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Obituaries

Mrs. Agnes Morton Gay

Mrs. Agnes Morton Gay, 97, went home to be with her Lord on Sunday, May 17, 2020, at Wadesboro Health and Rehab in Wadesboro. Services will be private by the graveside in Anson Memorial Park on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, with Rev. Karl Randall officiating. Agnes was born January 3, 1923, in Anson County, and was a daughter of the late Willie Stacy Morton and the late Rosa Mae Lewis Morton. She worked for many years in textiles, having worked at Little Cotton Mill and Wade Manufacturing. She was a longtime and faithful member of Wadesboro Pentecostal Holiness Church and attended Community Full Gospel Church in Norwood. Surviving are her children, Calvin S. Gay, Jr. (Bonnie) of Wadesboro, Warren Gay (Wendy) of Manassas, VA and Sharon G. Love of Rockingham; her grandchildren, Christy Sellers, Tommy Sellers, Charles Meachum, Jr., Matthew Meachum, Tina Meachum, Billy Ray Allen, Mary Allen, Jessica Gay, Phillip Gay, Amy Gay McNeely (Robert) and Nicholas Gay; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Calvin S. Gay, her daughters, Donna Sellers and Ruth Hinson, and her brothers and sisters, Blair Morton, Mollie Oliver, Cassie Lett, Nannie Marsh, Annie Marsh, Aston Morton, Esther Colson, Dennis Morton, Lois Boysworth, Thomas Morton and Stacy Belle Vick. The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to the staff of Wadesboro Health and Rehab for the care they gave Agnes while she was a resident there.

The arrangements will be in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

Mrs. Ethel Long McLaurin

Mrs. Ethel Long McLaurin, age 91, died Friday, May 15, 2020, at Autumn Care of Marshville. Due to public gathering restrictions issued by the State of North Carolina, funeral services will be private. Miss Ethel was born in Anson County on July 24, 1928, a daughter of the late Mollie Jordan and Moman Lawrence McLaurin. She graduated from Morven High School, and was married to the late J. P. "Pete" McLaurin, Jr. She was a longtime member of Morven Baptist Church where she served over 40 years as the Church Clerk. Survivors include two sons, J. P. "Mac" McLaurin, III (Ivy) of Bennettsville, SC and Donald J. "Don" McLaurin (Frankie) of Wadesboro; daughter Terry Henry (Johnny) of Monroe; nine grandchildren, Jennifer Thomas, Josh McLaurin (Crystal), Toby McLaurin, Mindi McLaurin, Mandy McCollum (Dale), Randy Henry (Rachel), Angie Helms (David), Amy Cota, and Jordan "Rocky" Henry; 16 great-grandchildren, Evan, Noah, Katherine, Cheyanne, Hunter, Leah, Bridgette, Brayden, Krista, Jamison, Parker, Kara, Shay, Selena, Johnny, and Madison; a brother, John Long (Peggy) of Wadesboro; two sisters, Shirley Meachum of Matthews and Helen Davidson of Charlotte; and a special friend, Martha Burns. Leavitt Funeral Home is serving the McLaurin Family. Online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

