



Mr. Ernest Melvin Taylor

Mr. Ernest Melvin Taylor Jr. 89 of Oakboro died Monday morning, December 5, 2022 at his home.

Funeral Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at Rocky Mount Baptist Church. Dr. Kinney Wallace and Dr. Darrell Nance will officiate. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

Melvin was born December 28, 1932, in Anson County to the late Enest Melvin Taylor Sr. and Elizabeth "Bessie" Thomas Taylor. He was a 1951 Graduate of Burnsville High School and a United States Navy Veteran. He was a lifetime member of Rocky Mount Baptist Church and a retired truck driver with Overnite Transportation and later Culp Lumber Company.

Melvin enjoyed his truck driving career and the many people he met along the way. At home he enjoyed gardening, and spent many years raising Cocker Spaniels.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Ann Randall Taylor, on March 28, 2021, and a sister, Louise Taylor Helms.

He is survived by his son David Melvin Taylor and wife Kathy and his daughter Susan Taylor Burgess and husband Steve; his sister, Elizabeth "Libby" Nance; three grandsons, Andrew Burgess and wife Kimberly, Brian Burgess and Cooper Burgess; seven great-grandchildren; one niece and one nephew.

Memorials may be made to Rocky Mount Baptist Church, 8196 Hills-View Road, Oakboro, NC 28129.

Anson Schools Sports Update

Anson High School Girls Varsity Basketball

• Tuesday, November 29, Anson lost to Union Academy 50-33. Za'Kiyah Hixson 14 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal; Zariah Massey 5 points, 5 rebounds; Malayasia Gabriel 5 points, 10 rebounds; Wykeria Little 3 points, 13 rebounds, 1 block shot, 1 steal; Ire'Angel Crawford 3 points, 2 rebounds, 3 steals; Angelica Crawford 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal; Mallory Cox 10 rebounds.

• Friday, December 2, Anson lost to Chesterfield High School 38-31. Ire' Angel 10 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 4 steals; Za'Kiyah Hixson 6 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals; Malayasia Gabriel 6 points, 11 rebounds, 4 steals; Wykeria Little 4 points, 10 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals; Titiyana Burns 4 points, 5 rebounds, 1 steal; Angelica Crawford 1 point, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal; Zariah Massey 5 rebounds.

Anson High School Girls JV Basketball

• Tuesday, November 29, Anson lost to Union Academy 17-5. Brennon Cox 5 rebounds; Trinity Sellers 4 rebounds; Epiphany Slade 4 rebounds; Alayasia Caraway 5 steals, 3 points; Sada Clad 2 points.

• Thursday, December 1, Anson won against South Stanly 24-21. Alayasia Caraway 9 points, 5 steals, 1 block shot; Sada Clark 6 points, 2 rebounds, 4 steals; Titiyana Burns 5 points, 7 rebounds, 1 block shot; Epiphany Slade 4 points; Trinity Sellers 2 points.

• Friday, December 2, Anson won against Chesterfield High School 31-5. Alayasia Caraway 9 points, 5 steals, 1 block shot; Sada Clark 6 points, 2 rebounds, 4 steals; Titiyana Burns 5 points, 7 rebounds, 1 block shot; Epiphany Slade 4 points; Trinity Sellers 2 points.

Anson High School Boys Varsity Basketball

• Tuesday, November 29, Anson lost to Union Academy 82-80 (Anson's record 0-1). Jayden Little 12 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists; Ryan Robinson 17 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals; Greg Covington 13 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals; Zaylen Harrell 18 points, 2 assists.

• Thursday, December 1, Anson won over South Stanly 92-85 (Anson's record 1-1). Jayden Little *47 points, 10 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals (*This is in the top 5 of points scored in a single game.); Kendrick Maye 9 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals; Jazear Griffin 9 rebounds, 3 blocked shots; Zaylen Harrell 6 points, 3 assists, 3 steals.

