

Church/Community

OBITUARIES

Billy Mercer Davis

Mr. Billy Mercer Davis, 77, of Black Ankle Ln., Blue Ridge, Ga., formerly of Woodstock, Ga., died Feb. 26, 2007 at his home following an extended illness.



Mr. Davis was born Oct. 30, 1929 in Davisboro, Ga., the son of Gladys Mercer Davis and the late W.L. Davis. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force of WWII. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and also was a Shriner.

Surviving Mr. Davis are his loving wife of 24 years, Cynthia Howell Davis of Blue Ridge; mother, Gladys Davis of Jacksonville, Fla.; daughters, Julian Davis Cairns of Australia, Muffett Ann Ripley of Lakeland, Fla.; son, Douglas Alan Davis of Roswell, Ga.; stepdaugh-

ter, Candace Martel of Woodstock; brother, Larry Davis; sisters, Betty Taylor, Ivelyn Davis and Frances Wallis, all of Jacksonville; grandchildren, Alexes Ripley, Kaleigh and Samantha Martel; many other relatives and friends also survive.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, March 3, 2007 at 4 p.m. from the Mountain View Funeral Home chapel with Dr. Phillip Meeks officiating. In lieu of flowers if you wish, the family requests that memorials may be made to United Hospice in Mr. Davis's memory.

Mountain View Funeral Home of Blairsville in charge of the arrangements. You may sign the family guest book and send condolences on line at www.mountainviewfuneralhome.com.

Mabel B. Goss

Mrs. Mabel B. Goss, 95, of Lakeside Drive, Blairsville, Ga., formerly of Newcomers Town, Ohio, died Thursday, March 1, 2007 in the Union County Nursing Home following an extended illness.



Mrs. Goss was born Dec. 21, 1911 in Helena, Ark., the daughter of the late Harry Menefee and the late Arabelle Menefee. She had lived in Cleveland, Ohio, New Jersey and Atlanta, and had lived in Blairsville since 1993. Mrs. Goss was a loving and great mother and grandmother. She was preceded in death by a brother, John Winfield Menefee.

Surviving Mrs. Goss are daugh-

ters and son-in-law, Patricia and Harry Williams of Blairsville, Nancy A. Eberhardt of Westerville, Ohio; nine grandchildren; many other relatives and friends also survive.

A private family memorial service was held. In lieu of flowers if you wish, the family requests that memorials may be made to the Union County Nursing Home in Mrs. Goss's memory.

Mountain View Funeral Home of Blairsville in charge of the arrangements. You may sign the family guest book and send condolences on line at www.mountainviewfuneralhome.com

Ruby Mae Howell

Mrs. Ruby Mae Howell, 80, of Blairsville, Ga., died Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at Union General Hospital in Blairsville.



Mrs. Howell was born Thursday, July 22, 1926 in Harrison County, Miss., to the late Milton and Mollie Blaine Keyes. Ruby was a lifetime resident of Biloxi. She was a member of First Baptist Church, a Sunday School teacher, and member of Bykota Sunday School Class. Ruby was a member of the Azelea Garden Club and a resident of Seashore Manor in Bixoli. She had resided in Blairsville since 2004. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lee Howell.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Lee and Jane Howell of Evergreen, Colo.; daughter and son-in-law, Nancy And Warren Gillis of Blairsville; son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Melanie

Howell of Denver, Colo.; brother, Jim Keys of New Orleans, La.; grandchildren, Trudi Crow, Andrew Gillis, Cody Howell, Zach Howell, Steve Fava and Bijan Arasteh.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 2, 2007 at 10 a.m. from the Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home Chapel in Biloxi. Interment followed in Serenity Gardens in Biloxi.

The family received friends at the Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Biloxi Thursday evening from 6 until 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations may be made to the Parkinson's Association.

Arrangements entrusted to the Cochran Funeral Home of Blairsville, Georgia. You may send condolences to the family and sign the guest register at www.cochranfuneralhomes.com.

Norman Charles Riggs

Mr. Norman Charles Riggs, 80, of Blue Ridge Hwy., Blairsville, Ga., died Friday, March 2, 2007 at his home following an extended illness.



Mr. Riggs was born July 27, 1926 in Philadelphia, Penn., the son of the late Marshall Riggs and the late Henrietta Sutcliffe Riggs. He was the owner and operator of Auto Friends Inc. for over 15 years. Mr. Riggs was an Elder, Deacon and Choir member of the Roxborough and the Mountain Presbyterian church.

Surviving Mr. Riggs is his loving wife of 60 years, Dorothy Landis Riggs of Blairsville; sons and daughters-in-law, Norman Kenneth and Pamela Riggs of Toms River, N.J., Glen and Mary Riggs of Harleysville, Penn.; daughters and

sons-in-law, Elaine and Daniel Moss of Blairsville, Melanie and Joseph DelBorrello of Gilbertsville, Penn.; seven grandchildren, six great grandchildren, several nieces, nephews and many other relatives and friends also survive.