Anson County Partnership for Children Office Reopens

The Anson County Partnership for Children (ACPC) is dedicated to serving our child care providers, families, children, and community through early childhood developmental programming. The Partnership reopened on May 8th to the public with modifications to ensure the safety of clients and staff during the pandemic. Families can register for NC Pre-K, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, get diapers from the diaper bank, have car seats checked for proper installation, and more. "We understand this has been a challenging time for children and families but know the Partnership is here for you! As we move forward, we want to make sure families are ready for the next phase in their child's life whether it's NC Pre-K or weekly Proud Parent playgroups," said Caroline Goins, Executive Director. Children turning 4 on or before August 31, 2020 are eligible to apply for NC Pre-Kindergarten starting in the fall. This high-quality child care is offered at no cost to qualifying families. NC Pre-K classes operate on a regular school calendar and are designed to address emotional and social development, physical health, language development, and cognitive functioning. Through the incorporation of indoor and outdoor learning environments, students participate in active learning experiences to foster a lifetime love of learning. Parents or guardians interested in learning more about the NC Pre-K program should contact Karen Gerald at 704-694-4036 or karen.gerald@ansonchildren.org. Applications are available in the Partnership's Early Childhood Resource Center located at 117 South Greene St. Wadesboro or online at www.ansonchildren.org. The Partnership is also collecting the red Raising a Reader bags from NC Pre-K and kindergarten students unable to turn the bags into their classrooms. If your family has a RAR bag at home it can be returned to the Partnership. Upon return, families will receive a book for their family library. Appointments are strongly encouraged when planning a visit to the resource room so Partnership staff can prepare requested materials. However, if unable to make an appointment, the staff will work to accommodate client needs. The following safety precautions have been put into place until further notice. We ask that you adhere to the following guidelines whether you have an appointment or not. The ACPC office has increased cleaning and sanitation practices for the office as well as the resources available for check out. ACPC staff continues to limit face-to-face interactions, only meeting when necessary and by appointment. Face coverings and gloves will be worn by staff when interacting with clients and preparing resources for clients. **Early Childhood Resource Center** For safety, please wear a face covering and do not visit our office if you have a fever or have been around anyone who is sick or has been sick in the last two weeks. ACPC staff will meet clients at the door to distribute NC Pre-Kindergarten applications, diapers, ECRC resources, and other supplies. Only staff is allowed inside the ECRC at this time. Please call ahead to request ECRC items so our staff can have items ready for pick up. Car seat distribution is available by appointment ONLY. To make a car seat appointment or request items, call our office at 704-694-4036. We suggest ECRC resources be sanitized after pick-up and before return to help minimize exposure. **Partnership Hosted Trainings** Trainings will resume in June. The training calendar can be found at the www.ansonchildren.org. To comply with the 6 feet social distancing recommendation class sizes will be smaller. Guests and children of trainees will not be allowed in the building at this time. Before entering the ACPC building, trainees will have their temperature checked for fever. Trainees will then be asked to wash hands before entering the training room. For safety, we ask trainees to wear a face covering and do not attend trainings if you have been around anyone that is sick two weeks prior to the training. We ask that trainees bring paper and pens because printed handouts will not be provided. All handouts and materials will be emailed to you. Also, snacks will not be provided to minimize contact. Trainees are asked to maintain all safety recommendations including maintaining social distancing. The inability to comply with safety precautions will result in being asked to leave without a refund or being granted a certificate of completion. For questions or concerns please contact the Partnership at 704-694-4036.

NC Strawberry Growers Adapt Operations to COVID-19 Restrictions

North Carolina's strawberry season kicked off around the same time the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in the state. Now, local strawberry growers, who rely heavily on pick-your-own operations, are adapting to find new markets for their products. "None of our growers could have expected the impact of COVID-19 on the state," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "It is encouraging to see how quickly growers have responded to the situation and what extra measures they have taken to ensure consumers have a safe supply of fresh strawberries this year." While strawberry growers already adhere to good agricultural practices, many are taking additional steps to ensure the health and wellbeing of their staff and consumers. Some of the steps taken include installing additional hand washing stations; providing hand sanitizers for employees and customers; requiring employees to wear disposable gloves while handling produce; and ensuring sick employees stay home. In addition, several pick-your-own farms have encouraged social distancing by limiting the number of rows that can be picked and limiting groups to 10 people or less. Changes also are being made to the way customers order and pay for strawberries. Many growers are offering pre-orders with roadside pickup, allowing customers to stay in their car. While some farms are even offering home delivery. Offers vary by farm, and consumers are encouraged to check with individual farms for specific details. The N.C. Strawberry Association provides a listing of you-pick strawberry farms with contact information at ncstrawberry.com/farm-locator. Strawberry growers began picking in mid-March in Eastern North Carolina. Growers in the Piedmont expect strawberries from mid-April through the first week of June. In Western North Carolina, strawberry lovers can find local berries from late April through the first week of July. North Carolina is the third-largest strawberry producer in the nation. In 2018, the state grew 1,100 acres of strawberries generating \$21.3 million in farm income.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Town of Peachland PUBLIC UTILITIES WORKER

Seeking an experienced individual in public utilities/works with thorough knowledge of water distribution, wastewater collection and street and building maintenance.

Minimum qualifications are a high school diploma or equivalent and/or 4 years of experience. Applicant must have a valid driver's license, pass background check and drug test.

Salary commensurate with experience and/or education.

Resume must be postmarked by June 1, 2020. Open until filled.

Resume should be submitted to:

**The Town of Peachland
PO Box 120, Peachland, NC 28133 or
townofpeachland@windstream.net
with subject line "Job Application"**

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