

# Obituaries

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Ray Michael James, Sr. passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2025.

There was a private viewing with the family.

Ray was born on July 2, 1938 in Wadesboro, the son of the late Enos Jesses James and Ollie Bowers James.

He was the youngest of five boys and is predeceased by Tommy, Jack, EJ and Donny James.

Ray played baseball and football for the Wadesboro High School Tigers before graduating with the class of '58. After high school Ray married Dollie Maner, daughter of Paul Maner and Mabel Crump Maner. They lived in Darlington, SC for a few years before Ray was transferred to Greenville, SC with Diamond Hill Plywood Company, where he retired with 35 years of service. Ray lived the rest of his life in the Greenville area.

Ray coached little league baseball and football in the 70's and 80's for the West Gantt Tigers and the Southside Tigers. He loved his Pittsburgh Steelers, and was a member of the South Greenville Moose Lodge.

Ray had three sons, Anthony, Darin (predeceased) and Ray Jr. He had six grandchildren, Chance and Cassidy Sapp, and Jacob, Jesse, Justin and Jillian James; and nine great-grandchildren.

He will be missed by family and friends.

## Statewide Burn Ban Remains in Effect

### As Fire Activity Increases During Period of Critical Fire Weather

Due to increased fire risk, the N.C. Forest Service has issued a ban on all open burning and has canceled all burning permits statewide effective 8:00 a.m. on Friday, March 21 until further notice.

"It is spring wildfire season in the North Carolina, and we are seeing wildfire activity increase due to dry conditions," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "With these ongoing conditions, a statewide burn ban is necessary to reduce the risk of wildfires starting and spreading quickly. Our top priority is always to protect lives, property and forestland throughout the state. It is imperative that folks adhere to this burn ban until further notice."

Under North Carolina law, the ban prohibits all open burning in all 100 counties in this instance, regardless of whether a permit was previously issued. The issuance of any new permits has also been suspended until the ban is lifted. Anyone violating the burn ban faces a \$100 fine plus \$183 court costs. A person responsible for setting a fire may be liable for any expenses related to extinguishing the fire.

The burn ban does not apply to fires started within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. The local fire marshal has authority to issue a burn ban within that 100 feet.

Local fire departments and law enforcement officers are assisting the N.C. Forest Service in enforcing the burn ban.

The N.C. Forest Service will continue to monitor conditions. Residents with questions regarding a specific county can contact their N.C. Forest Service county ranger or their county fire marshal's office.

#### Answers to FAQ

**Q:** What is open burning? **A:** Open burning includes burning leaves, branches or other plant material. In all cases, burning trash, lumber, tires, newspapers, plastics or other nonvegetative material is illegal.

**Q:** May I still use my grill or barbecue? **A:** Yes, if no other local ordinances prohibit their use.

**Q:** How should I report a wildfire? **A:** Call 911 to report a wildfire.

**Q:** How should I report a person who intentionally starts a wildfire? **A:** Call 911 to report a wildfire.

**Q:** My local fire marshal has also issued a burn ban for my county. What does this mean? **A:** The burn ban issued by the N.C. Forest Service does not apply to a fire within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. Local government agencies have jurisdiction over open burning within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. The N.C. Forest Service has advised county fire marshals of the burning ban and has asked for their consideration of also implementing a burning ban. If a fire within a 100-foot area of a dwelling escapes containment, a North Carolina ranger may take reasonable steps to extinguish or control it. The person responsible for setting the fire may be liable for any expenses related to extinguishing the fire.

**Q:** Are there other instances which impact open burning? **A:** Local ordinances and air quality regulations may impact open burning. For instance, outdoor burning is prohibited in areas covered by Code Orange or Code Red air quality forecasts.

Learn more about air quality forecasts at:

[deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/air-qualityoutreach-education/air-quality-forecasts](http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/air-qualityoutreach-education/air-quality-forecasts)

**Q:** Can I have a campfire when I go camping? **A:** Campfires would be considered open burning and are not exempt from the burn ban. During a burn ban, portable gas stoves or grills are alternate methods for cooking food while camping.

**Q:** What can I do to protect my house against the risk of wildfire? **A:** Learn about wildfire risk assessments and preparedness and prevention plans on the N.C. Forest Service website at [www.ncagr.gov](http://www.ncagr.gov) or [www.resistwildfirenc.org](http://www.resistwildfirenc.org).

In addition to providing initial attack response for several large and active wildfires across multiple forest service districts, N.C. Forest Service personnel are responding to reports of non-escaped illegal fires while the statewide burn ban is in place. Using outdoor fire during a burn ban is prohibited by law and unnecessarily challenges response capabilities.

**Burn Ban Notice:** Effective 8 a.m. Friday, March 21, a ban on all open burning was issued statewide. All burning permits are canceled. No new permits are being issued. The ban remains in effect until further notice. Read news release.

**Drones and Wildfires:** Flying a drone near or over a wildfire is illegal. Don't do it. Firefighting aircraft that respond to wildfires fly low in support of ground personnel. Drones can pose a serious threat to pilot and public safety. A drone that disrupts air operations also puts firefighters, residents and property at risk of loss to wildfire.

To check wildfire activity across the state, use the North Carolina Wildfire Public Viewer at [ncfspublic.firesponse.com](http://ncfspublic.firesponse.com).

Subscribe to receive updates from the N.C. Forest Service about wildfires, burn bans and other topics at [public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NCFS/subscriber/new](http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NCFS/subscriber/new).

## Anson County Beekeepers Meet Thursday

The Anson County Beekeepers will hold their regular bee meeting on Thursday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office. It is located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro.

The guest speaker for the meeting will be Trish Thompson, Journeyman Beekeeper at Pollen Peddlers.

There will also be 50-50 drawings to help and earn funds for the association. If you are able to bring some items for the drawings they will be greatly appreciated.

No meal will be served.

Not a member but would like to learn more about the local chapter and beekeeping educational programs? Do you need a beekeeper to re-home a visiting swarm? Visit the "Anson County Beekeepers Association" Facebook page for more information.

## Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets on April 1

The Anson County Board of Commissioners' first regular meeting for April will take place on Tuesday, April 1 at 6:00 p.m. The second meeting in April takes place on Tuesday, April 15 at 6 p.m.

Meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

In order to schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

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**LAWN & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE CONTRACT**

Anson County School District will be taking bids for Lawn & Grounds Maintenance Service Contract for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. If you are interested in placing a bid for this service please attend the Pre-Bid Conference on April 8, 2025, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m.

**Location is Anson County Schools, Maintenance Department, 881 NC Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, NC 28170.**

**For general questions about the conference please contact Mike Napier at 704-694-2725.**

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