

Rev. David Hawkins

June 27, 1954 - September 30, 2024



Rev. David Hawkins, 70, of Lincolnton, NC, passed away on Monday, September 30, 2024. He was born on June 27, 1954, in Burke County, to the late Perry Hawkins and Lila Ruth Greene Hawkins. He was a member of Oak Hill United Methodist Church and last served at Marvin United Methodist Church and Palm Tree United Methodist Church.

Rev. Hawkins is survived by his wife, Judy Hamrick Hawkins; daughter, Katy Waddell (Nathaniel); sister, Deborah Morgan (Randy); grandchildren, Bella Waddell and Davidson Waddell; mother and father-in-law, Bill and Carolyn Hamrick.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m., on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at Sossoman Funeral Home. A memorial service will follow at 3 p.m., in the Colonial Chapel of the funeral home, with CLS Sahara Hamilton officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hurricane Helene Recovery Effort, <https://my-site-105273-102975.square.site/>. If you prefer to donate by check, please make payable to Ashe County Advantage Project and note "Hurricane Helene Recovery" in the memo, and mail to Ashe County Advantage Project, PO Box 31, West Jefferson, NC 28694.

SOSSOMAN FUNERAL HOME
www.sossomanfh.com

Virginia Stevens

Mrs. Virginia Alverta Ford Stevens, 86, of Valdese, passed away on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at UNC Blue Ridge, Morganton, after a period of declining health.

Virginia was born on March 15, 1938, to the late Julius McDonald "Mack" Ford and Thelma Bradshaw Ford. She was an avid gardener, talented seamstress and a great cook.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two infant siblings, a brother, Paul Douglas Ford and a sister, Maggie Keller.

Survivors include her two daughters, Kathy Munday Castillero and Beverly Icard and husband, Greg; eight siblings: brother, Jerry Ford and wife, Gwen; sisters, Loretta Ford and husband, Roy, Dorothy Williams, Judy Fultz, Betty Ford, Evelyn Setzer and husband, Nick, and Mary Millar and husband, Scott. Also surviving are four grandchildren, Anthony Castillero and wife, Alyson, Rick Castillero, Bradley Icard and wife, Kimberly, and Julia Icard; four great-grandchildren, Grant and Heath Icard, Norah Burns and Cruz Castillero; and number of nieces and nephews.

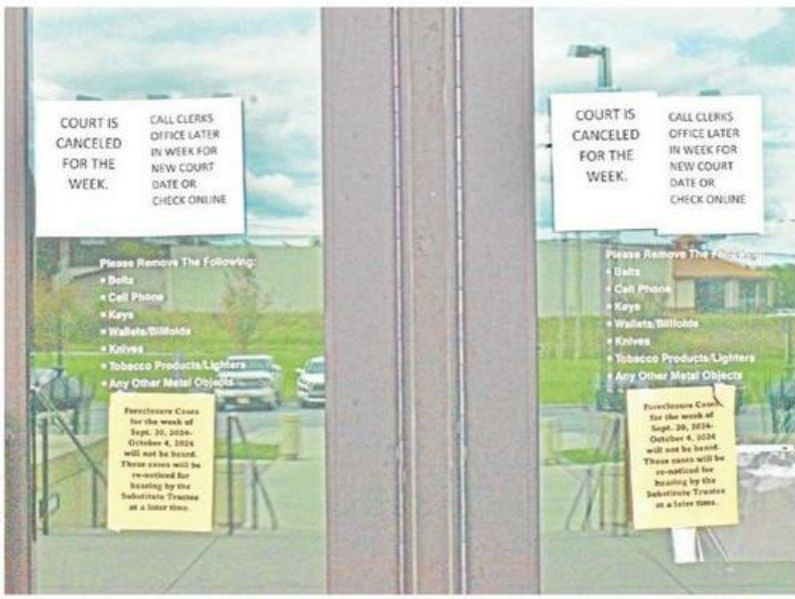
Funeral Services will be held on Friday, October 4, 2024, at 3 p.m., at Heritage Funeral Service, with Rev. John Pritchard officiating. Interment will follow in the Hillcrest Cemetery, Valdese.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m., Friday, at Heritage Funeral Service.

Memorials may be made to Amorem, Burke Hospice, 1721 Enon Rd., Valdese, NC 28690.

