

# Obituaries

## Lamar Derrick Bledsoe Jr.

TROY — Lamar Derrick Bledsoe Jr., 79, of Troy, husband of JoAnn Russell Bledsoe, died Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 at Self Regional Healthcare.

Born Feb. 20, 1941, he was the son of the late Lamar Derrick Bledsoe Sr. and Mildred McNeil Bledsoe. A 1959 graduate of McCormick High School, Mr. Bledsoe also graduated from Greenville Technical College and honorably served his country in the United States Air Force. Employed as a mechanical engineer with Torrington (formerly of Clinton), he retired after many years of dedicated service. Mr. Bledsoe was a member of the Gideons and former member of the S.C. Beekeepers Association. He enjoyed gardening, especially flowers and vegetables, basket weaving and beekeeping. Mr. Bledsoe and his wife were integral in the organization of the Open Door Christian Ministries in Clinton, sharing their love for Jesus and others in the community. They worshipped at Troy A.R.P. Church.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, James Bledsoe.

Mr. Bledsoe is survived by his wife of 55 years, JoAnn; a daughter, Lynn B. Young (Troy) of Troy; a sister, Betty Lou Creswell (George) of Greenville; and a grandson, Sydney Young, who lovingly called him "PaPa."

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 4 in Troy City Cemetery with the Rev. John Paul Marr and the Rev. Charles Brewington officiating. The family received friends immediately following the graveside service.

Memorial contributions, in memory of Mr. Bledsoe, may be sent to the Open Door Christian Center, 209 E Main Street, Clinton, SC 29325.

Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.harrisfuneral.com](http://www.harrisfuneral.com).

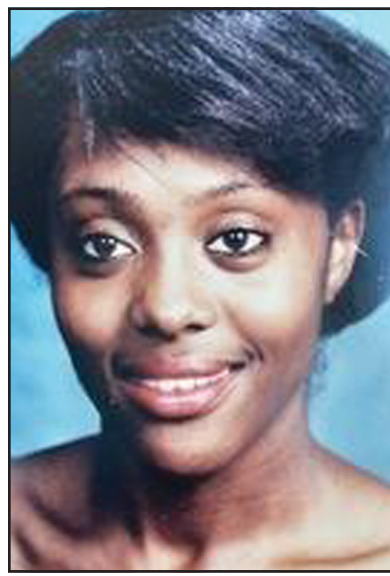
Harris Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Abbeville was in charge.

## Tonya Renee Johnson

AIKEN — Tonya Renee Johnson, also known as Tonya Banks, 52, entered into rest on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020 in Atlanta, Ga.

Born on July 20, 1968 in Lincoln, Ga., she was the daughter of Azalee (Willie) Jennings and Julius (Bertie) Turner. Tonya was an athlete and an alumna of The Academy of Richmond County in Augusta, Ga. Sweet Tonya was a native of McCormick. She last resided in Aiken, where she continued her passion to care for others as a certified nurse assistant. She was a hardworking mother who loved her family and friends tremendously.

Tonya is survived by her parents; children, Cynthia (Chorsheak) White, Kengi Banks and Nakesha (Stephon) Darden; siblings, James O. Bowman Jr., Tracy A. Banks, Tony (Tammy) Turner, Marcus (Shelia) Jennings, Anna Turner and Andrea Hornsby; three loving grandchildren; and loving nieces and nephews.



In honor of her wishes, a home-going memorial service was held Saturday, Jan. 2 at 2 p.m. at C.A. Reid Sr. Memorial Funeral Home in Augusta. Flowers, donations and condolences may be sent to 3051 Calli Crossing Drive, Graniteville, SC 29829.

## Joann Mackey Cunningham

PLUM BRANCH — Joann Mackey Cunningham, 79, wife of Walter Cunningham of Plum Branch, ended her earthly journey on Dec. 29, 2020 at Self Regional Healthcare.

