

OBITUARIES/NEWS

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MARTINSVILLE

M. Christine Bailey

M. Christine Bailey, 89, died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at her residence in Martinsville.

Survivors include a daughter, Debbie (Joe) Certolic of Martinsville; a half brother, Orris Rahldo Stockwell of Lakeland, Fla.; two grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Orville Bailey; her parents, Everett Hale and Viola May (Carter) Stockwell; and her stepmother, Emma Ruth (Plummer) Stockwell.

A funeral service will be conducted at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday at Costin Funeral Chapel, 539 E. Washington St., Martinsville. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today and from 11:30 a.m. until service time Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood. An Order of the Eastern Star service will be conducted at 7 tonight at the funeral home.

MORGANTOWN

June T. Cook

June T. Cook, 45, died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at her residence in Morgantown.

She was born June 17, 1961, in Franklin.

She had worked at The Little Nashville Opry in Nashville for eight years. Previously, she was a certified nursing assistant at Christina House in Franklin.

She collected Coca-Cola memorabilia and enjoyed music and shopping for shoes.

The Rev. Tim Cook will conduct a funeral service at 11 a.m. Thursday at Jessen Funeral Home, 729 U.S. 31 North, Whiteland. Burial will be at Mount Pleasant Cemetery Glens Valley in Greenwood. Friends may call from 3 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Survivors include four children, Heather Robinson and Mary Anne Robinson, both of North Vernon, Brenda Lee Brock of Trafalgar and B.J. Brock of Indianapolis; her mother, Ruth B. Lee Cook of New Whiteland; two brothers, Bobby Ray (Laura) Cook of Indianapolis and Larry Lee (Kathy) Cook of Greenwood; and four grandchildren, Emery Brock, Taylor Spurrier, Breamey Brock and Jersey Brock.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert R. Cook, in September.

EDINBURGH

Lerow M. Denson

Lerow M. Denson, 84, died Sunday, Jan. 7, 2007, at his residence in Edinburgh.

He was born May 21, 1922, in Lee County, Va.

Survivors include two sons, Donald Lee (Wanda) Denson of Nineveh and Ronnie Dale



DENSON

(Susan) Denson of Edinburgh; two daughters, Ladana Mae (Fenton) Tungett of Edinburgh and Norma Jean (Jim) Merchant of Franklin; a brother, Kenneth B. Denson of Edinburgh; a sister, Nannie Wilson of Versailles, Ky.; 15 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sam M. and Tiny (Young) Denson; his wife, Sheryl (Dick) Denson, who passed away in October 1992; a son, Randall D. Denson; six brothers, C.J., Henry, Noah, Ullis, Alzo and Woodrow Denson; and a sister, Edith Denson.

He was a member of Friendship Gospel Church in Morgantown. He was a retired logger, working for Raymond Alstott.

He was raised in Casey County, Ky., moving to Indiana in 1979.

The Revs. Bearl King and Shirley Denson will conduct a funeral service at 2 p.m. Thursday at Brush Creek Pentecostal Church in Liberty, Ky. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home, 302 E. Main Cross St., Edinburgh and from noon until time of service Thursday at the church. Burial will be at Tapscoff Cemetery in Liberty, Ky.

BOGGSTOWN

Brian David Harrison

Brian David Harrison, 47, of Boggstown, passed away Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, at St. Francis Hospital Indianapolis.

The son of Charlie and Evelyn (Hinkle) Harrison, Brian was born Nov. 20, 1959, in Franklin.

He was a self-employed carpenter. Brian was a 1978 graduate of Whiteland Community High School and attended Rocklane Christian Church.

Edinburgh

Lerow M. Denson, 84

Franklin

Donna Jean Lewis, 58

Esther L. Morris, 86

Greenwood

Stephen R. Lane, 69

Morgantown

June T. Cook, 45

Indianapolis

Mildred Ruth Hopkins, 83

Daryl Lee Spencer, 51

Elsewhere

M. Christine Bailey, 89

Brian David Harrison, 47

Dean Proffitt, 72

The Rev. Rob Keaton will conduct a funeral service at 11 a.m. Thursday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, 481 W. Main St. Burial will follow in Rocklane Cemetery near Greenwood. Friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Survivors include his wife, Becky L. (Wood) Harrison of Boggstown, whom he married March 15, 1980; his parents, Charlie and Evelyn Harrison of Greenwood; a brother, Larry D. Harrison of Greenwood; a sister, Leora M. Strack of Greenwood; three nephews, Jason Walters, Adam Harrison and Greg Harrison; a great-niece, Megan Walters; and a great-nephew, Nathan Walters.

