

## Obituaries

## Samuel Duncan

Samuel Henry Duncan Sr., 68, of Mooresville, died Tuesday, July 24, 2001, at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center.

Born Oct. 3, 1942 in Marion to the late James Monroe Duncan Sr. and Flossie Norris Duncan, he worked at Superba Print Works for 10 years.

Mr. Duncan is survived by two sons, Sam H. Duncan Jr. and Larry D. Duncan, both of Mooresville; his wife, Brenda Dishman, Roberts of Mooresville; a granddaughter and a nephew.

Three brothers, Buck, Frank and James Duncan, and a sister, Pauline, preceded him in death.

Private memorial services will be held for the Duncan family.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Iredell County, 403 E. Statesville Ave., Mooresville, N.C., 28115.

## Thelma Torrence

Thelma Overcash, Torrence, 78, of Lincoln Nursing Center in Alexis, died Monday, July 23, 2001 at her residence.

A native of Iredell County, she was a daughter of the late Fred C. and Beulah Sloop Overcash. Mrs. Torrence was a homemaker and a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Alexis.

She was married to William Torrence, who preceded her in death.

A brother, Fred Taylor Overcash, and her stepmother, Oleta Ketchie Overcash, also preceded her in death.

## Huntersville police step up efforts on Sam Furr Road

An effort to reduce automobile accidents on N.C. 73 (Sam Furr Road) in Huntersville is underway by the town's police department.

The department kicked off "Operation Sam Furr" this week, focusing on the stretch of road between N.C. 115 and Catawba Avenue. It's the most congested stretch of Sam Furr Road, with 406 accidents reported there between Jan. 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001. Causes of the wrecks were speeding, following too closely, failure to reduce speed to avoid traffic crash, fail-

ing to yield the right of way and inattention.

Huntersville police are handing out flyers containing driving tips and other safety information, hoping to reduce the number of accidents. Also, officers are patrolling in marked and unmarked cars and issuing citations for driving violations. Police plan to patrol Sam Furr Road during peak days and times for traffic crashes: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Mrs. Torrence is survived by five sisters, Lucy Ward and Marie Cook, both of Mooresville; Betty Bently of Kannapolis; Patricia Cruise of Huntersville and Nellie Johnson of Alexis; five brothers, Homer and David Overcash, both of Mooresville, Robert Overcash of Troutman, Billy Overcash of Cornelius and Max Overcash of Missouri; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, July 26, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Alexis. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Zion Baptist Church Sanctuary Fund, 2151 Mt. Zion Church Road, Alexis, N.C., 28006 or to Hospice of Lincoln County.

## Bernice Campbell

Bernice Young Campbell, 84, of Mooresville, died Sunday, July 22, 2001 at Forsyth Medical Center.

She was born Jan. 14, 1917 in Mooresville daughter of Sam "Buster" and Mary C. Byers Young.

Mrs. Campbell was married to Sam Campbell, who preceded her in death.

She is survived by a son, Dr. Samuel Vernon Campbell of Rockingham; two sisters, Vernice M. Gates of Washington, D.C. and Alice "Si" Graham of Mooresville; a brother, Clyde J. Young of Mooresville; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 26 at Jerusalem Baptist Church.

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## Education, 95 years ago

With school about to begin, Iredell historian O.C. Stonestreet III thought Tribune readers might like to see this 95-year-old photo from his archives. It shows the enrollment of St. James Episcopal Church Mission School in Shinnville, north of Mooresville, in 1906. The teacher was Miss Mary Hudson. The school is believed to have operated as sort of a "supplemental" school to the local public schools, holding classes during those times of year when public schools were out.



## New state official tries a 'more subtle' approach

By DANA DAMICO  
Media General News Service

RALEIGH — This time last year, Iredell's Frank Johnson wanted to be could fire off an angry letter to state officials complaining about one of his biggest pet peeves — litter strewn along the state's roadways.

But as one of 19 political appointees to the high-profile N.C. Board of Transportation, the blunt-talking Johnson has been learning to soften his approach.

"It's political etiquette," said Johnson, a friend and former college buddy of Gov. Mike Easley Johnson was sworn as a board member on March 15. "You really don't get to say a lot."

