

If someone offers you money for nothing, there's probably a catch, right? In this new twist on a romance scam, a con artist offers to become your "sugar momma" or "sugar daddy" and pay your bills. But according to recent Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker (bbb.org/scamtracker) reports, it's really a way to trick victims out of money.

How the scam works: You get a message through a dating or social media app from someone offering to be your "sugar momma" or "sugar daddy." In exchange for your affection, they will pay you a "weekly allowance" of hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars. The offer sounds too good to be true, but your benefactor seems legitimate – at first.

The scammer sends you a check or pretends to transfer money into your bank account or a peer-to-peer payment service like Cash App, PayPal, or Apple Pay. They tell you to keep most of the money as your "weekly allowance" – after you do them a small favor. The scammer asks you to transfer part of the cash to their needy friend, pay an outstanding bill, purchase a gift card, or even donate to a charity that ends up being fake. Some victims even report that the scammers are asking victims to pay them back for transaction or processing fees, sometimes with Bitcoin.

"I believed that these checks were legit and the funds were real," one victim told BBB Scam Tracker. "I ended up just sending my own personal money to these contacts ... Which ended up costing me \$19,500."

Watch out for other versions of this con, too. Some victims report that scammers claim to need access to their bank accounts to deposit money. One victim shared, "He made the deposit and my account got restricted. The bank needed his verification and he refused to give it unless I [gave] him my SSN and ID."

Protect yourself from this scam:

- Know your rights and responsibilities when it comes to using checks. Banks will make the funds from a check available before the money is transferred into your account. If you spend the money and the check is fake, the bank has the right to recover the funds from you.
- Research your date first. Many scammers steal photos from the internet to use in their dating profiles. You can do a reverse image lookup using a website, like Google Images, to see if the photos on a profile are stolen from somewhere else. You can also search online for a profile name, email, or phone number to see what adds up and what doesn't.
- Ask specific questions about details given in a profile. A scammer may stumble over remembering details or making a story fit.
- Never send money or sensitive personal information to someone you've never met in person. Cut off contact if someone asks you for financial or personally identifiable information (PII), like your credit card number, bank account number, social security number, or other government ID numbers.

Obituaries ... continued from page 3

Mrs. Nancy Gatewood Gullede

On Friday, January 26, 2024, Mrs. Nancy Gatewood Gullede, 80, passed away peacefully at her home with her family gathered by her bedside.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, at Lilesville Baptist Church with Rev. Teddy Lawson officiating. Interment followed in Lilesville Cemetery. The family greeted friends two hours prior to the service on Sunday in the church sanctuary.

Nancy was born on May 31, 1943, in Anson County and was a daughter of the late Samuel and Annie Honeycutt Gatewood. She had a long and productive career in textiles, having retired as a supervisor with Hornwood, Inc. She was a lifelong devoted member of Lilesville Baptist Church and directed the Bible Drill Program for over 40 years.

Nancy, aka "Mema," was a devoted mother and committed her life to raising her children, and enjoying her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She will be remembered for her deep compassion for others and unending thoughtfulness. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Surviving are her children, Terry Gullede (Donna) of Peachland, Cindy Auman (Doug) of Hamlet, Lori Ingram (Mike) of Wadesboro and Patricia McCollum (Robin) of Wadesboro; fourteen grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Also surviving are her siblings, Shirley Leahy of Wadesboro, Ed Gatewood of Wadesboro and Peggy Gatewood of Lilesville; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband John William "Billy" Gullede, Jr. and her brother Sam Gatewood.

Memorials may be made to Lilesville Baptist Church, c/o Bible Drill, Susan Lear, PO Box 305, Lilesville, NC 28091.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

Ann Parker Taylor

Ann Parker Taylor, 83, of Angier NC went quietly with peaceful joy into the arms of her Lord and Savior into glory on Saturday, January 6, 2024.

A Memorial Mass was held on Monday, January 15, 2024, at St Bernadette Catholic Church in Fuquay-Varina. The family received friends at the Church before the service.

The Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wadesboro. Burial followed at East View Cemetery, followed by a reception at the First Baptist Church in Wadesboro.

Born Helen Ann Parker to Marion George Parker and Helen Sellers Parker on July 24, 1940 in Wadesboro, Ann enjoyed growing up in Wadesboro.

At age 5 Ann joined a group of fast friends that has continued to this day. The Birthday Girls as they call themselves have remained close for over 70 years and continue to meet every year. They were and are some of the best friends she ever had. Ann was involved in many groups but loved singing in the Angelus Choir and playing in the Wadesboro High School Band the most. As a member of the Choir she traveled and sang all over the state, the highlight of which was being invited to perform at the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh. In the band Ann played the saxophone and enjoyed conducting.

She lettered in basketball all four years. Ann graduated from Wadesboro High school in 1958 and attended Women's College University of North Carolina Greensboro. On December 30, 1962, in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ann married Thomas Spencer Taylor. Shortly after she and Tom moved to Raleigh where Ann worked for Southern Bell Telephone until 1968. Rejoining the work force in 1978, Ann began working for the Wake County Public School System and remained there 25 years, retiring as the Director of School Records.