Brian was preceded in death by twin sisters.

Online condolences to the Harrison family may be sent to www.wilsonstpierre.com.

INDIANAPOLIS

Mildred Ruth 'Millie' Hopkins

Mildred Ruth "Millie" Hopkins, 83, of Indianapolis, passed away Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007.

She was born Dec. 30, 1923, in Sullivan to Herschel and Alta Clark Eaton. She was a graduate of Howe High School in Indianapolis and Ivy Tech.

Ruth worked as a certified nursing aide for one year at Canterbury Nursing Home and as a waitress at The Vault Restaurant for 10 years.

She was a member of Highest Praise Christian Church and a former member of Indianapolis Christian Fellowship.

A funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 E. Washington St. in Indianapolis. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Ruth is survived by her husband, David Hopkins; four daughters, Connie Howe, Patti (Jeff) Goddard, Rhonda Harper and Deena (Jim) Newton; a son, Bill (Debbie) Hopkins; a brother, John Eaton; a sister, Delores Weaver; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Ladonna Goldsberry.

Ruth was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who cared deeply for her family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Feed the Children, 333 N. Meridian Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73107.

GREENWOOD

Stephen R. Lane

Stephen R. Lane, 69, Greenwood, passed away at home Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007.

He was born to Elvie and Edna Lane in Monticello. He married his high school sweetheart, Janet (Templeton) Lane, and they celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary Dec. 27.

Stephen graduated from Monticello High School and attended the University of Indianapolis. He was a star athlete in high school and college.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1956 to 1958. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge. Stephen served the automobile and trucking industry through various sales companies and in 1985 formed his own company, Wire Connections in Greenwood, and retired in 1998.

Stephen is survived by his wife, Janet; his mother, Edna Lane, 94, who resides at the Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin; a brother, Ted (Fran) Lane of Sarasota, Fla.; three nieces, Jodi Lane of Ocala, Fla., Julie Pope of Michigan City and Shelley Banik of Evanston, Ill.; a nephew, Kirby Lane of Deedsville; and seven great-nieces and -nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Elvie Lane.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today at Little & Sons Funeral Home, Stop 11 Road Chapel, 4901 E. Stop 11 Road, Indianapolis. A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Vista Care Hospice, 64321 S. East St., Indianapolis, IN 46227, or the Indiana University Cancer Center, 550 University Blvd., Room 538, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

FRANKLIN

Donna Jean (Burton) Lewis

Donna Jean (Burton) Lewis, 58, passed away Sunday, Jan. 7, 2007, at Community Hospital South in Indianapolis. She was a resident of Franklin.

She was born Dec. 11, 1948, in Cincinnati, to Edward Burton and Eva Ray (Wilson) Burton. She married Jack Lewis on May 29, 1970. He lovingly survives.

Other survivors include her parents, Eddie and Eva Burton of Bud; a son, Lee Lewis of Franklin; a daughter, Alesa Messer of Shelby County; three brothers, Phillip Burton of San Jose, Calif., Timm Burton of Franklin and Steve Burton of Whiteland; two sisters, Debbie Sopke of Indianapolis and Kathy McCoy of Franklin; and four grandchildren, Courtney Messer, Andrew Messer, Christian Lewis and Cole Lewis.

She was preceded in passing by an infant brother and sister, Archie and Nancy Burton.

She was a 1966 graduate of Franklin Community High School and a graduate of Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis, where she received a degree in medical laboratory technology.

Donna was employed at Columbus Regional Hospital as a laboratory technician, retiring in 1987.

Donna loved to cook and collected dolls and baskets.

The Rev. Tim Davis will conduct a service at 11 a.m. Thursday at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home, 2898 N. Morton St. in Franklin. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

FRANKLIN

Esther L. Morris

Esther L. Morris, 86, died Sunday, Jan. 7, 2007. She was a resident of Franklin and a former resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include two daughters, June L. Stevens of Franklin and Janet L. McGuinly of Hamilton; a son, John L. Morris of Lexington, Ky.; a sister, Lois Chamberlain of Bella Vista, Ark.; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ira and Theresa (Pearcy) Flake; and her husband, John T. Morris.

A graveside service will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Greenwood Cemetery. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, 481 W. Main St.

