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#### Mrs. Betty **Cowick Cranford**

Betty Cowick Cranford, 69, died Monday, November 5, 2018, at Carolinas Medical Center Union-Atrium Health in Monroe.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, November 8, 2018, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Barry Gerald of-Interment folficiating. lowed in Anson Memorial Park.

Betty was born December 16, 1948, in Anson County, a daughter of the late Eugene Cowick, Jr. and the late Ruby Lee Grif-

graduate of Anson High School, Class of 1967, and was retired from B.C. Moore and Sons, having worked in their corporate offices for 37 years.

Surviving are her hus-

band of 50 years, Adam Franklin "Frankie" Cranford; her children, Adam Christopher Cranford (Lisa) of Wadesboro and Tanya Leigh Cranford of Wadesboro; her grandchildren, Corporal Christian Chance Cranford of Ft. Meade, MD, Lance Corporal Dillon Clay Cranford of Camp Leiune. and Karmen Dakota Cranford and Madison Faith Cranford, both of Wadesboro; and her sisters and brother, Barbara Cowick Poole (Roy) of Stanfield, Cowick Wright Dallie (John) of Wadesboro, Gracie Cowick Lang of Myrtle Beach and Eddie "Buddy" Dean Cowick of Goldsboro; and her nieces and nephews and their families.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 430 Lansford Dr., Wadesboro, NC 28170 or to Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church, c/o, Joyce Meachum, 2139 Stanback Ferry Ice Plant Rd., Wadesboro, NC 28170.

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

#### Mr. Billy Ray Parker

Mr. Billy Ray Parker, 55, went to be with the Lord on Monday, November 5, 2018, with his family at his side at Hospice of Únion County in Monroe.

A service of celebration and music honoring his life took place on Saturday, November 10, 2018, at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church with Rev. Tim Helms officiating

Billy was born June 15, 1963. Richmond in County, NC, a son of the late Edward Jack Parker and the late Ruby Lee Prevatte Parker. He was a 1982 graduate of Richmond Senior High School in Rockingham, and had worked for more than 20 years with Radiator Specialty Chemical Solutions.

Surviving are his wife of

25 years, Wanda Horne Parker; his miniature dachshund babies, Kaitly and Nicholas; his brothers and half-sister, Jerry Parker of Rockingham and Wayne Parker and Lisa Donovan, both of North Myrtle Beach, SC; his brother-inlaw, Larry Horne of Peachsisters-in-law, his

Teresa Campbell and Sandra (Thomas) Watkins, all of Peachland; and special friends, Wes and Lisa Temple, Paul Jorgenson, Truett, Morris James Guinn, Harold and Sheila Harward, Annette Hayes Snead and Karen Patter-

The family would like to express their sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Hospice of Union County, especially, Monica Polston, RN, Sharon Lamparter, RN, Jan Norris, RN, Kim Outen, CNA, Shevon Melton, CNA, Tonya Harrell, CNA and Andrea Walker, CNA for the special care they gave to Billy and the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Union County, 700 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Monroe, NC 28110 or to Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Dawn Strawn, 1591 Hasty Rd., Peachland, NC 28133.

Red was Billy's favorite color and those who attended the service were asked to wear red in celebration of his life. The arrangements

were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made www.leavittfh.com.

Thank You

It has been an honor for me to serve two terms on

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the Anson County Board of Education, and I am deeply grateful to all who voted for me during this election. You voted for integrity, professionalism, 43 years of educational knowledge,

I have proudly represented our county to the best of my ability. Although my term will end this year, my commitment to and support of our school system will remain steadfast.

experience, and commitment to Anson County Schools.

Marilynn Bennett

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### Sandy Bruney to Speak at Brown Bag Book Club Meeting

Hampton B. Allen Library announces the Brown Bag Book Club meeting for Monday, November 19 in the Pritchett room at 12:00 noon. Local author Sandy Bruney will be the guest speaker. Sandy has a new book, When He Said Goodbye, which is her tenth published work. Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and hear about the new book!

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

### **CoWorking Wednesdays Launch With A Bang!**

By John Marek, Anson Economic Development Partnership Executive Director: I attended Ohio University my first two years of college, and spent a lot of my study time at the Alden Library. Alden was designed with a central core of books and documents, and a row of semi-private study carrels along the outside walls of each floor. It was easy to find a secluded spot on the upper floors where you could hide away and work without much interference or interaction with others. My favorite spot was a remote corner on the top floor which was adjacent to the library's archives of Popular Mechanics magazine. Every now and then I would take a study break, pull out one of the issues and see what was new and happening in 1955 or 1962.

When I transferred to Bowling Green for the 1983-84 school year, I quickly learned that BG's Jerome Library was arranged differently. The private study areas on the upper floors had locked doors and were reserved for graduate students. Undergrads were mostly confined to a large area of communal tables on the first floor. This was a very different environment and took some getting used to, but after awhile, I actually came to enjoy seeing the same people on a regular basis and exchanging greetings. In the parlance of 2018, those tables might be considered coworking spaces.

and AnsonEDP sponsored the first monthly CoWorking Wednesday at the Chamber's Burns Conference Room. The idea behind coworking is to set up a space where business people, entrepreneurs and independent contractors can work, have access to the amenities of a larger office and collaborate. CoWorking Wednesdays are held the first Wednesday of the month and provide access to the Chamber's WiFi, printing, bulk mailing and document handling capabilities, along with free coffee and donuts and the opportunity to interact with others in the business community Eventually, it is hoped the private sector will step up and open a permanent

On Wednesday, the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, Uptown Wadesboro

coworking space in Uptown Wadesboro, and the Wednesdays are a sort of trial run and proof of interest for potential investors in such an enterprise. The three sponsor organizations were pleased with the turnout, which ranged from two to seven participants at various times of the day, with the average participant staying about 2 hours. Several different sectors and types of businesses were represented; a nonprofit director working on affordable housing; a freelance writer putting the finishing touches on a blog post; a restauranteur placing orders and proofing a new logo; a town employee catching up on paperwork; etc. A range of ages was represented, from the early-30s to well past 50.

Perhaps the most positive aspect of the day, though, was the collaboration. Rather than a handful of individuals simply working on their own projects, there was significant interaction. The restaurant owner printed off some logos she was considering and solicited the opinions of the others at her table. Another participant needed help figuring out how to send a document to the printer and the person next to them mmediately demonstrated. Over lunch, AnsonEDP executive director John Marek gave a presentation on the organization's Bootstrap and Enterprise grant programs, which offer up to \$2,500 to startups and \$5,000 to existing small businesses in the county who participate in the Rural Center's Thread Capital program. While CoWorking Wednesdays are just a first step toward creating the kind of

entrepreneurial environment which spurs innovation and collaboration, it is an important step. Places like Wadesboro are fertile ground for business startups of all types, but opportunities are often limited by the scarcity of cost-effective space and support mechanisms. Through CoWorking Wednesdays, the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, Uptown Wadesboro and AnsonEDP hope to demonstrate that a rural coworking space can be a key driver for the future of the county's economy.

CoWorking Wednesdays are held the first Wednesday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Burns Conference Room at the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. Free coffee, donuts and WiFi, along with 10 free color copies, are provided. Reservations are not required and all businesspeople are welcome.

Contact Megan Sellers at 704-475-8461 for more information.

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