

Obituaries

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along with his church family with the annual Ingathering, for which he was known for homemade pies and cakes.

Edwin often shared sweet potato, lemon, and pecan pies and pound cakes with his family and friends.

He was a member of Kilwinning Masonic Lodge 164 in Wadesboro and was a 32nd Degree Mason, and member of the Oasis Shrine.

Those who are left to cherish his memory are his wife fo 62 years, Rita Dawkins Cornwell; his girls who he referred to as his wonderful daughters, Berry Thomas (Greg) and Kelly Howell (Scott), all of Lilesville; his grandchildren, Heith Ricketts (Carly) of Wadesboro, Riley Eudy (Kyle) of Peachland, Kerry Helms (Wesley) of Chesterfield, Jacob Thomas, Garrett Thomas, Jamie Thomas and Josh Thomas, all of Lilesville; his great-grandchildren, Vann Eudy, Grey Eudy, Hank Ricketts, Harper Helms, Kensley Helms and Charley Helms; his sister Linda Smith of Wadesboro; and his sister-in-law Geneva Lowry of Wadesboro.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters, James Thomas Cornwell, Mark Cornwell, Leon Cornwell, Francis Cornwell, Juanita Morgan and Ruby Marsh.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Forestville Unted Methodist Church, c/o Joanne Clark, 1781 Clark Mtn. Rd., Lilesville, NC 28091

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

Mr. James Edwin Cornwell

On Saturday, July 5, 2025, Mr. James Edwin Cornwell, 83, life-long resident of the Gum Springs Community of Lilesville passed away peacefully at Hospice Haven in Rockingham with his wife and daughters at his bedside.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2025, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Sigrid Mottram officiating. Interment with Masonic Rites will follow in Anson Memorial Park.

The family will greet friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at the funeral home and other times at the home.

Edwin was born April 30, 1942 in Anson County, and was a son of the late Frell High Cornwell and the late Berry Liles Swink Cornwell. He was a graduate of Anson High School and had worked with BV Hedrick.

Following employment with BV Hedrick, Edwin went to work with the Seaboard Coastline Railroad in Hamlet where he retired after 36 years of service with the railroad. At the time of his retirement he was Conductor with CSX Railroad.

He was a faithful member of Forestville United Methodist Church in Lilesville where he worked

NC Lottery Winner Gets \$400,000 a Year for 20 Years

Latonya Rayford of Charlotte tried her luck on a \$50 scratch-off and won a \$8 million top prize that she will collect in \$400,000 annual payments for 20 years. She bought her lucky \$8 Million Money Maker ticket from the BP Food Mart on West Sugar Creek Road in Charlotte.

When Rayford arrived at lottery headquarters Monday to collect her winnings, she had a decision to make. She could choose to receive her prize as an annuity of \$400,000 a year over 20 years or a lump sum of \$4.8 million.

Rayford chose the annuity of \$400,000 and received the first of her 20 payments on Monday. After required state and federal tax withholdings, she took home \$287,014. For the next 19 years, she'll get a check for \$400,000 until the full \$8 million prize is paid.

The \$8 Million Money Maker game debuted in December with five top prizes of \$8 million and 10 prizes of \$100,000. Three \$8 million prizes and seven \$100,000 prizes remain to be claimed.

For details on how money raised by the lottery made a difference for education programs in Anson County last year, visit www.nclottery.com and click on the "Impact" section.

Volunteers Needed at Anson Crisis Ministries

Anson Crisis Ministries is in need of volunteers to help hand out food, sort through items, and more. They are open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The dress code is comfortable clothes, such as jeans and a nice t-shirt.

The Crisis Ministries feeds Anson County residents all week. If you have some time to give please call 704-694-2445 to sign up.

They are located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro.



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Wingate University Receives \$1 million Levine Foundation Grant to Boost College-Access Programs

A new \$1 million grant from The Leon Levine Foundation will help Wingate University improve college access in rural eastern Union County and neighboring counties. The grant, to be disbursed over five years, will create a comprehensive support system for students from eighth grade through postcollege employment.

"This integrated approach addresses the 'leaky pipeline' that disproportionately impacts first-generation students and those from economically disadvantaged areas," says Kacey Grantham, Wingate's senior vice president of career pathways.

The grant will help expand successful college-access programs, boost student-support efforts for underrepresented populations, and implement more career-focused programs. The primary initiatives covered by the Levine grant fall under three main topic areas: access, attainment and career placement.

The University will use grant money to expand the successful UC Guarantee and Wayfind programs to neighboring counties (access); implement targeted retention programs for at-risk students (attainment); and increase the number of experiential-learning and networking opportunities and mentorship programs (career placement). Many of these programs will be designed for low-income and first-generation students.

Over the years, The Leon Levine Foundation (TTLF) has given millions of dollars to Wingate University. Because of the foundation's ongoing support, the University established the Levine College of Health Sciences in 2009 and The Leon Levine Foundation Endowed Scholarship in 2003.

The latest gift will enable the University to increase staffing levels and develop an end-to-end, multiyear support system for students from vulnerable populations, of which Wingate enrolls a high percentage. In the 2024-25 academic year, 42 percent of Wingate students were eligible for Pell Grants and 46 percent were among the first generation in their families to attend college.

"Our college-access programs have proved to be game-changing for students," says Dr. Heather Miller, senior vice president and chief of staff at Wingate. "With The Leon Levine Foundation's generous gift, we will be able to make college a reality for more students who might otherwise not get the chance to earn a degree that puts them on a path to earning a meaningful wage."

With the grant, Wingate will be able to enhance the work it has done to help the nonprofit myFutureNC reach its goal of having 2 million 25- to 44-year-old North Carolinians hold an industry-valued credential or postsecondary degree by 2030. In 2022, the University helped myFutureNC, South Piedmont Community College, Union County Public Schools and other community partners set up Our Future in Union, a college-readiness program that operates in Union and Anson counties.

Our Future in UNiSON has held events designed to help parents fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and to provide valuable higher-education and career information and resources to the Latino community. In addition, through a partnership between UNiSON and The Academy of Goal Achievers, Wingate University awarded \$1.15 million in scholarships in 2024 alone.

Senemeht Olatunji, regional impact manager with myFutureNC, says the TLLF grant will only strengthen that effort. "This grant empowers us to keep building talent pipelines, expanding access to postsecondary education, and developing long-term strategies to reduce the cycle of generational poverty," she says. "This work is directly aligned with North Carolina's goal to ensure that 2 million residents hold a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030. Together, we're reshaping what's possible when communities work in unison."

About Wingate University Founded in 1896, Wingate University is a laboratory of difference-making that serves more than 3,400 students in North Carolina. Wingate offers 38 undergraduate majors as well as eight master's and five doctoral degrees. The University is home to the Cannon College of Arts and Sciences; the Levine College of Health Sciences; the Byrum School of Business; the Thayer School of Education and the School of Sport Sciences. The University's motto is "Faith, Knowledge, Service." Learn more at www.wingate.edu.

About The Leon Levine Foundation Established in 1980 by Leon Levine (founder and former chairman of Family Dollar Stores, Inc.), The Leon Levine Foundation supports programs and organizations that align with its four core mission areas: education, healthcare, human services, and Jewish values. Based in Charlotte, N.C., the Foundation invests in nonprofits across North Carolina and South Carolina with strong leadership, a track record of success, and a plan for financial sustainability. Through its investments, the Foundation intends to create pathways to self-sufficiency, champion strategies for permanent change, and facilitate opportunities for growth. Learn more online at leonlevinefoundation.org or follow TTLF on Twitter and Facebook@LeonLevineFdn.

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