

Obituaries

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On Friday, May 1, 2026, Mrs. Betty Poplin Martin, 86, of Yadkinville and formerly of Fayetteville, passed away peacefully at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center Palliative Care Unit in Winston-Salem.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2026, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Mr. Ken Caulder officiating.

Interment will follow in Anson Memorial Park.

The family will greet friends one hour prior to the service on Thursday at the funeral home.

Betty, a daughter of the late Charles Wilson Poplin and the late Virginia Mae Grooms Sellers, was born November 19, 1939, in Lilesville. She grew up in the Gum Springs Community of Lilesville and, along with her mother, brother and sisters, attended Gum Springs Baptist Church.

In 1957 she married James Harold Martin, and at the time of his passing they had been married 63 years.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Linda M. Martin (Tim) of Yadkinville and Gloria M. McGowan (James Patrone) of Boca Raton, Florida; her grandchildren, David Martin (Melissa), Daniel Martin (Kelly), Ashley McGowan and Courtney McGowan; her great-granddaughter Evelyn Martin; her brother and sisters, Ebbie Poplin of Lilesville, Evelyn "Patsy" Brasington of Wadesboro, Judy Carpenter of Peachland, Kayda Tyson of Wadesboro and Sarah Harrington (Steve) of Lilesville; and her nieces, nephews and their families.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her stepfather John Sellers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

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

704-465-0544

The Town of Morven is Gearing Up for Big October Festival Celebration

Vendors, parade participants, car & bike show entries, and talent show contestants are invited

The Town of Morven is already turning its sights toward cooler weather, colorful leaves and one of the community's biggest celebrations of the year as sign-ups officially open for the Morven October Festival 2026.

The festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and promises a full day of community spirit, entertainment, food and family fun in Morven.

Organizers are currently seeking vendors, parade participants, car and bike show entries and talent show contestants to help make this year's festival bigger and better than ever.

The event will feature live entertainment, food trucks, local vendors, family-friendly activities, a parade celebration, talent competition and a showcase of classic and custom cars and motorcycles.

Vendor spaces measuring 10-by-12 feet are available for \$75, while nonprofit information booths are free. Electricity is available for an additional fee, and food vendors requiring health department approval are also welcome. Organizers note that applications must be submitted at least two weeks before the event - and they strongly encourage early registration because spaces are expected to fill quickly.

Festival organizers say the event is designed to celebrate community, culture and hometown pride while bringing together residents, businesses and visitors from across the region.

Whether you want to showcase a business, ride in the parade, perform on stage or simply spend a day eating festival food while pretending calories don't count in October weather, organizers say there will be something for everyone.

Applications and additional information are available by calling 704-851-9321, visiting the Town of Morven Facebook page or going online to townofmorven.org.

Anson Crisis Ministries Needs Food. Can You Help?

The Anson Crisis Ministry, located at 117 North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro, needs your help. They desperately need food items and even monetary donations to help make ends meet for the more than 300 families who come for food assistance per week. Each family is only allowed to visit once per month.

With the rising cost of living, more and more people need assistance, but food pantries are struggling due to enormous budget cuts by the current administration, and are left to figure out how to make their supply meet their demand. Additionally, those who would typically make donations are also left with higher costs of living and thus tend to make fewer contributions than they normally would. It's a vicious cycle and there's no end in sight.

If you can help, please take your donations to Anson Crisis Ministry between 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Drive to the back of the building and pull over to the left. A volunteer will come assist you.

If you have questions call 704-694-2445. And, thank you in advance for helping to fight hunger.

Elevator Numbers Continue Rising Across North Carolina

North Carolina's economy appears to be moving up - quite literally.

Commissioner Luke Farley has released the N.C. Department of Labor's latest quarterly Elevator Index update, showing continued growth in elevator permits across the state and offering another sign that construction and development activity remain strong.

The latest numbers show North Carolina issued 196 new device permits during the third quarter of 2026, up from 180 permits during the same quarter in 2025 - an 8.9% increase.

The state has issued a total of 527 device permits so far during State Fiscal Year 2026.

The report tracks permits for elevators and similar lifting devices tied to commercial buildings, housing developments and other construction projects. In other words, if you keep seeing cranes, construction fences and people wearing hard hats while holding blueprints and coffee cups, the Elevator Index says you're not imagining things.

According to the report, the top five counties for new permits were:

- Mecklenburg County 37 • Wake County 34
- New Hanover County 14
- Cleveland County 13
- Buncombe County 11

"This quarterly update shows that North Carolina continues to grow at a strong and steady pace," Farley said. "We're seeing increased demand driven by new businesses, residential development and infrastructure investment across our state."

The Elevator Index is used as an economic indicator because elevator permits are closely connected to major construction projects and long-term development activity.

"Where you see elevators, you see opportunity," Farley added. "From commercial projects to housing development, these numbers highlight North Carolina's continued growth and momentum. Our focus is supporting that progress in a way that is efficient and sustainable."

Officials say the rising numbers reflect ongoing expansion in both urban and rural communities across the state - although residents may still occasionally find themselves standing in front of an elevator pressing the "close door" button 14 times while wondering if it actually works.

NCDMV Adds Online Option for License Upgrade

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles has introduced a new online service that allows eligible drivers age 18 and older to upgrade their Level 2 Limited Provisional License to a full Class C driver license without visiting a driver license office.

Officials say the change is designed to make the process more convenient while reducing wait times at DMV offices across the state.

"This online upgrade is a practical step forward in making DMV services more convenient and efficient for North Carolinians," said NCDMV Commissioner Paul Tine. "We've heard from customers who want simpler ways to handle routine transactions, and this change removes a long-standing hurdle for young adults who've already proven they can drive safely."

The new option is available immediately for drivers who are at least 18 years old and within two years of their license expiration date. The update aligns with an existing online upgrade process already available for Level 3 Full Provisional License holders.

Previously, drivers with a Level 2 Limited Provisional License were required to visit a DMV office in person to complete sign recognition and vision testing after turning 18, even after successfully completing the provisional licensing period.

By moving the upgrade process online, NCDMV aims to eliminate unnecessary office visits, improve efficiency and allow staff to focus on more complex transactions while giving customers the flexibility to complete the process from home.

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Preferred at least two (2) years of relevant experience in Human Services or related field. Adequate knowledge of intimate partner violence and victim's rights. Knowledge of available community resources and crisis intervention methods.

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Please bring your resume to the office:

**Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition
204 East Wade Street in Wadesboro**

Office hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Or you can mail your resume: P.O. Box 694, Wadesboro, NC 28170

Please do not submit resume by social media. It will not be accepted.

Resumes accepted until May 22, 2026.

For any questions please call 704-694-4499 and ask for Kimberly. EOE

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