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Mrs. Lela Elaine Luther Simmons

Mrs. Lela Elaine Luther Simmons, 73 of Ansonville, died Monday morning, December 24, 2012, at her home.

Obituaries

Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 27, 2012, at Edwards Funeral Home Chapel in Norwood with Rev. Mike Rinehardt and Rev. Jeff Glenn officiating. Burial followed in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ansonville.

Mrs. Simmons was born June 14, 1939, in Stanly County. She was a daughter of the late Matthew and Lela Eury Luther. She was a member of Ansonville Baptist Church and a retiree of Walmart.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Wade S. Simmons, Sr.

She is survived by two sons, Wade Simmons, Jr. and Tim Simmons, both of Ansonville; three daughters, Ann Eudy (Rodney) of Polkton, Gail Simmons of

Ansonville and Lynn Horne (Jeff) of Wilmington; two brothers, Junior Luther of Ellerbe and Thomas Luther of Albemarle; three sisters, Brenda, Annie and Jean Luther, all of Norwood; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Online condolences to edwardsfuneralhomes.com.

Mr. Ernest Streater,

Mr. Ernest Streater, 77, died Sunday, December 23, 2012, at Hospice of Union County in Monroe.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 27, 2012, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. June Grant officiating. Interment will follow in Morven Cemetery.

Ernest was born November 30, 1935, in Anson County, a son of the late Robert Hill Streater and Mary Bailey Streater. He

had a long and productive career in textiles, having retired as superintendent of the Warping Department at Hornwood following 36 years of service to the company. He was a member of Southside Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Helen Carpenter Streater of the home; his children, Sherry (Jeff) Poplin of Wadesboro, Terry (Irene) Streater of Monroe, Cindy (Tracy) Caudle and Rosemary (John) Greene, all of Wadesboro; his sister, Anner Lean Wilkes of Hamlet; his grandchildren, Jennifer (Robert) Stovall, Beth (Rodney) Diggs, Stephanie (Jody) Brown, Elizabeth Poplin, Matthew Poplin, Matthew Streater and fiancé, Kellie Bufkin, Quentin Streater, April Caudle, Kyle Caudle, Tyler Greene and Erin Greene; and his great-grandchildren, Katelyn and Brooke Stovall, Reagan Diggs and Carlee

Brown.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Union County, 700 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Monroe, NC 28110.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneral-homewadesboro.com.

Mrs. Tonnie Ann Hall Tucker

Mrs. Tonnie Ann Hall Tucker, 66, died Sunday, December 23, 2012, at Anson Community Hospital in Wadesboro.

Funeral services were held on Friday, December 28, 2012, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Mark Perko officiating. Interment followed in Long Branch Baptist Church Cemetery in Jefferson, SC.

Tonnie Ann was born March 9, 1946, in

Jacksonville, FL, a daughter of the late Alvin Fletcher and Dollie Bell Abston Hall. She was a homemaker and a member of Long Branch Baptist Church.

Surviving are her husband of 42 years, Duncan Tucker of the home; her children, Julie Tucker Gehm of Jacksonville and Ronald L. Tucker of Ruby, SC; her grandchildren, Bryce Gehm and Courtney Groves; her great-granddaughter, Emma; and her sister and brother, Darlene Rogers of Ormond Beach, FL and John Thomas "Timmy" Hall of Colwich, KS.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her son, Lester Joel Tucker, and by her sister and brother, Barbara Lynn and Alvin "Buddy" Hall, Jr.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneral-homewadesboro.com.

Legislative Update

From Rep. Frank McGuirt: This is the last report I will be making to you as your State House Representative. I have thoroughly enjoyed my service on your behalf and thank you for the opportunity. Many of you have emailed, telephoned, written and, in some cases, met with me personally to express your views and opinions. Your comments and suggestions, advice and counsel have been appreciated.

While a few interim committees have been meeting prior to the end of the year I am not on any of those committees, so I have little to report as to Legislative happenings. I have been here in the district helping citizens with problems and striving to insure that your voices continue to be heard.

While many of you have not agreed with every vote I cast, those votes were cast with the best interest of the majority of people of District 69 in mind. My primary concerns have been with our children and grandchildren, our senior citizens, and our economy in the forefront. These are tough economic times and while our state budgets had to be austere I regret so much cutting was done at the expense of education, small business and working families. Many of those cuts were made while benefit for wealthy individuals and corporations stayed in place, or, in some cases enhanced. Too often the majority party focused on social legislation while economic development and job creation were overlooked and even ignored.

That said, we still have a lot to be thankful for in our state. As required by our state constitution our budget remains balanced and basic services continue to be provided. North Carolina remains a wonderful place to live, work, play and raise a family.

The lines of District 69, which I have represented, have been greatly changed. A portion of it is now within District 68 and represented by Rep. Craig Horn. It has been my pleasure to work with Rep. Horn during the past session, we remain good friends and I stand ready to assist him however I may. Another portion is now in "new" District 69 which will be represented by Representative-Elect Dean Arp. Mr. Arp was most recently Chairman of the Union County Board of Education, another friend. Much of the rest of old 69, including all of Anson County, will be District 55 covered by Representative-Elect Mark Brody. While I do not personally know Mr. Brody I have met him and have assured both he and Mr. Arp I will assist any way I can in the transition.

If you reside in Union County and do not know which House district you live in I urge you to contact the Board of Elections and inquire.

Over in the State Senate all of Union will be represented by Senator Tommy Tucker while Anson will be represented by Senator-Elect Gene McLaurin. Mr. McLaurin currently serves as the Mayor of Rockingham. I know both of these gentlemen and am proud to call them my friends.