MARTINSVILLE

Dean Proffitt

Dean Proffitt, 72, died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at his residence in Martinsville.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Lou (Wise) Proffitt of Martinsville; a son, Gary Dean (Terry) Proffitt of Indianapolis; three sisters, Doris J. Mann of Arizona, Shirley A. Woodcock of Mooresville and Patricia S. Stearns of Connersville; a granddaughter; two stepgrandchildren; a great-grandson; and two great-stepgranddaughters.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hillard and Oval (Hall) Proffitt.

There were no services. The family had a time of sharing followed by his cremation. A celebration of his life will be conducted at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.meredith-clark.com.

Information: (812) 597-4670

INDIANAPOLIS

Daryl Lee Spencer

Daryl Lee Spencer, 51, died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at St. Francis Hospital Indianapolis. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Daryl was born in Beech Grove to the late William and Florence Spencer.

He was a maintenance supervisor at the Indiana Women's Prison for 15 years.

Daryl attended Morris Street United Methodist Church.

He married Sherry Duke on Nov. 5, 1971, in Celina, Tenn. They have two children, Todd Allen Spencer and Jennifer Lee (Jason) Smith of Indianapolis. Daryl also is survived by a brother, Michael (Karen) Spencer; two sisters, Sharon (Jeff) Logsdon and Teresa (Rick) Ennis; two grandchildren, Stacia Smith and Celina (Devon) Spencer; and many nieces and nephews, all from Indianapolis.

Daryl was preceded in death by a brother, James Spencer; and a sister, Oma Logsdon.

A funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Little & Sons Funeral Home, Beech Grove Chapel, 1301 Main St. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today and from noon until service time Wednesday at the funeral home. Interment will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Little & Sons Funeral Home, Beech Grove Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

The custom obituaries on this page have been paid for.

The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.

• Super

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

That hasn't always happened at Edinburgh, she said.

Instead of focusing on helping students achieve and learn, as the only administrator for the district, Sager's duties included building maintenance and planning the budget, not the issues she wanted to spend the most time on.

The school system is Edinburgh students' only access to activities, she said.

"There's nothing else here for kids — no youth center, no skating rink, no bowling alley," she said.

One of her goals was to bring new activities to the community that could involve the area's youth. Though the school offers athletic programs, not all students are interested, and more programs should be available, she said.

The district had Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus scores lower than the state average and the lowest graduation rate in the county last year.

Students from low-income families often face different challenges than other students, which can distract them from schoolwork, Sager said.

In many Edinburgh families, both parents work at low-paying jobs, she said. More than 40 percent of Edinburgh residents older than 25 lack a high school diploma, according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

Parents spend so much of their time trying to financially support their family, they have little left to help children with homework or to work with preschool students on reading, she said.

She started programs to improve graduation rates and student achievement, including full-day kindergarten for all students and individually focused classes to help students struggling in specific subject areas.

High school students have a homeroom, where they connect with one teacher for four years. Parents can use a school Web site to check on their children's attendance and tardies. Also, Sager introduced a new way to evaluate teachers.

Her hope is that upcoming test scores will show improvement. Even after she leaves, she'll be watching for third-grade ISTEP

results next year, which will be for the first students who took part in the full-day kindergarten program, she said.

"Test scores are not the most important. Student achievement is most important. But if that is truly happening, it will show in test scores," Sager said.

Sager's other top concerns were district enrollment and planning.

Enrollment has been dropping because families move out of the area and students drop out of high school, she said.

Fewer students means less money to fund the schools. Decreasing enrollment also creates the possibility the district would be consolidated with nearby districts, such as Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson or Southwestern Consolidated School District in Shelby County.

Edinburgh likely would keep an elementary school but could lose its middle and high school. Consolidation would have a negative effect on the community because residents identify with the school district, she said.

Not having a high school or middle school in the area also would cut down on the access children have to programs and athletics, since there is no other youth organization in the town, she said.

One of Sager's goals has been to bring more families into the school system, but she said the entire community needs to work toward that goal.

She said much of what it takes to make that happen is not in the superintendent's power.

Sager has worked with real estate agents, developing a brochure about the schools that interested homebuyers receive. A goal for this year is to get that information out to developers who might be interested in building along U.S. 31, she said.

Bringing the district's enrollment up to at least 1,200, a 33 percent increase, would help pay for more teachers, better training and more programs to help students.

Increased enrollment could also improve the schools' struggling athletic programs, such as high school football and basketball.

"Whether we like it or not, that is one indicator of school quality," she said.

Sager will be difficult to replace and has set a high bar for the next superintendent, said Janet Hansen, a school board member.

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KEEPSAKES

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