



Last weekend's predictions of accumulations of 5 to 10" of snow didn't happen in the lower elevations of Macon County. However, those who were not content to stay home and let the snow come to them could drive a few short miles up to Wayah Bald or west on Highway 64 toward Hayesville to find the snow. Forecasts for the coming week predict seasonal January temperatures with not a snowflake in sight.

Photo by Betsey Gooder

MCPH will no longer identify COVID clusters

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

With positive COVID19 cases reaching an all time high over the weekend in North Carolina, the Macon County Department of Public Health announced Monday that they will no longer be providing the public with information regarding clusters identified within the county.

"We simply do not have the nursing and support staff to do the disease detective work required to identify where individuals contracted the virus," said Health Director Kathy McGaha. "It is not as simple as editing a press release. It takes a team of staff to do the work required to do that reporting and, we simply do not have the capacity needed."

According to the health department, due to the amount of community spread in Macon County, it is no longer epidemiologically possible to designate one business, gathering, etc. as being the sole producer of a cluster.

Contact tracing is the only way to identify clusters in the community. In order to identify a cluster, the Macon County Public Health's Communicable Disease Nurse must look at every positive case, their contacts, and their travel history

and determine if there is any plausible epidemiologic linkage between the cases then, determine if this qualifies as a cluster. This type of detective work can consume hours of nurse time for a single case.

"Macon County is seeing a continued surge of COVID-19 positive individuals as a result of holiday gathering," said Health Director, Kathy McGaha. "This surge is affecting the entire community, including businesses, churches, agencies, etc. We need the community to do everything they can to slow the surge of COVID-19 by wearing their mask, avoid in-person social gatherings, and when it is your turn – get vaccinated."

Updating commissioners about the current COVID19 situation in Macon County, McGaha said that the public should consider staying home whenever possible at this point in the pandemic to slow the spread of the virus.

"The public should assume that the virus is everywhere," said McGaha. "If you go out in public at this point, you should assume you have been exposed."

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Cold for a Cause this weekend at Franklin Plaza

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Cory McCall, co-owner of Outdoor 76, and Becky Ramey, realtor, have volunteered to brave cold temperatures for this year's 48-hour Cold for a Cause. McCall and Ramey will each spend 24 hours in the bucket of a crane parked at Franklin Plaza as a way to encourage citizens to drop off donations of coats, blankets, canned foods, sleeping bags, and personal hygiene items for distribution to needy families in Macon County.

"I am really thankful to be a part of this. It's a great thing for our community," said Ramey, who will start out in the crane bucket and then vacate it for McCall. "I'm currently on the board at CareNet, and I told them a while ago that I would do it. I was built for cold weather so I hope I will be okay. I will be there from Friday through

Saturday."

While Cold for a Cause has been in a few different locations in the past, the decision was made to hold the event in Franklin Plaza because "more traffic comes through there, plus people can pop into Burkes or Big Lots and buy what they need to donate," said Tim Hogsed, Macon County CareNet director.

During the 48-hour-donation time for Cold for a Cause, which begins Friday, Jan. 15, at noon and ends Sunday, Jan. 17 at noon, volunteers will be available to help people with donations as they drive up. Volunteers will wear masks and hand sanitize due to COVID-19.

Annually, more than 6,000 pieces of clothing and blankets, and close to 10,000 pounds of food and personal care products are donated during the event. Cold for a Cause is one of CareNet's most important activities

that generates not only needed items but awareness of all that CareNet does for the community.

"We are grateful for whatever we get this year," said Hogsed. "As the need goes up, God always provides for us. I would like to see more given so we can give more. We want to always make sure people are taken care of. Whatever is given stays in Macon County. People who give are helping their direct neighbors."

This past year especially, due to the pandemic, CareNet's services have been in greater demand, explained Hogsed. The organization fed 15,474 people

in 2020 with 512,586 pounds of food, compared to 305,491 pounds of food required to feed families in 2019. Also, children, even when schooling at home, received free lunches. "And we sent backpacks on the buses and are still doing the backpack program," said Hogsed. "Backpacks go out every Tuesday that are filled with foods that children can fix on their own."

He added, "We've had to change the way we do things, but people are getting more food now than they did before. And we anticipate 2021 to continue to have great needs. We are really having a hard time getting canned goods right now, so

we really need those, but also warm clothes and blankets. Instead of keeping everything here at CareNet, we are getting them to the volunteer fire departments so they can get them out to the people who need them. They are helping with the food boxes and the distribution and making it more efficient and easier for people to get items."

Hogsed explained that so many people make Cold for a Cause a success each year.

"Joe Sanders always provides the crane and his time and we appreciate it so much. We're going on the 12th year now." And although many regular donors to CareNet choose to remain anonymous, Hogsed shared that many individuals and businesses, including Winding Stair Farms, Appalachian Ace Hardware, and "many more" have gone "above and beyond to make sure people are taken care of," he said.

"It's good to see that in a time of crisis this community always comes together."



During last year's Cold for a Cause, CareNet director Tim Hogsed took a turn in the bucket.



At left is Joe Sanders who for many years has supplied the crane that holds the Cold for a Cause bucket suspended in the air. At right is Farm Bureau agent Patrick Jenkins who instigated the Cold for a Cause tradition of collecting donations for the needy more than a decade ago, spending a January weekend in the bucket in all kinds of weather.



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Macon County Sheriff's office assists in apprehending fugitive

Brittney Lofthouse - Staff Writer

The Macon County Sheriff's Office was called to assist the Clay County Sheriff's Office last Thursday after a suspect with known warrants fled during an attempted traffic

stop. Clay County deputies identified the subject driving a Toyota Forerunner in the Downings Creek Road area as Benjamin Dann Owens, who had active arrest warrants from Swain, Clay, and Buncombe counties as well as in Georgia.

When Clay County Sheriff's deputies initiated the vehicle stop, Owens accelerated at a high rate of speed traveling east on Highway 64. As deputies continued to pursue the vehicle east toward Macon County, a Macon County deputy was in position at the county line to deploy spike strips. Owens was considered armed and dangerous and was reported to be driving at speeds of 105 mph.

Owens avoided the spike strips and continued into Macon County. As the suspect was approaching the area of Winding Stairs Gap overlook, he lost control of the vehicle and went off the embankment of the west bound lane. When his vehicle came to a stop he fled on foot into the woods.

Clay County and Macon County deputies, as well as NC State Highway Patrol were able to set up a perimeter and keep him contained.

Macon County Sheriff's Office K9 units were able to track



Owens lost control of his vehicle and ended up off an embankment in the area near Winding Stairs Gap overlook. In the foreground is an overturned box of ammunition.



Deputies apprehended Benjamin Dann Owens following a high speed chase, a vehicle rollover and a foot chase. Owens was transported to Mission hospital and later released into the custody of Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Owens and narrowed down his location where they were able to take him into custody without further incident. Owens was transported to Mission Hospital and was later released to the custody of Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Highway 64 was temporarily closed on January 7 due to firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition that were spilled near the road as a result of the accident.

Current and pending arrest warrants for Owens:

Buncombe County: order for fugitive from probation violation.

Swain County: assault on a female, hit and

run, assault with a deadly weapon.

Macon County: driving while impaired, felony flee/elude arrest.

Clay County: felony flee/elude arrest, felony possession of marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver marijuana, maintain a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, 5 counts of possession of firearm by felon, trafficking in methamphetamine, trafficking opium or heroin.

Owens is currently being held at the Haywood County Detention Center under a \$5 million secured bond and given a court date of Jan. 25, 2021.

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COLD FOR A CAUSE
January 15-17
Franklin Plaza

COVID UPDATE

Continued from page 1

Like other counties in the state, the health department's phone system crashed on Monday with too many calls from the public attempting to schedule testing appointments as well as appointments to receive the COVID19 vaccine.

According to McGaha, the health department has more than 700 voicemails needing to be returned that will likely not be answered due to the staff being overwhelmed. McGaha said the county could double her existing staff and it still wouldn't be enough to handle the current need within the health department to serve the public during the pandemic.

With 15 phone lines dedicated to scheduling appointments from the public, the phone lines remain busy and ultimately crashed Frontier on Monday. To address the current surge of COVID19 cases in Macon County, the health department announced efforts to expand testing and vaccination efforts late Tuesday evening.

"Macon County remains in Phase 1B, Group 1 for vaccination at this time. This group includes those who are 75 years of age or older, regardless of health status," said a press release. "Macon County Public Health will expand COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Clinics beginning Jan. 19, as follows:

- Monday and Thursday – COVID-19 Testing 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.;
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – COVID-19 Vaccination

10 a.m – 3 p.m."

Those who are eligible under this phase and wish to receive a vaccination, can call (828)349-2517, Option 2 to begin the registration process. Also, anyone who needs to schedule an appointment for testing can call (828)349-2517, Option 1. The health department requests that the community not call to schedule vaccinations until your phase is announced.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners released

Cabe informed commissioners that his department is assisting the health department whenever possible by sending paramedics to help with vaccinations and testing.

