



**SHAW WEEKLY**  
*S.C. Civil Air Patrol cadets spend part of 2007 Encampment at Shaw — 1C*



**UP FOR A CHALLENGE**  
*After Rock Hill pulls out, Dalzell-Shaw steps up for American Legion tourney*  
SPORTS / 1B

**SEND IN THE CLOWN!**

*What to see a clown of a different type? Check out **THE DISGRUNTLED CLOWN** at 8:30 this evening, part of the monthly Sumter House of Comedy at the Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St. Tickets are available at the door for \$10 each. But don't mistake this for a children's party: The show is strictly for adults only.*



**DEATHS**

Marian M. Dew  
Barbara H. Knox  
Willie "Bill" Pinkney  
Avenell K. Ragland  
Henrietta P. Richardson  
Sandra J. Richbourg  
Nathaniel Scarborough Sr.  
Earline R. Smith  
Mary B. Spann  
Frederick H. Truesdale  
Willie Wactor Sr.  
Ernest Weeks  
Levola Lee P. Wheeler  
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**WEATHER**

**SWELTERING**

Hot with times of clouds and sun. Details on page 8B.

**HIGH: 96    LOW: 74**

# PASSING of a LEGEND

Family, community mourn the loss of Bill Pinkney, a 'true gentleman,' a 'brilliant performer,' an 'inimitable voice'

**Bill Pinkney sings "America" on the Sumter County Courthouse grounds to observe National Anthem Day in September 2005.**



By **MARY DOLAN**  
Item Staff Writer

Family members from all over were planning a trip to Sumter for a family reunion to be held today at the Original Drifters' frontman Bill Pinkney's house; Pinkney was famous for the parties he hosted, complete with music and home-cooked meals. Instead, family and friends are gathering together at his home without him.

Pinkney, 81, died Wednesday, July 4, before an Independence Day concert in Daytona Beach, Fla. Pinkney was the last living founding member of The Drifters, an R&B group formed in the 1950s, known for its soulful, bluesy sounds. He founded the Original Drifters after leaving the first group in 1958.

The musical celebrity with (in later years) a distinctive head of white hair was born in Dalzell on Aug. 15, 1925, and grew up on a diet of Southern cuisine and gospel music.

Eartha Pinkney Johnson was one of his nine children. She said her father was a man of God who loved his music and loved his family more.

SEE **PINKNEY**, PAGE 7A



Photo provided  
**Bill Pinkney formed the Original Drifters in 1958; the group is seen here circa 1970.**



Item file photos  
**Bill Pinkney, a musical legend and member of the Original Drifters, died Wednesday in Daytona Beach, Fla., where he was on the venue for a Fourth of July concert.**

In the words of The Footnotes' guitarist Charles Stafford, Bill Pinkney was 'a gentleman and a musical inspiration to generations of us players.'



**Jackie Gore of The Embers sings along at Pinkney's 80th birthday bash in Columbia a couple years ago. For the next several Wednesday nights, musicians at the regular Wings and Strings at Pizza Lane in Sumter will be performing songs in tribute to Pinkney.**

By **IVY MOORE**  
Item Features Editor

Turn on your radio anywhere during December, and you'll hear a mellifluous bass voice singing lead on the rhythm and blues version of "White Christmas." The owner of that inimitable voice was Bill Pinkney — Dalzell native, businessman, professional baseball player and war hero.

Baby Boomers and other beach, R&B and gospel music lovers know Pinkney for so much more than "White Christmas." For musicians and friends of the last original Drifter, who died Wednesday, Pinkney was a master musician and, in the words of The Footnotes' guitarist Charles Stafford, "a gentleman and a musical inspiration to generations of us players."

He leaves a large music library and a legacy of grace and talent.

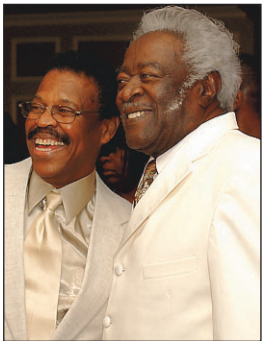
While Pinkney's family and friends mourn the loss of their loved one, those "generations of players" and others in the music business are also expressing their grief, at the same time remembering

the good times.

Stafford recalled that he worked with "Mr. Bill" on several occasions.

"(We) talked about music history and his influence on us 'younger' players," he said.

