

OBITUARIES

JOE HAMRICK
KINGS MOUNTAIN - William Joseph "Joe" Hamrick, 58, 1006 Woodside Drive, died November 16, 2002 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late Leon "Whitey" and Marie Guyton Hamrick. He was an employee of Lithium Corp. for 29 years.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Peterson Hamrick of Kings Mountain; daughter, Joella Hamrick Wright and husband James of Kings Mountain; mother-in-law, Beatrice Peterson of Kings Mountain; brothers, Rev. James L. "Hambone" Hamrick, Ronald Hamrick, John Wayne Hamrick, Keeter Hamrick and Reid Hamrick, all of Kings Mountain; sister, Anarah "Toonie" Deviney of Kings Mountain; and grandson, Joey Wright.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. James L. Hamrick, Johnny Gantt and Lucas Melon at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Road, Shelby, NC 28150.

MAXINE JACKSON CHARLOTTE - Maxine Lavinia Jackson, 67, died November 18, 2002 at Mercy Hospital.

A native of Kings Mountain, she was the daughter of Fannie and Beverly Jackson. She was also preceded in death by her sister Bonnie Jackson Warner, brother-in-law David Eldridge Warner, sister Mae Jackson Carroll, and nephew David Elliott Warner.

She graduated from Kings Mountain High School and

Lenoir-Rhyne College and worked for many years in the chemical industry.

She is survived by her brother Herman E. Jackson, nieces Pam Warner Lineberger and Ann Carroll Cherry, and nephews Gene Carroll and Kenneth Carroll.

The funeral will be conducted by the Rev. Jerry Robinson at 2 p.m. Thursday at McEwen Funeral and Cremation Service, Pineville Chapel. A reception will be held afterward.

Memorials may be made to Muscular Dystrophy Association, P.O. Box 78342, Phoenix, AZ 85062-8342.

McEwen Funeral and Cremation Service, Pineville Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

PATRICIA DELLINGER SALUDA, SC - Patricia Dellinger, 52, died November 14, 2002 at her home.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Donette McKee.

She is survived by her mother, Clyde Parker of Aiken, SC; sister, Pamela Arrowood of Greenwood, SC; son and daughter-in-law, Lee and Deanna Kersey of Columbus, GA; granddaughter, Katherine Kersey of Columbus, GA; grandson, Craig Kersey of Columbus, GA; stepson and daughter-in-law, Richard Dellinger and Tammy Dellinger of Kings Mountain; stepdaughter and son-in-law, Kimberly Barwell and Kevin Barwell of Texas; and step grandchildren, Brittany Stewart, Kenny Stewart and Brandon Stewart, all of Texas.

A memorial service was held Sunday in Greenwood, SC.

DAVID MCKEEHAN SR. KINGS MOUNTAIN - David Albany McKeehan Sr., 80, 129 Ark Street, died November 13, 2002 at his

home.

He was a native of Virginia and son of the late John Eason McKeehan and Frances Butler McKeehan. He was also predeceased by brothers James Easton McKeehan and Woodrow McKeehan, and sisters Beatrice Foster and Jean Bridges.

He was a member and usher for Trinity Church of the Living God.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma Eubanks McKeehan; son David Albany McKeehan Jr. of Lowell; stepsons Rev. Arthur T. Sprouse and wife Patty of Kings Mountain and Dennis Sprouse and wife Becky of Lowell; daughter, Jean Penley of Alabama; stepdaughter Renee Jackson of Kings Mountain; brother Harrison McKeehan of Alabama; sisters Avanelle Poole of Alabama and Olive Nickelson of Wyoming; 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 3 p.m. Saturday at Greene Funeral Service - West Chapel. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery. Greene Funeral Service - West Chapel, Gastonia, was in charge of arrangements.

SEAN JOSEPH AYERS GASTONIA - Sean Joseph Ayers, 24, died November 10, 2002.