Memorial services were held Monday, March 5, 2007 at 11 a.m. from the Mountain Presbyterian Church with the Rev. K. Travis Adams officiating.

Interment will follow at a later date in the Westminster cemetery in Bala Cynwyd, Penn. In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorials may be made to Regency Hospice in Mr. Riggs' memory.

Mountain View Funeral Home of Blairsville in charge of the arrangements. You may sign the family guest book and send condolences on line at www.mountainviewfuneralhome.com

Miles Taylor

Mr. Miles Taylor, 66, of Cardinal Ln., formerly of Blairsville, Ga., died Friday, March 2, 2007 in the St. Josephs Hospital in Atlanta following an extended illness.



Mr. Taylor was born July 21, 1940 in Pikeville, Ky., the son of the late Lilburn Taylor and the late Hanna Stevens Taylor. He had worked for the American Spring & Steel in Ohio before moving to Blairsville about 12 years ago. Miles was a man who loved his children and who his children dearly loved him. He was preceded in death by brothers, Marshall, Paul and Martin Taylor; and sister, Ruth Taylor. Mr. Taylor was of the Baptist faith.

Surviving Mr. Taylor are daughters and son-in-law, Brenda and Gary Twiggs of Blue Ridge, Ga., Mindy Taylor of Blairsville; sons and daughters-in-law, Matt and Sonia Taylor of Blairsville, Mike and Pam Taylor of Rootstown, Ohio; brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Pauletta Taylor of Millstone, Ky.; sisters and brothers-in-law, Viola and Dennis Short of Corygon, Ind., Vina Blair of

Vanworth, Ohio, Shirley and Jesse Rose of Dry Ridge, Ky., Wanda Taylor of Molten, Ga., Lucy and Ronnie Smith of Sandy Hook, Ky.; grandchildren, Logan, Chelsea, Leanna, Deven, Chris, Shane, Kyle, Nikki and Tori; many other relatives and friends also survive.

Funeral services were held Monday, March 5, 2007 at 2 p.m. from the funeral home chapel with the Rev. Waymon Lovell, Rev. Charles Abernathy and Rev. Earl Pickelsimer officiating. Special music was presented by Charles Abernathy and Dorothy Pickelsimer. Pallbearers were Brent Long, Jeff, Donnie and Jonathan Fortenberry, Tony Long, Chris Hampton and David Hughes. Honorary pallbearers were Donald Fortenberry, Bryan Long, Bobby Taylor, Steve, Raymond and Charles Long. Interment will follow in the Jones Cemetery.

Mountain View Funeral Home of Blairsville in charge of the arrangements. You may sign the family guest book and send condolences on line at www.mountainviewfuneralhome.com.

Bruce Raymond Tuthill

Mr. Bruce Raymond Tuthill, 81, of Anchorage Dr., Blairsville, Ga., died Monday, Feb. 26, 2007 in the Kennestone Hospital in Marietta following an extended illness.



Mr. Tuthill was born Jan. 2, 1926 in Mattituck, N.Y., the son of the late Raymond Elisha Tuthill and the late Ann Luce Tuthill. He retired from Grumman Aircraft Company in 1986 with over 20 years of service. He was a veteran of the Merchant Marines of WWII. While living in New York, he was a Boy Scout Leader, a member of the Volunteer Fire Dept. and also was a Deacon of his church. He loved the water and loved boating, and at one time he was a BoatMaster. Bruce loved helping others any way that he could. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Gloria and by a brother Austin Tuthill. Mr. Tuthill was a member of the Antioch Baptist Church.

Surviving Mr. Tuthill is his loving wife, Joan Tuthill of Blairsville; son, Rick Spector of Land O Lakes, Fla.; mother in law, K. Muriel Jefferson of Blairsville;

brother and sister-in-law, Jeff and Pam Jefferson of Hiawasee; close friends, the Nine Family of Florida; two great friends and prayer warriors, Jack Richards of Texas and John Nicely of Clearwater, Fla.; several cousins, many other relatives and friends also survive.

Funeral services will be held Friday, March 2, 2007 at 2 p.m. from the Antioch Baptist Church with the Rev. George Cline and Rev. Jerry Helton officiating. Special music was presented by Ted and Joy Noelle. Pallbearers were Doug Centin, Bob Hutchinson, Carl Buser, Bill Turnage, Brian Brewer and Bobby Warren. Interment followed in the church cemetery with the North Georgia Honor Guard conducting military honors. In lieu of flowers if you wish, the family requests that memorials may be made to the House of Prayer church Missions, Myong Paik.