"When The Footnotes played Sumter@Six a couple of years ago, Mr. Bill drove up just as we started to play one of the Original Drifters' songs, 'Move Across The River', and he came up and sang it with us. What a thrill. He ... would recall The Footnotes and proudly introduce me to guests as 'one of my homeboys that really plays my music.'



**Bill Pinkney was a father figure to Billy Scott of Billy Scott and the Prophets.**

SEE **MUSICIANS**, PAGE 8A

*"I would like to say I hope people remember him for being a genuine person, a legend. He's leaving a tremendous legacy."*  
**Bandmate**  
**Terence Lonon**



*"It was a great honor to share him with those that loved him."*  
**Eartha Pinkney Johnson**  
**Pinkney's daughter**

*"He's just a jewel, he's an icon, he was a living legend."*  
**Eartha Johnson**

*"He sat down on those steps and when he did that last gospel song, there was not a dry eye in this house. It was a wonderful night."*  
**Billy Lane,**  
**describing Pinkney's April performance at Pizza Lane**

*"'Amazing Grace' was never sung so beautifully, and many tears were proof of it."*  
**Singer Hank Martin**



*"I am so glad that ... his hometown has really come to recognize and appreciate what a major national and international figure he was in popular music history. We are all proud of him and will cherish his memory."*  
**Charles Stafford**  
**The Footnotes**

## Shaw planners prepare to put allocated funds to use

Contractors to bid soon on construction projects

By **LESLIE CANTU**  
Item Senior Staff Writer

As the 3rd Army's arrival date at Shaw Air Force Base creeps steadily nearer, base planners are preparing for an anticipated construction boom on base.

None of that construction can happen without money, though, and for that the base waits on word from Congress and the president.

U.S. Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C., an-

nounced last month that the House approved \$25 million for construction for Shaw. The money, if approved by the Senate and President Bush, would go toward construction of support facilities, such as additional fitness center space, child development center space and visiting officer quarters.

"This funding will go a long way toward supplying the capacity for welcoming arriving personnel and contributing to effective joint operations while increasing morale and



**SPRATT**

productivity," Spratt said in a press release.

The money doesn't account for the primary buildings the 3rd Army will need, such as a headquarters and housing, but Chris Aamold, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy commander, and James Allen, 20th Fighter Wing plans and inspection deputy and the BRAC business manager, said part of the wait lies in the fact that the 3rd Army itself is in transition and isn't sure who will be working at Shaw.

Although the number of personnel is more or less fixed, the 3rd Army doesn't know how many people of what rank will be assigned to headquarters, which in turn affects the type of buildings to be constructed.

Thus the planners have only rough estimates of the funding required for those buildings.

Aamold said contractors will bid on the projects covered by the \$25 million in fiscal year 2008, which begins Oct. 1 for the federal government.

Construction on 3rd Army headquarters will probably begin in fiscal year 2009 or 2010, he said.

Aamold expects the construction work, once it's approved, to keep local and regional contractors quite busy.

Contact Senior Staff Writer Leslie Cantu at [lesliec@theitem.com](mailto:lesliec@theitem.com) or (803) 774-1250.



# PINKNEY

FROM PAGE 1A

She said he learned from his own mother the importance of being among loved ones, of cooking meals together and cherishing the moments together. Johnson said her father was excited about the planned reunion. He was even making calls to family members on Wednesday before his death, reminding them to be at his home on the corner of Rowland Avenue and Pine Street today. “He would’ve spent his very last dime to see this family reunion be a success,” Johnson said. Everybody knew Pinkney loved a get-together. For recent birthdays, he would host a big bash at his house. Longtime friend and booking agent Jackie Mills said he would invite not only his friends and family but anyone who wanted to join the fun. The parties were as much for everyone else as they were for him, she said. For his 80th birthday, he was honored at the Statehouse in Columbia and in Sumter with a celebration put on by the Sumter County African American Cultural Society. Pinkney wasn’t short on honors and accolades. He was a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the South Caroli-

na Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame, a recipient of South Carolina’s Order of the Palmetto and a decorated veteran of World War II. The South Carolina General Assembly recently passed a resolution to name a piece of road in his hometown after the local hero. A stretch of U.S. 521 from the intersection of S.C. 441 to Charles Jackson Road will become “Bill Pinkney of the Original Drifters Highway.” State Rep. Grady Brown, D-Bishopville, who also hosts a beach music radio show in Bishopville — of which Pinkney was a guest several times — said a ceremony is planned for later this summer. “He was an icon in music,” Brown said. “He brought so much popularity and goodness to Sumter County and South Carolina.” And Pinkney was recently chosen to be the fourth prominent local figure to have his portrait painted for the Sumter Smiles series. Local artists Betty Reese and Susan Kolpack have spent the past several months painting the faces of some of the people Sumter knows and loves the most. Reese said it was only natural to select Pinkney for the series. She showed the finished product to Pinkney on Monday, and “he just loved it,” she said.

