

## OBITUARIES

### RACHEL ROBERTS

**KINGS MOUNTAIN** - Rachel Wells Roberts, 53, 204 Walker Street, died August 9, 2001 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late James Woodrow and Mary Elizabeth Miller Wells. She was also preceded in death by her brother, James Oliver Wells. She was a homemaker and a member of First Wesleyan Church.

She is survived by her daughters, Dawn Wells Owens of Gastonia and Angela Patterson Dover and husband Randy of Kings Mountain, grandson, Randy Dover Jr. of Kings Mountain; and uncle and caregiver, Hughlen M. Miller of Kings Mountain.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Don Williams at 2 p.m. Sunday at First Wesleyan Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First Wesleyan Church, 505 North Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### JIMMY RAY TOMLIN

**SHELBY** - Jimmy Ray Tomlin, 53, 617 Polkville Road, died August 18, 2001 at his home.

A native of Shelby, he was the son of the late Ray Tomlin and the late Ruby Beatrice Owens Tomlin Haskin. He was retired. He was a member of Eastside Baptist Church of Shelby and attended Dover Baptist Church.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Dewey Wayne and Shannon Tomlin of Double Shoals; stepsons, Mitchell Carl Booth Jr. of Grover and Dale Ray Booth and wife Mary Catherine of Mooresboro; step-daughter, Teresa Gil Booth of Gaffney; brother, Donald Wayne Tomlin and wife Vicki of Cherryville; sister, Wanda Gail Buff and husband Dennis of Shelby; sister-in-law, Kathy Blackwell and husband Leroy of Blacksburg, SC; brother-in-law, Andrew Radica of Blacksburg, SC; mother-in-law, Louise Skates Gore of Converse,

SC; former daughter-in-law, Kimberly Ann Tomlin of Shelby; brothers-in-law, John Robert Gore and David Earl Gore of Chesnee, SC, and James Buford Gore of Spartanburg, SC; grandchildren, Dustin Wayne Tomlin and Kristopher Kyle Tomlin of Shelby, and Dallas Cole Tomlin of Double Shoals; step-grandchildren, Crystal Leann Booth of Kings Mountain, Andrew Loy Booth of Gaffney, SC, and Victoria Nicole Booth of Mooresboro; sisters-in-law, Mary Guy of Gaffney, SC, Ruth Jolley of Converse, SC, and Joyce Painter of Spartanburg, SC; special friends, Tina Bridges, Sylvia Vassey, Maude Whisnant, and Debbie Finch; three nieces and one nephew. He was preceded in death by his sister, Juanita Radica; brothers, Johnny Dean Tomlin, Dewey Franklin Tomlin and Tommy Tomlin; and grandson, Tyler Wayne Tomlin.

The funeral was conducted at graveside by the Rev. Phil Bailey on Friday at 11 a.m. at Sunset Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to CRMC Foundation, Blumenthal Cancer Center, 201 E. Grover St., Shelby, NC 28150 and Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### WILLA SHIELDS

**SHELBY** - Willa Hazel Heldreth Shields, 96, 2214 Holly Lane, died Monday at Cleveland Pines Nursing Center.

A native of Marion County, WV, she was the daughter of the late Willie Douglas Heldreth and Nancy Brown Heldreth. She was also predeceased by her husband, James Edgar Shields; grandson, William Bradford "Brad" Shields; and brother, Clair Heldreth.

She and her husband were former owners of Shields Hosier and Mid Way Lakes. She was a member of New Prospect Baptist Church.

She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, J. Don

Shields and Jane Spake Shields of Shelby and Kenneth Dwight Shields and Rose Rogers Shields of Jacksonville, FL; grandchildren, Sue Shields Whitaker of Shelby, Dr. Scott Shields of Enid, OK, Patricia Shields Allen of Lugoff, SC, Mary Shields Krieger of Kings Mountain, and Kenny Shields, Richard Shields, Mike Shields, and Tina Shields Vining of Jacksonville, FL; 13 great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Tim Tapp, Jack Haggerty and Roy Vining at 11 a.m. Friday at Cleveland Funeral Services Chapel. Burial was in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Cleveland Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

### GENE FINLEY

**KINGS MOUNTAIN** - Calvin Eugene "Gene" Finley, 52, 207 Quincy Street, died August 9, 2001 at his home.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Theodore Roosevelt Finley. He was a retired textile machine operator.

He was preceded in death by his son, David Finley.

