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Mr. Gary James "Jimmie" Davis

Mr. Gary James "Jimmie" Davis, 45, died peacefully at his home on Friday, September 29, 2017, with his family with him. He fought cancer valiantly and with dignity.

There will be a memorial service at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home. The family will greet friends one hour prior to the service Wednesday and other times at the home.

The inurnment will be private in Bennett Grove Cemetery in Polkton.

Jim was born September 12, 1972, in Union County, NC and was the youngest son of the late James Ted Davis and the late Norma Hyatt Davis. He was a 1990 gradu-

Obituaries

ate of Anson High School. He had worked mostly in nightclubs in Charlotte, and prior to his declining health he was the manager of Chaser's in Charlotte. Jim was recently inducted into the Don't H8, Inc. Hall of Fame whose motto is "one voice, one song, one dance will make a change."

One of Jim's greatest attributes was that of caregiver. He was diligent in that role as he cared not only for his mother, but for his paternal grandmother, Elsie Parker Davis. He earned the greatest respect from his family and members of the community for the manner in which he cared for the two most important ladies in his life.

Surviving are his husband Isaac Pineda; his brothers, Tim Davis of Polkton and Ricky "Mouse" Davis of Wadesboro; his niece and nephews, Shannon Davis (Damien Weil) of Wadesboro, Dustin Davis of Cheraw and Isaac Pineda of Charlotte; his great-nephew Cameron Weil of Wadesboro; his cousins, Ann (David) Poplin of Lilesville, Freddy (Norma) Hyatt and Harriet (Tank) Leary, all of Ansonville and Frank (Leslie) Hyatt of Polkton and their families; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Olivia Renteria

and Socorro Pineda of Charlotte; his brother-in-law, Uriel Pineda of Charlotte; his former sister-in-law, Melissa Martin of Cheraw and many dear friends in Charlotte.

Jim will always be remembered for his kind and gentle spirit and willingness to help others. He always greeted his friends and family with a smile and soft-spoken conversation.

Isaac and the family would like to express their sincere appreciation to all of Jim's friends who have given support to him in so many loving ways. Your kindness and generosity will never go unnoticed.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given to Jim's family to assist with medical expenses.

Day by day we'll journey on through the storm and through the calm day by day we'll find a way together...

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

Mrs. Mary Dean Lawhon Myers

Mrs. Mary Dean Lawhon Myers, 85, died peacefully Thursday, September 28, 2017 at Anson Health and Rehab in Wadesboro.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 30, 2017, in the

Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Donnie Helms officiating. Interment followed in Anson Memorial Park.

Mary Dean was born December 9, 1931, in Anson County, a daughter of the late Huss J. Lawhon and the late Elizabeth Ponds Lawhon.

She attended Anson Technical Community College in her fifties to receive her GED and her Certified Nursing Assistant certification. She worked for a number of years in textiles, having worked at Ballet Hosiery and West Knitting.

Mary Dean accepted Christ as her savior in 1958 and has lived a beautiful life of Christian example and was a member of North Wadesboro Baptist Church. She took advantage of every opportunity to tell other's about Christ's love for them.

Surviving are her children, Mary Treadaway (Jack) of Wadesboro, Martha Tarlton (John) of Polkton and James Myers, Jr. (Kathy) of Spartanburg, SC; her grandchildren, Jeremy Treadaway (Melissa) of Charlotte, Amy Martin (Quinn) of Concord, Johnny Tarlton of Polkton, Ginger Trexler (Frank) of Wadesboro, Dr. James Myers, III (Mandy) of Charleston, SC, and Jacqueline Myers and Matthew Myers, both of Spartanburg, SC; her great-grandchildren, Britany, Cameron, Will, Leah,

Tyler, Tripp, Trista, Trent, Trinity, Isabel, Avery and Weston; her great-great-grandchildren, Kasiah and Dominic; and her brother and sisters, Buster Lawhon and Thelma Hanna, both of Wadesboro and Leigh Bouldin of Burlington.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband James Vernon Myers and brother Ellis Lawhon.

Heartfelt gratitude is given to the staff and residents of Anson Health and Rehab for the care and love they gave to Mary Dean. She considered everyone there her family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to North Wadesboro Baptist Church, 1211 N. Greene St., Wadesboro, NC 28170 or to the Activities Department of Anson Health and Rehab, 405 S. Greene St., Wadesboro, NC 28170.

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

Mrs. Patsy Mason Hooks

Mrs. Patsy Mason Hooks, 84, died Thursday, September 28, 2017, at Hospice of Union County in Monroe.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, October 1, 2017, in the Chapel of

Leavitt Funeral Home. Interment followed in Anson Memorial Park.

Pat was born July 18, 1933, in Anson County, a daughter of the late William Mason and the late Lillie Mae Ussery Mason.

She was a graduate of Deep Creek High School and had worked for a number of years with the Anson County Schools and later retired from Wal Mart in Wadesboro. She was a member of Victory Baptist Church in Lilesville.

Surviving are her brother-in-law Bob Hooks of Norwood and her nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband William Edward "Bill" Hooks on August 24, 2017, her brothers and sisters, Lloyd, Carl "Buck," Lonnie, Herman "Cheek," James and Dutch Mason and Brownie Dion and Elizabeth Griffin, and her sister-in-law and caregiver Martha Hooks.