Reese had been planning to formally unveil the portrait July 26, but she is considering unveiling it sooner in light of his death. “I’m just very sorry that he didn’t get to see this done, because he was real excited about it,” Reese said. “But I’m real proud that I was able to do this for him.” But Pinkney wasn’t one to let any of those pats on the back go to his head.

## REMEMBERING BILL PINKNEY

There will be a candlelight vigil to remember Bill Pinkney at 7 p.m. today at his home, 316 Pine St. The public is invited and everyone should bring his or her own candle.

Mills said he was unlike any celebrity she had ever known or worked with. While some musicians provide long lists of must-haves when performing at a venue, Mills said Pinkney had no such list. In fact, one of his only stipulations was that there be no ropes or rails keeping him from his fans. “He was never one that was hard to please,” she said. If he ever did have a special request for some fried chicken or a fried pork chop sandwich, he’d just give Mills a call,

she said. The two never had a written contract between them. She said he was a “handshake is your word” kind of guy. That humble, down-to-earth quality is what stands out so much to band member Terence Lonon, too. He said it always impressed him how accessible Pinkney wanted to be to his fans. Lonon said Pinkney would speak to anyone who approached him, and he had his home phone number printed on his business cards. “I hope people remember him for being a genuine person,” Lonon said. He was genuine and he was accessible, but he was also a performer — something that developed in him at an early age, according to his sister, Eliza Pear-

son. She said music was always played in their home, and Pinkney developed a love for it early on. “Just like anybody would have a love for certain things, that was his love,” Pearson said. “Even as a child, he loved doing something to entertain, and he was just the fun of the family.” Though music was always a part of his life, it wasn’t something he pursued immediately. Pinkney enlisted in the Army at 17 and spent time in Europe

during World War II. He received four Bronze Stars for combat in France. After returning to the States, Pinkney took up a career in baseball. Pinkney pitched for the New York Blue Sox, which was part of the Negro Baseball League, in the late 1940s and early ‘50s. Then, the stage was set for a career in music. While in New York City, Pinkney formed a friendship with musician Clyde McPhatter, and The Drifters was formed in 1952. The group was known for hits such as “Money Honey,” “I Got Myself a Woman,” “Such a Night” and a doo-wop version of “White Christmas.” Though Pinkney parted ways with the group, he later formed the Original Drifters and remained an active performer throughout the years, playing shows from Las Vegas to Myrtle Beach and all manner of venues in between. He rarely turned down a request to sing at a local church, parade or festival. Longtime friend Jacqui Blackwell said as recently as 2005 she asked Pinkney to perform in her church’s Christmas program. Not only did Pinkney oblige, he didn’t come alone. “He surprised me and brought the entire group,” Blackwell said.

Contact Staff Writer Mary Dolan at [mdolan@theitem.com](mailto:mdolan@theitem.com) or (803) 774-1294.

## OBITUARIES

### MARIAN M. DEW

COLUMBIA — Memorial service for Marian McClam “Gee” Dew, 79, will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel. Memorials may be made to Maple Street Southern Methodist Church, 2728 Preston St., Columbia, SC 29205. Visitation will be 2-3 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home prior to the service. Mrs. Dew, wife of the late Edward Clement Dew, died Wednesday, July 4, 2007. Born in Lynchburg, she was a daughter of the late Willie Dargan and Eva Moore McClam. She retired as secretary to the chief of pathology at Moncrief Army Hospital. She enjoyed swimming with friends at the Fort Jackson pool, vacationing at Litchfield Beach and spending time with her family. Survivors include her four children, Carole Dew Shlon (Andy) of Columbia, Cheryl Dew Laney (Tommy) of Dalzell, Sandy Dew Hyatt of Columbia and Michael Edward “Mike” Dew (Pat) of Charleston; grandchildren, Thomas Edward “Ed” Laney of Dalzell, Ashley Patten Dew of Charleston, Andrew Adnan “Andy” Shlon (Betsy) of Columbia, Elizabeth Lake “Betsy” Dew of Columbia, Adam Adnan Shlon of Columbia and Michael Cochrane Dew of Charleston; and great-grandson, Andrew Adnan Shlon Jr. She was predeceased by a brother, James Solomon “Sol” McClam; sisters, Nadine Lacewell, Mary Ellen DuRant and Joan Blackmon; and son-in-law, Phillip O’Neal Hyatt.