Macon County Emergency Management will be hosting a drive-thru COVID19 clinic in the Nantahala Community on Jan. 19 for anyone who believes they may have been exposed to COVID19. The clinic will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. or until tests are no longer available. The clinic will be held at the Macon County EMS Base at 1096 Junaluska Road, Topton.

Cabe informed commissioners that area hospitals are nearing capacity and as a result, Macon County ambulance services are seeing an extended wait time in offloading patients at area emergency rooms.

According to Cabe, there have been 25 recent occasions where ambulances have had to wait longer than 25 minutes at a hospital before the hospital was able to accept the patient from the ambulance into the hospital. Cabe noted that when the county issued an emergency directive at the start of the pandemic, it did so to avoid the issues they are currently facing.

With COVID19 patients being hospitalized at alarming rates, hospitals are reaching capacity and do not have space to care for other emergencies such as heart attacks or car accidents.

Cabe said the county is currently managing, but he is concerned and monitoring it closely.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners will be meeting again on Feb. 4 at which point McGaha and Cabe will provide an update on the current COVID19 status in Macon County.

Macon County Public Health

Daily COVID-19 Update

Today's Date and Time: January 12, 2021 at 4:00pm

Total COVID-19 Tests Reported to Macon County Public Health	14,165	Macon County COVID-19	
<small>This number reflects all the COVID-19 tests performed in Macon County that have been reported to Macon County Public Health by private physicians, hospitals, and other area health facilities performing COVID-19 testing.</small>		Total Cases	2142
Number Tested at Macon County Public Health Department	8,097	Active Positive	623
		Recovered	1507
		Deaths	12

WNC Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

Since Jan. 6, Macon County Public Health Department has logged 279 new COVID-19 cases with 125 more recovered. No additional deaths have been attributed to the virus.

\$100,000 in funds set aside for pandemic related expenses to the health department during their monthly meeting. In addition, they also approved allowing overtime pay for salaried nurses within the health department in order to expand hours to better serve the community.

Macon County Emergency Service Management Warren

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Many local businesses faring well in pandemic

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Small businesses, “provide half of all private sector jobs in the U.S. and an even larger percentage in many underserved communities,” according to a “Real Impacts of COVID-19 on Small Business” report relating to recent “Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business” research. Although some small businesses throughout the United States have been shuttered because of the pandemic’s lingering economic impact, many small businesses in Macon County reported best year-end totals at the close of 2020 – and oth-

they might need, and seriously will take back items that are not working for them,” said Abraham.

“I love the customer service aspect,” said a Kitchen Sink Inc. customer who declined to share her name. “I would rather shop in a small store, learn about the products directly from the owners, and know that my money is supporting the continuation of that business, instead of shopping at big chain stores. Plus, shopping at a small business is more of an experience. It was on my bucket list to come into this store one day and just spend as much time as I wanted looking at everything and asking questions.”

“I think most of us on Main Street have just tried to do all we can to best serve the locals and guests that have been coming in like we always have,” said Rob Gasbaro, co-owner of Outdoor 76. “We’ve been very fortunate to see the total blended traffic numbers not drop, despite most downtown events being cancelled.”

Abraham observed, “This pandemic has definitely made people look first at local businesses before they shop at big places and in other cities, such as Asheville or Atlanta. There are many people who genuinely want to support us.”

Reale and his wife have determined, due to sales of higher-end items, such as Dutch ovens, knife sets, and the Le Creuset brand of enameled cast-iron cookware, that many people “must not be traveling as much and are instead interested in spending disposable dollars equipping their kitchens with quality items.”

“Our holiday sales were good,” said Martha Holbrook, owner of Mossy Rock.

“The community, seasonal/visitors were very supportive. Many made the statement that they were shopping local with small businesses because they wanted to make sure we survived and because they enjoyed the atmosphere of the smaller shops.”

Suzanne Harouff, owner of Books Unlimited, shared, “My holiday sales were up by 10%, thanks to locals and visitors both. When you have books and puzzles, everyone loves you! I believe that the public has finally realized the importance of small business and the impact it has on home and



A sign on the sidewalk near Mossy Rock says, “I am not a shopaholic, I am simply helping the economy,” that seems to echo a sentiment at least in spirit of both local and visiting customers.
 Photos by Vickie Carpenter

ers are pleased that numbers have remained consistently elevated. Several local business owners relate positive gains to heightened local support as well as patronage from visitors and seasonal residents.

“Twenty-twenty was definitely one of our best years in terms of sales,” said Bill Abraham, who co-owns Mountain Valley Health Foods with Sandy Ochsner. “We will have been in business 25 years this May and, yes, the curbside business we did for a short time was very hard – in terms of trying to fill orders and the logistics involved – but our customers have been incredibly understanding throughout this whole thing and I think they see how good our customer service is so they want to continue to support us.”

Rob Reale, owner with his wife, Brooke Reale, of Kitchen Sink Inc., said, “We were up 20 to 25% every month, and we had some really high dollar days in December and even into the first week of January. The locals have definitely been in here. And while they may have ‘discovered’ us and purchased items and gifts for others, they have come back to purchase for themselves.”

Reale and his wife relocated from Florida and purchased Kitchen Sink Inc. two years ago from former owners; he was an electrician and she was in the medical field. “We have no regrets,” he said. “We love owning this business and have not had to close during this pandemic or apply for any COVID government assistance.”

Reale and other business owners believe locals are more intentional about supporting area businesses because they want the small town feel of Franklin to continue and because of the ability of small businesses to provide an intimate shopping experience and stellar customer service.

“We educate customers on our products, look for what

community. The appreciation from my customers, just because I was open and still here, is very humbling. I always thought I was essential! It’s nice to know that other people think I am, too.”

Holbrook and other owners did not discount the fact that 2020 had its challenges.

“Closing for a month, canceling events ... there have been losses. But we are still here; [locals and visitors] can still shop local in our small businesses and find specialty items for gifts or themselves.”

“I don’t know a business owner in our community who wasn’t terrified in late March 2020,” said Gasbaro. “We’re on an island in the fact that we’re one of few



Many small businesses on Main Street in Franklin and throughout Macon County are appreciative of support from locals, visitors, the Town, and organizations like the Chamber of Commerce.

businesses in the community that rely on concentrated revenue in March-April from AT hikers. They make up a considerable part of our annual revenue and we missed literally the entire season from end-to-end. We lost every nickel of that. However, I wouldn't say for us that 2020 as a whole presented horribly challenging business conditions. By June we quickly realized that we were in an open state - and fortunately in a place where people wanted to get away to. So where we missed all of our AT hiker traffic, the influx of visitors made up for some of that as the year went on."

Hannah Edwards, owner with her husband Alan Edwards, of Yonder, reflected on the hardship of seeing their young, but thriving restaurant face immediate challenges due to the spring 2020 shelter-in-place governmental mandate that resulted in their closing. However, the Edwards quickly transitioned into an online and then brick-and-mortar locally sustainable food market.

"What was such a challenge turned out to be a blessing ... a true gift," said Hannah Edwards. "Our numbers have



Rob and Brooke Reale, owners of The Kitchen Sink have sought to provide its customers with exceptional service that brings them back again and again.

been up for these past several months. Having to close Yonder and opening online and in our new location as a market was the best thing that happened to us."

Small business owners have also expressed appreciation for various organized efforts, and support from the Town of Franklin and the Chamber of Commerce.

"The Main Street merchants (Streets of Franklin) worked together to provide things like a DJ playing music on select Saturdays, decorations, balloons on the street, some local artist/vendors in front of our stores to help bring some cheer and joy to the streets," said Holbrook.

"Winter Wonderland, the fall festival ... everyone did a good job putting on and promoting these events, and the work paid off," said Reale.

"The repurposing of Pickin on the Square funds to decorate Town Square was brilliant. I have zero doubt that the ROI on those dollars were astronomically higher than what



Proprietors of the Dusty Pallet on Main Street Matt and Gwen Taylor have been instrumental in getting shoppers to come downtown by heading up the Streets of Franklin organization.

weekend concerts would have yielded," said Gasboro.

"We will continue to work hard to keep our businesses and our downtown alive," said Holbrook.

Gasboro agreed.

"All in all, for us 2020 was a year that we never want to see a repeat of. We're grateful to have made it out as a healthy business and more importantly we don't see a very significant change to the economic complexion of our community. If we don't see any more disruptions, you can maybe argue that some aspects of our local economy may come out of this pandemic stronger than we went in."

Franklin Chamber postpones its annual awards banquet

Franklin's Annual Awards Banquet is an evening to recognize and celebrate individuals and organizations for the work they have accomplished in the local community. Sometimes that may be for a certain year and other times for a lifetime of accomplishments. The 2020 nominations for Citizen of the Year, Duke Citizenship Award, Youth Citizen of the Year, Organization of the Year, and Chamber Member of the Year have been received and winners will be decided soon. Winners will be announced and awards presented later this year when the banquet can be rescheduled.

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to postpone the banquet until later in the year due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the restrictions set forth by the North Carolina governor.

