

Obituaries

Mr. Walter Mclean Edwards

On Monday, November 28, 2022, Mr. Walter Mclean Edwards, 58, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home.

A memorial service was held on Friday, December 2, 2022, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Kevin Ricketts officiating.

The family greeted friends on Thursday, December 2, 2022, at the funeral home.

Walter was born October 1, 1964, in Stanly County, NC, and was a son of Catherine Hendley Pendergraft and the late Robert Tyler Edwards. He was a graduate of Bowman High School and worked for nearly 20 years with North Carolina Natural Gas which eventually became Piedmont Natural Gas, and finally, at the time of his retirement, Duke Energy.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 40 years, Lynn Mabry Edwards; his children, Tyler Edwards (Erin) of Rockingham and Christie Mclean Edwards of Hickory; his granddaughters, Ava Edwards and Ella Edwards; his mother Catherine Pendergraft of Sanford; his brothers and sister, Robin Edwards (Lisa) of Wilmington, Brian Edwards (Patricia) of Manassas Park, VA and Lisa Edwards of Sanford; and his step-brothers, Ricky Freeman (Annette) of Polkton and David Freeman (Angel) of Holden Beach.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his stepmother Judy McCormick Edwards.

Walter enjoyed time spent on the Edwards family land and farm. He is the fourth generation of his family to live there on the family land. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and more recently, raised goats. He was a typical outdoorsman and enjoyed tinkering on his tractor and could fix anything.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Community Home Care and Hospice, 1198 Rockingham Rd, Rockingham, NC 28379 or to N.C. Children's Hospital, Pediatric Cancer Center, 101 Manning Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

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

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The Month of December

- December is the 12th month (and last month) in our modern-day Gregorian calendar.
- December 6 is Saint Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, inspires traditions around the world from hunts for presents to stockings or shoes filled with sweets.
- December 7 is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- December 7 Cold Full Moon
- December 15 is Bill of Rights Day.
- December 17 is Wright Brothers Day.
- December 18 marks the beginning of Hanukkah.
- December 21 is the Winter Solstice—the astronomical first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and first day of summer in the Southern Hemisphere.
- December 25 is Christmas Day, a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.
- December 31 New Year's Eve.
- December's birthstone is turquoise. It is considered a symbol of good fortune and success.
- December's birth flowers are the holly and the paper white.

Funny, Random & Weird Holidays this Week

- December 8 Thursday - Pretend to Be a Time Traveler Day
- December 9 Friday - Christmas Card Day & Official Lost and Found Day
- December 10 Saturday - Dewey Decimal System Day & Jane Addams Day
- December 11 Sunday - Noodle Ring Day
- December 12 Monday - Gingerbread House Day
- December 14 Wednesday - Monkey Day

Paint Buddies Meet Every Tuesday

Bring your current project and paints, or begin a new one, and be a paint buddy at the Anson County Arts Council's Drake Gallery. The group meets every Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, hosted by Mike Philips.

The Drake Gallery is located at 110 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro, beside the Ansonia Theatre. For information call Mike at 704-819-2487.

Commerce Issues 2023 Economic Development Tier Rankings

Anson County Remains in Tier 1 - "Most Economically Distressed"

The North Carolina Department of Commerce has released the county tier designations for 2023. The designations, which are mandated by state law, play a role in several programs that assist in economic development.

The 2023 rankings comply with the methodology prescribed by the North Carolina General Assembly in General Statute §143B-437.08, which identifies four economic factors to be compiled and calculated by N.C. Commerce and then used to analyze and rank each of North Carolina's 100 counties. Each county is then assigned its tier designation ranking from one to three. Tier 1 counties are generally the most economically distressed and Tier 3 counties are generally the least economically distressed.

The rankings are based on an assessment of each county's unemployment rate, median household income, population growth, and assessed property value per capita. The law calls for 40 counties to be designated as Tier 1, 40 counties to be designated as Tier 2, and 20 counties to be designated Tier 3.

Ten counties will change tier designations for 2023. Counties moving to a less distressed tier ranking include Avery, Caldwell, Cleveland, Pasquotank, and Swain. Counties moving to a more distressed tier ranking include Onslow, Pitt, Randolph, Surry, and Transylvania.

