

Mrs. Tonia Ratliff Caudle, 45, died Saturday, March 14, 2020, at Atrium Health Anson in Wadesboro.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home.

Tonia was born July 20, 1974, in Anson County, and is a daughter of Michael Stephen Ratliff and Shirley Bunn Ratliff. She was a graduate of Anson High School.

Surviving are her children, John Michael Caudle of Lilesville and Becca Caudle (Holden Mathias) of Pageland, SC; her grandson Brantley Caudle; her parents, Mike and Shirley Ratliff of Ansonville; and her sister Stephanie Wilson of Ansonville.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Frank "Willie" Caudle.

The family requests memorial contributions be made for the family to assist with funeral expenses, Leavitt Funeral Home, P.O. Box 274, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

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

**Mrs. Polly Broadaway Baucom Efird**

Mrs. Polly Broadaway Baucom Efird, 89, a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend and most of all Servant of God went home to be with her Savior on Sunday, March 15, 2020, at the home of her daughter in the Burnsville Community of Polkton.

There was a service of worship to celebrate her life on Friday, March 20, 2020, at Gleaning Mission Church in Oakboro with Pastor Steve Barbee officiating. Interment followed in Rocky Mount Baptist Church Cemetery in Polkton.

Polly was born December 14, 1930, in Anson County, and was a daughter of the late Ray Eardy Broadaway and Ressie Adaline Parker Broadaway.

She owned and operated Polly's Beauty shop in the Burnsville Community for 35 years. She was also an accomplished seamstress, having made wedding gowns for both of her daughters and in their words, "the underside of the garment was just as pretty as the front." She enjoyed spending time outside, having a vegetable garden and planting flowers.

Crafts was another favorite past time of hers. Polly was an exceptional artist, as she was well-known for her oil paintings, and she also enjoyed crocheting.

A woman of great faith and trust in God, Polly was a faithful member of Gleaning Mission Church in Oakboro, and was never ashamed to tell other of the goodness of God. When she would visit with people she would often greet them by saying, "I am blessed just like you are," and another one of her famous quotes was, "I am blessed coming in and going out."

Polly is survived by her daughters, Trudy Turner (Tommy) and Sharon Cullingford, all of Polkton; her grandchildren, Andy Turner (Sally) of Stanfield, Paul Turner (Allyson) of Monroe, Heidi Lopez (Carlos) of Wright Wood, CA, Misti Kohler (Brady) of Albemarle and Seneca Price of Lexington, SC; her great-grandchildren, Reese Turner, Grant Jordan, Palmer Turner, Olivia Jordan, Anniston Turner, Eva Jordan, Casden Markus, Caleb Kohler, Damian Kohler, Casey Price and Micala Osborne (Bradley); and her sisters and brother, Alice Baucom of Polkton, Nell Kendall of Norwood, Ruby Pope (William) of Wadesboro, Lamar Broadaway (Janice) of Stanfield and Nancy Huneycutt (Roy) of Locust.

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**Turkey Season Opens in April, Wildlife Commission Offers Safety Tips**

The N.C Wildlife Resources Commission will open the statewide wild turkey season April 11 through May 9, preceded by a youth-only turkey season from April 4 through April 10. The daily limit is one turkey and the possession and season limit is two turkeys per hunter, only one of which may be taken during youth season.

During youth season, hunting is only allowed for those younger than 18 years of age, but hunters age 16 and 17 must be properly licensed. Those under the age of 16 are exempt from license requirements provided they are accompanied by a licensed adult at least 18 years of age. If youth are properly licensed or have successfully obtained a hunter education certificate, they may hunt without the supervision of an adult.

Based on the ongoing and rapidly evolving situation concerning the recent outbreak of novel coronavirus (covid-19), the Commission's hunter education classes have been cancelled through April 30. Any potential hunter that needs to complete the hunter education certification can take one of the three online hunter education courses (with varying fees) that provide a convenient alternative to the classroom course. The Commission has moved to temporarily waive the field day requirement for our online courses, so once the online course is completed, a hunter education card can be printed in order to purchase a North Carolina hunting license. More information about online courses can be found at [ncwildlife.org/huntered](http://ncwildlife.org/huntered).

