

Obituaries

Susan Ilene Wilkes

Mrs. Susan Ilene Chrisman Wilkes, 91, of Lincolnton, Georgia, entered into rest on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at Lake Crossing Health Center in Appling, Georgia.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 24, at Beggs Funeral Home. Interment was at Hephzibah Baptist Church Cemetery.

A native of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Sue, as she was known by many in the area, had been a resident of Lincoln County for over fifty years. Sue was a self-employed hairdresser and a retired employee of Waffle House in Thomson, Georgia. She was an active member of Lincolnton Baptist Church until her failing health prevented her from attending services.

Affectionately known as "Ponk" by her grandchildren, she had a deep love for each of them and was actively involved in their lives. Her other loves were reading, gardening and sports. She had a green thumb like no other, and her love for gardening was evidenced by her beautiful azaleas, roses, and the vast array of potted plants that she artfully displayed in her home and yard.

An avid fan of all sports, her favorite teams were the Georgia Bulldogs, the Atlanta Braves, the Atlanta Falcons, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, and she was a wealth of knowledge when it came to recalling scores, statistics, and updates on players both past and present.

Sue is predeceased by her husband, William Thomas "Billy" Wilkes; her parents, Anastasia Lawlor Chrisman and Harry Ernest



SUSAN ILENE WILKES

Chrisman, Sr.; her son, Richard David Schuck; her brothers, Harry E. Chrisman, Jr., John C. "Jack" Chrisman, Robert F. Chrisman, Franklin D. "Frank" Chrisman, and William J. "Bill" Chrisman; and her sisters, Mary Alice C. Mauk, Nancy C. Koring, and Joan C. Scifo.

Survivors include her son, William Thomas "Billy" Wilkes II and wife, Sheila Epps Wilkes; her daughter, Myra Wilkes Searles and husband, Christopher York "Chris" Searles; three grandchildren, Amberly Nicole Wilkes, William Thomas "Will" Wilkes III, and Christopher York "Cy" Searles II; two sisters, Gail C. Hriczik and Bridget C. Baker; a brother, Patrick L. "Pat" Chrisman; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Beggs Funeral Home, Lincolnton, was honored to serve the family of Mrs. Susan Wilkes.



Lincoln County Elementary School Breakfast Menu

- Mon., May 3 - Fri., May 7**
- Monday - Cereal bar, cheese stick, fruit.
 - Tuesday - Chicken biscuit, fruit.
 - Wednesday - Fruit smoothies, fruit.
 - Thursday - Mini donuts, fruit.
 - Friday - Sausage biscuit, fruit.
- All breakfast menus include choice of milk, fruit juice and toast. Menus subject to change due to availability.

Lincoln County Middle/High School Breakfast Menu

- Mon., May 3 - Fri., May 7**
- Monday - Cheer frudel, fruit.
 - Tuesday - Chicken biscuit, fruit.
 - Wednesday - Fruit smoothies, fruit.
 - Thursday - Mini donuts, fruit.
 - Friday - Sausage biscuit, fruit.
- All breakfast menus include choice of milk, fruit juice and toast. Menus subject to change due to availability.



Lincoln County Elementary School Lunch Menu

- Mon., May 3 - Fri., May 7**
- Monday - Corndog or pizza, potato wedges, creamy coleslaw, baked beans, fruit.
 - Tuesday - Steak nuggets w/roll or pizza, rice and gravy, whole kernel corn, tomatoes & cucumbers, fresh fruit assortment.
 - Wednesday - Oven baked chicken w/roll or pizza, macaroni & cheese, seasoned green beans, fruit.
 - Thursday - Hot ham & cheese or pizza, tossed salad w/dressing, potato chips, honey glazed carrots, fruit.
 - Friday - Crispy chicken tenders w/Texas toast or PBJ, mashed potatoes, steamed broccoli, fruit.
- All meals include a choice of milk, 100% fruit juice. Menus subject to change due to availability.

Lincoln County Middle/High School Lunch Menu

- Mon., May 3 - Fri., May 7**
- Monday - Corndog or pizza, potato wedges, creamy coleslaw, baked beans, fruit.
 - Tuesday - Chicken/cheese quesadilla or pizza, tortilla scoops & salsa, whole kernel corn, tomatoes & cucumbers, fresh fruit assortment.
 - Wednesday - Oven baked chicken w/roll or pizza, macaroni & cheese, seasoned green beans, fruit.
 - Thursday - Hot ham & cheese or pizza, tossed salad w/dressing, potato chips, honey glazed carrots, fruit.
 - Friday - Crispy chicken tenders w/Texas toast or PBJ, mashed potatoes, steamed broccoli, fruit.
- All meals include a choice of milk and chef salads offered daily. Menus subject to change due to availability.