"Our plans are to reschedule the banquet as soon as conditions allow. Invitations will be mailed and a notice in the local newspapers will announce the date. We look forward to celebrating these individuals and groups in the safest way possible," said Linda Harbuck, Franklin Chamber executive director.

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Applications being taken for energy assistance program

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has announced beginning this month, households can apply for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) online at www.epass.nc.gov.

Applying for these programs online is easy and convenient. Applicants can also call their county department of social services to apply by phone or print a paper application from www.epass.nc.gov to mail, fax or drop off at their county department of social services.

"We know that this is going to be a challenging winter for many families because of COVID-19," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "We want to make it as easy as possible for people to apply for help with their heating costs this winter while staying safe and socially distant."

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program is a seasonal program that provides for a one-time vendor payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills. LIEAP applications will be accepted until March 31 or until funds are exhausted. To be eligible for LIEAP, a household must:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria
- Have income equal to or less than 130% of the federal poverty limit
- Have resources, such as saving and checking accounts and cash on hand, at or below \$2,250
- Be responsible for their heating costs

The Crisis Intervention Program is a year-round program that assists individuals and families who are experiencing a heating or cooling related crisis. A household is considered in crisis if it is currently experiencing or is in danger of experiencing a life threatening or health related emergency and assistance is not available from another source. CIP applications will be accepted until June 30 or until funds are exhausted. To be eligible for CIP, a household must:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria
- Have income equal to or less than 150% of the federal poverty level
- Have an energy related crisis
- Have a utility statement that shows how much is owed to alleviate the crisis

For more information on these energy programs and eligibility, visit the CIP and LIEAP websites at:

- <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/low-income-energy-assistance>
- <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/crisis-intervention-program>

Rabbi to lead worship via Zoom at Mt. Synagogue

The pandemic has changed the way congregations are working to provide spiritual support to its membership with some shifting to Zoom worship, some sharing worship completely online, some meeting in person with social distancing. But not many congregations can say that a worship leader is joining them-albeit by Zoom and in January.

Rabbi Barry Altman of Ormond Beach, Fla., retired after 38 years at Temple Beth-El, but found that he wanted to stay active in congregational life after formal retirement. In consultation with the Board of Mountain Synagogue in Franklin, Rabbi Altman plans to provide services via Zoom from

January to July on some Friday nights and/or Saturday mornings. This was after what was described as "the best attendance we have had" following a December Zoom service.

Rabbi Altman is no stranger to part-time work. For the past five years since his retirement from Temple Beth-El, he has traveled once a month to provide in-person services for a congregation in Meridian, Miss. Prior to COVID, he would fly to Meridian for the weekend services, but now he and his wife, Nancy, prefer to drive.

The Mississippi congregation's part-time work runs from the High Holy Days (usually in September) through May.

Rabbi Altman grew up in the Borough of Bronx, New York City, graduated from both NYU and Columbia before attending Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, where he planned to pursue a PhD in Biblical Studies before "drifting into this rabbinic thing." During his first week of school, he was asked to go to Oklahoma to be the rabbi for the High Holy day services; he described this as an "incredible event" and realized that one should do what "makes you happy."

He also served as a substitute rabbi for a congregation in West Virginia in the coal mining counties during his time in Cincinnati. Five years later, upon graduation, he was called to be the associate rabbi for a large congregation in Miami, Fla., before eventually moving to Ormond Beach. But after 44 years in Florida, he says he has learned to love BBQ, gumbo and even can say, "y'all."



Rabbi Barry Altman will be leading worship for the congregation of Mountain Synagogue via Zoom beginning this Friday.

He is a teacher and serves on the faculty of Stetson University. This spring, he will offer courses in Intro to Judaism, Holocaust Theology and the American Jewish Experience. He plans to teach virtually although he said that Stetson has done "an excellent job" in keeping students and faculty safe. There have been only a few positive cases, but he feels that he should opt for virtual teaching this spring. "I love it," he said, referring to his time with students. "That's what a rabbi should be." He has even turned this love of teaching into an opportunity to teach on several cruise ships.

He hopes to continue this passion for teaching by offering courses with Mountain

Synagogue during the summer, probably online, in such areas as the true story of Anne Frank or the American Jewish contribution to literature.

"I want to do anything and everything that is helpful with Mountain Synagogue."

For this summer, Rabbi Altman and Nancy plan to rent a home somewhere between Waynesville and Franklin, and they are working with members of Mountain Synagogue to have some virtual "walk-thrus" of possible summer rentals. He is familiar with the area having come up to Cataloochee previously to ride horses.

Mountain Synagogue president Joel Edelson, said, "Rabbi Barry Altman brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him and we are so grateful to have him with us this year. We hope, if scheduling works out, to entertain the idea of a community interfaith event with our Interfaith Coalition, discussing a topic of broad interest and general appeal.

"While our lay leaders and previous spiritual leaders at Mountain Synagogue will continue to (and have done) an amazing job, there is something very exciting to have a rabbi, a trained professional, learned teacher, help conduct our services. We feel truly blessed, and honored, to welcome Rabbi Altman to Mountain Synagogue."

Mountain Synagogue's service will be this Friday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. The website for information about how to sign in for the Zoom service is mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

I wrote about COVID vaccination issues last week. Let me share what has happened since then. I've been following discussions on social media concerning how a program needs to be setup on the plateau. This week I was in discussions with folks from the Macon County Health Department, the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation and the Highlands Cashiers Hospital.

I want to salute Tom Neal, the Chief Executive Officer of the Highlands Cashiers Hospital for his leadership in working for a community vaccination program on the plateau. He has used his expertise in getting the ball moving.

Tom hosted a Zoom meeting on Monday afternoon that included folks from the Macon County Health Department, the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation, the Jackson County Health Department, the Highlands Pharmacy and the Highlands Cashiers Hospital. I represented the town of Highlands.

These folks form a core group for developing the program. Creating an offsite vaccination program will not be easy. There are a lot of moving parts that have to be brought into a systematic program. It can't be done overnight. This past Monday meeting was a start, and more will be scheduled.

The Macon County Health Department is the lead agency in this initiative. Like all county health departments, they are the entry point for shipments of vaccines to the county. So far, the health department has received limited deliveries from the state. The startup of the county program has been measured in that vaccines supplies for this first shot have to be balanced with doing a course of second doses. County health departments throughout the state have had to stretch their resources by having to quickly develop large vaccination programs and also provide other critical health services.

This week, Phase 1b got underway at the health department with vaccinations for folks 75 and older. Phase 1b at the health department is a drive-through process. Eligible people can call (828) 349-2517, the COVID call center, for information on how to register and schedule an appointment. At the present time vaccinations will be given on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 3 p.m.

The primary challenge for setting up a vaccination site

See TAYLOR page 11

Letters to the Editor

Mask wearing 101

The mask debate has become so ludicrous that many people falsely think it is "patriotic" or a "Christian gesture" to wear one. This reasoning is a complete lack of understanding when emotions rule the day. Everyone loves to quote the now compromised CDC, but never do people cite the May 2020 journal from the CDC on Emerging Infectious Disease or countless other verifiable studies concluding unequivocally that face masks do NOT stop the spread of Covid-19 and should not be relied on to do so. As in so many other instances in today's unprecedented times, truth has been swept under the rug in favor of collectivist groupthink and political control in the name of security. The virus is real, but is not as bad as we have been led to believe. By the numbers, the common flu is just as deadly to susceptible and elderly people, yet no one told the simpletons to fearfully shut down their lives in the past. (Even during the 1918 Spanish Flu outbreak, businesses remained open, and it was proven then that masks were only petri dishes for bacteria to collect in face moisture causing more people to become sick from pneumonia). For every study or politically motivated scientist/medical "expert" claiming certain information about the sky falling because of Covid-19 or that masks are effective, there are countless others in those same fields that are rejecting the bogus narratives. These people are being blatantly censored and demonized despite their very credible resumes and credible studies. Science is always evolving, yet this set of current circumstances obviously has sinister motivation behind it for anyone willing to search for truth and understand human nature. Mask wearing is conditioning the masses for more intrusion by a criminal federal government.

The CDC also estimates that today's mask compliance is at least 95% or higher, yet cases are still rising (although it has also been proven that many Covid-19 tests are false positives). So, masks are obviously NOT working and have become a mere security blanket for the virtue signaling crowd. Besides, most sincere observers realize that constantly adjusting a face mask with germ ridden hands or re-using masks actually defeats the purpose of wearing a mask to begin with. It is obvious that weak minded society is just going through the motions. Just following orders like good little socialists. It is time to stop wearing masks and get on with life. If a business or school requires you to wear a mask upon entering it, the magic words are "I have an exemption under the governor's mandate, and I am not required to reveal my medical privacy to you." Anyone can look this information up on the NC.gov Covid Orders website, but it clearly states we are NOT required to wear a mask based on exemptions. If a person is believ-

ing mainstream media propaganda without thinking for themselves, they should be ashamed at their lack of critical thinking. Mark Twain said it best, "It is easier to fool people than to convince them they have been fooled by others."