He was a native of Savannah, GA and son of Bruce Douglas and Joanne Newton Ayers.

He attended Ashbrook High School during the 1989-90 school year where he was a member of the men's tennis team. He returned to the Charleston, SC area and attended Middleton High School.

He graduated with high honors from Gaston College with a degree in Business Finance. He was co-owner/operator of Picture Pros, a Gastonia based photography studio. He was involved with the Boger City Booster Club in Lincolnton where he coached youth baseball.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Jennifer Jordan Ayers; sons, Sean Newton "Sean-O" Ayers and Joseph Ryan Ayers, all of the home; brother, Mark Allen Ayers of Charleston, SC; and half-sisters, Tara Ayers Eller of Charlotte and Deirdre Ayers Gardner of Wilmington.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Jacqueline Collins at 11 a.m. Thursday at Stuhr Funeral Home, West Ashley Chapel, Charleston, SC. A memorial service was held Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Cultural Center, Lincolnton. A service was conducted by the Rev. Laurie Hale at 4 p.m. Sunday at Howell Funeral Home Chapel, Gastonia.

Memorials may be made to Boger City Booster Club, 3018 Brady Hoffman Road, Lincolnton, NC 28092.

Howell Funeral Home, Gastonia, was in charge of arrangements.

J.D. PAINTER KINGS MOUNTAIN - J.D. Painter, 68, 109 Ganley Street, died November 14, 2002 at Gaston Memorial Hospital, Gastonia. A native of Cleveland

County, he was the son of the late Rev. James Lee and Lela Ledbetter Painter. He was also predeceased by sisters Dorothy Moore and Peggy Hope, and brothers Harold Deann Painter, Herman Sisk, and Tommy Sisk.

He was retired from Anvil Knit Wear and was a member of Cherokee Street Baptist Church.

He is survived by his sister, Faye Hughes of Kings Mountain, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Gene Leigh and Herman Greene at 2 p.m. Saturday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

MENZELL N. PHIFER KINGS MOUNTAIN - Menzell N. Phifer, 79, 209 Rollingbrook Road, died November 14, 2002 at Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte.



A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Campbell and Minnie Ware Phifer. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Wendell L. Phifer Sr., and son-in-law Eugene Kaylor.

He was former owner and operator of Phifer Hardware Company. He was a member of Boyce Memorial ARP Church, where he served as Deacon, Elder and choir member. He served in the United States Army Air Corp during World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Polly Phifer of Kings Mountain; son, Don W. Phifer and wife Janice B. of Kings Mountain; daughters, Paulette Kaylor, and Jean Phifer Bumgardner and husband Barry W. of Kings Mountain; brother, Marriott Phifer and wife Bess of Kings Mountain; sister, Doris A. Sellers and husband Ed of Charlotte; sister-in-law, Jeanette Crawford Phifer of Kings Mountain; grandchildren, Jennifer Webster and husband Brian, Cindy Phifer, Leslie Phifer, Heather Bumgardner, Derick Bumgardner, and Mary Katherine Kaylor, all of Kings Mountain; and great-grandchildren, Caroline Kaylor, Sloan Kaylor, Johnathon Webster and Emily Webster.

A graveside service was held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Mountain Rest Cemetery. A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Doug Petersen at 11 a.m. Saturday at Boyce Memorial ARP Church.

Memorials may be made to National Foundation for Transplants "For Don Phifer," P.O. Box 1415, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

JERRELL ROWLAND KINGS MOUNTAIN - Jerrell Lewis Rowland, 63, 993 Mary's Grove Church Road, died November 15, 2002 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Burningtown, NC, he was the son of William Emmett Rowland and the late Verdna Mae Bryant Rowland. He was also preceded in death by his sister Josephine Rowland.

