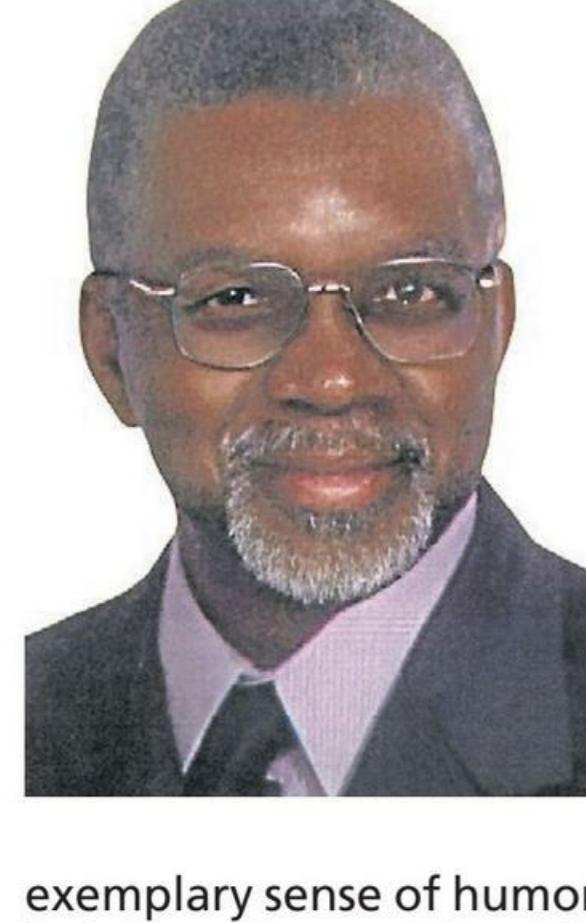


Thomas Edward Tapp, Jr.
June 26, 1948 - October 6, 2024

Thomas Edward Tapp, Jr., 76, of Morganton, NC, had his heavenly appointment on Sunday, October 6, 2024.

Born in Burke County, NC, on June 26, 1948, he was the son of the late Thomas E. Tapp and Lillian Beatrice Fleming Tapp.

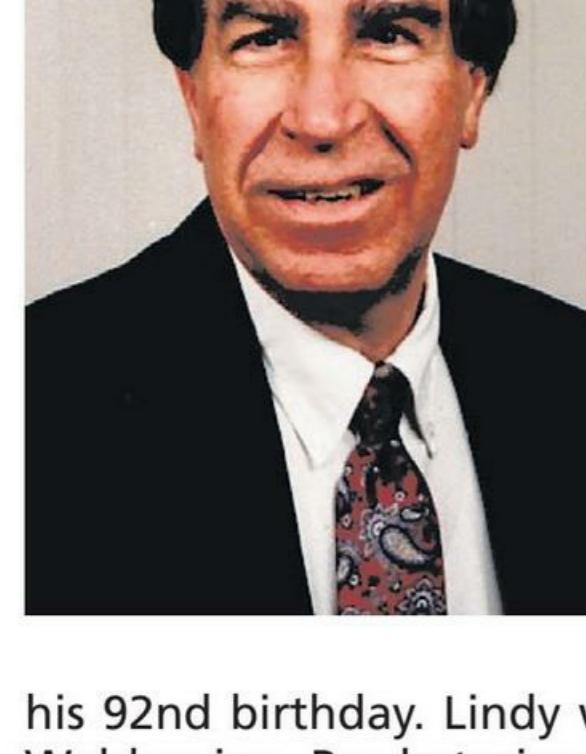
Mr. Tapp had attended Slades Chapel AME Zion Church and later St. Mary and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. He graduated from Olive Hill High School in 1965. He loved to talk about history and had an exemplary sense of humor. He loved the Lord and loved helping others. After his retirement, Thomas enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Mr. Tapp is survived by his sons, Saint Tapp (Jeneen) and Chris Marquel Danner; daughter, Latoya Danner; grandchildren, Alexia, Avianna, Chris, Will, Makayla, and Braylee; great-granddaughter, Naomi; special friend, Sandra Bristol; and a host of cousins and other relatives.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m., Saturday, October 12, 2024, at Slades Chapel AME Zion Church. The funeral will be held at 3 p.m. in the church with Rev. Andrea Purcell officiating. Burial will follow in Olive Hill Cemetery.

SOSSOMAN FUNERAL HOME

www.sossoomanfh.com

Lindy Hudson

Mr. Harry Lindy Hudson, Sr. 93, of Connelly Springs, passed away on Monday October 7, 2024, at his residence after a period of declining health.

