

Obituaries

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On Monday, March 30, 2026, Mrs. Evelyn Pope Godwin, 84, passed away peacefully at her home with her family at her bedside.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church with Pastor Tim Helms and Chaplain Shelley Dial officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

The family will greet friends one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday and at other times at the Godwin home.

Evelyn was born June 14, 1941, in Anson County and was a daughter of the late Sim Boyd Pope and the late Virginia Carpenter Pope. She was educated in the public schools of Anson County and completed her high school requirements at Wingate College. She worked for a brief time with Ballet Hosiery but was primarily a homemaker and caregiver for her family.

She was a lifelong member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Peachland, where her father was among the charter members. She was faithful to her church, sang in the choir and was always willing to cook for church meals.

Evelyn enjoyed gardening, growing flowers, canning and freezing vegetables from her garden and going fishing at the beach.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Tommy Godwin and wife Penny of Peachland, and Susan Henry and husband Robbie of Lilesville; her grandchildren, Jamie Henry and wife Amand and Kristie Goodwin and husband Travis, all of Lilesville, and Brandon Godwin of Charlotte; and her great-grandchildren, Gretchen Henry, Gracelyn Henry, Landis Goodwin and Payson Goodwin.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Marshall Godwin, and by her brother, Francis Pope.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to her caregivers, Carolyn Allen of Lilesville and Jane Page of Peachland, as well as Ashley and Kara with Gentiva Hospice, for the loving way in which they cared for Evelyn and supported the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Gentiva Hospice, 1198 Rockingham Rd., Rockingham, NC 28379.

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

704-465-0544

Democratic Party to Hold County Convention at Hampton B. Allen Library

Candidates invited to speak as local party gathers April 2

The Democratic Party will hold its county convention this Thursday, April 2, at the Hampton B. Allen Library, bringing together party members and community participants for an evening of discussion and organization.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with the convention scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. Organizers say the event will provide an opportunity for local Democrats to gather, hear from candidates and take part in the party's annual convention process.

All Democrats are welcome to attend, though only precinct delegates will be eligible to vote on official matters.

Candidates planning to attend will be given three minutes each to speak, offering a brief opportunity to address attendees and share their platforms.

Organizers ask that those planning to attend RSVP in advance to help with event planning.

The convention reflects the party's focus on equality, opportunity and prosperity for all, and serves as an important step in preparing for upcoming elections and community engagement efforts.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Democratic Party Chair Dannie Montgomery at 704-694-8326 or visit the North Carolina Democratic Party website at www.ncdp.org.

Barn Owl Live Cam Offers Front-Row Seat to Hatching

If you've ever wanted to binge-watch something a little more "nature documentary" and a little less "reality TV," the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has just the thing – and the stars don't even know they're famous.

"Barn Owllet Watch 2026" is now underway, featuring a nest box tucked away in the North Carolina mountains with six barn owl eggs and a 24-hour live camera feed (with audio) capturing every hoot, shuffle and eventual hatch. The expected hatch window is between April 9 and April 15, though, like most babies, the owlets will arrive on their own schedule – not ours.

The live cam is hosted by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and offers viewers a rare glimpse into the secret life of one of the state's most fascinating, and notoriously hard-to-spot, birds.

"The Barn Owl Live Cam is our newest conservation adventure," said Sydney Brown, education development and evaluation supervisor. "What began as a dream quickly grew into a 24/7 window into the secret life of barn owls for North Carolinians who may never see these birds in their own backyards."

Biologists believe this may be the same experienced owl pair that has used the nest box in previous years. The female returned in December and began laying eggs March 11 – and she didn't stop at the usual four or five.

"Six eggs is an indication these are an experienced pair," said conservation biologist Joe Tomcho. "It's exciting to watch them hatch, but also to see the young birds begin hopping around the nest as they prepare for life outside."

Translation: expect a lot of awkward, fluffy movement and the occasional "learning moment" as the owlets figure out how to be owls.

The nest box itself was installed in 2011 and has been used multiple times over the years, helping researchers better understand nesting behavior and population trends. Barn owl numbers have declined in some areas due to habitat loss, making projects like this especially important.

The cameras, installed in August 2025, are solar-powered – which means the show goes on most of the time, unless Mother Nature decides to briefly pull the plug.

Brown said the goal is not only to entertain but also to educate.

"We're excited to keep expanding this project with fun educational content, conservation updates and plenty of owl magic," she said, noting that the owls are completely wild and not disturbed in any way.

Anyone interested in tuning in can watch the live stream at www.ncwildlife.org and search for the Barn Owl Live Cam.

For more information about barn owls, visit www.ncwildlife.org, or contact the Wildlife Helpline at 866-318-2401.



Commissioners Meet April 7

The first April meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners takes place on Tuesday, April 7 at 6 p.m. The second meeting takes place on Tuesday, April 21.

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

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 and search for Anson Commissioners.

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FEDERAL PROJECT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Anson County School System annually receives funds from the federal government through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction sanctioned for assistance in meeting the needs of economically disadvantaged students, technology learning needs of students, children with special needs, and for children in local institutions for neglected or delinquent children. The school system is in the process of reapplying for funds and amending these programs for the 2026-2027 school year.

These programs include Title I (Compensatory Education/ESEA Basic Education Program), Title II (Improving Teacher Quality), Title II, Part D (Enhancing Education through Technology), Title IV (Student Support and Academic Enrichment), Title V (Abstinence Education Program), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project.

Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments and/or revisions to these projects and make comments concerning the implementation of these Federal Programs. All comments will be considered prior to submission of these amended projects to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The projects are open to the public for review and comments during the week of April 20 - 24, 2026, in the offices of Dr. Toni Warrick – Director of Human Resources & Federal Programs, Dr. Mary Ratliff - Director of Student Services, and Lynn Gardelle - Director of the Exceptional Children Program, located at 320 Camden Road, Wadesboro, NC 28170. Review of the project documents will require supervision by appropriate school personnel as delegated by the school system's superintendent and/or his designee.

There will be a planning meeting with interested stakeholders on April 29, 2026, at 10 a.m. This meeting is to address the federal program plans and discuss proportionate share and equitable services for the 2026-2027 school year. The meeting will be held in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center at the School Board Office located off White Store Road. Please address questions to the offices of Dr. Toni Warrick – Director of Human Resource & Federal Programs, (704)694-4417, extension 1100, Dr. Mary Ratliff - Director of Student Services, (704)694-4417, extension 1904, and Lynn Gardelle – Director of the Exceptional Children Program, (704)694-4417, extension 1700.

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