He is survived by his mother, Helen H. Finley; daughter, Lori Finley of Tuscaloosa, AL; sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Jim Branham of Mooresville; brothers and sisters-in-law, Richard Finley of Springfield, Mass., Harvey Finley of Daytona Beach, FL, Quincy and Joyce Finley of Port Orange, FL, and James and Beverly Finley of Southport; one grandchild and several nephews and nieces.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Oscar Hullender at 2 p.m. Monday at Sisk-Butler Funeral Home in Bessemer City. Interment was in Westview Gardens.

Memorials may be made to American Diabetes Association, 1820 East 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28204.

Sisk-Butler Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### IRVIN ABSHER

**BESSEMER CITY** - Rochelle Irvin "Cannon" Absher Jr., 57, 3324 Bessemer City Highway, died August 9, 2001 at his home.

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late Rochelle Irvin and Helen Burton Absher Sr. He was retired from Sherril Industries.

He is survived by his brother, William K. Absher and wife Lori of Shelby; and four nieces, Erin, Brooke, Becky, and Paige Absher.

A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Dick Whitener at 3 p.m. Wednesday in the chapel of Sisk-Butler Funeral Home.

Sisk-Butler Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### SADIE TAYLOR

**KINGS MOUNTAIN** - Sadie Mae Goins Taylor, 80, 221-B Morris Street, died August 11, 2001.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Clyde Elmer Goins and Pearl Short Goins. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Charlie Jones Taylor.

She was a homemaker and a member of Corinth Primitive Baptist Church.

She is survived by her son, Charles E. Taylor and wife Carolyn M. Taylor of Lawndale;

daughters, Ellen T. Smith of Shelby, Faye T. Hamrick and husband Bruce of Shelby, and Rachel T. Russell and husband Tim of Kings Mountain; brother, Roy Elmer Goins of Shelby; sisters, Ruth Putnam and Bertha Goins of Shelby, Inez Bradford of Grover, Pearnell Patterson of Kings Mountain, and Vera Davis of Shannondooah, VA; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by Elders Rommie Williams and F.W. Stacks at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Corinth Primitive Baptist Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### VIOLET OLIVER

**KINGS MOUNTAIN** - Violet Taylor Oliver, 89, 1010 North Cansler Street, died August 12, 2001 at her home.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Clarence and Quillie Taylor. She was also preceded in death by her brothers, John Taylor and Flay Taylor. She was retired from Burlington Industries, Kings Mountain.

She is survived by her husband, Albert T. "Eb" Taylor of Kings Mountain; and sister, Nell Turner of Kings Mountain.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Robert Haynes and Buddy Williams at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### WILMA BYARS

**KINGS MOUNTAIN** - Wilma Thornburg Byars, 88, 102 Garrison Drive, died August 12, 2001 at her home.

A native of Atlanta, GA, she was the daughter of the late William Henry and Pearl Hayes Thornburg and widow of the late Marvin Byars Sr.

She was also preceded in death by her brothers, Rev. George Thornburg and James Thornburg, sisters Mildred Wright and Helma Thornburg, and great-grandson, Bradley Wayne Carrigan.

She was a homemaker and a member of Central United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her son, Robert "Bob" Byars Jr. and wife, Barbara, of Kings Mountain; daughters, Jane Gilbert and husband Tom, Ann Green and husband Joe, Dale Wright, and Sue Jean McCluney, all of Kings Mountain; brother, Rev. W.L. "Dale" Thornburg; grandchildren, JoAnn Carrigan, Jeff Gilbert, Jamie Gilbert, Erin Wright, and Amy Byars, all of Kings Mountain, Dana Fletcher of Sylva, Jennifer Rice of Earl, and Leann Ramsey of Robinsville.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Janis Combs and Dale Thornburg at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Central United Methodist Church. Burial was in Bethlehem Baptist Church cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### DONALD PATTERSON

**GROVER** - Donald James Patterson, 71, 2004 Cleveland Avenue, died August 12, 2001.

A native of Cherokee County, he was the son of the late Albert M. and Pearl Peterson Patterson. He was a member of Grover Church of God.

He is survived by a brother, Garland Patterson of Grover; and sister, Annie Wright of Smyrna, SC. He was preceded

in death by his brothers, Lefoy Patterson, Thomas A. Patterson; and half-sisters, One Millwood, Nan White and Katheline White.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. David Hall at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Grover Church of God. Burial was in Mountain View Cemetery, Blacksburg, SC.

Pallbearers were Bobby Wright, Kevin McDaniel, Jack Poole, Mark Sparks, Matthew Sparks, and Roger Sealey.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150 or Grover Church of God, 201 North Main Street, Grover, NC 28073.

White Columns, Blacksburg, SC, was in charge of arrangements.