I could not have served in the House without the support of my wife, Jenny, and our family, I thank them. Finally, I am indebted to my Legislative Assistant, Brittany Eller. Britt is a most knowledgeable professional, experienced in the work of the General Assembly and the legislative process and state government in general. She, also, has had you interest in mind as she assisted me in serving you.

Needless to say, after 23 years of sheriff and nearly 2 years as a State Representative, I enjoy public office and the political process. I look forward to being of service again should the opportunity present itself.

Please, after I leave office, do not fail to call on me if I can be of any assistance. My business office number is 704-507-3956 and my personal email address is fmcguirt@windstream.net. Thanks again and Happy New Year!

Stuttering: Straight Talk for Teachers

When teachers hear a child stutter, the immediate reaction is one of concern mixed with a host of urgent questions:

- Should I call on the student in class, or will that only make it worse?
- How should I handle teasing and bullying by other students?
- What should I do about reading aloud in class?

The Stuttering Foundation has a 20-minute video free online, Stuttering: Straight Talk for Teachers, at www.stutteringhelp.org. The film helps parents and teachers understand how stuttering can affect children of all ages in the classroom and is also available at most public libraries in DVD. Some libraries have the older video version.

The highlight of the film is the children who discuss their experiences in the classroom and share what was helpful for them. "Even when I knew the answer, I wouldn't raise my hand because I was worried about what others might think," says Umberto, a teenager in the film. He added that giving a classroom presentation on stuttering to the entire class has made him feel more at ease. "At the beginning of the school year, I was embarrassed to read aloud in front of my teacher and friends because of my stuttering," says Kate. She worked with her teacher to make a plan about how she could practice first at home and then individually with her teacher. Martin offers a different perspective. "I feel confident and even though I might mess up when I talk, I'm not ashamed. I still want the teacher to call on me even though I might be having a bad day."

Noted speech-language pathologists Bill Murphy, M.A., of Purdue University and Kristin Chmela, M.A., of Northwestern University present practical strategies teachers can use immediately to help children feel more comfortable talking in the classroom. "The courage and honesty of the children sharing their experiences helps teachers find solutions for the children in their class," says Lisa Scott, Ph.D., of The Florida State University and co-producer of the film.

At school, children who stutter often face bullying and teasing. This treatment by other students sometimes causes more anxiety than does the speech disorder itself. "Even the children who receive therapy to help them speak more fluently continue to have negative feelings as they grow older," Murphy says. "Their ability to communicate is still hindered by the shame and embarrassment they feel about stuttering, which is often brought on by teasing."

Murphy suggests teachers make stuttering an open topic for discussion in the classroom. One exercise a teacher can use is to discuss famous people who stutter. NBA basketball star Kenyon Martin, news anchor John Stossel, and actors James Earl Jones and Nicholas Brendon are just a few of the many celebrities who struggle with stuttering. A list of famous people who stutter and a downloadable poster can be found at www.stutteringhelp.org.

Elementary school teacher Katie Lenell says, "This film is an excellent resource for educators at all grade levels. I now feel more at ease having a child who stutters in my classroom."

The DVD, offered free to all public libraries, comes with a 32-page handbook of information and resources. A library that will shelve it can contact the Foundation at 1-800-992-9392, e-mail info@stutteringhelp.org, or visit www.stutteringhelp.org or www.tartarmudez.org.

Top Five Cyber Threats for 2013

New tech tools can lead to ID theft

The year ahead will feature new and increasingly sophisticated means to capture and exploit your personal information to steal your identity. Computer hackers are already at work to find weaknesses in new and emerging technologies. The Better Business Bureau warns about the top five cyber threats in 2013.

"People get very excited with new apps that expand their use of the Internet in ways that were previously not possible," said BBB President Tom Bartholomy. "However, the BBB urges you to proceed with caution when using new tech tools because they do not have a history of reliability and security."

The Better Business Bureau has the top five cyber threats expected in 2013:

1. Malicious Mobile Apps: The Internet Crime Complaint Center recently issued an alert on malware in Android applications. As the market for mobile applications expands, it increases your chances of downloading an app that contains a virus.

2. Counterfeit QR Codes: A Quick Response Code is a barcode that you can scan with your smartphone and it directs you to websites or downloadable content. Similar to skimmers that fit over credit card machines to swipe your credit card, counterfeit QR Codes can be affixed over legitimate barcodes to download malware to your phone or lead you to unsecure websites.

3. Mobile Wallet Vulnerabilities: Near field communication (NFC) allows two devices to exchange data when they are in the proximity of each other. Smartphone manufacturers, retailers and airlines are beginning to use this information. The vulnerability of near field communication technology is that scammers may use scanners to capture stored credit card information when you are within range of their scanners without you even knowing it happened.

4. Cloud-Based Botnets: Cloud computing is a growing area of computer technology. The 'cloud' offers you the ability to select the precise computing power you need. When you use cloud-computing technology, you are linked to other cloud users and this creates a massive virtual network. Hackers exploit this linked network via phishing schemes which infect users' computers with viruses. The potential exists for hackers to infect this massive network with viruses that would steal credit card and personal information from the computers that are linked through the 'cloud'.

5. Search History Poisoning: According to the Emerging Cyber Threats Report 2013 from Georgia Tech, compromised search histories can follow users from computer to computer which could increase the likelihood that you could visit malicious websites without knowing it.

For more information on cyber scams, please visit BBB or Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Veterans Asked to Attend Meeting January 15

Anson County Veteran Services is holding a meeting for all veterans and spouses on Tuesday, January 15 at the Hampton B. Allen Library, from 6 until 8 p.m. Ted Ward, Anson County Service Officer, encourages all veterans and their spouses in Anson County to attend. This will be very informative and enlightening to all present.

Any questions feel free to contact Ward at 704-694-4418 or tward@co.anson.nc.us.

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