[www.dunbarfunerals.com](http://www.dunbarfunerals.com)

### BARBARA H. KNOX

Barbara Hart Knox, widow of Lawrence E. Knox, died Thursday, July 5, 2007, at Spartanburg Regional Hospice. Services will be announced by Bullock Funeral Home of Sumter.

### WILLIE PINKNEY

Willie “Bill” Pinkney, 81, widower of Alma Black Pinkney, departed this life on Wednesday, July 4, 2007, in Daytona Beach, Fla. Born Aug. 15, 1925, in Sumter County, he was a son of the late Murray Pinkney and Katie Smith Pinkney. The family will receive friends at his home, 300 Pine and Rowland Streets, Sumter. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Williams Funeral Home Inc. of Sumter.

### AVENELL K. RAGLAND

ATLANTA, Ga. — Avenell Kirven Ragland, 56, died June 29, 2007, at Crestview Health & Rehab. Born Feb. 2, 1951, in Rembert, she was a daughter of the late Mary Frances Kirven Thomas. She attended the public schools in Sumter County. Most of her adult life was spent in Columbus, Ohio, where she married Sidney Kenneth Ragland Jr. She later returned to South Carolina and continued her education at Benedict College, where she earned a bachelor of science degree. She was a member of Sigma Gamma Rho. Survivors include three daughters, Sonya A. Davis of Greenville, Sharon A. (Chris) Cotton of Gaston and Sakia A. Ragland of Decatur, Ga.; two sons, Sidney Aaron Ragland Sr. of Duluth, Ga., and Shelton A. Ragland of Decatur; grandchildren, Krisceda (Shanea) Cotton, Kristen (Alecia) Cotton, Chanté N. Howard, Keiseanna (Cream Puff) Cotton and Sidney Aaron Ragland Jr. (AJ); a host of uncles, aunts, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by a grandson, Ashton Savoy Ragland. Viewing was held from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Job’s Mortuary. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. today at Joshua Baptist Church, Dalzell, with the Rev. Eugene Dennis, pastor, officiating, assisted by the Rev. Dorothy Maple and Minister David Jenkins, eulogist. Burial will be in the church cemetery. The body will be placed in the church at noon today. Job’s Mortuary Inc., 312 S. Main St., Sumter, is in charge of arrangements. Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at [jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com](http://jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com).

### HENRIETTA P. RICHARDSON

MANNING — Henrietta Palmer Richardson, 94, died July 5, 2007, at her residence. Born July 9, 1912, in Clarendon County, she was a daughter of the late Hargar Palmer and Issac Palmer. The family will receive friends at 1078 Woodard Road, Manning. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be announced by Summerton Funeral Service, 23 S. Duke St., Summerton. SANDRA J. RICHBOURG MYRTLE BEACH — Sandra Jennings Richbourg, 60, devoted wife of Joseph “Billy” Richbourg, died July 4, 2007, after a long illness. Born Jan. 18, 1947, in Charlotte, N.C., she was a daughter of the late Ira and Becky Ferguson Jennings. She was past secretary and a member of Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church in the Silver community of Summerton, and was instrumental in the rebuilding of the chapel after Hurricane Hugo. She and

her husband of 26 years lived in his hometown of Summerton, where they raised Christmas trees at “The Ranch.” She and Joe returned to Myrtle Beach in 1992. Surviving besides her husband of Myrtle Beach are a brother, Randy Jennings and wife, Patsy, of Myrtle Beach; sister, Darlene Jennings of Pawleys Island; stepdaughter, Paula Adams and husband, Chris, of Bradenton, Fla.; nieces, Tami Jennings Ramsay and husband, Robert, of Athens, Ga., and Traci Jennings of Myrtle Beach; great-nieces and nephews, Emma Ramsay, Beck Ramsay, Kayley Adams, Brendon Davis and Hope Davis; and many loving cousins in North Carolina. She was preceded in death by brothers, Rex Jennings and Jay Jennings; and stepdaughter, Julia Richbourg Davis. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church in the Silver community near Summerton. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. today at McMillan Small Funeral Home in Myrtle Beach. Memorials may be made to Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church, c/o Sara Coulliette, 15149 Panola Road, Pinewood, SC 29125. Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church St., Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179.

