

Obituaries

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Russell of Norwood and Joshua and Jade Knotts of Oakboro; his great-nieces and great-nephew, Alyssa Pope of Orlando, FL, and Jonah Russell and Harper Grace Knotts, both of Oakboro; and his cousins and friends from Wade Manufacturing and Hornwood.

Jeff's family is most grateful to the staff and doctors at Levine Cancer Center in Charlotte for the care and support they gave him and to Atrium Health Union and Atrium Health CMC Main for the excellent care they provided too. Most recently, to the staff of McWhorter Hospice House in Monroe for enabling Jeff's last days to be filled with love, grace, and dignity.

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

Jeff is quoted from a post he made in February of this year as saying, "When I'm gone, all I want people to say about me is, Jeff was a good guy. That's all. Nothing more."

Yes, Jeff, you were a good guy!

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

Mr. William Jeffrey "Jeff" Knotts

On Tuesday, September 29, 2026, Mr. William Jeffrey "Jeff" Knotts, 61, passed away peacefully at McWhorter Hospice House with his family gathered in his room.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, October 3, 2026, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Mr. Ken Caulder officiating.

The family greeted friends one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the funeral home.

A private interment will be at Faith Baptist Church Cemetery in Lilesville.

Jeff was born in Wadesboro on February 20, 1965, and was the youngest son born to James Donald Knotts and Lois Lorene Lockler Knotts. He was a graduate of Anson High School and had worked in textiles, having first worked at Wade Manufacturing and later at Hornwood in Lilesville.

He lived a rather simple life; however, he was a huge fan of the LA Dodgers, UNC Tar Heels, and Darrell Waltrip. All of his family and friends know him best for being a fan of one of those. He also enjoyed listening to beach music.

Those who are left to cherish his memory are his brother and sister-in-law, Jimmy and Linda Knotts of Wadesboro; his niece and nephews, Tracey Knotts



Marriott Procter Little

May 12, 1929 — October 1, 2026

Elizabeth Marriott Procter Little, age 97, died peacefully with her family by her side on Thursday morning, October 1, 2026.

Marriott, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ivan Marriott Procter, was born in Raleigh on May 12, 1929. Marriott's mother, Madeline Jones Procter from Bethlehem, PA, was the personal assistant to the founder of Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis, and worked and traveled with Ms. Jarvis to lobby for the national day to honor mothers. Her father, Dr. Procter was

the first physician in N.C. to limit his practice solely to Obstetrics and Gynecology and delivered Marriott on Mother's Day.

Marriott attended Ravenscroft School in Raleigh and then attended St. Agnes School in Alexandria, V.A., where she completed high school in 1947. She attended Smith College for one year before transferring to Duke University. Marriott received a B.A. degree in Art History in 1951, from Duke. Her childhood was spent as a member of Edenton Street Methodist Church, and in 1954 she joined Christ Episcopal Church.

Marriott was predeceased by her husband, William (Bill) Bennett Little, Jr. of Wadesboro, N.C. She met Bill, a cousin of her sister's husband, George F. Bason, at their home in 1953, and they were married the following year, on February 19, 1954. She was a loving and devoted wife, and they enjoyed many adventures and common interests including sailing in Oriental, tennis, travel and painting.

Marriott was a well-known and respected artist in Raleigh and throughout N.C. Her interest in art developed early when she began taking art lessons at Ravenscroft in the fourth grade. She continued art lessons at St. Agnes School and frequented art museums in Washington, DC, where she became familiar with masters of painting and sculpture. Marriott pursued her interest more seriously after her children were in school, studying with notable artists like Charles Reid, Joe Cox, Dong Kingman and Wolf Kahn, and competed in juried shows throughout the region.

Beginning in 1976, Marriott's work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions, select private collections and collected by corporations such as BellSouth, Duke Medical Center, SAS Institute, GlaxoSmithKline, Hewlett-Packard Company, Bank of America and The State of North Carolina. She has won numerous awards and honors for her artwork. In 2018, Marriott was inducted into the Fine Arts Hall of Fame at Ravenscroft School.