Furthermore, if we are to "follow the science," Christians would have to believe in evolution because that is what corrupt mainstream tells us. Yet, most true Christians reject evolution...for now. Modern Christians also falsely believe they are going the "extra mile" in wearing face masks, but in reality, they are promoting fear and lack of faith in God's sovereignty by not seeking absolute truth in the virus debate. The same is true for Christians who ignorantly believe in man-made global warming instead of the principles of Genesis. They are buying into man's fearmongering instead of God's authoritative Word. It is one thing to be a common sense conservationist and another to follow a cult of intrusive, fake virtue, environmentalism based on corruption. This same principle applies to masks and the bogus mainstream reasoning behind them.

As far as claims of "patriotism" by wearing masks, that is another lie altogether, but blindly following nonsense from corrupted "officials" is certainly NOT patriotism. In fact, Ron Paul accurately states that, "real patriotism is a willingness to challenge the government when it is wrong."

Don't take my word for it, Christians and patriots, do your own research to be set free from the bondage of lies, control, and manipulation. The truth is out there if people are willing to look beyond the mainstream hysteria and take all information back to foundations such as Holy Scripture and the US Constitution of what government's PROPER role should be. Government's role is NOT medical tyranny. I would also suggest reading the first chapter of the book, "Face Masks in One Lesson," by Allan Stevo. Wake up and seek truth.

Jim Gaston – Franklin, N.C.

'Old' veterans should be among first for shot

You know I understand the reasoning for giving all the front line personnel the shots first, they are in a position to be near the problem. I understand why they are giving the nursing homes the shots, they need to be cared for up front, but here's my gripe: Not a word on when us old veterans and I mean old, hell, I'm 90-plus.

You call the VA clinic, and they have no answer. You call the VA hospital in Asheville, and they have no answer either. I wonder if the nursing home at the VA hospital are getting their shots? I don't mind waiting, waiting, but at least someone in our government could think about this country's vets. We were there for them when they needed us, now it's the government's turn.

With respect,

William Trapani – Franklin, N.C.

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Animal cruelty should carry major penalties

I would like to address a subject that is so often ignored by politicians but is of a greater concern to us, the majority population. Animal cruelty. Everyday on the internet and on the news we hear about sickening and abusive treatment of defenseless and pitiful animals of every kind. Cats used as sacrifices, horses left without feed and water till they could not stand, dogs tied to a tree and left by their owner because he either tired of caring for the dog or unfortunately found it hard to afford to keep the animal.

Recently, an article appeared on the internet about a low life individual tying a concrete block to a dog's neck and throwing him in the river. Fortunately a passerby witnessed the act and dove in and saved the little dog. Although it's a subject revered by most people in this country, it is almost totally ignored by our politicians. Maybe it's time that the concerned population make it an issue with some of these do nothing politicians. It's time that animal cruelty becomes a major felony, with penalties severe enough to prevent a person from even thinking about committing an act of cruelty. Like five years minimum to 20 years for the really horrendous acts.

I hope there are others out there that think as I do and act rather than look the other way.

G.G. Puckett – Franklin, N.C.

Media has become corrupt mouthpiece for party line

When I was in college studying Civil Engineering, one of my favorite professors would talk about engineering excellence in treatment of sewerage by asking;

"If you have a 55 gallon drum of sewerage and add a tablespoon of water, what do you have?" The obvious answer is "Sewerage."

Then he would ask "If you have a 55 gallon drum of water and add a tablespoon of sewage what do you have?"

The answer is "the same thing" and when someone would argue the qualitative difference, he would ask, "Okay, then are you the one volunteering to drink it?"

Using this analogy on those advocating and enabling in any way the incorporating of the concepts of Socialism/Communism into America as opposed to the Liberty guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and Constitution, I would offer the perspective that the qualitative difference is very much like being slightly pregnant or slightly dead.

Either you are or you aren't.

Which way do you want to live? Ask those who fled to this country from Cuba, Venezuela, China, Russia, Laos, and Viet Nam about this question.

All of those Woke Folks who have blindly imbibed the Socialism sewerage Cool Aid, accepted and like hypnotized automatons daily regurgitate the deluge of Socialist/Communist propaganda continually pushed on this nation by the Lame Scream media have become Fellow Travelers and mouthpieces for the corrupt Socialist/Communist Democratic Party line, and yes, also the equally despicable and corrupt Republicans and Independents who have come out of the closet and shown their far Left bias and hatred for America by joining in the vitriolic rhetoric Pelosi, Schumer and their minions are putting out every day.

FACT: Yes, the Jan. 6, 2021, events at the Capitol were surprising, shocking, unfortunate and caught everyone flat footed.

FACT: Yes, President Trump called for supporters to show up on Jan. 6, 2021, to protest the now soundly proven illegitimate outcome of the Nov. 3rd election.

FACT: Yes, since Dec. 15, 1791, Amendment 1 of the Bill of Rights protects the "right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

FACT: No, President Trump did not utter a word to the

crowd about breaking into the Capitol building.

FACT: If anyone with any curiosity about what really happened would do a little research, you will find that the 50-100 people obviously disguised as Trump supporters who attacked the building were (1) at one side of the building allowed and encouraged by the Capitol Police to come into the building and 2) videos and photographs of those doing a lot of the violence bear a striking resemblance to earlier social media postings and news reporting videos of members of BLM and Antifa participants in last Summer's Antifa and BLM riots and arson, assaults and murders in Portland, Kenosha, Philadelphia, New York, Minneapolis, and 3) the "Tradecraft" (back packs containing weapons, 2 x 4 boards- where did those come from?, using boots to pound the glass, etc.) and 4) their actions are identical to those done by the BLM and Antifa thugs all Summer long. The rest of the crowd, and even those who regrettably were stupid (SP intentional) enough to be caught up in the moment and come into the building did not exhibit any of the wild behavior of the first bunch of thugs.

FACT: The Lame Scream media as well as many of the Socialist/Communist Senators (Harris the Ho and Beijing Biden in particular) and Representatives portrayed the riots and arson that continued all summer long as "peaceful protests" and encouraged them to continue yet hypocritically band together like a pack of rabid hyenas to howl about the Jan. 6th incident being a "treasonous" act by President Trump.

FACT: The regrettable killings done that day were the unjustified shooting of an unarmed female Air Force veteran by a Capitol Police Officer and one of the Capitol officers first attackers hit on the head with a fire extinguisher. Throughout the entire Trump presidency there is no record of any Trump supporter committing violence or attacking a police officer. On the other hand, look at the record of Antifa and BLM with respect to attacking the police. Can you draw a reasonable conclusion about who actually fomented and carried out the violence?

FACT: Pelosi, Schumer, Harris the Ho, Beijing Biden, and the rest of the Socialist/Communist cabal funded by Big Tech's rich elitists, America haters such as George Soros and his two sons, aiding and abetting the efforts of China and Russia to destroy our Republic, have worked long and hard to put into place a program to give them absolute power over every American.

FACT: The slow rolled takeover many years in the making is over and they are in full throated bloodlust to cast aside the Bill of Rights, strip us of our liberty, confiscate our wealth to their personal benefit, and control every aspect of our lives.

Wake up you Woke Folks and realize that this country is well on its way to be taken over by those who President Trump has warned us about. Do you think you will be safe from their machinations? Ask the people who fled Cuba, China, Viet Nam, Laos, North Korea and Venezuela to come here. How much more of the Socialist/Communist sewerage are you willing to drink?

I welcome a response from anyone who can dispute the Truths and FACTS laid out above with controverting FACTS and not by simply bleating the Socialist/Communist Party line because of your blind pathological hatred of a man who would speak the truth to power.

Yea, therefore and verily I say unto you, the Truth shall set you free, but first it shall make you very angry.

Pete Stern – Franklin, N.C.

No real evidence of election fraud

There have been many allegations of election fraud that were raised before the first vote was even cast or mailed in in 2020. What is the truth about this alleged election fraud?

If there actually was election fraud, Donald Trump's

TAYLOR

From previous page

here on the plateau will center around procuring additional vaccine. A potential complicating factor is the number of people continuing to stay in the area. A high number of seasonal residents in the county have remained, but presently the state is allocating vaccine based on the number of permanent residents. Kathy McGaha, the director of the health department, is in discussions with state officials to change that allocation formula to meet this unique situation.

A challenge for a community vaccination program here on the plateau will be to form a group of volunteers who can work on the administrative processes. There will also be a need for retired medical personnel who can give the vaccinations. It will take about 15 to 20 people to operate the vaccination site. It will require coordination, but I know this community can meet the challenge.

lawyers would have real evidence of this fraud in their possession. If Donald Trump's lawyers have real evidence of election fraud in their possession, they would have included this evidence in the lawsuits these lawyers brought to over 60 different courts; they did not present any evidence to any court or any judge. They did not present any videos, affidavits, photographs, or sworn testimony as evidence.

The fact is, Donald Trump's lawyer do not have any evidence of election fraud. They have no evidence of election fraud to present to any court or judge. They have not presented any evidence to any state or federal law enforcement personnel. They have no evidence that any state election board did not follow the election laws of any state legislature to any court or judge. One state superior court rejected a lower state court ruling that the extended the number of days that mail-in votes could be counted. That is not election fraud.

