

Obituaries

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On Monday, August 17, 2026, Mrs. Patsy Lee McLaurin, 92, passed away peacefully at Trinity Place in Albemarle.

Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026, at Anson Memorial Park with Rev. Robert Burr officiating. The family will greet friends following the service. The family suggests comfortable attire for the service due to the extreme heat.

Patsy was born December 26, 1933, in Stanly County, NC, and was a daughter of the late Wayne Lee and the late Carrie Ross Lee. She was a graduate of Norwood High School and attended Kings Business College.

She was a faithful member of the Ansonville United Methodist Church and served the church in many ways. She worked as a bookkeeper for Wadesboro Auto Supply.

Those who are left to cherish her memory are her son Lee McLaurin of Albemarle; her grandsons, Christopher McLaurin of Albemarle and Charles McLaurin of New York; her former daughter-in-law Carolyn McLaurin of Albemarle; her brother and sister-in-law, Bobby and Nancy Lee of Ansonville; and her nieces, Lesa Walton (Johnnie) of Rocky Mount, Ronda Austin (Dennis) of Marshville and Debbie Carpenter of Wadesboro and their families.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Hugh McLaurin, Jr.; her sister Anne Ramsey; and her grandparents, Fred and Emma Lee and Sam and Myrtle Ross.

The family is most grateful to the staff at Trinity Place in Albemarle for all they did for Patsy while she was a resident there.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Trinity Place, 24724 US-52, Albemarle, NC 28001 or to Wightman Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Cindy Gaddy, 282 Gaddy's Ferry Rd., Polkton, NC 28135.

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

Back to School Means Back to Safety

Students return to class Monday.
Drivers, parents and children can all help make the trip safer.

The beginning of a new school year means classrooms are filling up again, but so are school buses, sidewalks, crosswalks and roads around schools. With Anson County Schools students returning to class Monday, August 24, motorists should expect more traffic and allow a little extra time for the morning and afternoon commute.

Most importantly, drivers need to slow down and pay attention. Children do not always behave predictably around traffic, and a student who is late for the bus or excited to see friends may step into the road without noticing an approaching vehicle. Cell phones and other distractions should be put away, especially in school zones, neighborhoods and areas where buses are loading or unloading.

Motorists: Slow Down and Stay Alert

- Obey reduced school-zone speed limits when they are in effect. Those lower limits are there because children may be walking, bicycling or crossing the roadway.
- Expect heavier traffic near schools during arrival and dismissal times. Leave a few minutes early rather than trying to make up time by speeding.
- Watch carefully for crossing guards and follow their directions.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop far enough back to give them room & visibility.
- Never pass another vehicle that has stopped at a crosswalk. A child or other pedestrian may be crossing where you cannot see them.
- Check carefully before backing out of a driveway or parking space. Small children can be difficult to see behind a vehicle.
- Be especially cautious in neighborhoods and on roads without sidewalks, where students may be walking along the edge of the roadway.
- Put the phone down. A few seconds of distraction can be particularly dangerous in an area filled with children, buses and changing traffic patterns.

Know When to Stop for a School Bus Yellow flashing lights on a school bus mean the bus is preparing to stop. Drivers should slow down and prepare to stop. When the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, motorists must stop as required by North Carolina law and remain stopped until the red lights stop flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn and the bus begins moving again.

- On a two-lane road, traffic traveling in both directions must stop.
- On a two-lane road with a center turn lane, traffic in both directions must stop.
- On a four-lane road without a median, traffic in both directions must stop.
- On a four-lane divided highway with a median, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.
- On a roadway with four or more lanes and a center turn lane, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.

Drivers should never try to "beat" a school bus stop arm. Children getting on or off a bus may have to cross the road, and they are depending on motorists to stop.

Safety Tips for Students

- Arrive at the bus stop early so there is no need to run for the bus.
- Stay well back from the roadway while waiting.
- Wait until the bus has stopped completely before approaching it.
- Follow the bus driver's directions and make sure traffic has stopped before crossing the road.
- Look left, right and left again before crossing.
- Never walk behind a school bus.
- If something is dropped near or underneath the bus, do not reach for it. Tell the bus driver first. The driver may not be able to see a child close to the bus.
- Use sidewalks when they are available. Where there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from moving vehicles as possible.
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections whenever possible.
- Do not assume a driver sees you. Watch the vehicle and make eye contact with the driver when possible before crossing.

Parents Can Help, Too

- Review bus-stop and pedestrian safety with children before the first day.
- Make sure younger children know where to wait for the bus and where to go after getting off.
- Avoid dropping children off across a busy street from school when a safer designated drop-off area is available.
- Never double-park or stop where your vehicle blocks a driver's view of children entering a crosswalk.
- Remind young drivers in the family that school zones require extra patience & attention.

Back-to-school traffic can take a little getting used to after the quieter summer months. A trip through town may take a few minutes longer, and getting caught behind a school bus may add another stop or two. Those few minutes are a small price to pay for making sure every child gets to school - and back home - safely.

Community Open House for New Anson Middle School

After years of planning and construction, Anson County Schools is inviting the community to celebrate the opening of the new Anson Middle School during a Community Open House on Thursday, August 20, 2026.

The event will provide an opportunity for alumni, former employees, community partners and residents from across Anson County to tour the new facility and experience the modern learning environment created for students.

The Community Open House will be held from 6:15 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the new Anson Middle School, located at 290 Anson High School Road in Wadesboro.

School officials encourage everyone who has supported Anson County Schools over the years to attend the event and help celebrate this important milestone.

"Whether you're an alumni, former employee, community partner, or simply someone who calls Anson County home, we invite you to come experience this beautiful new facility and celebrate this exciting milestone with us," school officials said.

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