Mr. Hudson was born November 23, 1930, in Burke County, a son of the late J.E. and Cesarie Ribet Hudson. He was the owner and operator of Lindy's Furniture in Connelly Springs and Hickory, working and interacting with his friends and customers, even past

his 92nd birthday. Lindy was a faithful member of the Waldensian Presbyterian Church having served as a deacon and on numerous committees. He served his country as a member of the US Army and was a 50 year member of the Lovelady Masonic Lodge 670, Valdese, NC.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Ed Hudson, Jr.; and wife, Betty.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Imogene Pons of the home; a son, H. Lindy Hudson (Lisa) of Valdese; three daughters, Katie Purgason (Bobby) of Taylorsville, Cessy Smith (Phillip) of Cornelius, and Julie Hudson of Cornelius. Also surviving are the apples of his eye, his grandchildren, Lexi Purgason, Hudson Smith, Ashtyn Smith.

Graveside Services for Harry Lindy Hudson, Sr will be at 2 p.m. Saturday October 12, 2024, in the Waldensian Presbyterian Church Cemetery with Rev. Matt Mathews and Rev. Rachel Matthews officiating. Masonic Rites by Lovelady Lodge 670 will follow.

Memorials may be made to Amorem, Burke Hospice and Palliative Care, 1721 Enon Rd., Valdese, NC 28690 or the Waldensian Presbyterian Church, 109 Main St., Valdese, NC 28690.

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

HERITAGE FUNERAL SERVICE

BBB: Look out for online scammers

Take care while supporting businesses during annual fall sales

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS HERALD

Annual sales of big-name retailers often take place a few times through the year. More deals are great for consumers, and more people shopping is great for businesses. Just be careful, and don't get so caught up in the excitement that you fall for phishing scams, misleading advertisements, and look-alike websites. Know what to look for when shopping online for the big sales.

BBB tips for online shopping for the fall retail sales:

■ Research the seller or retailer. Before you buy, check customer reviews of the product(s) you're interested in purchasing, and do some research on the retailer. Be sure you can find contact information for the seller, and make note of it. Look up the retailer on BBB.org to see if they are BBB Accredited and check out their profile to read customer reviews.

■ Watch for email and text phishing attempts that appear to come from a popular retailer. Phishing increases

'We're not giving up'

Mountain town of Old Fort tries to recover from devastation of hurricane

CONNOR MCNEELY

Winston-Salem Journal



WALT UNK PHOTOS, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Amy Davis, owner of The Davis Country Store & Cafe in Old Fort, cooks fajita meat for firefighters working across the street from her store on Wednesday. She and a number of volunteers are cooking hot meals for the many local residents still without power, the first responders working the region and the workers and volunteers who have come to aid in the cleanup.

In the days after the flooding, the sun beat down on Old Fort and froze a thick layer of mud and muck around the houses, stores and churches that residents and visitors from surrounding counties now worked to break up and clear.

Power and running water had become an afterthought. Everyone who remained either walked the streets of the town in a daze, worked feverishly to clear debris, or a bit of both.

Davis positioned a "check-in" list on a poster board near the stairs of her store, which collected names of individuals and families from the edges of the town to then post on the Old Fort Facebook page as "safe."

There were still many families and elderly couples unaccounted for in the outer edges of the town. Feeding the rescue workers and wandering Old Fort residents was how Davis figured she could make the biggest difference.

With her family and fellow neighbors, Davis spent the weekend following the storm clearing the streets and cutting down trees until they reached the country store. When they realized the building was still intact, Davis and her family started putting together plans for free meals.

"It's not just that they're getting hot food and a hot meal, but that they know the family that's making it, and they know that we're from here," Davis said. Her husband's family traced their lineage to the mid-1700s, when English and Scottish settlers had arrived in the area, before it became a fort in the Revolutionary War.