An online guestbook and obituary is available at www.heritagefuneralservices.com.

HERITAGE FUNERAL SERVICE
1507 Main St. E Valdese NC 28690



Notices posted on the Catawba County Courthouse front doors said all courts have been canceled for the week of Sept. 30.

SARAH C. JOHNSON,
HICKORY DAILY RECORD

Western NC courts, including Burke County, canceled

SARAH C. JOHNSON
Hickory Daily Record

Courts in at least 22 counties in western North Carolina — including Caldwell, Catawba and McDowell — have canceled court, according to the N.C. Judicial Branch.

Court filing deadlines for 28 counties were extended by N.C. Chief Justice Paul Newby on Sunday. Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and McDowell counties were included in the order.

All criminal and civil hearings for Catawba County District Court and Catawba County Superior Court have been canceled through Friday, according to the N.C. Judicial Branch website. The Catawba County Courthouse is at 100 Government Drive, Newton.

Burke County District Court is closed through Friday. Burke County Superior Court was closed Tuesday. Decisions about Superior Court are being made on a day-by-day basis, Assistant District Attorney Mitch Walker said. The Burke County Courthouse is at 201 S. Green St. in Morganton.

Caldwell County District Court is closed through Friday. Caldwell County Superior Court is open for criminal cases, according to the N.C. Judicial Branch website. The Caldwell County Courthouse

is at 216 Main St. NW in Lenoir.

The McDowell County Courthouse is closed due to power outages and flooding from Hurricane Helene. The N.C. Judicial Branch website says McDowell County courts are closed through Wednesday. The McDowell County Courthouse is at 21 S. Main St. in Marion.

Filing extension for western NC

Chief Justice Paul Newby ordered that all pleadings, motions, notices and other documents that were due to be filed between Sept. 26 and Oct. 14 shall be deemed timely if filed by the end of business on Oct. 14. That includes documents for civil actions, criminal actions, estates and special proceedings.

The counties included in the order are Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey.

Sarah Johnson is the courts and breaking news reporter for the Hickory Daily Record.

Emma "Betsy" Settlemyre Goodnight

May 21, 1942 - September 27, 2024



Emma "Betsy" Settlemyre Goodnight, 82, of Morganton, N.C. passed away on Friday, September 27, 2024. She was born on May 21, 1942, in Burke County to the late Murrel Glenn Settlemyre and Katie (Kate) Elizabeth Reep Settlemyre. Betsy was a masterful weaver, and she shared her knowledge of the craft with countless students. She enjoyed her vacation home on the Outer Banks and always made sure to feed the turtles at "Turtle Pond."

Betsy loved chocolate desserts. Even more, she loved her family, especially her grandkids and her feline companions. She was a big advocate for higher education—she graduated from Appalachian State University and helped her grandkids through school. She was a friend to everyone. She never met a stranger. Betsy taught for 31 years and enjoyed her retirement for nearly as many.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Glenda Kate Williams.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Allen Goodnight; daughter, Patricia Noelle Penley (Jeffrey Douglas Penley); and grandchildren, Katherine Elizabeth Penley (Dillon Hugh Sanders), and Jeffrey Benjamin Penley (Chaley Ann Munn).

The graveside service was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at Drexel First Church of God Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue.

SOSSOMAN FUNERAL HOME
www.sossomanfh.com

Mary Elizabeth "Beth" LaBarbera

September 1, 1962 - September 28, 2024



Mary Elizabeth "Beth" LaBarbera, 62, of Morganton, NC, died Saturday, September 28, 2024.

Born on September 1, 1962, she was the daughter of the late James David Berry, Sr. and Freda Mayo Berry.

Beth was a longtime employee of Peoples Bank in Newton, NC. She retired as Senior Vice President – North Regional Sales Manager. Beth was a member of Missionary Ridge Baptist Church, Kiwanis International Club, and a founding member of the TT Club.

She dearly loved her family and friends. Beth enjoyed reading, crafting, and trips to the beach. She also enjoyed feeding and watching her birds on the front porch, as well as feeding and caring for the baby calves.

Beth is survived by her husband, Joseph LaBarbera; daughters, Whitney Masterson (Jon) and Erin Hart (Brett); grandchildren, Logan Masterson and Morgan Hart; brother, David Berry (Crystal); sister-in-law, Deborah LaBarbera; niece, Jamie Berry; and nephew, Tripp Berry.