So now, people have criminally attacked, looted, and vandalized the U.S. Capitol Building, intending to kidnap and murder the vice president and members of Congress. They committed these crimes because they believe the recent Federal election was fraudulent. These people were misled and lied to by President Trump and Republican members of Congress. These politicians did this for their own personal and political gains. Their speech and actions resulted in the desecration of the most treasured symbol of American Democracy, the injury of hundreds of people, and the killing of at least six Americans. Our own newly elected Congressman Cawthorne Madison was one of those duplicitous politicians.

We have never experienced an episode of domestic political terrorism on this scale and of this enormity in America. I pray with all of you that we never will experience misguided treachery like this again.

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

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HCLT protects green corridor on Highway 64

Twenty-eight acres of green-space that borders the entrance to Highlands from Cashiers have been permanently conserved by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT). The tract lies along the south side of Highway 64 extending from Sherwood Forest Road nearly to Poplar Road, a distance of a mile. This property is not only forested but it contains some cliff face that provides habitat for a rare salamander species.

In the fall of 2019, the Liz. Development Corporation, the developer of the Sherwood For-



The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust was able to acquire a 28-acre plot that lies on the south side of Highway 64 which borders the entrance to Highlands from Cashiers.



Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust helps landowners permanently protect their property in two primary ways. Often they utilize a legal tool called a conservation agreement or easement and in this case, the landowner retains ownership of their land but donates some or all of their development rights. Alternatively, they sometimes accept donations of land. Some donated lands like this one will be conserved to protect the green space that lines the entrance to the Town of Highlands.

Despite the challenges 2020 brought, HCLT was able to conserve 38 acres of donated lands, accepted the transfer of four conservation easements from The Nature Conservancy and worked with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy to acquire two tracts totaling over 200 acres that will ultimately be sold to the US Forest Service. According to HCLT Executive Director, Dr. Gary Wein, "All in all it was a good year for land conservation but we have more work to do in 2021."

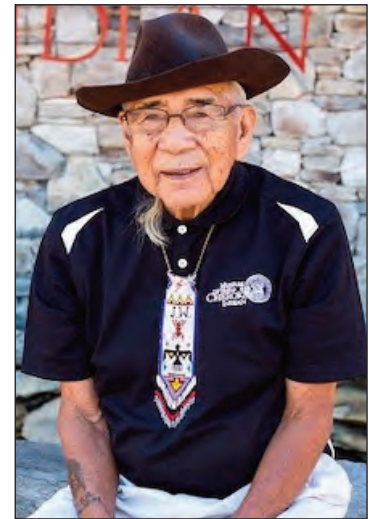
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est subdivision, conducted an online auction where numerous lots and one large 28 acre tract were put up for sale. At that time, a group of Little Bear Pen homeowners, headed by Cantey Davis, were successful in acquiring that tract. In an effort to insure that the 28 acres remains undisturbed and undeveloped, the LLC recently donated the property to the

Highway dedicated to Cherokee 'Beloved Man'

The only man in more than 200 years to be bestowed as Beloved Man by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians will have a highway in Swain and Jackson counties dedicated in his honor.

The Tribal Council bestowed Dr. Jerry Wolfe the honorable title of Beloved Man in 2013. He was the first to hold such a prestigious honor since the tribe's last Beloved Man, Little Turkey, died in 1801.



Beloved Man Dr. Jerry Wolfe.

The N.C. Board of Transportation recently approved a resolution to honor Wolfe by dedicating a 4.2-mile stretch of U.S. 441 between U.S.19 and U.S. 74 as the Beloved Man Dr. Jerry Wolfe Highway.

Highway signs, written in English and Cherokee, will be placed along the highway in early 2021, and a ceremony honoring Wolfe, who died a few years ago, will be held at a later date.

NCDOT board members considered Wolfe's Beloved Man title, his vast contributions on the Qualla Boundary, his service in the U.S. Navy, his dedication to heritage and history and his volunteer work when they unanimously approved the resolution.

Parts of the resolution read, "Dr. Wolfe served with distinction in the U.S. Navy during World War II, including D-Day and Victory in Europe Day," and "Dr. Wolfe was dedicated to proliferating the Cherokee language, teaching Cherokee history and culture and preserving the Cherokee game Indian ball," and "Dr. Wolfe served as a true testament of a Cherokee leader and should be recognized."

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Council, Jackson County Board of Commissioners and Swain County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed resolutions seeking the highway designation for Wolfe. In addition, Jackson County commissioner Gayle Woody, American Legion Steve Youngdeer Post 143 Commander Lewis Harding, and Principal Chief Richard Sneed each penned letters supporting the effort.

Born in 1924, Wolfe served in the Navy from 1943 to 1950 as a Signalman Second Class and as the only Native American in his Division. Following his active service, Wolfe returned to Cherokee to build his life with wife, Juanita, a life devoted to his family, his community and his culture.

He worked as a stonemason on the Qualla Boundary, he became active in tribal veteran events, and served as an ambassador of Cherokee in all his travels. Wolfe volunteered at least several days per week at the Museum of the Cherokee Indians starting in 1987 until his death in 2018.

Wolfe received the North Carolina Folk Heritage Award in 2002, he was awarded the Patriot Award in 2014, and in 2017, he was bestowed with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine and received an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from Western Carolina University.

"His dedication to proliferating the Cherokee language, teaching Cherokee history and culture and serving as a true testament of a Cherokee leader should be recognized," Sneed wrote. "He was the best among us, and renaming this portion of the highway will serve as a constant reminder of what we should all strive to be in our daily lives."



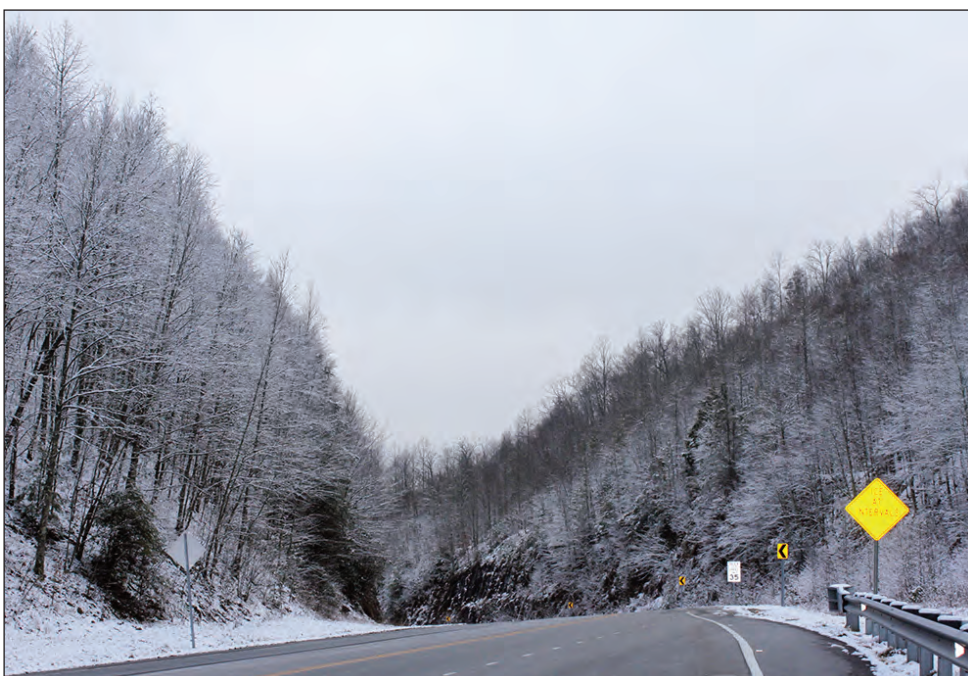
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Snow on the mountain



Photos by Betsey Gooder

Life changes-
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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests December 28 - January 9. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

January 3

Kelly William Brasier, was charged with breaking and entering, damage to real property. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

January 4

Edward Andrew Fowler, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Parris W. Young made the arrest.

Kristeena Byrd Gray, was charged with embezzlement. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

January 5

Roger Dwayne Cantrell, was charged with failure to report new address, probation/parole violation. Amber L. Wright made the arrest.

Rickie Lee Keener, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Emleigh E. Sands made the arrest.

Carl Kenneth Floyd, was issued unauthorized use of a motor propelled conveyance. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Brittany M. Roeder, was charged with carrying a concealed gun. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Austin William Engelskind, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a place for a controlled substances. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Hannah G. Kenipp, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Roger Dakota Justice, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

January 6

Wesley Tanner, was charged with domestic physical. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

January 7

Samuel Vega Garcia, was charged with driving under the influence. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Peter Eugene Woodall, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance, create/sell/deliver counterfeit controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear. William R. Younce made the arrest.

Kimberly Sue Dowdle, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. William R. Younce made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

January 1

Hannah Harris Morrow, 25, was charged with flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, no operator license. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Kirkland made the arrest.

