

Obituaries

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picked up. He could always make you laugh and always had a good joke to tell, and when he was ready to go or get off the phone, he would let you know.

Robert was one of a kind – the best Daddy, Papa, brother, son, friend, and neighbor, and he will truly be missed.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, who never left his side during his recent brief hospital stay, son Dustin Carpenter, daughter Gina Carpenter Boteju and son-in-law Indy, his granddaughter Kaylen Boteju (who he called Bug), grandson Callum Boteju (who he called Tank), sisters Peggy Martin and Jean Thompson, brother Ralph Carpenter (Sharolyn), former wife Debbie Carpenter, and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sisters Gay Harney, Helen Streater and Ruth Turner, infant daughter Angela, and by father and mother-in-law, Marshall and Dot Ramsey.

Flowers or donations are welcome. Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online (stjude.org/memorial/gift), or by using the printable donation form and mailing to 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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

Mr. Robert Albert Carpenter

On Monday, February 17, 2025, Mr. Robert Albert Carpenter, 74, passed away at Atrium Health Union in Monroe.

A celebration of life will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, in the Chapel at Leavitt Funeral Home in Wadesboro, at 3:00 p.m. The family will greet friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Thursday.

Robert was born in Anson County on March 7, 1950, the fifth child of the late Albert and Betty Lee Bailey Carpenter. He was an avid outdoorsman. After retiring from Anson Country Water Department he spent most of his time outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, trapping, mowing, front porch sitting, and anything his family and friends needed his help with. He was also quite the handyman – if he couldn't fix it for you, he knew someone who could. He would always say he wanted things done right, or not at all. He was very particular about keeping everything organized and in order. If the loaf of bread on his table was not sitting at the right angle, he knew it.

Robert enjoyed being with, and checking on, those he loved. Many friends and family members will miss almost daily calls with him, vegetables from his and Ralph's garden, or buckets of pecans that he'd

pick up. He could always make you laugh and always had a good joke to tell, and when he was ready to go or get off the phone, he would let you know.

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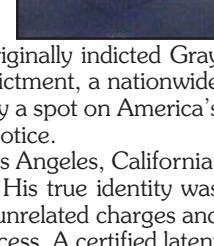
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Fugitive Wanted for Murder Arrested After 18 Years on the Run

The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) Southeastern District and the Robeson County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) have arrested Omar Gray, a fugitive who evaded capture for 18 years after being indicted for First Degree Murder and Conspiracy to Commit First-Degree Murder.



Robeson County Grand Jury originally indicted Gray on May 15, 2007. Following his indictment, a nationwide manhunt was launched, earning Gray a spot on America's Most Wanted and an Interpol Red Notice.

Gray was ultimately captured in Los Angeles, California, under the alias "Timothy Bloxson." His true identity was discovered after he was arrested on unrelated charges and fingerprinted during the booking process. A certified latent print examiner from the Moore County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) conducted a forensic fingerprint comparison, confirming that "Bloxson" was, in fact, Omar Gray.

Following his identification, Gray was extradited to North Carolina, where he was formally arrested by SBI agents and RCSO deputies on January 28, 2025.

Gray is currently in custody in North Carolina and awaiting further legal proceedings.

Alexander County Woman Wins \$5 Million Prize with \$39 Scratch-Off

Patricia Osborne of Taylorsville tried her luck on a \$30 scratch-off and won the first \$5 million top prize in the Millionaire Bucks game. Osborne bought her lucky \$30 ticket from Market Basket on N.C. 16 North in Conover.

When Osborne arrived at lottery headquarters to collect her winnings, she had a decision to make. She could choose to receive her prize as an annuity of \$250,000 a year over 20 years or a lump sum of \$3 million. She chose the lump sum of \$3 million and, after required state and federal tax withholdings, took home \$2,152,508.

The Millionaire Bucks game debuted in October with four top prizes of \$5 million and 10 \$100,000 prizes. Three \$5 million prizes and nine \$100,000 prizes remain to be claimed.