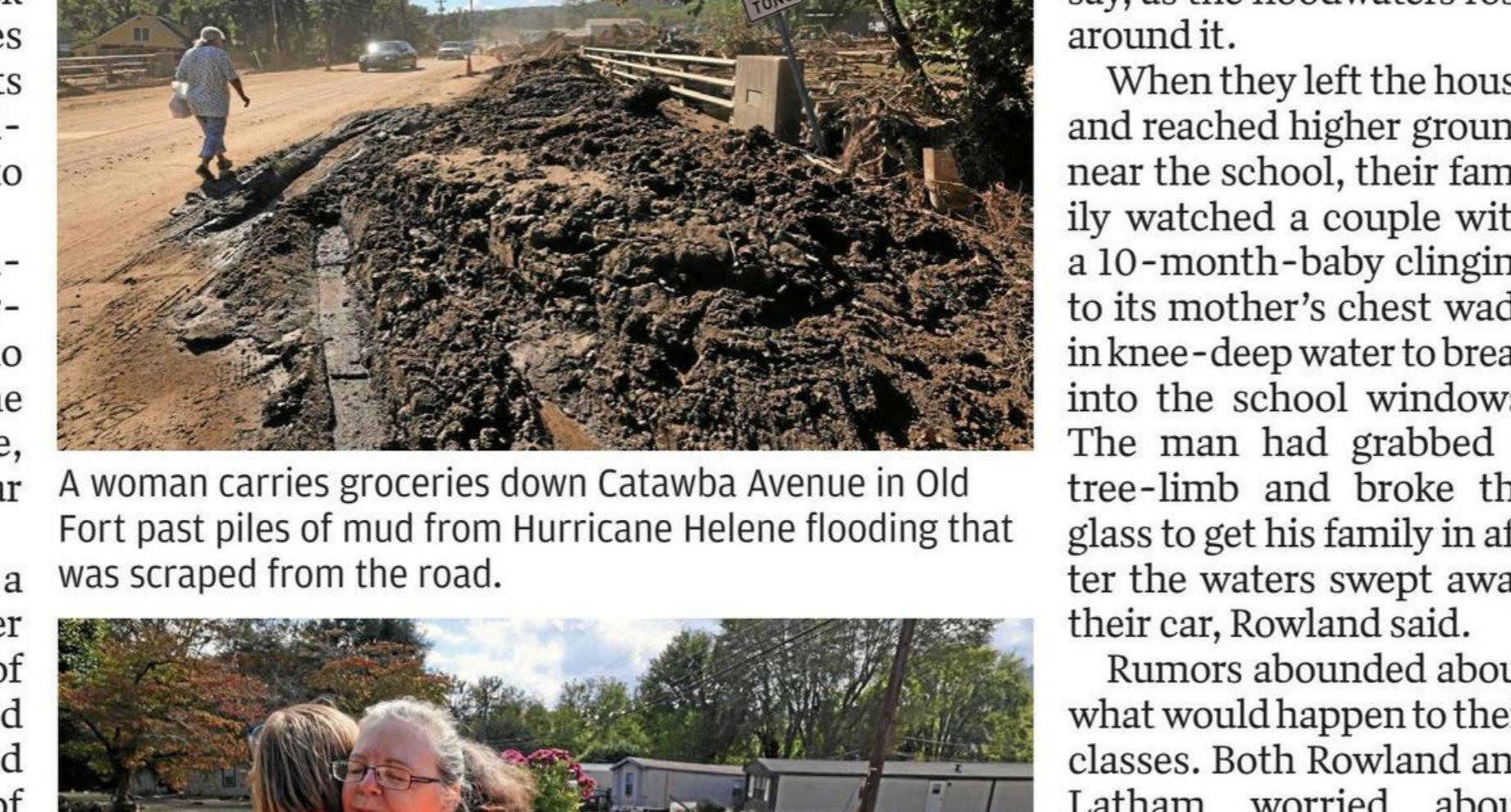
As the lunch hour arrived Wednesday morning, construction workers climbed the stairs in grime-soaked T-shirts and pants. With about a dozen others, they cleaned a number of properties that lined the town's main street, Catawba Avenue, including the Hillman Beer brewery, which opened in 2020.

The brewpub is one of two breweries in Old Fort, which is a dry town situated in the dry McDowell County. It was only relatively recent state laws that allowed breweries across North Carolina to serve beer, wine and cider in dry counties, but only what they made themselves.

Residents felt a deep sense of connection to the brewery as a new kind of meeting place that attracted tourists traveling from Charlotte to Asheville.

Jeff Parker, the landlord that owned the property in addition to many others in the downtown area, said the brewery had become the social hub of the Old Fort community.