She will be remembered for her love of animals and her passion for animal rescue.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Union County, 700 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Monroe, NC 28110.

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

You Decide: Should North Carolina Bid For Amazon?

By Dr. Mike Walden: When I joined the faculty of North Carolina State University four decades ago, buying books – an occupational necessity for academics – was tedious and time-consuming. I'd first contact the NCSU Bookstore, who then ordered the book from the publisher. When it arrived – usually weeks later – I would then spend at least 45 minutes walking to and from the bookstore to retrieve the book. Today, I have 1-click ordering on Amazon, and my books arrive at my front door often mere days later. No wonder my spending on books has skyrocketed!

Amazon was initially a big boon to book buying, then jewelry, followed by items like electronics, housewares and personal products. Amazon may eventually become the virtual store selling almost anything, with the potential for drone development in the future. Amazing!

Now there's another change coming to Amazon. Rather than an expansion of its product line, this change is different. It's the building of a second US headquarters to pair with its current Seattle HQ. The estimated economic impact of Amazon HQ II is huge: \$5 billion in construction, 50,000 employees with an average salary of \$100,000 plus another 50,000 jobs from supplier and work spending impacts and an annual \$11 billion impact once the new facility is fully staffed and operational.

But Amazon has some very specific items on its shopping list for a second headquarters. The location must be in a metropolitan area of at least 1 million people with access to technical talent, an international airport, a vibrant downtown and mass transit. Amazon also wants the region to have a "stable and business-friendly environment," and it encourages areas bidding for the headquarters to "think creatively."

Does North Carolina have a chance of landing the new Amazon headquarters? Economic developers have already composed lists of metropolitan areas they consider as viable candidates, and many lists include Charlotte and Raleigh. At least to me, this makes sense. Both Charlotte and Raleigh are dynamic, fast-growing regions that would give Amazon's leadership a presence both on the east coast as well as in the expanding southeast. Each has competitive land costs, an international airport, a trendy downtown and access to tech workers and universities. Both cities could also tout the big reductions in state individual and corporate tax rates in recent years.

Still, Charlotte and Raleigh have their own individual strengths and weaknesses. Raleigh, of course, is well-known as a technology center, whereas Charlotte is more regarded as a banking and transportation hub. Besides N.C. State, Raleigh has easy access to engineering and computer science programs at UNC-Chapel, Duke and N.C. Central, as well as other colleges and scientific programs. Raleigh is also part of the "triangle" enclosing Research Triangle Park, one of the earliest research-focused sites in the world and currently undergoing an expansion and redesign. The Raleigh region has one of the highest proportions of its population with a bachelor's degree in the country, and its rate is a full 10 percentage points higher than Charlotte's.

However, Charlotte has a more developed mass transit system than Raleigh, a larger downtown, a busier airport with more connections and a bigger population that can support more amenities and activities. There is also the ability to expand UNC-Chapel, which will soon be served by the city's light rail system.

One potential issue for both Charlotte and Raleigh is the unhappiness some groups have had with the state's resolution of HB2. Many technology companies have expressed support for broader and more inclusive laws protecting individuals. This issue could be considered as a "negative" by some for a location in North Carolina.

There are, of course, some potential downsides that would come with a project as big as Amazon HQ II. Land and housing prices would likely rise, especially in accessible neighborhoods and areas surrounding the headquarters' site. While current owners of land and housing would benefit, new buyers and renters – especially those with limited financial resources – would be disadvantaged. Both Charlotte and Raleigh have already experienced widening income inequality from their rapid growth of recent decades.

Then there is the issue of public financial incentives. There is little question Amazon would want them, and they would be big. Although I would expect Amazon's economic benefits in jobs, incomes and economic growth for the state to exceed the cost of targeted tax reductions and forgiveness, incentives always create questions about economic fairness and equity.

Amazon has said it will make a decision about the location of its new headquarters next year – in 2018. Since this may be considered the biggest economic prize of the century – maybe of all time – I have no doubt the company will receive many offers. But one question is, if North Carolina wins, will there ultimately be some "winners' remorse?" You decide.

Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook, and public policy.

Upcoming Events & Support Groups in October

• **October 10:** Parent Support Group is held the second Tuesday of each month at Union County Community Action, Inc. (UCCA) Central Center for Children and Families located at 351 White Store Rd. in Wadesboro from 10-11 am. Resources are provided free. Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995, or by email at connectionsfsp@gmail.com for more information.

• **October 12:** Family Support Group is held the second Thursday of each month at First United Methodist Church in the Bynum Building located at 400 E. Washington St. in Rockingham from 12 noon-1:30 pm. Lunch and resources are provided free. Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995, or by email at connectionsfsp@gmail.com for more information and to register.

• **October 26:** Teenage Depression and Anxiety Workshop will be held at the First United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall at 410 E. Washington St. in Rockingham from 12 noon-1:30 pm. Portia Purcell, LPC will be the guest speaker. Lunch and materials will be provided free. Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995, or by email at connectionsfsp@gmail.com to register. Deadline to register: Monday, October 23rd.

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Music of Clifton Smith and Deborah Watts

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, October 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre with Clifton Smith and Deborah Watts presenting the program. The musical program will include original material written by Clifton Smith for a new CD release entitled *Come Together*. Deborah Watts is the vocalist, accompanied by Clifton on the guitar. Everyone is invited to come, bring a friend and enjoy the music of these talented artists.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

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