### NATHANIEL SCARBOROUGH Sr.

Nathaniel Scarborough Sr., 84, departed this life on Monday, July 2, 2007, at McLeod Hospice House, Florence. Born in Lynchburg, Lee County, on Oct. 1, 1922, he was a son of the late Luther Scarborough and Annie Wilson Scarborough. He attended the public schools of Lee County. He entered the U.S. Army - Air Force on March 25, 1943. While in the military, his specialty was medical aidman. He was honorably discharged on March 16, 1946. He was employed as a custodian at Mount Pleasant High School for several years. After leaving this position, he was employed at Reeves Brothers Inc. until he retired in 1987. He also worked as a sheriff’s deputy for Lee County during the late 1960s and early ‘70s. Nathaniel joined Mount Pleasant AME Church at an early age and accepted Christ. As a spiritual man, he offered words of wisdom and encouragement to all he met. He served faithfully until he became ill. Offices he held through the years were protean chairman of the steward board, president of the usher board, class leader, a member of the gospel and senior choir, a member of the trustee board and was very active in Sunday school. He served in many other capacities as well. He loved his church. He was also a member of Do Right Lodge No. 377 of the Masonic Fraternal Order and served as membership chairman of the NAACP for several years. On Dec. 21, 1947, he married Evernell Joe. To this union were born four children. He later married Barbara Jackson. Although his presence will be missed by all who knew him and loved him, through our strength from the Lord we may find comfort in our thoughts that he is experiencing no more suffering and pain. His greatest inspiration was the love he had for his family. He leaves to cherish his precious memories: three sons, James H. Scarborough (Lorraine), Nathaniel (Carmen) Scarborough Jr. and Terrence (Michelle) Scott of Bronx, N.Y.; two daughters, Ellanora Solomon of Lynchburg and Bertha S. (Willie J.) Scott of Bishopville; five sisters, Catherine Moses, Annie Mae Moses of Newark, N.J., Freddie Mae Durant of Lynchburg, Eliza Commander of Timmonsville and Gerthine Wilson of Washington, D.C.; a special family friend, Charles Goodman; 13 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two brothers-in-law; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by two children, a stepson, Robert L. Reames, and a daughter, Catherine Scarborough; three siblings; one brother, John H. Scarborough; and two sisters, Martha S. Smith and Thomasena Scarborough. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday from Mount Pleasant AME Church, Vista Road, Lynchburg, with the Rev. Moses McCants, pastor, eulogist, assisted by the Revs. Alfred Bradley, Davie Brown and Elroy Davis and Minister Donna Jackson. The family will receive friends at the home of his daughter, Bertha S. Scott, 1932 Elliott Highway, Bishopville. A wake service will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. today from John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel, Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter. The remains will be placed in the church at 1 p.m. The funeral cortege will leave the home of his daughter at 1:30 p.m. Floral bearers will be Queen of Lynchburg No. 247, O.E.S. Pallbearers will be Do Right Lodge No. 377, A & A.M. Burial will be in the Mount Pleasant AME Churchyard cemetery. Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at [williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com](http://williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com). Visit us on the Web — [www.williamsfuneralhome-inc.com](http://www.williamsfuneralhome-inc.com).

Services directed by the staff and management of Williams Funeral Home Inc. of Sumter.