Mountain View Funeral Home of Blairsville in charge of the arrangements. You may sign the family guest book and send condolences on line at www.mountainviewfuneralhome.com.

i-SAFE

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Internet experiences safe and responsible. The goal is to educate students on how to avoid dangerous, inappropriate, or unlawful online behavior. *i-SAFE* accomplishes this through dynamic K-12 curriculum and community outreach programs to parents, law enforcement, and community leaders.

Wallace said that it is important to think about what you have discussed with your children regarding their internet activity, including topics such as sharing personal information online, conducting financial transactions online, meeting new people online, protecting your computer from harmful programs, appropriate and inappropriate places to visit, and online manners.

"Do we know without a doubt that our children are fully equipped with the knowledge they need to recognize what is appropriate and what is not appropriate when it comes to their communication on the internet," Wallace asked. She acknowledged that while the internet is an amazing tool, dangers lurk in cyberspace. While certain software can help block offensive material, Wallace pointed out that tech savvy youngsters often know how to bypass these safety measures. It is not a failsafe, as it can allow some inappropriate stuff though while accidentally blocking some appropriate things.

Wallace introduced featured speaker Bob Williams, a teacher at Union County Middle School who has three children of his own in the school system. "Mr. Williams has been instrumental in bringing this much needed *i-SAFE* program into the school for our parents and the community, and is working to incorporate the curriculum to each grade appropriate level for our students," Wallace said.

Williams explained that the *i-SAFE* curriculum is available for students in K-12 and is free. He became certified in the *i-SAFE* program through online courses consisting mostly of videos. "For me to know about this is important, but for all parents to know is just as important," Williams said. He explained that the course can be very valuable for educating parents in particular, as one of the biggest issues with keeping children safe online is the fact that many parents are often hesitant to discuss the internet with their children due to a lack of understanding about.

But he offered a practical analogy for giving a child free roam in cyberspace. "How many of you would just tell your children to jump in the car and take off," Williams asked. He said that while most people would laugh at the idea of allowing a child to do that, many parents essentially do allow their children to get on the internet and go without any guidance or teaching.

Williams said that another hurdle to overcome is the fact that students are often hesitant to have their parents get involved in a program such as *i-SAFE*, out of fear that their computer privileges may be overly restricted or taken away completely. "That is not our goal," Williams said, asking the audience not to go overboard in the process. He reiterated that the major goal of the *i-SAFE* program is simply to train parents in how to deal with their children regarding the internet.

Even in families where parents do believe they have firmly established rules regarding the internet, the message does not always get across to children.

One *i-SAFE* survey found that 92 percent of parents said they have established rules for internet use in their home, yet only 60 percent of the kids say they have internet rules at home. That disconnect means that more than one in three children do not believe that there are internet rules in their home, leaving them even more vulnerable to potential predators.

In regards to the process in which an internet predator selects a victim, Williams said that it often begins with loneliness. As children who are entering their teens years are often exploring who they are and are searching for someone who they feel understands them, they become even more vulnerable to an internet predator. "If you don't talk to your kids, someone will," Williams said. "Especially if they have an internet connection."

Once a predator begins talking to a victim, they can develop trust by exploiting conflicts between children and their parents, classmates, or other relationships. As the relationship progresses, it often moves from a chatroom to instant messenger and email. At this point the predator may begin to send inappropriate photos to the child. While it may be shocking at first, as the interaction continues the child can become desensitized to it. If the predator can successfully entice the child into sending some compromising photo of himself, then they can use it to basically blackmail them into doing what they want. The ultimate goal is to bring about a face-to-face meeting.

Surprisingly enough, one *i-SAFE* survey found that students as young as 3rd grade visited chatrooms. However, numbers were the highest in the middle school grades, where students were close to, but not yet at driving age. Williams said that in polling his own 8th grade classes at UCMS, he found that more than one third of them spent between 6-12 hours per week on the internet. While fewer of his 6th and 7th graders spent that much time on the internet, Williams said that some of his 6th grade students acknowledged having accounts on *Myspace*, a popular virtual community that allows users to create profiles and network with other people on the internet.

Myspace requires that users be at least 14-years-old, but has no means of verifying a person's age. When Williams asked his 6th graders with accounts how they obtained their account, they only grinned, reaffirming what he already knew, that all they had to do was lie about their age. When he asked them how they knew who they were talking to or that they could be safe, they replied that *Myspace* only allows them to talk to other children between the ages of 14-16. Williams then posed the obvious question, that if they could lie about their age and get away with it, what would stop an adult from lying about their age to pose as 14-year-old as well? He said that they seemed as though they had never even considered that possibility.

This innocent view of the world is a reminder of how naive a child can be, and how important of a role parents play in educating their children about the dangers on the internet.

For more information about *i-SAFE*, log on to www.isafe.org or for more details on becoming involved in the local partnership with *i-SAFE*, contact Bob Williams at the Union County Middle School.

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