### ANNABELLE T. JENNINGS

**CHARLOTTE** - Mrs. Annabelle T. Jennings, 81, died August 12, 2001 at Carolinas Medical Center.

A native of Carlyle, WV, she was the daughter of the late William Thomson and Margaret Penman Thomson. She attended public schools in Mount Hope, WV and furthered her education at Concord College and Marshall College in West Virginia, and graduated in 1955 from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC.

In 1951, the Jennings family relocated to Charlotte when Mr. Jennings accepted the position as a teacher and coach at Harding High School. Having taught school in Fayette County, WV for 10 years, Mrs. Jennings continued her teaching career in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools until her retirement in 1977. She was a member of the local CTA, NCEA, and NEA and also served as President of the Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, an honorary teacher's association.

She was a member of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church since moving to Charlotte in 1951.

She is survived by her husband, William Jennings; son, William J. Jennings and wife Sharon of Kings Mountain; grandchildren, Davis Jennings of Greensboro and Shelby Jennings, a senior at Appalachian State University in Boone; brother, Robert

Thomson of Wooster, OH; sister-in-law, Ethel Strange of Beckley, WV; and 10 nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Billy Robinson at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Interment was in Sharon Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 2201 Sprindale Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Hankins & Whittington Dilworth Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

### Two softball leagues begin play August 20

Kings Mountain Area Church Softball League and Macedonia Baptist Church are planning two softball leagues to begin play on Monday, August 20.

The fall men's church league will play on Monday and Thursday. Teams wishing to participate should meet at the Macedonia softball field on Thursday, August 9 at 6:30.

A co-ed church league will play on Tuesday and Friday. Interested teams should meet at the Macedonia field on Thursday, August 9 at 7:30.

Entry fee for both leagues is \$300 and is due on August 9. Both leagues will consist of no more than 10 teams.

Macedonia Baptist Church is located at 1101 South Battleground Avenue.

For more information, call Phil Wright at 734-0914.

## Children must be educated about safety

By **BEN LEDBETTER**  
Staff Writer

The disappearance of Fallston's Asha Degree and other cases of missing persons around the nation has brought the issue of individual safety to greater importance.

Karen Ellis, Program Director for Family Services at Cleveland County Department of Social Services said children must be educated at a younger age about personal safety.

"We have to educate our children at a young age to make sure they aren't misled," Ellis said.

Ellis said some of the precautions parents can take is running background checks on individuals watching children who are not already family or friends.

Similar guidelines need to be followed with teenagers, Ellis said.

"If teenagers become upset with their parents, they need to talk to a counselor or minister they could trust," Ellis said.

Because of the possibility of a stranger's kidnapping, they need to be able to talk to their family, Ellis said.

"Even something that seems trivial, parents should take time to listen," Ellis said.

Children should learn to do certain things such as call 911 and how to find trustworthy neighbors and friends when they reach the age of being home alone, Ellis said.

More leads have appeared in the Degree case, when a construction worker found a bookbag, thought to be Degree's off N.C. 18 in Burke County.

The bookbag, along with other items, were sent to an FBI laboratory in Quantico, Va. for testing.

Federal and local officials are expected to be in Burke County this week to search an area in the county where a construction worker found items belonging to the missing girl.

While much of the latest missing persons cases have been children and young adults, elderly people are also at risk.

"If a person is not mentally stable, family members need to assume the responsibility for a caretaker," Ellis said.

People with disabilities, regardless of age, are targets for criminals because they are more vulnerable, Ellis said.

### Fairview Lodge to meet Monday

Fairview Lodge #339 AF & AM will have an emergent communication Monday, August 20 at 7 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge on Landing Street.

All members and qualified people are encouraged to attend.

### Ware reunion set at Oak Grove Baptist

The James Graham and Elilda Ware reunion will be held Sunday at 1 p.m. at Oak Grove Baptist Church fellowship hall.

### KMLT play slated at Woman's Club

Kings Mountain Little Theater will present "Drop Dead" August 17 and 18 at 7:30 and August 19 at 2:30 at the Kings Mountain Woman's Club, East Mountain Street, Kings Mountain.

Tickets are available at the door.

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Thank You to the Following ...

To God for strength and courage to care for Howard,  
Sisters of CSJB  
Dr. Christian Anderson, Connie & Margie  
Hospice of Cleveland County

Total Care Inc. - Tina Weaver, Pat Potter, Jo Ann Fite  
The Powell Family  
Rev. Dale Swofford  
Rev. Jim Ed Powell  
Rev. Jeffrey Powell  
Lisa Huntsinger  
Milton Hagan  
Charles & Brenda Humphries  
Guynell Oliver Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Grayton Bollinger & Phillip  
Danny Willis  
Howard Jackson  
H.M. Miller  
Rhonda Lazenby  
The Church Family of Grace United Methodist

The Family of Howard G. Berrier



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