He was a machinist and partner of Rowland Machine Co. and Ideal Machine Co.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his wife, Evelyn Hamrick Rowland of Kings Mountain; maternal grandmother, Lucinda Bryant of Franklin; brothers, Benjamin Lee Rowland of Kings Mountain, Marvin Rowland and wife Barbara of Washington, and Curtis Rowland and wife Tina of Bessemer City; sisters, Wanda Genell Hawkins and husband Robert of Clover, SC, and Nancy Hampton and husband Bill of Kings Mountain; sons, Tommy Dean Rowland and wife Michelle of Casar and James Todd Rowland of Kings Mountain; and granddaughter, Alexis Kimberly Rowland of Casar.

The family received family and friends at the home of Curtis and Tina Rowland on Sunday.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

WILLIAM BRIDGES IR. KINGS MOUNTAIN - William Dennis "Butch" Bridges Jr., 55, 204 Margaret Street, died November 13, 2002 at his home.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late William Dennis Bridges Sr. and Geneva Moss Bridges.

He is survived by his son, William Dennis Bridges III and wife Nancy of Bessemer City; and daughter, Tamara Toulson of Millageville, Ga.

A graveside service was conducted by the Rev. Bob Hope Sunday at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

WILLIS SIMPSON KINGS MOUNTAIN - Willis Benjamin "Bill" Simpson, 85, 708 Groves Street, died November 15, 2002 at Rex Hospital in Raleigh.

A native of Anniston, AL, he was the son of the late Willis Arkin and Frances Best Simpson and husband of the late Miriam Euliss Simpson.

He was owner of Kings Mountain Machine Works for 33 years. He was a member of First Baptist Church, and was a Mason.

He is survived by his son, Willis B. Simpson Jr. and wife Sue of Raleigh; brother, James B. Simpson of Kings Mountain; sister, Mary Mauney of Kings Mountain; and grandchildren, Ben Simpson and wife Candace of Rocky Mount and Cathy Black and husband Paul of Cornelius.

The funeral was conducted by Dr. John Sloan at 3 p.m. Monday at First Baptist Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 786, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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Entries needed for KM parade

The annual Kings Mountain Christmas parade will be held Saturday, December 7 at 3 p.m.

The parade will start on Gold Street at Battleground Avenue, go to King Street and following King Street east to Deal Street.

Individuals and groups interested in participating should call Ellis Noell at 730-2103.

LOCKDOWN

From 1A

Within an hour the suspect was caught, but in the meantime officers had been told that there might be a third suspect on the loose.

By early afternoon officers determined that was not the case, but instead of pulling their officers away from the schools they remained the rest of the day and escorted children and employees to their buses and cars.

Cash said officers actually patrolled the halls of the school, and others were stationed outside to make sure no one came on school grounds.

"When we called it off we felt like the children were pretty much traumatized and it wouldn't be a good emotional time to just leave," he said. "For that reason we turned the school back over to the principal but we kept our deputies there until all students and staff left campus. But we never thought there was any danger. We had the school surrounded and the suspect was running in the other direction."

Since there was mention of a third suspect - and police received a report of a man walking US 74 near Dennis #3, which is located just over the US 74 Bypass from the Bethware community - Chief Proctor also ordered a lockdown at KMHS, KNMS, KMIS and West Elementary.

He said he was "ticked to death" at how well the plan worked, but he did see a couple of things that the safety committee will have to address, most notably the use of cell phones by students at KM High.

"It's the one thing that really stuck out as a problem," he said. "That's something we'd like to go back and re-address. Kids were calling their parents and telling them a shooting had occurred at school, and other crazy stuff that was nowhere near the truth."

Proctor said a State team had come in to evaluate the local plan, and he was surprised to find that the county was ahead of what others in the State were planning.

"It was the first test to see how well it would go, and I was extremely pleased," he said.

Proctor said for the most part, law enforcement, school officials, students and parents should be commended.

"We had a few parents trying to come and pick up kids, but they realized that once this plan is initiated you can't do that," he said. "They worked well with us. I was real pleased, because it is a major coordinating effort. I was thoroughly impressed."

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