• Friday, December 2, Anson lost to Chesterfield High School 73-45 (Anson's record 1-2). Jayden Little 13 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists; Greg Covington 11 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals; Jazear Griffin 8 rebounds; Cadaron Tyson 6 rebounds.

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Was 4.9% in October

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for October was 4.9%, up from September's 4.2% rate. One year ago in October 2021 the rate was 5.2%. That ranked Anson County #80 statewide (low to high).

Here are other past rates: **2022:** August 4.9%; July 4.7%; June 5.3%; May 4.7%; April 4.6%; March 4.9%; February 5.1%; January 5.1%. **2021:** December 4.4%; November 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 6.5%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The **2020** rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%.

In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the unemployment rate for October was 3.9%. Here are other statewide past rates: **2022:** September 3.3%; August 3.9%; July 3.7%; June 4.1%; May 3.6%; April 3.4%; March 3.6%; February 3.7%; January 3.8%. **2021:** December 3.2%; November 3.4%; October 3.6%; September 3.8%; August 4.4%; July 4.6%; June 4.9%; May 4.5%; April 4.4%; March 4.6%; February 5.6%; January 6%. **2020:** December 6%; November and October 6.1%; September 7%; August 6.8%; July 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in October was 10,326. Of that number 9,819 were employed and 507 were unemployed. In September the total labor force was 10,095, with 9,668 employed and 427 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 99 of North Carolina's counties in October and decreased in one. Edgecombe County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.5 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 3.1 percent.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 6.2 percent while Asheville, Durham-Chapel Hill, and Raleigh each had the lowest at 3.3 percent. The October not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.9 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 61 counties, increased in 30 counties, and remained unchanged in nine. Twelve of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year, one increased, and two remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in October by 2,629 to 4,947,826, while those unemployed increased by 32,875 to 202,689. Since October 2021, the number of workers employed statewide increased 135,671, while those unemployed decreased 6,888.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

Enjoy the Outdoors

In the last two decades, childhood has moved indoors. The average American child spends as few as 30 minutes in unstructured outdoor play each day and more than seven hours each day in front of an electronic screen.

The outdoors provides endless opportunities for physical activity, such as biking and hiking. Outdoor play for children promotes fitness, can raise vitamin D levels, and can help reduce stress. Here are some ways your children can be more active outdoors:

- Bike riding: Whether you bike through your neighborhood, on a trail, or through a state park, bike riding is a fun activity to do as a family.
- Swimming: Going to a pool, lake, ocean, or river open to the public for swimming is a great way to cool off and get exercise during the summer months.
- Parks: Local and state parks provide many options for physical activity, from playgrounds to canoeing. Parks are great places to find activities that all of your children can enjoy, no matter how old they are.
- Hiking: Hiking trails range in difficulty, from easiest to very strenuous, so it's easy to find a trail that suits your pace and experience level.
- Backyard play: Your own backyard is a great space for a quick game of catch or for getting all 60 minutes of your child's daily physical activity! Try activities like hula hoop, "Red Light Green Light," jump rope, or even gardening.
- Remember to bring water, sunscreen, snacks, and other appropriate safety equipment (such as helmets) for whatever activity you choose.

Whether you go in your backyard or to a hiking trail, enjoy the outdoors all four seasons! *By Judith Garcia, EFNEP Educator*

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Town of Lilesville

"CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK"

Tuesday, December 13th
6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.

Tree lighting, Christmas Carolers, Christmas craft for the kids to make and take home, and take a selfie with the Grinch,

Free Hot Chocolate, Apple Cider, Cookies & Popcorn!

Food & Drinks will be available to purchase.

Visit with Santa and receive 1 - free picture to take home - each additional picture \$3.00!

NEW THIS YEAR- Christmas shopping in the old fire bays. Vendor spots available for \$20.00 each

In the event of inclement weather the event will be held in the Lilesville Fire & Rescue Department.
Contact Town Hall for more information - 704-848-4711.