

OBITUARIES

BRUCE FORTENBERRY
MOORESBORO - Bruce Fortenberry, 38, 3469 Curtis Road, died December 18, 2000 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center, Shelby.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of Kenneth Edward Fortenberry and Hilda Pruett Fortenberry of Shelby. He was a member of Goode Grove Baptist Church and was employed by Lead Tech at Metals America and G.T. McSwains.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Alicia Kitts Fortenberry of the home; stepdaughter, Mallori Sneed of the home; daughter, Emily Fortenberry of the home; son, Jacob Fortenberry of the home; brother, Brian N. Fortenberry of Grover; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Fortenberry of Grover; grandmother, Estelle Pruett of Shelby; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Marshall and Inus Faye Kitts of Mooresboro; and brother-in-law, Mike Kitts of Spartanburg, SC.

The funeral will be conducted by the Revs. Lawrence Toney and Robbie Hensley at 11 a.m. Thursday at Cleveland Funeral Services Chapel. Burial will be in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Cleveland Funeral Services, Shelby, is in charge of arrangements.

GRACE ALLEN
WILMINGTON - Grace Young Ennis Allen, 76, 237 Navaho Trail, died Sunday at the home of her son in Shelby.

A native of Johnston County, she was the daughter of the late Rev. Lonnie Redden Ennis and Annie Lancaster Ennis. She was a graduate of Goldsboro High School, attended Mars Hill College and graduated from Hardbarger Business College. She worked for the North Carolina Wildlife Commission and North Carolina Employment Security Commission in Raleigh and Fayetteville before retiring in 1976 from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington library with 23 years of service to the State of North Carolina. She was a member of Cape Fear Free Will Baptist Church and the Dogwood Garden Club.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Joseph E. Allen; son, Donald J. Allen and wife, Carole M. Allen of Shelby; grandchildren, Michelle L. Allen and Jeffrey Allen of Shelby; brother, Eric Ennis of Raleigh; sisters-in-law, Joann Ennis of Morehead City, Trudy Jordan of Raleigh and Joyce Poe of Murrell's Inlet, SC; brothers-in-law, Roy Allen and wife, Helen of Greensboro and Rudolph Allen and wife, Belle, of Clayton; nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Patrick Hall, George C. Lee and Tim Hendrick at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Seymour Funeral Home Chapel, Goldsboro. Burial was in Willow Dale Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Lower Cape Fear Hospice, 725-A Wellington Ave., Wilmington, NC 28401 or Hospice of

Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150.

KENNETH MELTON
GROVER - Kenneth Joseph Melton, 57, 124 Ben Davis Road, died December 18, 2000 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center, Shelby.

A native of Richmond County, he was the son of the late Joseph Tate and Madge Eskridge Melton. He was also predeceased by his sisters, Betty Thompson, Dorothy Martin and Mary Ruth Burg.

He was a long distance driver for Eck-Miller Trucking Co. in Rockport, IN.

He is survived by his brothers, John Wayne Melton of Cross, SC and William Daniel Melton of Monroe, CT; and sisters, Martha Simpson of Kings Mountain, Muriel Hill of Cross, SC, and Joann Berry of Virginia Beach, VA.

A memorial service was held at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

COLENE GETTYS
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Colene Parker Gettys, 58, 114 Wells Street, died December 14, 2000 at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Millard Parker. She was also predeceased in death by son Laray Goodman, brother Randy Parker, and sister Hettie Herman. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband Raymond Gettys of Kings Mountain; mother Mrs. Millard Hull Parker of Casar, N.C.; son Ricky Keith Goodman of Kings Mountain; daughter Teresa Ruppe and husband Tony of Kings Mountain; brothers Dennis Parker of Shelby, and Junior Parker and Homer Parker of Casar; sisters Rachel Buchanan of Hickory, Louise McFarland of Casar, Bernice Mosteller of Casar, and Judy Buff of Casar; grandchildren Kevin Greene and wife Sherri of Kings Mountain and Heather Ruppe and Dusty Ruppe both of Kings Mountain.

The funeral was conducted Saturday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel at 1 p.m. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Shelby Dialysis Center, 1016 Washington Street, Shelby 28150.

Harris Funeral Home served the family.

RICHARD DUNN
MARION - Richard Steven Dunn, 54, died December 17, 2000 at McDowell County Hospital.

A native of Shelby, he was the son of Cubie Mitcham of Gaffney, SC, and the late Clyde Harrison Dunn.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by a brother, Paul Dunn of Forest City; and sister, Becky D. Waltman of Gaffney, SC.

A private service will be held. White Columns - Gaffney is in charge of arrangements.