### EARLINE R. SMITH

Earline Reynolds Smith, wife of the late Willie Smith, died Sunday, July 1, 2007, at her residence in Sumter. Born in Edgefield, she was the seventh of 10 children born to the late Earlie Reynolds and Lema Bettis Reynolds. Raised in the Edgefield community, she was a graduate of Edgefield Academy. She was a homemaker and self-employed seamstress for most of her life and was later first employed by the Exide Co., then retired from the Bendix Co. in 1999. In her spare time, she was passionate about gardening. She was married to the late Willie Smith and raised nine children and a grandchild, Lisa Boykins. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by seven siblings, James Reynolds, Ella Mae Simpkins, Josephine Butler, Walker Reynolds, Willie Reynolds, Olena Oliphant and Lillian “Honey” Lloyd; and a grandson, Earl Barry (B.J.) Jr. Surviving are three daughters, Mildred Delores (Billy) West of Springdale, Md., Brenda Jean (Harold) Myers and Wendy Smith Jackson, all of Sumter; six sons, Russell David (Pamalyn) Smith, Larry G. (Patricia) Smith, Earl Barry (Barbara) Smith, Reginald R. (Vivian) Smith, Timothy (Karen) Smith and Giles Maurice (Alicia) Smith; 17 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two sisters, Martha L. Singleton of Bronx, N.Y., and Geneva R. Almonte of Lawton, Okla. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses on Lynam Road in Sumter. Interment will follow in Hillside Memorial Park. Brother David Walker will serve as chairman. The Memorial Discourse will be conducted by Brother Frank Brooks and Brother Wilbur Dyer will also assist at the service. Mrs. Smith will be placed in the Kingdom Hall for public viewing from 10 a.m. until the hour of service on Saturday. The public may also view Mrs. Smith from 1 until 8 p.m. today at Palmer Memorial Chapel. Those wishing to join the funeral procession should meet at the Smith family residence, 278 Gamble St., Sumter, by 10 a.m. Saturday. The family will also receive friends at this address. Online memorials may be made to [palmermemchapel@sc.rr.com](mailto:palmermemchapel@sc.rr.com) or [palmermemorialchapel.com](http://palmermemorialchapel.com). Palmer Memorial Chapel Inc. of Sumter is in charge of funeral arrangements.

MARY B. SPANN BISHOPVILLE — Mary Blanche Spann, of 176 Nash St., died Wednesday, July 4, 2007, at her residence. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Boatwright Funeral Home of Bishopville.

### MARY B. SPANN

BISHOPVILLE — Mary Blanche Spann, of 176 Nash St., died Wednesday, July 4, 2007, at her residence. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Boatwright Funeral Home of Bishopville.

### FREDRICK H. TRUESDALE

Fredrick Hammie “Freddie” Truesdale, 52, died Wednesday, July 4, 2007, at his residence. He was born in Sumter, a son of Francis Louise Nesbitt Truesdale and the late Hammie Truesdale. He was a contractor and retired from Truesdale Brother Construction Co. He was an avid race car driver and a former four-time track champion at Sumter Speedway. Surviving are one son, Freddie Hammie Truesdale of Sumter; four brothers, Ronnie Truesdale and his wife, Sherry, Tony Truesdale and his wife, Deborah, Allen Truesdale and David Truesdale, all of Sumter; two sisters, Patricia Truesdale Osborne of Sumter and Kathy Nesbitt Martin and her husband, Fred, of Roanoke, Va. He was preceded in death by his father, Hammie Truesdale. A funeral service will be held at 4 p.m. today at the Bullock Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. William Nichols officiating. Burial will follow in Evergreen Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the residence of his sister Patricia Truesdale Osborne. Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at [www.bullockfuneralhome.com](http://www.bullockfuneralhome.com). The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home of Sumter for arrangements.

### WILLIE WACTOR Sr.

Willie Wactor Sr., 81, departed this life on Monday, July 2, 2007, at Sumter East Health and Rehab Center, Sumter. Born in Lee County on Jan. 5, 1926, he was the son of the late Wesley Wactor and Katie English Wactor. He was also the husband of Annie Mathis Wactor. At an early age, he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and joined Mount Olive AME Church, where he served as a trustee, a member of Sunday School Class No. 2 and other auxiliaries of the church. He was also a member of the Twelve Tribes of Israel Lodge No. 11. He leaves to cherish his precious memories: his wife of 56 years, Annie Mathis Wactor; one daughter, Rosa (Lester) Ragin of Sumter; five sons, Willie Jr. (Pauletta) and Isaac Wactor of Wichita, Kan., James (Lakieta), John and Charles Wactor of Sumter; one sister, Susie (Elijah) Jenkins of Washington, D.C.; six brothers,

