

# Obituaries

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father, great-great-grandfather, and brother. He dearly loved his family and was especially proud of being a great-great-grandfather. He loved all his babies!

Those who are left to cherish his memory are his grandchildren, Robbie Ross (Cindy) of Polkton, Monica Lowery (Mike Edwards) of Wadesboro, and Larry Lowery, Jr. of Marshville; his son-in-law Roger Crump of Peachland; his step-grandson Roger Dale Crump, Sr. of Peachland; his great-grandchildren, Matthew Ross (Brandi), Tiffany Ross (Bobby), Tonya Magliocca (Nick), Brittanie Gaddy (Sam Mirzein), Stephanie Gaddy (Travis Wallace), Bailey Lowery (Raina Moser), Mackinley Lowery, Roger Dale Crump, Jr. (Aby), Justin Crump (Jessie) and Hailey Crump (Brandon); his 14 great-great-grandchildren; his brother Jerry Taylor of Peachland; and his nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Helen Caudle Taylor, his daughter Rita Crump and his sisters and brother, Rachel Broome, Frances Bowman, Flossie Vaughn and George Taylor.

James' family is most grateful to the staff of Wadesboro Health and Rehab for the kind and loving ways in which they cared for him. He was treated like part of their families, they loved him, and he loved them in return. Also, they would like to thank Anson Community Hospice, a Division of Richmond County Hospice, for all they did to assist and care for him during his final journey.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Anson Community Hospice, c/o Richmond County Hospice, 1119 NC US 1 N, Rockingham, NC 28170.

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

## Mr. James Taylor

On Thursday, July 10, 2025, Mr. James Taylor, 95, passed away peacefully to be with his Lord while a resident at Wadesboro Health and Rehab in Wadesboro. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Donald Thompson officiating. Interment followed in Griffin Cemetery in Polkton.

The family greeted friends prior to the service on Tuesday and other times at the home of his grandson on Ponds Mill Road in Polkton.

James was born July 25, 1929, in Anson County, and was a son of the late Samuel Jones Taylor and the late Virginia Mills "Dolly" Helms Taylor. He grew up in the Burnsville Community of Anson County and was a member of Hopewell Methodist Church. He attended Oakdale Baptist Church and was a faithful "back row Baptist."

For many years James worked in textiles as a mechanic and later he owned and farmed chickens for Perdue. He retired as a heavy machine operator with the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

He enjoyed riding his John Deere Tractor, gardening, and working his chicken houses. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grand-



## Michael Boyd Matthews

November 13, 1953 ~ July 19, 2025

Michael Boyd Matthews, a devoted father, brother, and pioneer in healthcare innovation, passed away peacefully on July 19, 2025, in Raleigh, North Carolina, at the age of 71.

There will be a Celebration of Life at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at Unity Church of Bon Air in Richmond, VA.

Born November 13, 1953, in Wadesboro, North Carolina, Michael was the son of George and Louise (Rivers) Matthews. He dedicated over four decades of his life to transforming healthcare through information technology, championing interoperability and health

information exchange. His visionary leadership included serving as the founding chair of The Sequoia Project, Chair of the Coordinating Committee of the National Health Information Network, and as founding CEO of both MedVirginia and ConnectVirginia. His work helped bridge critical gaps between the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and Social Security Administration health systems. In recognition of his impact, he was named one of the "26 Smartest People in Health IT" by Becker's Health IT and honored as Executive of the Year by the eHealth Initiative.

Michael earned both his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and his Master of Science in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, remaining a lifelong and passionate Tar Heels fan. He embodied the concept of service through action, actively supporting ministry organizations such as Crossover Healthcare and Unity Church on Bon Air in Richmond, Virginia, and lived life with energy and purpose. He found joy in running, playing golf - celebrating his first hole-in-one in 2021 - and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his beloved daughters, Molly Matthews-Ewald (Chris) and Aline Matthews, and his cherished granddaughter, Jocelyn Matthews-Ewald. He also leaves behind his brothers: Rick Matthews (Carolyn) of Winston-Salem, and their children Mark (Florence) and their grandchildren Eleanor and James; Kelly (Matthews) Silliman (Shawn) and their grandchildren Wyatt and McKinley; and Kip Matthews (Kimberly) of Athens, GA, and their children Patrick and Schuyler.

Michael will be remembered for his visionary mind, generous spirit, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched through both his work and his love.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to:

Unity Church of Bon Air 923 Buford Road Richmond, VA 23235	Mount Croghan Methodist Church P.O. Box 26 Mount Croghan, SC 29727
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He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.