January 2

Anthony Shamal Bryson, 27, was charged with cruelty to animals, injury to personal property, resisting officer. A secured bond of \$1,500. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

Zachary Kyle Soto, 22, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

January 4

Richard Kayleb Bates, 31, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

December 28

David Wayne Hinger, 52, of Cheek Circle, Whittier, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set. William A. Foxx made the arrest.

Paul Adam Price, 50, of Big Witch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with injury to personal property, possession of stolen goods. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. Kenneth J. Adams made the arrest.

December 29

Kevin David Ritchie, 31, of Hayfield Dr., was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Levi D. Woodring made the arrest.

Ashley Kay Heatherly, 33, of Rhodes Cove Rd., was charged with failure to appear for felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$40,000 was set. Ernest A. Scherman III made the arrest.

December 31

Davonta Kwamane Williams, 29, of Governors Rd., Waynesville, was charged with communicating threats, assault by pointing a gun. No bond was set.

Lawrence Dean Jester, 33, of Watson Branch, Cullowhee, was charged with assault on law enforcement officer with a firearm, discharge weapon on occupied property, go armed to the terror of the public. A secured bond of \$75,000 was set. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

David Lee Brown, 56, of Cross Stich Mountain Rd., was charged with resist/delay/obstruct. A secured bond of \$150 was set. Conner L. Wilson made the arrest.

January 1

Hollis Evan Ayling, 24, of Briarwood Rd., Webster, was charged with assault on a child under 12, misdemeanor child abuse, assault on a female. No bond was set. William A. Foxx made the arrest. No bond was set.

Jordan Marie Dillard, 26, of Taurus Lane, Whittier, was

charged with simple assault. No bond was set. William M. Hawkins made the arrest.

Deundra Lamarze Rodgers, 28, of Davidson Dr., Asheville, was charged with simple assault. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Tyler B. Bryson made the arrest.

Jackie Kevin Shelton, 47, of Calendar Court, was charged with simple assault. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Tyler B. Bryson made the arrest.

January 2

Erica Leah Arkansas, 42, of Hallmark Lane, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

Jaicelyn Dayla Shanelle Beck, 21, of Estella Teesatuskie Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver cocaine, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, trafficking opium or heroin by transportation, trafficking opium or heroin by possession, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set. Robert E. Porter made the arrest.

January 3

Jamison Lawrence Lassiter, 37, of Sylva, was issued an order for arrest for possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set. William K. Davis made the arrest.

January 4

Amber Sherice Crowe, 33, of Mink Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

January 5

Shannon Delane Coffman, of Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Charles Robert Bumgarner, 31, of Too How Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jessica Irene Jones, 35, of Sylva, was charged with felony larceny, breaking and entering forcible. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Douglas Christopher Jones, 42, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with felony larceny, breaking and entering forcible. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Michelle Leeann Bryson, 29, of Pilot Knob, Glen Alpine, was issued a warrant for arrest for second degree trespassing. No bond was set.

January 6

Levi Ames McCall, 35, of Whiteside Cove Rd., Highlands, was charged with resist a public officer, larceny of a firearm, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, motor vehicle theft. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

January 7

Michael William Rhinehart, 49, of Devin Lane, was charged with possession of stolen property, larceny. A secured bond was set.

Ruth Ann Judd, 56, of Fort Wilderness, Whittier, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

January 9

Charles Ray Tolley, 46, of Riverbend Rd., was issued an order for arrest for communicating threats, assault on a female. No bond was set.

Jacob Lee Maney, 34, of Ivalee Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for obtaining property by false pretense, possession of stolen firearm. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Catherine Natasha Hoxit, 26, of Bart Cove Rd., was charged with larceny by an employee. No bond was set.

January 10

Robert Ray Hyder, 56, of Olenader Lane, was charged with first degree trespass enter/remain. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Taste of Scotland Society has decided that due to health concerns, the members voted to postpone Burns Night until later in the year. The group will let the community know when they reschedule the annual tribute to Robert Burns, national poet of Scotland.

Macon County Public Health will begin to vaccinate those eligible under Phase 1B, Group 1 starting this week. This group includes those who are 75 years of age or older, regardless of health status. Those who are eligible under this phase, to receive a vaccination, can call (828)349-2517 to schedule an appointment. Vaccine appointments will be at Macon County Public Health located at 1830 Lakeside Drive in Franklin, and will be conducted through a drive-thru clinic.

Jackson County Branch of the NC NAACP Online Meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16, 10 a.m. Sylva Mayor Lynda Sossamon will administer the oath of office to the newly elected President and officers of the Branch. The 2021 Branch Theme and several events centered on this theme will be announced. Email jcnacp54ab@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online. The public is welcome to join this meeting.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike on Saturday, Jan. 16, with an elevation change 500 ft., to Panther Creek Falls in Georgia. The trail can be narrow and tricky as it descends to the falls. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 10 a.m., drive 75 miles round trip. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information or reservations, call leader Gail Lehman, at (828)524-5298.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike from Rock Gap to Glassmine Gap on Sunday, Jan. 17, with an elevation change 700 ft., on the Appalachian Trail, passing Rock Gap Shelter and checking out the new construction on the privy. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 1 p.m., drive 32 miles round trip. For more information call leader Katharine Brown, (828)421-4178.

Martin Luther King March and Rally Scheduled for Monday, Jan. 18, will be held virtually. The zoom event will start at 2 p.m. and will be hosted by Dr. Enrique Gomez, outgoing president of the Jackson County Branch of the NAACP and associate professor of physics and astronomy at WCU and Dr. Dana Murray Patterson, incoming NAACP president and director of Intercultural Affairs at WCU. Email jcnacp54@gmail.com to receive instructions to join this event online. The public is welcome to join this special event.

Gem Country Republican Women's Club will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 11:30 a.m., at Fat Buddies BBQ. Speakers are Turner Page and Brian Penland representing the Young Republicans in Macon County. They are active with a current initiative to honor law enforcement personnel. All Republican women are encouraged to attend. For more information email: mcrcwn@gmail.com

A Drive-Thru COVID-19 Testing Clinic in Nantahala Community on Thursday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or until tests run out, at Macon County EMS Base-Nantahala, 1096 Junaluska Rd., Topton. For those

who believe they may have been exposed. Persons may get a test regardless of their ability to pay. You do not need to schedule an appointment. This is for testing only. This is not a vaccine administration location.

Macon County Democratic Women Online Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m. Contact Jean Wright at jean.work.wright@gmail.com to obtain a Zoom link.

Macon County Public Library interactive panel discussion will be held on Jan. 19. The discussion will be on drought, water rights, our water supply, and other themes present in the selected Statewide Read novel, The Water Knife. This event features award-winning writer and N.C. State Professor John Kessel, author Jacqui Castle, and North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council member Klaus Albertin in a fast-paced conversation moderated by Charlotte Readers Podcast host Landis Wade. Questions can be Submitted to Facebook and Twitter pages (@NCHumanities) using the #WatershedMoments before the start of the event. If they select your question to be answered live during the event, you'll receive an exclusive environmental themed prize. For more information or to get a copy of the book, call Kristina at (828)524-3600.

Otto Garden Club has canceled their December and January meeting. For any information contact Joan at (828)369-2801.

Celebrate Recovery at Discover Church every Monday night, 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life. Free childcare up to five years old for attending parents. Discover Church is located at 47 Macon Center Dr. (behind Bojangles). For more information, email cr@discover.church for questions.

Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Centers in Cullowhee and Franklin have an educational parenting program to earn "points" to use to obtain free items for your family. The centers carry formula, diapers, wipes, baby items and clothing up to size 6, as well as strollers, car seats, high chairs, pack n' plays, etc. Donations are always welcome. Services are free and confidential. For more information or an appointment, call (828)349-3200, (828)293-3600 or smppcc.org

Crawford Senior Center is hosting Zoom classes. Zoom classes will include exercise, tai chi, and others. For more information, or to register, call the Senior Center at (828)349-2058.

Macon Chips, the Franklin Wood Carving Club will meet on Thursday, 6:30 p.m. in Franklin High School Wood Shop. They will continue to meet on Thursdays. Participants are asked to comply with social distancing and other endemic protocols. All members and prospective members are cordially invited to attend. For more information, call Contact D Lansont (828)369-2144.

Uptown Gallery on Main Street new hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. The worship service will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Pastor Scott Eichelberger will give the sermon; and Becky Haas will present a song solo. Mask wearing and 6 foot social distancing is requested. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane in Franklin (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more info, call the office (828)369-7977. www.franklincma.com

All Saints Episcopal Church is conducting worship online through its YouTube page. Go to www.youtube.com and search for "All Saints Franklin." The in-person worship schedule is subject to change. To learn more about attending in-person worship, contact us directly at admin@allsaintsfranklin.org or by calling (828)524-4910.

Olive Hill Church Services are held on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Pastor is Keith McWhite. The church is located at 2389 Olive Hill Road.

Franklin First United Methodist Church meets on Sunday, at 8:30 a.m. online on Facebook Live at Franklin First United Methodist Church. The church is located at 66 Harrison Ave. Senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524.3010 or visit www.firstumcfranklin.org

Lifespring Community Church is holding Sunday services beginning at 10 a.m. with social distancing observed. Brian Lamb in the pastor. The church is located at the intersection of Cheek Road and Addington Bridge Road.