The Commission's Home from the Hunt campaign ([ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Laws-Safety/Home-From-the-Hunt](http://ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Laws-Safety/Home-From-the-Hunt)) offers these safety tips for turkey hunters:

- All bait must be consumed or removed for 10 days before that area can be legally hunted.
- Avoid wearing tom turkey-related colors, specifically red, white, blue or black.
- Stalking a turkey is dangerous, as it increases your chances of being mistaken for game.
- If another hunter approaches, alert them in a loud, clear voice to ensure they are aware of your location.
- Whenever walking through the woods, make sure your decoy or harvested turkey is either not visible or wrapped in blaze orange to avoid misidentification.
- Report any turkey harvested using the Big Game Harvest Report Card ([ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Big-Game-Harvest-Reporting](http://ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Big-Game-Harvest-Reporting)). License-exempt youths should report their harvest using a Big Game Harvest Report Card for License-Exempt Hunters.
- Remember that pistols, rifles or black powder rifles, dogs and electronic or recorded calls are prohibited from use during turkey season.
- Remember the importance of firearm safety:
  - Treat all firearms as if they are loaded;
  - Keep your firearm muzzle pointed in a safe direction, never toward a person;
  - Never put your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot; and
  - Positively identify your target and what is behind it before pulling the trigger.

Anyone who witnesses suspicious activity such as poaching or baiting may be eligible to receive a reward (up to \$1,000) by reporting information that leads to a conviction to the Turn-In-Poachers program. For information on eligible violations and to learn how to submit a tip, visit [ncwildlife.org/wildtip](http://ncwildlife.org/wildtip).

For regulations and restrictions on turkey hunting, including information on youth season, refer to the 2019-2020 Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest ([ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Regulations](http://ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Regulations)).

**January County and Area Employment Figures Released**

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in all 100 of North Carolina's counties in January. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 14.2 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.2 percent.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville had the highest rate at 5.3 percent and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.4 percent. The January not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.1 percent.

- Counties with Rates 5% or Below in January=72, in December (revised)=92
- Counties with Rates Between 5% and 10% in January=27, in December (revised)=7
- Counties with Rates Above 10% in January=1, in December (revised)=1

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 91 counties, increased in five, and remained unchanged in four. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in January by 23,495 to 4,879,077, while those unemployed increased by 38,416 to 206,671. Since January 2019, the number of workers employed statewide increased 89,878, while those unemployed decreased 17,845.

**NC Forest Service Information**

All N.C. Forest Service updates and current information related to COVID-19 impacts and safety measures will be posted on their webpage ([ncforestsERVICE.gov](http://ncforestsERVICE.gov)). Check frequently for updates.

The N.C. Forest Service continues to closely monitor the state's response to COVID-19. For the safety of our visitors, we are implementing common sense measures at every NCFS facility and state forest.

- Effective on March 20, 2020 – Due to public safety and in support of social distancing:
  - All burn permits will be issued online only ([ncforestsERVICE.gov](http://ncforestsERVICE.gov));
  - No special use permits of any kind will be issued in person at State Forests or other NCFS locations
  - All N.C. Forest Service office locations and/or facilities will be temporarily closed to the public until further notice; and
  - State Forests remain open to the public; however, amenities will be temporarily closed to the public until further notice including offices, education and visitor centers, restrooms and picnic shelters.

All events and group programming have been canceled. In the interest of safety for visitors and staff, additional measures may be implemented, and other forest amenities may be adjusted and closed as needed. Please be aware that staffing adjustments may increase response times for inquiries and on-site assistance.

**State Forest Facility Updates** All State Forests in North Carolina remain open to the public for individual visits. Forest Service offices and public restrooms are temporarily closed to the public until further notice. Based on visitation, we are evaluating implementation of portable toilets and/or handwashing stations for all State Forests. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

**Visitation Temporarily Suspended at State Prisons**

The North Carolina Division of Prisons suspended visitation to all the state's prisons effective Monday, March 16 to minimize the health risks from the spread of coronavirus.

"We have made this difficult decision in light of the DHHS recommendations and to reduce the risk of this disease getting into prisons and spreading," said Todd Ishee, Commissioner of Prisons. "This was a difficult decision. I know this will not be good news to offenders and their families, but this is being done with everyone's health and safety in mind."

The suspension will be reviewed every 30 days.

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