In interviews, Johnson is careful not to take positions on controversial political issues by saying that he is a representative of the governor. And he is mindful of tips that state transportation officials offered board members for talking with reporters.

But the Statesville businessman's direct personality still edges out when talking about his position on the board that sets policy and controls the

more than \$2 billion spent each year on road and public transportation projects.

From toll roads to political patronage, Johnson talks with a frankness that is unusual among many public officials.

"My wife will tell me, I have a hard time keeping my mouth shut," he said before joking that the effort has led to a scarred lip. "I about bit a hole through it."

Johnson was the second-highest contributor to Easley's campaign for governor last year among the transportation board members. Together with his wife, children and father, Johnson contributed \$24,100. He helped raise another \$1,500 for other political campaigns.

"I made a promise that I would raise this money," he said.

Johnson acknowledged that

**Frank Johnson**  
Iredell appointee to the N.C. Transportation Board

*'It's political etiquette ... You really don't get to say a lot. You get to say Please.'*

consider the idea, he said. He talked to board members past and present before pursuing it.

Easley's appointments were the first since the board was overhauled in 1998 in the wake of a series of scandals over political influence and conflict-of-interest problems some members had in road-building decisions.

The board was scaled back, five candidates were required to have specific expertise and appointees were required to disclose campaign contributions.

"It used to be the board was more powerful," Johnson said. "The board was a real elite sort of group (in previous administrations). We're really, really restricted in what we can do."

Critics charge that despite the reforms, the board is still open to big donors. "It's a political system and there are favors passed back and forth," he said.

The monthly board meetings Johnson attends in Raleigh are only a "minor part" of his job, he said. The

bulk of his work takes place in the division where he fields calls from local officials and motorists. He refers to some motorists as "squeaking" or "screaming wheels" because they ask repeatedly to have their private roads paved.

Johnson says he responds to all calls, but he acknowledges that he works faster to help elected officials and others closely associated with state and local government.

With the state facing what some say is about \$1 billion in unmet highway needs, Johnson said he supports creation of toll roads. He dismisses charges by opponents who say that the pay-as-you-go roads are extra tax and discriminate against those who cannot afford the tolls.

"You pay for them if you use them. You don't pay for them if you don't," he said. The new roads would decrease maintenance costs and traffic congestion. "I think we're doing the poor people a service by building these toll roads."

Unlike the past, though, he has to use more discretion.

Dana Damico is a reporter for the Tribune's sister paper in Winston-Salem, the Journal.

## CPR, first aid courses on tap here

A community CPR course will be offered on Monday, Aug. 13 and Wednesday, Aug. 15 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the War Memorial building in Mooresville.

The course teaches rescue breathing, choking, and chest compressions for adults, infants, and children. Cost: \$42 for the full course and \$31 for adult CPR.

Also, a community first aid and safety course will be offered on Saturday, Aug. 25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the War Memorial.

For details on either course, or to register, call (704) 664-4908.

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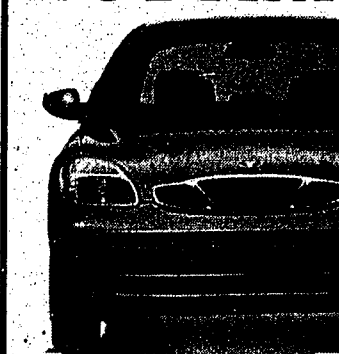
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Air-Shift Alarm/Remote Entry	Yes	Accessory	\$429	Remote Entry only	Remote Entry only
4-Wheel Disc Brakes	Yes	Front Disc only	Front Disc only	Front Disc only	Front Disc only
Fog Lamps	Yes	Accessory	\$60	Accessory	Accessory
Splash Guards	Yes	Accessory	\$60	Accessory	Accessory
Air Conditioning	\$700	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convenience Pkg. (for Value Pkg.)	\$560	—	\$1,090	\$1,090	\$1,090
Destination Charge	\$430	\$440	\$455	\$455	\$455
Compassability-Dependent Price	\$13,545	\$13,529	\$13,579	\$13,579	\$13,579
Difference Over Dealer	—	\$2,716	\$2,450	\$1,565	\$1,565

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