Marriott saw everything as art. She paid attention to scenes to draw and paint around Raleigh and during her travels in the US and abroad. She successfully painted in every medium and genre. She especially loved being in nature, walking every day, and seeing the unique shapes and colors of trees, clouds and flowers. One of her favorite series consisted of abstract landscapes she called 'Fair View', inspired by the beauty of the landscape she discovered in her own backyard after Hurricane Fran in 1996.

Marriott's service, professional and charitable affiliations as well as leadership roles through memberships included the Jr. League of Raleigh, Colonial Dames of Wake County, Artspace, Inc., Artspace Artists Association (past president), Raleigh Fine Arts Society, N.C. Art Society, Wake Artists Guild, Wake Visual Arts Association, and the Watercolor Society of North Carolina. She was honored with the Julia Daniels Lifetime Achievement award from the Junior League of Raleigh in 2023.

Marriott maintained her studio at ArtSpace for twenty years from 1990 until 2011 and continued to paint until she was 95. She attended monthly critiques in her home studio until her passing.

Over the years and until her passing, Marriott made many friends of all ages and walks of life. Her family and friends saw her as a light in their lives, as she showed acceptance and love to all. She genuinely connected with people and mentored other artists through her Artspace studio. Many have expressed that she was like a mother or grandmother to them. All of her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and extended family felt equally loved by her. She found joy in the simple things. A creative spirit, open heart and mind, and a childlike enthusiasm defined her life. She adored her family and was a blessing to us.

In addition to her husband, Marriott is predeceased by her beloved parents, her brother, Jarvis Reginald Procter, and her sisters, Doris Procter Bason and Nancy Procter Langley.

She is survived by her children, Marriott Little Sheldon of Wendell, Corneille Harris Little of Raleigh, Elizabeth Little Barnes and husband Jeffrey of Raleigh, and William Bennett Little, III and wife Susan Haynes of Wendell; her grandchildren, Kimberly Lin Mallard, Stanford Lane Mallard, Courtney Yeates Sheldon and wife Lindsay, William Procter Sheldon, James Little Sheldon and wife Micaela McPadden, Madeline Sears Meersman and husband Nathan, Rebecca Little Barnes and husband Jacob and her great grandchildren, Dylan, Leyla, Zara, Bennett and Isobel. She is also survived by many beloved nephews and nieces.

Her family would like to recognize her cherished in-home caregivers as well as the outstanding care and support from the entire staff at Springmoor Retirement Community who greatly improved Marriott's quality of life for the last six months. We are so grateful for their devotion and love to our mother.

A memorial service will be held at Christ Church at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23rd, followed by a reception at the Carolina Country Club. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Transitions LifeCare, 250 Hospice Circle Raleigh, NC 27607 or to the Springmoor Endowment Fund, 1500 Sawmill Rd. Raleigh, NC 27615.

Services provided by Brown Wynne, 300 Saint Mary's St., Raleigh, NC.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition
reminds residents that help is available around the clock**

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about domestic abuse, remembering those whose lives have been lost and making sure victims and survivors know that assistance is available.

Domestic violence affects millions of Americans each year. Estimates indicate approximately 10 million people experience domestic violence annually in the United States, with about 20 to 24 people experiencing physical abuse by an intimate partner every minute. Abuse can affect people of any age or background and may take many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse.

Here in Anson County, the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition provides assistance and advocacy for people affected by domestic violence. Throughout October, the organization is encouraging residents not only to recognize the seriousness of domestic abuse, but also to remember that victims may need support, understanding and a safe way to seek help.

Anyone who is experiencing domestic violence, or who is concerned about someone else, is encouraged to contact an advocate when it is safe to do so. Advocates are available in person Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by calling 704-694-4499.

