 21st century workforce.
- **National Guard** Connect NC includes \$70 million to build Regional Readiness Centers in Burke, Guilford and Wilkes Counties to improve emergency response in those areas and throughout the state.
- **Parks and Historical Attractions** Connect NC will provide \$100 million to update facilities at all state parks. Of that amount, the North Carolina Zoo will receive \$25 million for upgrades in support facilities, trails and exhibits.
- **Water and Sewer Infrastructure** Connect NC will make available \$309.5 million to North Carolina's small towns and urban centers for water and sewer loans and grants to meet the demands of a growing state.
- **Agricultural Research** Connect NC will construct an \$85 million for the Plant Sciences Research Complex at NC State University to establish North Carolina as the world leader in plant sciences research and innovation.

A \$94 million lab at the Agricultural and Consumer Sciences Building will be built for veterinary, food, drug and motor fuel testing.

Here is an overview of the Connect NC Bond

- \$2 billion of targeted, long-term investments
- Projects in 76 counties (Anson County is included)
- Infrastructure investments are vital to NC's competitiveness
- Connect NC will pay for assets that will last for 50 years
- Interest rates are historically low
- Connect NC will not jeopardize our strong credit ratings
- There will be no new taxes or tax increases because of Connect NC

It's been 15 years since the last bond investments were authorized to upgrade our state's infrastructure. In that time, North Carolina has grown by 2 million people in population and the U.S. Census Bureau projects the state will continue to experience healthy population growth for the foreseeable future."

If approved by North Carolina voters, the Connect NC bond will allow the state to pay for buildings and other assets with a service life of 50-years or more with 20-year financing. No tax increases are necessary to finance the bond, given our state's strong revenue growth and ample debt service capacity.

North Carolina is one of only 10 states with AAA credit rating from all three major ratings agencies. This top credit rating saves North Carolina taxpayers millions of dollars and will not do anything to jeopardize our AAA credit rating. Because we are paying off our existing debt rapidly, the state's overall debt levels will not increase with this new bond.

Anson County Early College Variety Show

Anson County Early College is hosting a Variety Show on Thursday, February 18 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. The show will begin at 6:30 p.m. and admission is \$5 per person.

ACEC is excited to showcase the many talents of their students. There will be art on display, singing, dancing, poetry, piano and other talents. This show will be something for everyone to enjoy!

East Polkton School's Taste of Soul Program

The East Polkton School Alumni Association is sponsoring their annual Taste of Soul program on Saturday, February 20 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center at 4 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$10.

To purchase tickets or get more information call Fred Ledbetter at 704-272-7622.

Meet and Greet the Candidates this Sunday

The Anson County Democratic Party will host a "Meet & Greet" for all the candidates in the upcoming March Primary at Hampton B. Allen Library on Sunday, February 21, beginning at 4 p.m. All candidates, officials and concerned citizens are invited.

For more information please contact Vancine Sturdivant, Democratic Party Chair, at 704-848-4412.

Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Monday, February 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the BCSWCD office located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-3516.

WIC Program Information

The Anson County WIC program provides supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and community resources to participants. WIC clients now receive a cash value voucher in some WIC packages that can be used to purchase fresh, frozen or canned fruits and vegetables at WIC approved stores. An option for yogurt is also available on many food packages.

To be eligible for WIC you must be an infant or child less than five years of age, a woman who is pregnant, breastfeeding, or has given birth within six months.

For more information about WIC or to make an appointment, please call the Anson County Health Department at 704-694-9844. Or you can visit the office at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m. See article on page 2 about eligibility.

Cooking That Heals Seminar is Sunday

Do you want to learn about a lifestyle and how to prepare foods that will reverse diabetes, heart disease, cancer, arthritis, high cholesterol, high blood pressure or obesity? Plus you will learn that cooking healthy is NOT expensive, it actually pays! Come join in the next healthy living and cooking classes at Pathway to Peace Ministries this Sunday, from 3 to 5 p.m. This seminar is free, and you will also be able to eat dinner with them.

Directions: On Highway 109 South, pass Deep Creek. The address is 11775 NC 109 South, Peachland. For more information call 704-695-1441.