Tellico Baptist Church is now having in-person Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. inside the church building with the Reverend L. E. Angel. Everyone is welcome.

West Franklin Church services are held on Sunday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The church is located on Sloan Rd. next to the Forest Service Office.

Prentiss Church of God is holding Sunday worship service in its sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m. Social distancing is observed and safety measures are in place. Pastor Kevin Chapman invites the community to attend. Services are also streamed online on the Prentiss Church of God Facebook page. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone: (828)369-3885.

Memorial United Methodist Church Anonymous Call-in Prayer Line. If you need prayer, call (828)369-0707. Leave a message with your prayer request, and the church will be happy to pray for you or whoever you request prayers for. You may also leave a request for a call back if you need one.

Email Church announcements to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

9	8	7	1	4	6	2	3	5
4	1	3	6	9	5	7	8	2
8	9	3	6	5	7	1	4	2
6	1	4	8	9	2	5	7	3
2	7	5	3	1	4	9	6	8
9	6	8	2	7	3	5	1	4
5	6	1	4	8	9	2	3	7
7	4	9	2	5	3	8	1	6

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

S	E	R	E	S	E	R	E	S	E	R	E	S
N	E	R	E	S	E	R	E	S	E	R	E	S
E	P	I	C	S	E	R	E	S	E	R	E	S
L	A	V	E	R	E	S	E	R	E	S	E	R
L	A	V	E	R	E	S	E	R	E	S	E	R
O	I	L	L	O	I	L	L	O	I	L	L	O
D	W	I	G	H	T	L	A	M	E	M	A	S
L	O	C	S	S	E	L	S	E	T	O	R	I
A	R	C	H	S	M	A	R	T	P	R	O	W
C	R	O	C	L	I	E	U	W	E	D	G	E
S	A	C	S	I	L	D	L	O	W	C	A	L
N	I	N	I	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
P	H	I	N	I	A	S	P	I	N	K	M	A
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D	U	M	B	O	E	M	S	B	I	T	S	

Save time and increase success by creating a garden calendar

Melinda Myers
Columnist

Ring in the New Year is filled with resolutions that usually involve dieting and exercise. Gardening is a great way to help accomplish those two resolutions, while also improving your mood, reducing blood pressure, managing anger, maintaining flexibility and much more.

So, gather anyone that shares in your gardening efforts and landscape projects. Grab a calendar and make some gardening plans for the year ahead. Consider including a monthly project that you all can share and one that moves you closer to your long-term gardening and landscaping goals.

Start the year right by growing some microgreens. They are quick, easy and require no special equipment. Plus, recent research found that many contain as much as 25 times more nutrients as the leaves of the full-grown plant.

Take some time to inventory your current seed collection. Decide what seeds you want to keep and grow this season and those you want to pass along to gardening friends. You may choose to make seed art with older or improperly stored seeds and invest in fresh seeds that are sure to germinate.

Once you complete your inventory, review new catalogs, and make a list of seeds and plants you want to include this year. Order early for the greatest selection and availability. A recent increase in gardeners means more people shopping



Melinda Myers

for the seeds and plants you want to buy.

While you wait for your seed order to arrive, prepare a space and organize supplies for starting any seeds indoors as needed. Clear a space, check your grow lights, and gather the needed seed starting mix and clean containers. Soak used containers in a one-part bleach and 9-parts water solution for ten minutes. Then rinse with clear water before reusing them this year.

Once you know what you want to grow, it is time to create a seed starting calendar. Check the catalogue, University Extension recommendations, and back of the packet to determine when you need to start the seeds indoors or out. Include dates for starting seeds indoors and directly in the garden. Note the recommended date for moving transplants into the garden. Add in time as needed to harden off transplants. Gradually introducing plants to the garden environment over a two-week period reduces transplant shock and increases your success.

Mark your calendar for peak harvest times in your region. Make sure to allow sufficient time for harvesting and preserving. Supplement your own harvest with produce from farmer's markets and pick-your-own farms. Most post expected picking and produce availability dates on their website, so you can plan ahead. As the season begins, confirm picking times and invite family and friends for a harvest and preservation party.

Record all this information on your calendar, garden chart or a spreadsheet to help keep your gardening efforts on track. This will also help you identify the best time to embark on larger landscaping projects or hire a plant sitter when you are away from the garden.

Make this the year you resolve to accomplish your gardening goals in a timely manner. You'll maximize your harvest, enjoyment, and other gardening benefits.

Test leftover seeds for viability

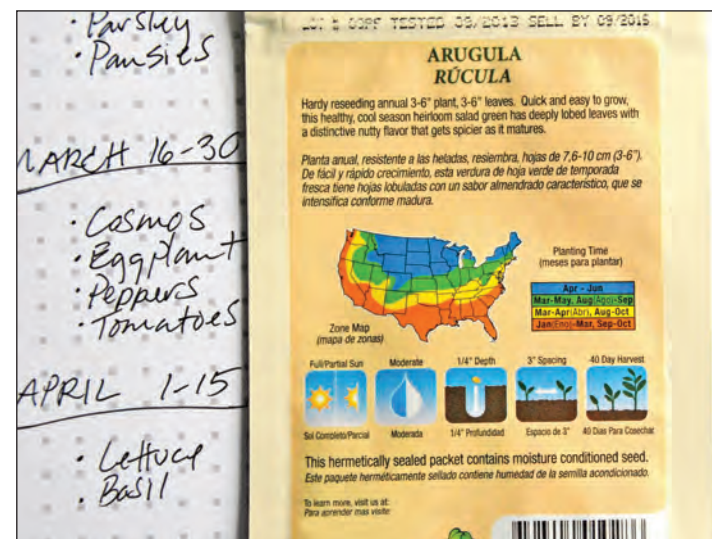
The beginning of a new year finds many gardeners preparing for the growing season ahead. Clearing space to start seeds indoors, inventorying seeds and supplies, and ordering seeds, plants, and more are usually part of the process.

While organizing, you may uncover seeds from past seasons. Do not discard these just yet. When seeds are stored properly, many can last from one to five years or more.

Seeds stored in a cool location like the refrigerator in an airtight container maintain their viability best. But even those stored in less-than-ideal conditions may surprise you. Older seeds may still sprout once they pass their average life expectancy, but you are likely to see a reduction in the

success rate.

The type of seed also influences how long seeds can be stored and remain viable. Start by checking the expiration date on the seed packet. Onions, parsley, and parsnip seeds usually last one year. Corn, okra, and peppers two years; beans and peas for three years; tomatoes, turnips, beets, chard, and watermelon four years; and Brussels sprouts, cabbage, muskmelons, radishes, and spinach last for five years.



Check the back of the seed packet to determine when to start seeds indoors and when to move the transplants into the garden.

Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

The same principles apply to saved flower seeds. Marigold and zinnia seeds can maintain good viability for two to five years; ageratum, nasturtium, sunflowers, and yarrow for three to five years; monarda four years, and calendula for four to six years.

But the longer you grow plants, the more likely you are to push the limits. This often results in unexpected success or valuable insight for future gardening endeavors.

When in doubt use this quick-and-easy test to see if your seeds will sprout. Place ten seeds on a damp paper towel. Roll up the towel with seeds inside, place in a plastic bag and store in a warm location.

After a week or so, unwrap the paper towel and check the seeds for sprouting. If nothing has happened, rewrap the seeds and wait a few more days.

If all the seeds have sprouted, you have 100% germination and can plant the seeds as recommended on the package. If only half the seeds sprout, for example, you will need to plant the seeds twice as close together to compensate for the lower germination rate.

The sprouted seeds can be planted indoors or out depending on the time of year, available space, and your climate.

If none of the seeds sprout, consider breaking out the glue and getting the family involved in turning these leftover seeds into works of art. Select a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors to create your masterpiece on wood or heavyweight card stock. Large seeds like beans, peas and corn are easy for crafters of all ages to handle. Use tweezers for finer seeds that add detail and texture to your creation.

Testing seeds now can help you save money when placing your seed order. You can focus your planting budget on new seeds and supplement with your existing inventory.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Older seeds may still sprout, but it is likely there will be a reduction in the success rate. Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

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Exceptions - in nature rules are often broken

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

There is a saying that rules are meant to be broken. Another that states that there are exceptions to everything. These thoughts can easily be applied to plants. From your own experiences think of other examples as you read though these random thoughts.

Not all berries are red. Fred Galley was the chief horticulturist at Callaway Gardens in Georgia. He put this garden on the map. He was obsessed with plants that had yellow berries. His best find was a cultivar of a Chinese Holly, *Ilex cornuta*. One year a residential gardener called him to say that her holly had one branch with yellow fruit. Fred made cuttings from that branch and introduced it as 'D'Dor' Holly. It is a beauty. I was just plain lucky to have found a few rooted cuttings and grew them in Kennesaw. Unfortunately, it is not hardy here in Franklin. There are just a couple other yellow fruiting holly. Other plants have berries that come in red, orange, purple, blue and black. Our native Pagoda Dogwood has black fruit for example.