Tier designations determine eligibility and guidelines for several different grant programs that N.C. Commerce administers including the One North Carolina Fund, building reuse, and water and sewer infrastructure grants among others. Tier designations also play a role in the state's performance-based Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program, serving as a mechanism to channel funds for infrastructure improvements into more economically distressed areas of the state.

For more information about the tier designation system visit: nccommerce.com/grants-incentives/county-distress-rankings-tiers.

More details: The North Carolina Department of Commerce annually ranks the state's 100 counties based on economic well-being and assigns each a Tier designation. This Tier system is incorporated into various state programs to encourage economic activity in the less prosperous areas of the state.

The 40 most distressed counties are designated as Tier 1, the next 40 as Tier 2 and the 20 least distressed as Tier 3. County Tiers are calculated using four factors:

- 1) Average unemployment rate;
- 2) Median household income;
- 3) Percentage growth in population;
- 4) Adjusted property tax base per capita.



December is AIDS Awareness Month

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a chronic, potentially life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). By damaging your immune system, HIV interferes with your body's ability to fight infection and disease.

HIV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI). It can also be spread by contact with infected blood and from illicit injection drug use or sharing needles. It can also be spread from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding. Without medication it may take years before HIV weakens your immune system to the point that you have AIDS.

There's no cure for HIV/AIDS, but medications can control the infection and prevent progression of the disease. Antiviral treatments for HIV have reduced AIDS deaths around the world, and international organizations are working to increase the availability of prevention measures and treatment in resource-poor countries.

Access to better antiviral treatments has dramatically decreased deaths from AIDS worldwide, even in resource-poor countries. Thanks to these lifesaving treatments, most people with HIV in the U.S. today don't develop AIDS. Untreated, HIV typically turns into AIDS in about 8 to 10 years according to the Mayo Clinic.

Possible signs and symptoms include: Fever, Headache, Muscle aches and joint pain, Rash, Sore throat and painful mouth sores, Swollen lymph glands, mainly on the neck, Diarrhea, Weight loss, Cough, Night sweats.

For more information contact Katia Vanderhorst at the Anson County Health Department at (704) 994-3387.

NCWorks Workforce Transition and Community Assistance

The North Carolina NCWorks Transition and Community Assistance website (www.ncworks.gov) contains links to resources to assist during transition from employment to unemployment or retirement, or unemployment to re-employment. It includes other community or social service programs, such as health, families and children, temporary assistance programs, legal issues, government benefits, caregiver resources, and more.

NOTICE Of Intent To Apply

Sandhills Community Action Program, Inc. announces its intent to apply for the 2023-2024 Community Service Block Grant Funding

administered by the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services.

The purpose of the Community Service Block Grant is to provide a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on the causes of poverty in the areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem.

The Sandhills Community Action Board of Directors will meet via tele-conference to discuss this program on Monday, December 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. The Call-In number is 1-844-875-7777 & enter code: 4259133. The Public is invited.



PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT BY:

Sandhills Community Action Program, Inc.

- **Montgomery County:** The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference. The Conference Number is: 1-844-875-7777, Enter Code: 4259133
- **Richmond County:** The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference. The Conference Number is: 1-844-875-7777, Enter Code: 4259133
- **Moore County:** The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference. The Conference Number is: 1-844-875-7777, Enter Code: 4259133
- **Anson County:** The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference. The Conference Number is: 1-844-875-7777, Enter Code: 4259133

The purpose of this hearing is to allow the citizens of each county an adequate opportunity for involvement in the planning, implementation, evaluation and assessment of the Community Service Block Grant Program applied for and administered by Sandhills Community Action Program, Inc. It is with the intent to file an application for the 2023-2024 Community Service Block Grant Program funding. It is mandatory that we hold these meetings to ascertain the views, comments, questions, and proposals on how the funds will be utilized.

The purpose of the Community Service Block Grant is to provide a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on the causes of poverty in those areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem.

For further information, please contact our office at 910-947-5675, ext.#106.



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