Grover (Mary), Joseph (Rosa), Sam (Shirley), Jimmie (Eartha) Wactor and Sammie Green, all of South Carolina, and James Jenkins of Brooklyn, N.Y.; eight sisters-in-law, Mary, Lenora, Annette, Dorothy, Jessie Mae, Liberty, Eartha and Margaret; three brothers-in-law, Lee, Thomas and Percell; 13 grandchildren, Natasha, Eileen, Willie III, Tiffany, Tiniki, Antwain, Shannon, Quentin, Rashaad, India, Dakota, Devon and Kameron; eight great-grandchildren, Jaquala, Rontoya, Quinton, Jaylan, Asaad, Tiesarra, Zyon and Rhian; a host of special nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Thomas Wactor and Aaron Jenkins. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday from Mount Olive AME Church, S.C. 441, Woodrow, with the Rev. Timothy A. Johnson Sr., pastor, eulogist. The remains will be placed in the church at 1 p.m. The family will receive friends at the home, 5245 Cotton Acres Road, Sumter. The funeral cortege will leave the home at 1:30 p.m. Floral bearers will be Twelve Tribes of Israel and Women Missionary Society. Pallbearers will be Woodrow Elite Club. Burial will be in the Mount Olive Memorial Gardens, Sumter. Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at [williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com](http://williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com). Visit us on the Web — [www.williamsfuneralhome-inc.com](http://www.williamsfuneralhome-inc.com). Services directed by the staff and management of Williams Funeral Home Inc. of Sumter.

### ERNEST WEEKS

Ernest Weeks died Wednesday afternoon, July 4, 2007, after a brief illness. He was born in Sumter County, a son of the late Mary Ethel Witherspoon Weeks and Lewis Weeks Jr. The family will receive friends at the home of his brother and sister-in-law, Richard O. and Lillie Weeks, 415 Vinning St., Sumter. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by Sumter Funeral Service Inc.

### LEVOLA LEE P. WHEELER

Levola Lee Peterson Wheeler, 60, widow of Rudolph Wheeler, was called by God to her heavenly home June 30, 2007. Born Nov. 17, 1946, in Sumter, she was a daughter of the late Pete Peterson Sr. and Levola Pack Peterson. She was the oldest of seven children. At an early age, she joined Goodwill Presbyterian Church (USA). Levola attended the public schools of Sumter County and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1963, where her talents as an artist bloomed. Her post-secondary education was received from Claflin and Morris College, where she majored in sociology. Shortly before graduating from Morris College, she decided to pursue a teaching career. In 1968, Levola began working in the banking industry in Washington, D.C., where she excelled in a variety of positions for more than 15 years. Later she decided to pursue her first love, nursing, and at the time of her death she was employed at Hopewell Nursing Home and Windsor Manor. She was knowledgeable, caring, diligent and a reliable nurse assistant at these facilities. Levola loved her job, co-workers and clients. She will be remembered as a kind, caring and devoted daughter, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, cousin, niece and friend. Levola is survived by one son, Andre Lamont Wheeler (Roshanda) of Wilmington, Del.; three grandchildren, Dajah, Maurice and DreShawn; three brothers, Pete Peterson Jr. (Harriette) of Detroit, Mich., Hayward and Larry Peterson of Apex, N.C.; three sisters, Maggie Peterson Thomas (William) of Garner, N.C., Gloria Peterson of Raleigh, N.C., and Pamela Peterson Harris (Cydric) of Clovis, N.M.; six nieces, Kendra Brown of Newark, N.J., Kimberly Peterson of East Orange, N.J., Dr. Cherisse Thomas of Greenville, N.C., Alexandria Harris, Anastazia Harris of Clovis and Alisa Thornton (Keith) of Memphis, Tenn.; one nephew, Christopher Wiggins (Tameka) of Houston, Texas; four aunts, Pearlina Peterson Nixon, Evelina Peterson Farmer and Linnie Pack Carryall of Sumter and Minnie Pack Nelson (William) of Hampton, Va.; several grandnieces and -nephews; and a host of cousins, other relatives and friends. Viewing will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday at Job’s Mortuary. Funeral services will be held at 12:30 p.m. Sunday at Goodwill Presbyterian Church USA, 295 N. Brick Church Road, Mayesville, with the Rev. Richard Baxter, pastor, officiating, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Franklin D. Colclough. Burial will be in the Goodwill Cemetery. The body will be placed in the church at 11:30 a.m. Sunday. The family will be receiving friends at 22 S. Wise Drive, Sumter. Job’s Mortuary Inc., 312 S. Main St., Sumter, is in charge of arrangements. Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at [jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com](http://jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com).



WHEELER