A lifelong fan of the NC State Wolfpack, Ann excelled at cooking, camping, woodwork, and could fix nearly anything with her trusty MacGyver Swiss Army knife. A natural leader, Ann was a skillful family trip planner. She loved to travel, and delighted in watching her sons, and later grandsons, play ball. After retirement Ann began working for the Angier Area Chamber of Commerce and retired again after 5 years to become a full-time stay at home Grandmother.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents, her sister and brother-in-law, Sylvia Parker Lowder and Ben Lowder of Harrisburg NC.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years Thomas Taylor, her sons, Michael Algie of Sylva, Robert Gordon "RG" (Georgia Tutor) of Angier, Parker Patrick (Tana) of Holly Springs and John Clayton (Bonnie) of Fuquay-Varina; her grandsons, Logan Clayton of Greensboro, Spencer Glenn of Fuquay-Varina, Riley Grayson "RG" and Troy Andrew of Holly Springs; brother-in-law James Taylor (Martha) of Wilmington; step grandsons Bart Hawley (Blake) and Mack Hawley (Courtney) of Dunn NC; and her adopted family, Ben and Vicki Davies and children Broadman, Tallulah, Lockwood and Marianna of Shelby, NC

The family requests you consider a donation in Ann's name to the following: Angier

Family Pharmacy Prescription Fund, 50 Depot Street, Angier NC 27501 or Optimist Cottage Boys and Girls Homes, 400 Flemingston Dr, Lake Waccamaw NC 28450 or Oconeechee Council Boy Scouts of America, 33231 Atlantic Ave., Raleigh NC 27604 or Gentiva Hospice, 1231 N. Main Street, Lillington NC 27546.

The Taylor family expresses its sincere gratitude for Ann's care to Gentiva Hospice and Staff, especially Nurse Brandy Tennant and Nursing Assistant Prudence Burch.

The arrangements are in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at leavittfh.com.

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Church

FEBRUARY 7-9 & 11

17th Pastor's Anniversary Freedom Ministries #1 for Pastor Robert Ingram, Sun at 2:30pm. Dr. Donna Ingram McNair of Fairview Church of God in Polkton. Wed-Fri at 7pm.

FEBRUARY 11 Family & Friends Program, 2pm at Madison Grove Baptist Church with Pastor Carlos Melton from Johnson Chapel Church.

FEBRUARY 14 - 16 Women of Fire Program at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 7pm nightly. Wed-Bishop Carol Hall, Thu-Pastor Cindy Wiggins, Fri-Pastor Betty Tillman. All are welcome!

FEBRUARY 18 Annual February Birthday Program at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 3pm with Apostle Annette Ross of Grace & Mercy Cathedral Ministries in Charlotte. Everyone is invited.

ONGOING Victory in the Sanctuary Every Saturday at 11:30am at Pathway to Peace, 11775 Hwy 109S, Peachland. Info 704-695-1441

Tools for Christian Living Academy, fourth Saturdays, New Piney Grove Ministries, 6pm, 6-7pm

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Events

FEBRUARY 6 Board of Commissioners Meet 6pm in Board Room, Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. Now there are two regular monthly meetings, with the second February meeting on February 20. Meetings are available online at youtube.com, search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

FEBRUARY 20 Board of Commissioners Meet 6pm in Board Room, Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. Meetings are available online at youtube.com, search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

ONGOING EVENTS Bridge Club 2nd Thursday each month, 1-3pm at Grace Senior Center, 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

Free Health Clinic Day at Grace Senior Center

Grace Senior Center in collaboration with Goshen Medical Center Mobile Unit will hold a healthcare clinic day on Wednesday, February 7, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the parking lot of Grace Senior Center.

- Healthcare providers and staff will be on-site and offer:
- Cardiscreening (Risk Evaluation and EKG)
 - Depression Screening
 - Tobacco Cessation Counseling
 - Blood Pressure & Vital Signs Checks
 - Free Covid Vaccines
- Please call and register for the event at 704-694-6616. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA. The telephone number is 704-694-6616.

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VISION SOURCE

Town of Polkton NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The public is hereby advised that per N.C.G.S. 160D-601, a public hearing on the Land Use Plan will be held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the Polkton Fire Department, located at 61 West Polk Street, Polkton, NC 28135.

The 2024 Town of Polkton Land Use Plan provides a blueprint for growth and development over the next 20 to 30 years. When viewed as a guide, the document is intended to present the basic description of the Town of Polkton now and into the next few decades.

Copies of the Land Use Plan are available at Polkton Town Hall for public inspection during normal business hours until the budget is adopted.

All persons wishing to comment on the proposed Land Use Plan shall attend the hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2024, at the Polkton Fire Department to offer comments.

Jerricka B. Napier
Clerk to the Board/ Finance Officer