Born in McCormick on July 4, 1941, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Mae Olar Scurry Mackey Cunningham. Joann was a member of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Plum Branch, where she served in the Senior Choir and Pastors Aid and as choir director for the Buds of Promise Choir. She was also a member of Eastern Star Lodge 31, Heroines of Jericho Lodge 31 and Masonic Lodge 31. Joann graduated from Mims High School in 1961 and obtained a nursing degree. She worked in nursing, textiles and healthcare transportation before her retirement.

In addition to her parents, Joann was preceded in death by a brother, Howard Mackey, and a stepsister, Diane Cunningham.

In addition to her husband, Joann's memory will be cherished by her children, Tracy (Dorothy) Cunningham of Plum Branch, Stanley Cunningham of McCormick, Larry (Jeanette) Cunningham of Greenville, Yvonne (Arto) Wheeler of Greenville and Jennifer Yeldell of Plum Branch; two granddaugh-



ters raised in the home, Latosha Cunningham and Jessica Olivia Moss; her brother, James Mackey of McCormick; her sisters, Isabell Powel, Edna Landrum and Mamie Gilchrist, all of Boston, Mass., and Dorothy Adams of McCormick; stepbrothers, Joseph Cunningham, Roger (Cassandra) Cunningham and William Cunningham; stepsisters, Gloria Cunningham Butler, Theresa Cunningham, Louvenia (Leon) Gordon, Mamie Cannady and Charlotte Cunningham; 13 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, Jan. 6 at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Plum Branch.

The family was at the home. Andrew Wardlaw Funeral Home, McCormick, was in charge.

## Alice Jewell McAdams

GREENWOOD — Alice Jewell McAdams, 92, of 1306 West Alexander Ave., passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020 at her home.

Born in Greenwood County, she was the daughter of the late William McAdams and the late Alice Tolbert McAdams. She was a member of Springfield Baptist Church in the Level Land Community. She received her Master's in Mathematics and Science Education and was a teacher at McCormick High School for over 40 years. She was a graduate of Brewer High School in Greenwood; a recipient of a B.A. Degree from Benedict College in Columbia and an M.A. Degree from Atlanta University in Atlanta, Ga., and she was also a member of Delta Sigma

Theta Sorority. She was preceded in death by one brother, John Lloyd McAdams and one sister, Inez McAdams Spears.

She leaves to cherish her memory a host of other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at Springfield Baptist Church, located in Level Land, officiating Elder Heyward Black and presiding Pastor Michael K. Turner.

Viewing was held from 1 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at Robinson & Son Mortuary, Inc.

Online condolences may be sent to [robson@nctv.com](mailto:robson@nctv.com).

Robinson & Son Mortuary, Inc. was in charge.

## Ja'vi Jershan Williams

MCCORMICK — Ja'vi Jershan Williams, 36, was called to his eternal home on Dec. 16, 2020 at his home in McCormick.

Born in Greenwood on March 4, 1984, he was the son of Malinda Franklin Jennings and the late Jerome Williams and stepson of Craig A. Jennings Sr. Ja'vi joined Bethany Missionary Baptist Church in McCormick at an early age, where he served faithfully in various positions. He graduated from McCormick High School in 2002 and was employed with Carolina Pride in Greenwood before his health declined.

In addition to his father, Ja'vi was preceded in death by his grandfathers, L.M. Williams and Robert Lee Franklin; his grandmother, Carrie Bell Franklin; and an aunt, Sandra Franklin Butler. Ja'vi's memory will be cherished by his mother, Malinda Franklin Jennings of McCormick; his stepfather, Craig A. Jennings Sr. of Greenwood; his brother, Julius Jerome Williams of Atlanta, Ga.; his niece, Janae Williams, and his nephews, Jaxson Williams, both of Augusta, Ga.; his devoted cousins, the Rev. Eric T. Butler of Edgefield and Debra Butler and Ebonee Thomas, both



of Greenwood; his grandmother, Nonie Mae Williams of Lincoln, Ga.; his step-grandmother, Pauline Franklin of McCormick; and a host of cousins, uncles, aunts, relatives and friends.

Public viewing was held from 1 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 21 at the funeral home.