AMBROSE LUTZ
BESSEMER CITY - Ambrose L. Lutz, 85, 144 Mountain View Road, died December 13, 2000 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late Ambrose Lester Lutz and Maggie Harmon Lutz. He was also predeceased in death by his first wife, Alda Beam Lutz, and his second wife, Georgia Pressley Gore Lutz; his brother, Everett Lutz; and sisters, Ollie Mae Waldrop and Helen Lutz.

He was a member of Betha United Methodist Church and was retired as a machinist in the textile industry.

He is survived by his daughters, Betty L. Herman and husband Rev. Frank Herman of Bessemer City, and Sue Sellers and husband Dr. B.E. Sellers of Raleigh; stepson, Marshall Gore and wife Jackie of Kings Mountain; brother, Rev. D.H. Lutz of Bessemer City; sisters, Lib Hastings and Callie V. Marshall of Bessemer City; seven grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and three step great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Allen Van Meter and Marsha Joyner at 2 p.m. Friday at Betha United Methodist Church. Interment was in West View Gardens.

Memorials may be made to Berea United Methodist Church, E. Maryland Ave., Bessemer City or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Harris Funeral Home, Kings Mountain, was in charge of arrangements.

RONALD L. STACEY
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Ronald L. Stacey, 32, 628-1 Bell Road, died December 13, 2000.

He was a native of Yuma, AZ. He was preceded in death by his brother, Marvin Barnett.

He was a former employee of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department and served in the United States Army where he served in "Just Cause" in Panama and earned The Purple Heart. He also served in Desert Storm.

He was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church. He was a Mason and member of the Creasy Proctor Lodge #679, Fayetteville.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Clippard Stacey of Kings Mountain; parents, Jerry D. and Marie Davis Stacey of Kings Mountain; grandfather, J.B. Stacey of Kings Mountain; sons, Austin Stacey and Dakota Stacey of Kings Mountain; daughter, Priscilla Stacey of Sanford; brothers, Carl Barnett of Kings Mountain, Tony Barnett of San Diego, CA, and Dallas Stacey, Doug Stacey and Mark Stacey, all of Kings Mountain; sister, Lisa Jestes of Kings Mountain; nieces and nephews.

The funeral, with military honors, was conducted by the Rev. Ron Caulder at 3 p.m. Saturday at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

KATHLEEN LEDBETTER
SHELBY - Mrs. Kathleen Mode Ledbetter, 89, 1011 Hidden Valley Road, died December 16, 2000 at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Tom Mode and Ollie Bridges Mode. She was the wife of the late Henry R. Ledbetter. She was also predeceased by her son, H. Kenneth Ledbetter; granddaughter, Beth S. Burch; brothers, Jack Mode, John Mode, Marion Mode, Thomas Mode and Crayton Mode; and sister, Willie Mae Wilson.

She was a retired textile worker and a member of Second Baptist Church.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Bobby and Ruth Ledbetter of Gastonia; daughters and sons-in-law, Mabel L. and Blaine Froneberger of Shelby and Lavon L. and Charles Ramsey of Gastonia; grandchildren, Wanda Schronce of Martinez, GA, Debbie L. Webster of Kings Mountain, Sandy L. Phillips and Susan L. Threlkeld of Gastonia, Keith Strickland of Cherryville, Rhonda F. Hamrick of Shelby, Kelli F. Shelor of Cherryville and Sister Elizabeth Powell of Hickory; great-grandchildren, Tasha Cobb, Brittany Threlkeld, Taylor Phillips, Bobby Webster, Nicholas Schronce, Kaitlyn Hamrick, Allison Hamrick, Christopher Burch, Misty Strickland, Kristy Strickland, and Renota Strickland; and great-great-grandson, Nicholas Strickland.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Stanley Webb at 2 p.m. Monday at Cleveland Funeral Services Chapel. Burial was in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights, Shelby, NC 28150 or Cleveland County Boys & Girls Club, 412 W. Sumter St., Shelby, NC 28150.

Cleveland Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

ELLEN WRIGHT
GRANITE FALLS - Ellen Garris Wright, formerly of Kings Mountain and Lanham, MD, died December 16, 2000 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Rockingham, she was the daughter of the late James Garris and Lessie Stone Garris Ledford. She was the wife of the late Schuyler Wright.

She was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, and was a homemaker.

She is survived by her sons, Bradley Wright of Frankfort, KY and Jeffery Wright of Maryland; stepfather, Paul Ledford of Kings Mountain; sister, Nancy G. Walker of Granite Falls; brother, Ronnie Ledford of Kings Mountain; sisters, Patty Whetstone and Brenda Cooke of Kings Mountain; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brother, James Thomas Garris Jr.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Oak Grove Baptist Church, 4950 Oak Grove Church Road, Granite Falls, NC 28630. Bass-Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

SCHOOL

From 1A

Following Allen's appeal, commissioner Ronnie Hawkins asked Allen to describe the school and its location.