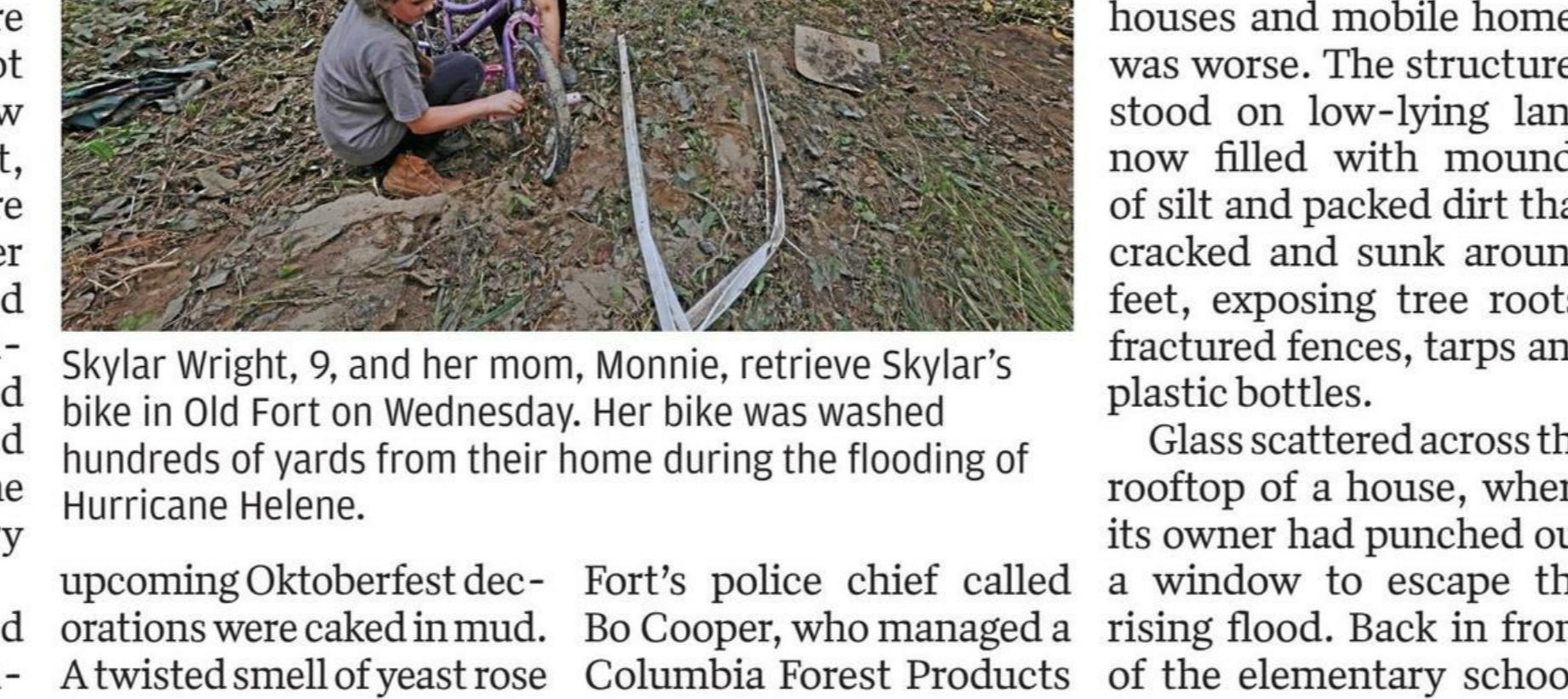
But now the building's



A woman carries groceries down Catawba Avenue in Old Fort past piles of mud from Hurricane Helene flooding that was scraped from the road.



Belinda Wright, right, gets a hug from Emily Rowland as they talk near their damaged homes in Old Fort on Wednesday. "I lost everything," Wright told Rowland. "I was able to save some pictures, my mother's ashes and my granddaughter's ashes. How do you start over from this?"



Skylar Wright, 9, and her mom, Monnie, retrieve Skylar's bike in Old Fort on Wednesday. Her bike was washed hundreds of yards from their home during the flooding of Hurricane Helene.

upcoming Oktoberfest decorations were caked in mud. A twisted smell of yeast rose from sludge of the taproom, where dozens of kegs were stacked on top of one another.

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She had been staying in the house with their mother, Emily, and her sister Lindsay, as the floodwaters rose around it.

When they left the house and reached higher ground near the school, their family watched a couple with a 10-month-old clinging to its mother's chest wade in knee-deep water to break into the school windows. The man had grabbed a tree-limb and broke the glass to get his family after the waters swept away their car, Rowland said.

Rumors abounded about what would happen to their classes. Both Rowland and Latham worried about many of their students who lived further out from town and milled over potential meeting places at nearby churches.

"They don't want to split the kids up but what are you going to do?" Latham said.

Inside the elementary school, there was already a strong stench of sewage that choked the hallways. Filth streaked across the terrazzo floors and masked construction crews sawed open the floor of the basketball gym, where the water had buckled and ruined the seams of the hardwood. Outside, the recess yard was an endless field of dried mud.

The surrounding rows of houses and mobile homes was worse. The structures stood on low-lying land now filled with mounds of silt and packed dirt that cracked and sunk around feet, exposing tree roots, fractured fences, tarps and plastic bottles.

Glass scattered across the rooftop of a house, where its owner had punched out a window to escape the rising flood. Back in front of the elementary school, Emily Rowland stood with Belinda Wright, a neighbor from down the street.

Wright said she was asleep Friday morning when she heard a knock on the door. She grabbed pictures, the ashes of her mother and granddaughter, and left. The next thing she knew, the floodwaters were slapping up on the porch and her daughter was pushing her out of the house.

"We got out about as far as the Old Fort exit, and we watched our life float away," Wright said. "Every last bit of it."

Rowland turned her gaze over to the house her family had built and lived in for the last 20 years.

"That's all they knew," Rowland said of her daughters. "They walked across the street every day for work, and now it's all gone."

After a pause in conversation, the two glanced at each other with small smiles hinting on their faces.

"I'm just glad you're OK, honey," Rowland said, pulling Wright into an embrace.