Graveside services were held at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 22 at Bethany Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in McCormick.

Andrew Wardlaw Funeral Home of McCormick was in charge.

## 'Tis the season for incidents of women assaulting men

By Bob Stockton

McCormick County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a pair of holiday season domestic incidents involving women assaulting men.

Before Christmas, a complainant stated an argument started with him wanting to look through his wife's phone. The complainant stated he picked up her phone to see who his wife had been messaging when his wife began to hit him.

The complainant stated that his wife hit him multiple times in the back of the head, and when he turned around, she punched him multiple times in the mouth. The complainant stated that the assault started at the bathroom and ended up in the living room.

While they were in the living room fighting, the complainant's 13-year-old son witnessed the assault. Deputies observed the victim to have several visible injuries to his neck and a small abrasion on his face. EMS services were offered but declined.

As deputies were preparing to begin searching for the wife, she returned to the residence. She was interviewed then placed under arrest and transported to the detention center for booking and processing for the charges of domestic violence second degree.

A physical domestic assault in progress call after Christmas began with deputies meeting a man and woman at their front door. The male stated the female broke his window, and deputies separated both parties into different rooms.

They noticed numerous cuts on the male's face and neck area. The male stated they got into an argument, and she began striking him while he was lying in the bed.

The victim stated he pushed her off and she walked out the door and said she was leaving, so he locked the door behind her. The victim reports she started banging on the door and window trying to get back into the residence.

He heard glass break and called 911. Deputies asked the victim if he needed medical assistance, and he stated he did not. Deputies asked if he would write a statement, which he said he would.

Deputies then spoke with the female, who stated she and the male were involved in an argument. She jumped on the victim while he was in the bed and started hitting him. She reports she went out the door, and the male locked the door.

She admitted to banging on the door and breaking the window glass as she was trying to get back inside the residence. Deputies placed the female suspect under arrest and transported her to the detention center for booking and processing for the charge of assault.

McCormick County deputies and police officers from the Town of McCormick set up a perimeter around the McCormick Correctional Facility during an incident after Christmas. There were no events on the perimeter, and the incident was self-contained by the S.C. Department of Corrections.

"Rumors of prisoners escaping were completely unfounded," said Sheriff Clarke Stearns. "The prison was secured, and the community remained completely safe."

Deputies met with a complainant who stated when he returned to his home he found a package on his side porch. Upon inspection, the end of the box was open, and the wireless headphones were gone.

The complainant did not know of any suspects, but added that the

value of the missing property was \$21. A report was generated, and the case remains under investigation.

Deputies spoke with a complainant who stated someone had gotten into her bank account and used her money to make purchases online. She stated that no one in her family had her debit card information.

The victim stated that she called and spoke with her bank, and it advised her that it would send her a form in the mail for fraud, but that she would need a police report to go with the form. The victim showed deputies her bank statement, which she had reconciled, and highlighted transactions she had not authorized.

Deputies noted there were 28 transactions totaling \$290.86. She added that she had never heard of most of the businesses where her card was used. An incident report was completed and provided for the victim to forward to her bank for further investigation.

Deputies were dispatched in reference to a unknown problem and spoke with the caller, who stated that she needed somewhere to go. She said she felt threatened at the residence where she had been staying.

Deputies asked the caller who she was staying with, and she stated the name of a subject known to law enforcement. The caller would not state what had happened, only that she felt threatened, and deputies called Meg's House in Greenwood County.

Meg's House was able to place the caller at a location for the night to get her away from the residence where she had been staying on Upper Mill Road. Deputies escorted the caller to where she had been staying to retrieve her belongings.

There were no other occupants at the residence. Deputies asked the caller one more time before she was transported to the location in Greenwood what had happened. She would not provide anything specific to deputies.

Deputies transported the subject to the McCormick/Greenwood County Line, where she was turned over to Greenwood County deputies for transport to a location in Greenwood. McCormick deputies returned to the residence, which remained unoccupied, and generated a report for informational purposes.