- Micah 6:8

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

## Kids Expo Scheduled for Saturday, August 23

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce's Kids Expo will be held on Saturday, August 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This event offers kids (grades K-12) an opportunity to create, develop and market a product or service that they are passionate about. Strictly for kids only, adults are not allowed to help sell or market the child's product or service. It takes place in the parking lot and Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church, located on Lee Avenue and East Wade Street in Wadesboro. If their product is food, participants can decide whether to set up inside or outside.

The event is not only a showcase for the children, but an opportunity to understand the elements of owning one's own business. The kid vendors will learn and use real life skills such as math, communication, and creative thinking. Development and marketing of their product or service will have an impact on their sales at the event and offer them some insight into what it takes to own their own business.

The public is invited to come browse, shop, and stay for the awards presentation as the Chamber acknowledges Most Original Business Idea, Highest Business Potential and Best Presentation/Creativity in each age group.

Registration is open now for Anson County kids and those from surrounding counties. The deadline to register is July 18.

More information is available at: [ansoncountychamber.org](http://ansoncountychamber.org). Visit the following site for the registration form: [form.jotform.com/251465174622052](http://form.jotform.com/251465174622052).

Sponsorships are available at different levels. If your business or organization is interested, or if any individual is interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Sandy Cox at the Chamber for more information at [info@ansoncountychamber.org](mailto:info@ansoncountychamber.org) or 704-310-8948. There's more sponsorship information at: [ansoncountychamber.org](http://ansoncountychamber.org).

## 2025 N.C. State Fair Competition Entries Now Open

If you have ever dreamed of winning a ribbon at the N.C. State Fair now is the time to figure out what you want to enter and sign up! The State Fair is now accepting entries for the 2025 fair, Oct. 16-26. If winning a ribbon at the fair is on your bucket list, now is the time to enter this year's fair competitions.

The State Fair offers many competition categories such as arts and photography, culinary, livestock, fruit and vegetable production, hobbies and handicrafts, flowers, LEGOS and more. "Our competitions highlight the talents of the residents of North Carolina," said Kent Yelverton, N.C. State Fair director. "Whether your talent is growing giant vegetables, raising champion goats, cross-stitching or crocheting, painting rocks, scrapbooking, photography, flower arranging or more, the fair likely features a competition for you."

Every year the State Fair reviews the competition offerings looking to include newer crafting trends, attract more competitors and improve the shows for fairgoers. The State Fair Flower Show will see some changes in 2025 with each show highlighting different varieties of individual plants. "This is to ensure that we can accommodate as many competitors as possible in this popular fair competition category," said Yelverton. "All the same competition categories will be included but they may only be represented in one of the three shows held during the fair. Flower show competitors should carefully review this year's show information, including entry drop-off dates and times, when entering the flower show."

The State Fair also offers a variety of livestock shows, with individual classes based on the animal's species, breed, age and weight class. Exhibitors will find both junior and open categories.

If any of these competitions sound interesting to you, consider entering today. You could be one of the next blue-ribbon winners. Only a few competitions require an entry fee.

Information on how to enter a competition can be found on the State Fair's website, [ncstatefair.org](http://ncstatefair.org). Under the "Competitions" tab, you will find everything there is to know about categories, rules and deadlines. The deadline for entering most competitions is Sept. 15. Read the General Entries Premium Book and Livestock Entries Premium Book for detailed descriptions of events and regulations.

Online registration and paper entry forms are found under the "Forms and General Rules" tab in each department. Entrants are also required to submit digital W-9 forms to receive prize money.

Email [ncsfcompetitions@ncagr.gov](mailto:ncsfcompetitions@ncagr.gov) with additional questions. "We're excited to see what people will enter and we wish everyone the best of luck," said Yelverton. "Let's make this a record year for our competitions."

## UNAUTHORIZED HYDRANT USE



*Don't steal water!*

**The use of Anson County Water Department fire hydrants for obtaining water for agricultural or any other purpose without written consent of the Anson County Water Department is a violation of state and federal law.**

Hydrants are for use by written-permitted users, water company or fire department personnel only.

The Anson County Water Department will take legal action against any individual or business that unlawfully obtains water from the Anson County water system.

**PLEASE REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** to the  
• Anson County Sheriff's Office 704-694-4188, or the  
• Anson County Water Department 704-694-5208.

Hydrant use permit information is available from the Anson County Water Department. Information is available at 704-694-5208.

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