Alexander County received \$5.4 million from money raised by the lottery to help with school renovations. For details on ways money raised by the lottery made a difference for education programs in Anson County last year, visit nclottery.com and click on the "Impact" section.

Free Movie at the Library is Disney Film *Out of My Mind*

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing the Disney movie *Out of My Mind* on Monday, February 24 at 10 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. This movie is Melody Brooks' story, a sixth grader with cerebral palsy who is non verbal and in a wheelchair. The story is based on Sharon Draper's book about her experiences and inspiration dealing with a handicapped child. Everyone is invited to come and learn from her experiences.

Any questions call 704-694-5177.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

TOWN OF LILESVILLE

Water & Sewer System Asset Management Plans

February 19, 2025

The Town of Lilesville has received an Asset Inventory Assessment Award from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ). The proposed project will develop a system-wide "Asset Inventory and Assessment" (AIA) of the Town of Lilesville's "WATER SYSTEM", including supply, treatment, distribution and storage. The project will also assess the Town's "SEWER SYSTEM", including collection, pumping and treatment.

This project will enable the Town to identify and prioritize critical water and sewer capital projects and strategically and efficiently direct funds to implement these projects. This will prevent the Town from needlessly spending construction funds for projects that may not be a priority or have little impact addressing identified issues. By accurately inventorying and assessing all areas of the water and sewer systems, the Town can locate the areas in the worst condition and maximize every dollar spent. The selected engineering firm will support the Town of Lilesville by providing the following services:

SCOPE OF WORK:

The "Water Assessment" will include the following:

- Water Lines and Appurtenance Evaluation
- Water Supply Evaluation
- Risk Assessment

- Asset Management Plan
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Rate Study

The "Sewer Assessment" will include the following:

- Collection system inspection / assessment
- Pumping system inspection / assessment
- Treatment system inspection / assessment

- Asset Management Plan
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Rate Study

Other services include:

- Mapping of assets including GIS mapping
- Asset databases
- Asset Inventory

- Asset Management Plan
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Rate Study

During the course of this project, both the Town of Lilesville and the North Carolina Division of Water Infrastructure (NCDWI) will be provided regular updates as to this project's progress. At a minimum, all parties will provide updates every other month. Additionally, project deliverables, both in draft and final form, will be provided to NCDWI.

Engineering Firms are to submit their qualifications for the "Asset Inventory and Assessment Project by:

12:00 p.m., March 19, 2025 to:

Lynn Whitlock, Clerk

Town of Lilesville

114 E. Wall Street

Lilesville, NC 28091

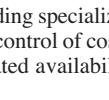
Printed below are submittal requirements and evaluation materials.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Lynn Whitlock, at 704-848-4711 or at 114 E. Wall Street, Lilesville, NC 28091, for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, pongase en contacto Lynn Whitlock al 704-848-4711 o en 114 E. Wall Street, Lilesville, NC 28091 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Bernice Bennett, Mayor

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RFQ SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE AT A MINIMUM:

• Individual or Firm Information: Firm's legal name, address, email, and telephone number, the principal(s) of the firm and their experience and qualifications;

• Water and Sewer System Experience: The specialized experience and technical competence of the staff to be assigned to the project with respect to water system improvements or related work, description of firm's prior experience, including any similar projects, size of community, location, total construction cost, and names of local officials knowledgeable regarding the firm's performance on related work. Include at least five references within the past five years;

• Firm Capacity and Capability: The capacity and capability of the firm to perform the work in question, including specialized services, within the period of the grant, the past record of performance of the firm with respect to such factors as control of costs, quality of work, and ability to meet schedules; description of firm's current work activities, and firm's anticipated availability during the term of the project;

- The proposed work plan and schedule for activities to be performed; and
- Documentation of compliance with state and federal debarment/eligibility requirements.

• Please submit three (3) copies of each proposal

The Town of Lilesville is an Equal Opportunity Employer and invites the submission of proposals from small and minority and women-owned firms, historically underutilized businesses, and certified/registered Section 3 businesses concerns. (Section 3 applies if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts).

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