

Obituaries

Russell Blue

PLUM BRANCH - Russell Blue of Plum Branch passed away Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022 at AU Medical Center in Augusta, Ga.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Strom Funeral Home is in charge of services.

Beverly "Gert" Wideman Leverett

GREENWOOD - Beverly "Gert" Wideman Leverett, 70, wife of the late Cornelius Leverett II, entered into eternal rest on Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022 at University Hospital in Augusta, Ga. Born in McCormick County, she was the daughter of the late Horace C. Wideman Sr. and Dorothy Settles Wideman. Beverly was preceded in death by one sister, Maxine W. Jennings, and one brother, Joe Nathan "Harold" Wideman.



She is survived by five sons, Cornelius Leverett III, Derrick Leverett, Thadeus Leverett, Marcus Leverett and Kenton Leverett, all of Augusta; two daughters, Tacara Leverett of Augusta and Leneica Leverett of Charlotte, N.C.; 20 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; one sister, Melanie Rucker of Greenwood; five brothers, Horace C. Wideman Jr. (Gabiella) of Rheine, Germany, Emory Wideman of Killeen, Texas, David R. Wideman and Cedric Wideman of Lexington and Erwin Wideman of Greenwood; two aunts, Zelma Wideman of McCormick and Maude Singletary (George) of Detroit, Mich.; two uncles, Elder Robert T. Settles (Diane) of Snellville, Ga. and Leroy Settles of Suitland, Md.; and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her passing.

Public viewing will be held on Friday, Feb. 11 from 1 - 6 p.m. at Parks Funeral Home. A celebration of her life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 12 at Shiloh A.M.E. Church in McCormick with the Rev. Paul Nelson Wharton presiding and the Rev. Dr. Larry D. Murphy officiating. Assisting will be Pastor Angela Harden and Elder Robert T. Settles.

The family is at the home of her daughter, Tacara Leverett, 2372 Dublin Dr. in Augusta.

Parks Funeral Home of Greenwood is in charge of services.

Floyd Talbert

McCORMICK - Floyd Talbert, 67, transitioned on Jan. 31, 2022 at the Hospice and Palliative Care of the Piedmont. He was born on Aug. 12, 1954 in McCormick to the late O.C. and Essie Mae Berry Talbert.



Floyd was a 1972 graduate of McCormick High School and retired from Monsanto in Greenwood. He was married to Mary Garner for 29 years, and they were blessed with two daughters, Kushida (Quincy) Bell of Greenville and Bonita Talbert of the home; a granddaughter, Zaria Bell; and Chloe, the family dog.

Floyd is also survived by his sisters, Judell (O.W.) Jennings and Essie (Gary) Jones, both of McCormick; his sisters-in-law, Jeannette Garner, Mildred Talbert and Carolyn Singletary, all of McCormick, Lizzie Garner, Mary H. Talbert and Mary Talbert, all of Greenwood, Barbara Washington of Parksville and Phyllis Garner of North Augusta; his brothers-in-law, Raphael Speed of Evanston Ill. and James Garner of Phoenix, Ariz.; and many nieces, nephews and friends who will miss him.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday, Feb. 5 in the Andrew Wardlaw Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Sarah Robinson officiating. Burial was in the Bethany Church Cemetery in McCormick. To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Floyd Talbert, please visit the funeral home floral store.

Andrew Wardlaw Funeral Home of McCormick was in charge of services.

Note of Thanks

The family of Mr. Lewis Donald Holloway is grateful to God for his life, for your friendships and for the many acts of kindness and prayers in the event of his death. May God bless each and everyone one of you.

-Sandy McKinney, Thomas and Clifton



The family of Samuel "Bubber" Walker would like to say thank you to all of our friends for your acts of love shown when we lost our loved one. God bless each of you.

-The Walker Family



Strom's Drug Store employees who were unable to attend the annual chamber dinner were Teresa Martin, Tina Broadwater and Julie Polly. Not pictured are Karla Storey and Cayla Smith.

Chamber Dinner from page 1

book, "The World is Flat," about education in today's world. How we educate our children may be more important than how much we educate them. Our students need to be creative, innovative critical thinkers and problem solvers. They need to be able to exhibit those skills and be good team players. She quoted a line from the book, "We are preparing our students in classrooms today for jobs that may not yet exist."

She continued, "We have five goals this year: 1. Provide world class instruction. 2. Build world class leaders. 3. Provide world class opportunities for all students. 4. Provide world class communications of partnerships. 5. Continue to grow a world class team"

Heather McNally, director of Programs & Development at the McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah (MACK), spoke next. During her time at the MACK, McNally has launched new programs such as "Dinner with the Masters" and "Painting a Brighter Future." She also prioritizes youth programs, supports the development of strategic arts education planning for the school district and looks forward to the return of the MACK's Summer Arts Camps.



Heather McNally

McNally presented a presentation titled "The Revitalization of the Arts in McCormick County" to the attendees of the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner.

Her presentation focused on offering a summary of the current state of the MACK, addressing the critical impact of the pandemic and efforts to continue operations while seeking emergency relief. The organization has operated from Main Street since 1985, the same year the Keturah Hotel, host site of the arts council, was designated as a Nationally Registered Historic Site. The organization has operated from Main Street for over 35 years and plans to be a vital part of the economic development and strategic plans to ensure McCormick's community health and success.

She shared information about the historic building and the MACK Rehabilitation Project, saying, "In order for the McCormick Arts Council to recover and return from the pandemic to offer high quality, safe and fully accessible programming, we need to advance this project as a community."

Tallent then recognized Decennial anniversaries for Chamber members, honoring those who have been Chamber members for 10, 20 and 30 years.

Ten-year members include Senator Shane Massey, McCormick County DSS, Thelma Christopher and Ann Marie Smith (Legal Shield).