Deputies responded to the Stag Road area of the Lost Wilderness Subdivision in reference to a vandalism. They spoke with the caller/victim, who stated that his car window on the driver's side had been broken out and that there was an attempt with the passenger side window as well.

The victim stated that he believed his girlfriend's brother, who is known to law enforcement, was the one who broke the window. He stated that the doors were locked on the vehicle and was unsure if anything had been taken out of the vehicle.

Photos were taken of the damage to the windows. The potential suspect then walked out of the residence, and deputies stopped him for interview purposes. During the interview, the subject stated that he did break the window.

Deputies asked the suspect why he broke the window, and he stated he heard voices. Deputies asked the suspect what he used to break the window, and he stated that he used a cinder block over near a fire pit.

Deputies placed the suspect under arrest for malicious injury to property. The suspect was transported to the detention center for booking and processing. Victim's notification forms were completed and provided to the victim.

## Milliken workers diagnosed with cancer secure cash benefits

Mill workers employed before 1981 diagnosed with various cancers are entitled to special benefits. Lung cancer, esophageal cancer, laryngeal cancer, pharyngeal cancer, stomach cancer, colon cancer, rectal cancer and mesothelioma are frequently caused by asbestos exposure. Asbestos-laced products were used for decades at Milliken McCormick Mill. Neither employees nor management were aware of the asbestos risk.

Asbestos is a mineral that in its natural state is harmless. It becomes harmful when it is pulled apart or ground up into flexible fibers. Then, when inhaled or swallowed, microscopic asbestos fibers may be permanently affixed to body tissue. Over many years, these fibers may cause genetic changes that can lead to cancer. According to the National Cancer Institute, "It can take from 10 to 40 years or more for asbestos-related cancers to appear."

To compensate cancer victims and the families of deceased cancer victims, Federal Bankruptcy Courts have required asbestos manufacturers to set aside hundreds of millions of dollars in private trusts. Through these trusts, cancer victims can receive money damages by the filing of timely, detailed and accurate claims.

Norris Injury Lawyers has an-

nounced a specific initiative to assist Milliken McCormick Mill employees in recovering money set aside for them in these asbestos trusts. Cancer victims or the families of deceased victims who worked at the mill before 1981 may call 800-478-9578 for a free evaluation of their claim. Additional information is available at [getnorris.com/ab](http://getnorris.com/ab).

If you would like more information about this topic, please call Robert Norris at 205-397-3111 or email [rnn@getnorris.com](mailto:rnn@getnorris.com).

## Note of Thanks

The family of Dorothy "Dot" Dorn wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation, the many comforting messages, floral tributes, prayers and many expressions of kindness and concern shown. A special thanks to the staff at National Healthcare, Greenwood, for their loving care during her tenure as a resident.



The family of Ja'vi Jershan Williams would like to thank everyone for the cards, food, phone calls and prayers during our bereavement.

-Malinda and Franklin Jennings  
-The Williams and Butler Families

## Strom Funeral Home, Ltd.

Casket and Service \$4,995 • Lowest Price Around

Chad M. Keown  
McCormick, SC 864-465-2955

OUR family serving YOUR family

Personal Service Family Owned

### EDGEFIELD MERCANTILE FUNERAL HOME

801 COLUMBIA RD. EDGEFIELD

803-637-6536  
W. Thurmond Burnett  
David T. Burnett, owners

### The McCormick Weather Report

By Bob Edmonds \*Measurements taken at Cedar Hill Rd.

	Lows	Highs	Rain/Etc.
Tuesday, December 29	36°	62°	
Wednesday, December 30	43°	51°	
Thursday, December 31	43°	53°	0.60"
Friday, January 1	53°	66°	3.51"
Saturday, January 2	47°	56°	
Sunday, January 3	46°	54°	
Monday, January 4	33°	53°	

## Harris FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES

Locally Owned and Operated since 1912

### Crematory on Site

Make Prearrangements Today

[www.harrisfuneral.com](http://www.harrisfuneral.com)  
302 N. Main St. • Abbeville  
864-366-4027