Help is also available outside regular office hours. The coalition operates a 24-hour Crisis Line at 704-690-0362, providing victims and survivors a way to reach an advocate at any time of the day or night.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is represented by the color purple, which has become a national symbol of support for survivors and the effort to end domestic violence.

Candlelight Vigil October 29 The Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition will continue its local observance later this month with its annual Candlelight Vigil at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 29 at the Anson County Courthouse.

2027-28 FAFSA Application Is Now Open

Students can apply for federal financial aid for the next academic year

Students planning to attend college during the 2027-28 academic year can now complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, better known as the FAFSA.

The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid, including grants, work-study opportunities and student loans. Information from the application is also used by many states, colleges and universities when determining eligibility for other forms of financial assistance.

According to N.C. Public Schools, the streamlined FAFSA form can be completed by most applicants in 15 minutes or less. Students and families should have the necessary financial and identifying information available before beginning the application.

Completing the FAFSA does not obligate a student to accept financial aid or loans. Instead, it provides the information needed to determine what types and amounts of assistance may be available, making it an important step for students considering college, community college or other eligible postsecondary education.

Students are encouraged not to wait until the last minute. Financial aid deadlines can vary by state, school and individual aid program, and some assistance may have limited funding.

The FAFSA application, deadline information, frequently asked questions and additional resources are available at: studentaid.gov/afsa.

\$1.8 Million Award Brings 6 Fast EV Chargers to Wadesboro

A \$1.8 million transportation infrastructure investment is coming to Wadesboro, with plans calling for six high-speed electric vehicle chargers along U.S. 74.

The announcement provides additional details about an EV charging project first reported by The Express in its September 16 edition, when NCDOT announced its latest round of funding for charging stations across North Carolina. The new information identifies PowerUp America as the developer, provides the amount of the Wadesboro award and offers a clearer picture of what motorists can expect at the site.

PowerUp America has been awarded \$1,825,497 through the N.C. Department of Transportation's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program to develop the public charging station. The Wadesboro project is one of 14 charging stations selected by NCDOT in the second round of the state's NEVI program. The federal program is designed to establish a reliable network of publicly accessible EV charging stations. Under NCDOT's revised approach, more attention is being directed toward rural communities and highways where fast-charging options are limited.

PowerUp America, headquartered in Gray, Tennessee, will develop the Wadesboro station in partnership with Kempower, which will provide the charging equipment. Kempower's North American headquarters and manufacturing operations are located in Durham.

Plans call for six DC fast chargers, along with canopies and pull-through charging spaces. The pull-through design can make charging easier for larger vehicles or vehicles towing trailers, while the location along U.S. 74 is intended to serve both Anson County residents and motorists traveling through the area.

"We're excited to make this investment in Wadesboro and Anson County," PowerUp America CEO Josh Turner said. "For us, these projects are about more than installing chargers. Partnering with the community matters. We want this facility to add value for residents while also giving travelers a reason to stop in Wadesboro, charge, and support local businesses."

The project could have benefits beyond simply providing electricity to EVs. Unlike filling a gasoline tank, charging an electric vehicle can give travelers some time to spend nearby, potentially sending customers to Wadesboro restaurants, stores and other businesses while their vehicles are plugged in.

"This is a significant transportation infrastructure investment in the Town of Wadesboro and Anson County," Assistant County Manager and Planning Director Nick Addison said. "This award reflects NCDOT's NEVI realignment to focus resources on communities and rural areas with fewer charging options."

Addison said the project will expand high-speed charging along U.S. 74 as electric vehicles become a larger part of the transportation network and demonstrates the importance of Anson County's location along the highway.

PowerUp America is currently completing due diligence and finalizing the NEVI award. As development moves forward, the company will coordinate with NCDOT, Anson County, the Town of Wadesboro, utility providers and other project partners.

The Wadesboro charging station is currently expected to become operational in mid-to-late 2027.

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