Across The Savannah The Allure of Copper

By TOM POLAND
tompol@earthlink.net



The hills were red. Barren, like some alien landscape. Nothing green. Could have been Mars.

I was just ten or so when Dad drove us through Copper Basin. I saw the results of copper mining that one time but it burned itself into my memory. How did this come about?

Someone raped Appalachia. Between the 1840s and 1987 men mined copper in those hills. The copper there contained sulphur, so the men set bonfires to burn off the sulphur. That meant cutting trees for fuel. Then acid rain started falling from all that sulphur gone skyward. Grasses and vines and shrubs died. Here comes more rain and there goes the topsoil. All that was left was red clay. Mining laid the land bare ... stripped, denuded, cleared, robbed, deforested, defoliated—ugly words all.

Today reforestation has helped heal the land but it's still a draw for people who want to see where copper came from. And so Copperhill, Tennessee is a tourist destination. Right above the Georgia line it sits. And Copper Hill has a sister, McCaysville, Georgia, right below the Tennessee line it sits.

Copper hid in them thar hills. In 1843 men found it. That wasn't long after the Blue Coats forced the Cherokee Indians to walk the "Trail of Tears." Well now, what to do? Just what to do with that beautiful ore. Let's bring in tin miners from Cornwall, England, and other countries. They can use their tin skills to extract copper from them thar hills.

By the 1870s over 50 square miles had been stripped bare of trees. A domino effect took hold and the land suffered, and that meant man would suffer too. Elizabeth Dulemba, writing in "The Copperhill Story" gives us a glimpse of what man had wrought. "The wind was too corrosive for tin roofs (everybody had asphalt shingles) and could eat up a pair of nylon stockings hanging on a clothesline in a matter of minutes. There were no bugs, and there were certainly no birds."

Sounds a bit like a wasteland does it not. The good news is reforestation efforts have reclaimed much of the region damaged by copper mining. Wetlands exist even. Well, somewhere else men still mine copper and we put it to good use. I have four copper bracelets. I wear two daily. I read that copper does good things for our health. It might provide therapy for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. I read that wearing a copper bracelet fights off viruses but I

Chesnut and Anderson speak on schoolhouse at meeting April 17

The Colonial Dames, 17th Century, met Saturday, April 17, at the Lincolnton City Library.

Linda Chesnut and Rev. Ed Anderson, members of the Board of Friends of the Cherry Grove Schoolhouse, presented an interesting program to members on the restoration of the Cherry Grove Schoolhouse. In their most informative presentations, they noted the first phase of restoration will begin with the stabilization of the underpinning of the structure.

Patricia Thomas, president, conducted the meeting.

Sunday services

Blessed Hope Bible Baptist meets at the Presbyterian Church on Sundays at 11 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for prayer meeting. Come join us. For more information call 706-359-6759.

Revival services

Morningside Baptist Church Revival Services will begin on Sunday evening, April 18 at 6 p.m., Mon.-Wed. night at 7 p.m. Rev. David Spears will be bringing the messages.

Celebrate Recovery Thursday

First Assembly of God hosts Celebrate Recovery every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm with a light meal followed by large group worship at 7 pm and small groups at 8 pm. First Assembly is located on the Thomson Highway. Call the church office at 359-7237 for more information.



The allure of copper lead to the devastation of Copperhill, Tennessee. (Photo by Tom Poland).

don't think that's true. Zinc, I hear, combats viruses but that's when it's taken as a dietary supplement. The jury's out as wearing copper goes, though a woman told me she wears copper for the balance it gives her. Balance as in standing erect.

Still I like my copper bracelets. And I love the green patina copper produces when it oxidizes, but there was no green in them thar hills back in Copperhill, Tennessee for many a moon. Copper is mined today in Utah, Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, and Montana. I hope it's done in a more environmentally friendly way.

That ductile reddish chemical element easily draws into wire, and it's second only to silver as a conductor of electricity and heat. It possesses a pleasing color and luster and takes a high polish. It forms alloys readily with almost all metals but it has to be wrested from the ground somehow. The allure of copper carries a price.

I was a boy when I saw Cop-

perhill, Tennessee, and it frightened me. Today it makes me think of Robert Ingersoll's opening statement when he defended some Southern boys out in Sutter's Field. "I'm very happy to talk to the gold miners. I'm very happy, today, to be your guest in this courtroom, guest of you hardy souls who earn your precarious living by wrestling the precious metal from the clutches of the miserly rock."

Ingersoll romanticized mining and its wresting of precious metal from miserly rocks but he also wrote this: "In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments; there are consequences."

Planning, zoning meetings

The City of Lincolnton Planning & Zoning Board meetings for 2021 are scheduled as follows: April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 28. These meetings will be held in City Hall at 5:30 p.m. each month if there is an agenda.

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