"It's a beautiful setting," Allen said. "There is plenty of land and students will have a pleasant experience going to school there."

After Allen spoke, Cleveland County manager Lane Alexander said that he and Dr. McRae had been in contact with several state agencies including the Department of Public Instruction and the comptroller to find a way to get funds for the new school.

One way that shows promise is to use a state statute that allows projects to be done under a "continuing contract" basis. This would allow work on the school to begin with what funds are available, then as the project nears completion, use monies generated by things such a percentage on bonds or the reserve fund. Not only would this plan see the school built, it would also avoid a big shock to the county budget.

Following Alexander's comments, chairman Willie McIntosh said that the commissioners planned to meet Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m. with Cleveland County Schools attorney Michael Crowell to get his opinion on the idea. If that meeting goes well, the decision to give the green light to the school could come right away.

"We were well received tonight," said Kings Mountain school board member Melony Bolin. "We have worked diligently to get the \$8 million we have and we're not asking for anything except the students of Kings Mountain get a good education. We need this school. We are bursting at the seams for space."

Buoyed with optimism after Tuesday's results, the Kings Mountain school board has scheduled a special meeting for Wednesday, December 27, at 8:30 p.m. to consider awarding bids for the project.

BIRTHDAY



TAYLOR STRICKLAND

Taylor Strickland celebrates birthday

Ashley "Taylor" Strickland, daughter of Woody and Brandy Strickland of Kings Mountain, turned two years old November 27. She celebrated with a party at her home on November 25.

AnElmo's World theme was used and cake, ice cream and all the trimmings was served. Guests included Josh Anthony, Heidi and Deanna Carrol, Mikey Coleman, Ashley and Amy Navy, and Amber and Ashley Mullinax.

Maternal grandparents are Dean and Brenda Howell of Kings Mountain. Paternal grandparents are the late Woodrow Strickland of Kings Mountain, and the late Ruby Neal.

Maternal great-grandparents are Joy and Jim McGinnis of Kings Mountain, Hazel and the late Jim Coleman, and Willie Howell of Oxford, AL. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Ernest and Ada Strickland of Winder, GA and the late Polly and Tallmadge Edwards of New Bern.

Taylor has a sister, the late Angela Gail Strickland of Kings Mountain.

EDENGARDENS

From 1A

Anthony. "Also, in our Alzheimer's unit we have replaced the carpet and upholstered furniture with types that are easier to keep clean."

Other new things at EdenGardens include the hiring of a licensed nurse to direct the Alzheimer's unit. A second nurse is being recruited so that 16 hour monitoring will be possible. Anthony says that number of hours is not mandated, but shows that EdenGardens wants to go the extra mile in caring for its residents.

In addition to staying in closer touch with families of residents, EdenGardens has also instituted a series of meetings where the folks who live there can get together with management and share ideas or concerns. So far, these meetings have proved successful.

"It's the right thing to do," she said.

Extra training for staff is also on the EdenGarden's list of objectives. Anthony said that EdenGardens has a good staff, but that some didn't have all the training and knowledge they needed.

SHELBY

From 1A

"The amount of pain that Shelby experiences would have taken out most people," Scheutzow said.

The procedure that will alleviate McDonald's suffering is called a spinal cord stimulator. Scheutzow said the small, electrical device is implanted near the base of the spinal cord and short circuits pain signals going to the brain. Once implanted, it will last about 10 years. Cost of the procedure is around \$25,000-\$30,000 and would be performed at Carolinas Medical Center.

"The device will give Shelby back a life," he said.

Hearing the call for help, other folks have also stepped up to the plate.

"I've never seen anyone so strong as Shelby," said sister in law Kathy Costner. "We're all willing to do whatever it takes to help her get this procedure-even knocking on doors. She doesn't deserve to suffer like this."

Also coming in on the campaign are members and leaders from McDonald's and other churches. These include Family Praise and Worship Center, and New Life Outreach.

"We will do anything we can to help in this situation," said New Life Outreach minister Jerry Owens. "Besides being a member of our church, Shelby is also a friend and wonderful person."

Owens says that plans are in the works to help raise funds for McDonald's operation. Folks interested in talking to him about the situation can call 435-8919. New Life Outreach has set up a fund for McDonald at First National Bank in Kings Mountain and donations can be deposited directly into that account.

With Christmas just around the corner, McDonald's supporters are exploring any and all avenues to come through with what she needs to be released from her prison of pain and suffering. Prayers are welcome, but so are other things.

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