Recognized as a 20-year member was Humane Society of McCormick County.

Thirty-year members include McCormick Oil Company, White Hardware, Pineview Farm, Strom's Drug Store, McAllister & Son and Aaron Watson, CPA.

Tallent then presented the Award of Excellence in Business and Community Impact to Strom's Drug Store. Strom's Drug Store was operated by various members of the Strom family before being purchased by William Matheny in 1976. The store was purchased by its new owners, Beam Pharmacies, in the early 2000s. In addition to Matheny, who has worked at Strom's Drug Store for 46 years, several staff members have been employed as long as 33 years. Strom's Drug Store has served the community consistently for 111 years.

Tallent presented the Award of Excellence for Non-Profit to New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. New Hope partnered with Self Regional Healthcare early in 2020 to host several COVID-19 testing clinics. Later in 2020, New Hope partnered with SC DHEC, allowing them to use the church's Learning and Development Center as a vaccine distribution site. In March 2021, SC DHEC recognized the church as one of the first/leading "Community Heroes" in the state of South Carolina. Pastor Michael Butler went on to participate in a DHEC-sponsored virtual forum about the role the church played in helping vaccinate residents of rural communities. Butler has also been asked to participate in a panel discussion that will be hosted by the University of South Carolina. In addition, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church has collaborated with several organizations and churches to provide food boxes and distribute cleaning supplies during the past two years.



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Smithsonian: Coming Home

McCormick Youth / Families: Here's your chance to learn about the history of McCormick and be a part of a Smithsonian program!

Saturday, Feb. 12, 1 - 3 p.m., Grist Mill at the Dorn Mill Complex. Please park at the McCormick Health Department, 204 N Mine St. McCormick.

Coming Home: Stories from Main Street is a new collaboration that combines Rural Community Assistance Partnership's Rural Homecoming initiative with the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program.

Coming Home engages youth in exploring their town's past and thinking about its future. This program is a remarkable experience for local participants. Rural youth often feel disconnected from the local culture. They may feel that adults do not listen to them or that their town's history does not matter. This project helps to overcome those barriers.

Families are welcome to join them to explore one of the key historic sites. The MHS Chiefs Media team will be onsite to interview local students to submit a final project to the Smithsonian. All student attendees will be encouraged to participate in a brief interview, designed, planned, and performed by fellow classmates, and have fun!

For questions or more information contact: Heather McNally, McCormick Arts Council (MACK), 864-602-0331, mccormickarts@gmail.com or MHS Chiefs Media - Ms. Aleck, aleckv@mccormick.k12.sc.us

or Jaime Pohlman, McCormick 4-H, 864-986-1026, jaim@clermson.edu

Also, enjoy the youth program at the library earlier that morning!

"McCormick Through the Lens" Program sponsored by: The McCormick County Historical Commission, McCormick County Library, Clemson Extension, The MACK and in partnership with the McCormick School District.

Sundays at Four featuring The Ruby Reds Band - Feb. 13

Sundays at Four is a not-for-profit artist series organization in cooperation with McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah (MACK). All performances are at the Lutheran Church By The Lake, Hwy. 378 and Twelve Oaks Drive, Savannah Lakes Village, McCormick, at 4 p.m. Individual tickets can be purchased at the door of each performance for \$25.

The Ruby Reds Band may be the longest-tenured jazz band in Georgia. The band was formed in early 1966 to perform nightly at a rowdy beer hall and banjo sing-along parlor called Ruby Reds Warehouse in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, and has been playing throughout the Southeast ever since.

Marty Martin (Trumpet). Born in Germany and raised in Atlanta, Marty Martin brings musical and comedic horsepower to each Ruby Reds event.

L.A. Tuten (Bass). L.A. started out playing in Rock N' Roll bands as an electric bassist. After high school he opted to study trombone at Georgia State University ... then got the itch to play jazz bass and headed for the Berklee School of Music in Boston.

Rocky Ball (Banjo). In 1974 Rocky helped found the Raz'Mataz Jazz Band at Six Flags Over Georgia. Raz'Mataz began working throughout the Southeast playing Dixieland Jazz. In 1976 Rocky switched from the piano to the banjo and soon landed a gig with the Ruby Reds Band in Underground Atlanta.

Please note - the final concert for the season will feature the Crescent Brass Quartet on Sunday, March 13.

South Carolina Timber Prices

Product	Dec 2021			
	North	East	West	Central
Pine Pulpwood	\$11.50	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$11.00
Pine Sawtimber	\$26.00	\$25.00	\$27.50	\$27.00
Pine CNS	\$18.75	\$25.00	\$21.00	\$16.00
Hardwood Pulpwood	\$9.00	\$7.00	\$11.50	\$9.00
Hardwood Sawtimber	\$25.00	\$22.00	\$33.50	\$26.00

Submitted by Bob Edmonds

Courtesy of S C Forestry Commission

Books by Bobby F. Edmonds

McCormick the Place (softcover) \$25.00	Destiny of the Scots-Irish \$20.00	The Neglected Thread \$25.00	Kanh: The Life of J.E. James \$8.95	The Making of McCormick County \$25.00
The Huguenots of New Bordeaux \$20.00	McCormick County Land of Cotton \$30.00	George McDuffie: Southern Orator \$20.00	Gold, Gems and Artifacts Prospecting \$10.00	McCormick County Cemeteries \$25.00
Growing up Southern \$20.00	The British Partizan \$12.00	A Culture Lost to Thurmond Lake \$25.00	Building Railroads \$25.00	Echoes from Bygone Days \$25.00

Books may be purchased at the McCormick Messenger, Willington Book Store, Strom's Drug Store, Chamber of Commerce and Books on Main

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