

On Tuesday, March 21, 2023, Mr. Lee Wayne Wright, 79, passed away peacefully at First Health Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 24, 2023, at Mt. Beulah Baptist Church with Rev. Randy Storz and Rev. Rob Washington officiating. Interment will follow in Anson Memorial Park.

The family will greet friends one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Lee was born June 21, 1943, in Houlton, Maine and was a son of the late Philip W. Wright and the late Phyllis M. Corey Wright. He worked for many years as a mechanic, having worked with several organizations, however he retired with more than 20 years of service with the Town of Wadesboro.

He also owned and operated his own tractor repair business, and he especially had an affinity for red tractors. He was also very proud of the 1965 light blue mustang he restored and often participated in cruise-ins and car shows.

Lee was a member of Mt. Beulah Baptist Church in Wadesboro, where he never missed a Sunday worship service for 14 years until the pandemic. He and his wife Brenda were devoted to the care of Lee's mother until her passing. Their care for her was exemplary.

Those left to cherish his memory are his sons and daughters-in-law, Wayne and Lisa Wright of Rockingham, Kevin Wright and Martha Rodgers of Buchanan, VA and Tim and Garie Ann Wright of Nashville, TN; his grandchildren, Andrew Wright of Rockingham, Ian Wright, Ella Wright, Isaiah Wright all of Buchanan, and Stephanie Collins, David Collins and Jeff Collins, all of Nashville; his great-grandchildren, Katie, Hailey and Hanna Collins of Nashville; his stepchildren, Greg Lee (Beth) of Polkton and Tonya Huneycutt (Teddy) of Marshville; his step-grandchildren, Ashton Lee and Jordan Lee, both of Polkton, Leah Huneycutt of Indian Trail and Brooke Helms (Quinton) and Hailee Huneycutt, all of Marshville; his former wife and friend Maxine Cummins of Hamlet; and his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Annie Clark of Fletcher, Frances Davis (Graham) of Ocean Isle Beach and Charlie Chewning of Raleigh.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Brenda Grooms Wright; his son Andrew Wright and his brother Gene Wright.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mt. Beulah Baptist Church, 3373 Country Club Rd, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

The arrangements are in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at [www.leavittfh.com](http://www.leavittfh.com).

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## Predatory Payday Loan Companies and Fraudsters Thrive Among Uneven Laws and Stolen Data

As consumers lost jobs and struggled to make ends meet during the COVID-19 pandemic, many turned to payday loans and other short-term solutions. This not only allowed predatory lenders to thrive – many borrowers still contend with sky-high interest rates and opaque fees – but also created a fertile environment for scammers, according to a new in-depth investigative study by Better Business Bureau (BBB).

Payday loan laws are handled on a state-to-state basis among the 32 states in which they are available, and a complicated web of regulations makes the impact of the industry in the U.S. tough to track. The BBB study finds one common thread, however, in the triple-digit interest rates many of these loans carry – camouflaged by interest that is compounded weekly or monthly, rather than annually, along with significant rollover fees.

From 2019 to July 2022, BBB received more than nearly 3,000 customer complaints about payday loan companies, with a disputed dollar amount nearing \$3 million. Additionally, more than 117,000 complaints were lodged against debt collection companies at BBB. Complainants often said they felt ill-informed about the terms of their loans. Many fall into what consumer advocates call a “debt trap” of stacking interest and fees that can leave customers to pay double the amount they originally borrowed. One woman in St. Louis, Missouri, told BBB recently that over the course of her \$300 loan, she paid more than \$1,200 and still owes an additional \$1,500.

Scammers didn't miss an opportunity to take advantage of consumers, either, with BBB Scam Tracker receiving more than 7,000 reports of loan and debt collection scams representing roughly \$4.1 million in losses.

Posing as payday loan companies and debt collectors, scammers arm themselves with stolen information to convince consumers to hand over bank account information and cash. In one case, BBB found that hackers had stolen and posted detailed personal and financial data for more than 200,000 consumers. News reports indicate that it is not an isolated incident.

Just two weeks ago, one North Carolina man received a voicemail from a company called Document Delivery Services advising him of a pending civil complaint and that it was imperative he contact the issuing firm. The phone number the scammer called from was a different phone number than what was left in the voicemail. When the man returned calls to both numbers they were answered by the same male who said he was with a company called Parker & Schultz. The scammer proceeded to recite much of this consumer's personal information, but when the scammer mentioned owing debt on a credit card the consumer never owned, he knew it was a scam. Eventually, the scammer became agitated and said it'll be handled in court and hung up. Fortunately, this consumer was smart enough to realize this was a scam and suffered no monetary losses.

Regulators at the federal level have pursued stronger laws to curb predatory lending, but those regulations were rolled back in recent years, leaving states to make their own rules about interest rate caps and other aspects of payday loans. More than a dozen states introduced legislation last year to regulate payday loans, but the landscape for legally operating payday lenders remains inconsistent from state to state. Currently, payday loans are not allowed in 18 states, according to Pew Charitable Trust. In addition, the Military Lending Act sets a 36% rate on certain payday loans. With respect

to fraudulent behavior, law enforcement is limited in what it can do to prosecute payday loan scams. Some legal payday lenders have attempted to prevent scams by educating consumers on ways they will and will not contact borrowers.

BBB's study advises consumers to do careful research into all their borrowing options – as well as the terms and conditions of a payday loan – before signing anything to take out a short-term loan.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees.

To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# Church News

THE CHURCH CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE SPONSORS

**MARCH 25**

**Appreciation Luncheon For Law Enforcement** at Harris Chapel AME Zion Church, 401 West Main St. (Hwy 145 S) in Morven, 11:30am-1:30pm. All law enforcement personnel are invited as special guests. Info 704-851-3990 or 704-848-4085.

**MARCH 26**

**27th Pastor's Appreciation Service** at Garris Grove Missionary Baptist Church. 11am with Rev James Parker followed by dinner. 3pm with Rev. Dr. Robert Sanders, past Moderator of the Yalkin Field. Come celebrate. Your visit will be returned at your request.

**Twelve Tribes Program** at Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church, on Hwy 74 in Lilesville, 3pm. All are invited.

**MARCH 27 - 29 Spring Revival** At First Baptist Church, Sikes Ave with Elder Gwen Hester Cohen of Faith Baptist Church in Shelby, NC at 7pm nightly.

**APRIL 1 Collard Sandwich Sale** at Rocky Mount AME Zion Church, 465 Grassy Island Road in Ansonville. Also selling hot dogs & sausage dogs. Begins at 11am.

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## Events

**MARCH 27**

**Board of Education Regular Meeting** Closed Session 4:00pm, Open Session 5:30pm. View at Anson County School's YouTube page.

(Search YouTube for Anson County Schools.) Meeting takes place in Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. For public comment sign up in-person. Sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting.

**Free Movie "Elvis"** At the Hampton B. Allen Library, 10am. Info 704-694-5177.

**MARCH 28**

**Beekkeepers Meeting**

At Extension Office, 501 McLaurin St. in Wadesboro, 7pm. Open to anyone interested in having bees for honey & pollination. Info 704-272-7154 or Facebook page.

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**NAACP Meeting**

Third Sundays, Hampton B. Allen Library theater, 5pm, 704-694-6749

**Monthly Meetings** Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. meets the first Tuesday of every month at 4 pm in the Chamber of Commerce conference room. Info 704-695-1644

**Wadesboro Rotary Club Meets** each Thursday at noon for lunch at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, Studio A in Wadesboro

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