Services are incomplete and will be announced as soon as available. Please check www.sossomanfh.com for updated service information.

Memorial contributions may be made to Missionary Ridge Baptist Church Building Fund or the American Cancer Society.

SOSSOMAN FUNERAL HOME
www.sossomanfh.com

HICKORY REGIONAL AIRPORT

Volunteers, military provide aid to western NC

BILLY CHAPMAN
wchapman@hickoryrecord.com

Hickory Regional Airport is seeing increased traffic as state and federal governments, nonprofits and local residents come together for western North Carolina relief.

Matt McSwain with Acme Aero in Maiden said he was coordinating with Operation Airdrop to take supplies to areas affected by the remnants of Hurricane Helene, which was a tropical storm by the time it hit western North Carolina on Friday.

"With us being local, they knew we were boots on the ground, so they contacted us to get this thing up and running until they get here," McSwain said. "We've got volunteer helicopters from all over the East Coast."

In addition to delivering supplies, McSwain said the organization is working on extracting people. On Sunday, McSwain said the organization took about 60 trips to the mountains and extracted about 50 people in need of medical attention.

Hickory Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller said injured survivors were being triaged at the Hickory airport before being sent to area hospitals.

On Sunday, evacuees from Lees-McRae College were brought to Hickory in military helicopters.

Helene dropped as much as 30 inches of rain on some communities in the western part of the state Thursday night and Friday, causing flooding and mudslides that have left some communities inaccessible by ground.

"Here's the truth: We're doing something that hasn't been done before, especially in this area," McSwain told volunteers at a meeting Monday morning. "We're basically taking a civilian rotorcraft operation and making it basically a military operation until the military get here for us to stand down."

Before releasing pilots, McSwain mentioned the difficulty of their mission due to the rugged terrain. He also warned those in the air about the dangers of drones trying to get pictures and videos of the devastation in the mountains.

Other organizations were at the airport to assist with search-and-rescue missions and extraction.

Members of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Liberty,



BILLY CHAPMAN PHOTOS, HICKORY DAILY RECORD

Volunteers and members of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne listen as Matt McSwain details how pilots should communicate while flying over western North Carolina. At the feet of volunteers were bags of snacks and supplies for survivors of Tropical Storm Helene.



Mel Bartz, Meredith Pool and Jessica Meidell with Gideon Rescue stand with four dogs that will assist with search and rescue in the Newland community.



Reagan Roland accepts a box of medical supplies from Taryn Freeman, who delivered the supplies on behalf of the Medical Prescription Pad in Marion. Later Monday, the city of Hickory said people should not bring donations to the airport.

North Carolina, were also on hand to assist pilots.

Chad Walton with Carolina Emergency Response Team, a North Carolina nonprofit, said his organization would assist in medical evacuations and providing wellness checks.

Gideon Rescue, an Oklahoma-based organization, brought four dogs and three team members to

the Hickory airport. The team members were going to Newland for search and rescue.

Donations pour in

Catawba County United Way Executive Director Mark Bumgarner said the agency is collecting bottled water, infant and adult diapers, baby formula and wipes.

Donations were being

dropped off at the Hickory airport over the weekend. Monday morning, the city of Hickory said donations were no longer being accepted at the Hickory airport.

As of Monday, United Way has three drop-off locations and are working on securing other locations for donations.

Bumgarner said people should bring supplies to one of the designated sites because the airport was getting too busy.

Bumgarner said he understood people wanted to help, but it was imperative people only bring needed items.

"People are bringing stuff that's not helpful, and it's slowing down the process," Bumgarner said.

Bumgarner added first aid supplies, personal hygiene supplies and bar soap were critical needs. He said people should not bring heavier items, such as clothes, shoes and mattress covers.

"If you're going to bring food, the only food you should bring are individually wrapped snacks," Bumgarner said. "The boxes of Lance crackers ... things you can unwrap, things that are single serving. Again, keep weight in mind. The lighter the better."

Bumgarner said weight was a factor because supplies have to be airlifted into remote areas only accessible by air.

Billy Chapman is a reporter for the Hickory Daily Record.
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