The plural of holly can be spoken and written holly and the plural of ivy is ivy.

Not all tree bark is brown. There are many Japanese Maples that have red, or yellow, red or green bark. There are Birch trees with white bark. There are fruit trees (*Prunus*) with tissue paper thin bark. Some trees have bark so thin it exfoliates like River Birch.

Not all leaves are green. There are multiple examples of Japanese Maples with yellow, red, orange and leaf variation. There are maples whose leaves have three color changes in one season. An example of yellow leaves through the growing season is a small tree called *Corylopsis* or Winterhazel.

Some plants only bloom in the second year of growth then die. I always think of Parsley that has this growth pattern. These plants are called biennials. Some bamboo bloom every 100 years, produces seeds then dies. American Columbo a wildflower occasionally found here that blooms occasionally once every 20 years then it disappears.

Most plants treated as annuals here are perennials somewhere else. Geraniums and Lantana are good examples.

Not all plants have a fragrance and not all plant fragrances are pleasant. There is a Hellebore with the species name foetidus. There is a plant curiosity called Skunk Cabbage and a



Dr. Bob Gilbert

large Arum called the Corpus Lilly.

Most native plants have something that controls them so they do not become rampant. Native Dutchman's Pipevine has a Swallowtail butterfly called Pipe Vine whose caterpillars feed on Pipevine leaves exclusively. When we have imported plants from other regions they did not come with their controllers. So, plants like Kudzu and Japanese honeysuckle have become rampant. They are not considered a pest where they came from.

There are not many plants whose leaves and growth patterns change almost completely from growing on the ground to growing vertically, up a tree for example. English ivy when growing vertically does not look like ivy. The leaves lose most of their spines and points. It even blooms which it never does on the ground.

Ferns have a unique life cycle. Their spores produce tiny plants that do not look like ferns. These tiny structures reproduce sexually from which a recognizable fern evolves.

Apples produce ethylene gas that can be used to make green, immature fruit ripen. Bag an unripe pineapple with an apple and it will ripen quickly. Many fruits are picked immature then gassed when needed.

Many wildflowers are called ephemeral because they are short lived. They appear before deciduous trees and shrubs put on new leaves. This is how they get enough sun light to grow briefly, flower, store energy and then go dormant.

Goldenrod is not responsible for hay fever; ragweed is. Both plants bloom at the same time and goldenrod is much more visible.

If you prune off all the green foliage from a conifer it will die in contrast to doing the same to deciduous trees and shrubs.

Not all trees are long lived. Lombardy Black Poplars are only good for 15 years.

Not every seed pod will have give viable seeds. The way to tell if the seeds are alive is to cut one in half, its interior will be green if alive brown if dead. You can safely assume that the others in that pod are the same.

Some plants have unpredictable bloom cycles. Our native Yellowwood trees that we have so many of in Franklin do not bloom consistently. No one I know can explain its erratic bloom pattern. Mine are 14 years old and still have not bloomed. They were started as seedlings.

Some plants bloom in the winter. Winter Hazels are a good example.

There are daffodils that bloom in December. One example is Rijnveld's Early Sensation. It and a few others are classified as very early.

A dead Chestnut stump can be kept alive for years by the neighboring trees roots sharing nutrients.

Many trees and shrubs have regional hardiness. For example, the same species of White Oak in Michigan may not be happy in Western North Carolina. The reverse is also true. This has practical significance when ordering from a mail order catalog. Unfortunately, there is not a list of plants that are regionally sensitive. Good reason to use local nurseries.

Dr. Bob Gilbert is co-founder of Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw, Ga. Karen Lawrence is a wildlife and horticultural photographer from Franklin.



D'Dor Holly

Photos by Karen Lawrence



Lombardy Poplar



Witch Hazel can have both green and yellow leaves during the season.



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Deaths & Funerals

Cindy Grable Miles

Cindy Grable Miles, 68, died Dec. 25, 2020.

She was born April 29, 1952, in Little Rock, Ark., to Kenneth and Margaret Grable. She married Stephen Miles as a young adult and over 20 years they fostered 22 children, often with special needs.

Her last job before she retired was working as Family Caregiver Resource Coordinator at Southwestern Commission, the regional council of government for Western North Carolina. She was extremely compassionate and in touch with the needs of seniors, who appreciated her kindness.

Music and the arts were central to her life. She was very active in the Macon County Arts Council and served as board president for several terms. She received a scholarship to attend the Stetson University School of Music, where she was a double major in flute and piano. She'll always be known for her rousing gospel renditions. She was the music director for many different churches and denominations throughout her life.

She was a laughter yoga instructor and was trained by the creator of the technique, Dr. Madan Kataria of Mumbai, India.

She was preceded in death by her father, Kenneth (Pete) Grable. She is survived by her stepmother, Billie C. Grable; and by her longtime friend, Linda Mathias.

A celebration of life will be held later in 2021.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice House Foundation of Western North Carolina, PO Box 815, Franklin NC 28744; or to Appalachian Animal Rescue Center, 851 Lake Emory Road, Franklin NC 28734.

Hristos Fotopoulos

Hristos Fotopoulos, 63, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, surrounded by his family at home. He was born in Tripolis, Greece, on March 31, 1957, to the late Haralambos and Irene T. Fotopoulos. He owned and operated Mountain Man Pizza and Grill in Dilard, Ga. and he was of the Christian faith.

Survivors include his wife, Niki Fotopoulos; two sons, Bobby Fotopoulos and Perry Fotopoulos; a daughter, Nina Fotopoulos; two sisters, Lea (Pete) Spentzos and Helen Panagiotidou; and a sister-in-law, Marina Fotopoulos.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by two brothers, Fotis and Dimitrios Fotopoulos.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Fotopoulos family.

Daniel Teslow

Daniel Teslow, 74, loving husband and father of three daughters passed away Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, in Franklin, N.C.

He was born Nov. 22, 1946 in Rockford, Ill., to Virgil and Lily Teslow. He graduated from Guilford high school and served in Alaska in the Army Signal Corps during the Vietnam War. When he returned, he earned his degree in communication from the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle and continued graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

He loved teaching his daughters to cook and taking each to the Swedish bakery for special dad and daughter time with delicious treats. It was his joy to share hugs and to post a hug-of-the-day on his Facebook page. He believed that hugs make us stronger. He will be remembered as a proud and honorable man with a deep faith in his heart, not just for show.

He was a master journeyman carpenter and real estate developer. He was a storyteller known for his quick wit, and his infectious smile. He was a committed Unitarian Universalist who was a cornerstone member of his fellowship, contributing his many talents: speaker, playwright, service leader, educator, initiator, board member, craftsman, linguist ... friend. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lily.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; his three daughters, Rebecca, Lisa, and Danielle; grandchildren, Gabriella, AJ, and Sully; his sister, Di Ann; and nieces and a nephew.

A celebration of his life will be planned at a later time.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements

Condolences can be sent to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Daniel Teslow

Floyd Virgil Sigler

Floyd Virgil Sigler, 93, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021. He was born Sept. 17, 1927, in Hudson, N.Y., to the late Harvey and Alma Stickle Sigler. He worked for General Electric for 38 years and was a volunteer at Cannon New York Fire Company where he left as captain of the Fire Police. He also volunteered at the Valusia County, Florida Sheriff's office as a courier; and his volunteer work for the Deltona, Fla., civic center by creating a park for the community. He moved to Franklin permanently eight years ago and was a member of Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church. He loved his family and put them first, he also had tremendous love for all his pets. His smile was the window to his soul.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Barbara Hocking Sigler; son, Ken Sigler of Sky Valley, Ga.; daughter, Margaret Dey (Deryl) of New Hill, N.C.; grandson, Christopher Dey; great-grandson, Aiden Sigler; former daughter-in-law, Tammy Sigler of Otto, N.C.; sister, Nicole Margulies; and brother, Andrew Sigler; three nieces, Denise Hocking, Diane Hobbs, and Michelle Hocking.

No services are planned at this time.

Memorials may be made to Animal House Vet Clinic, PO Box 509, Franklin, NC 28734.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Sigler family. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Joseph Richman (Rich) Brooks Jr.

Joseph Richman (Rich) Brooks Jr., 87, of Franklin, N.C., entered into eternal rest to join our Savior in Heaven on Dec. 19, 2020. He was born in Bridgeton, N.J., on June 28, 1933, to the late Joseph Richman and Bessie Abigail Brooks.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Mary Pauline (Polly) Rice Brooks and his brother Beach Smith Brooks.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy and served during the Korean War. After serving his country, he went to trade school to become a barber. He owned and operated Rich's Barber Shop in Port St. Lucie, Fla., for 40 years. Upon retirement, he moved to the mountains with his beloved wife, Polly.

He was a devout husband, supportive father, and a loving grandfather. In his spare time, he enjoyed talking and telling tales to family and friends, fishing, gold mining, gardening, and wood carving.

Being of the Christian faith, he was ordained as a deacon and was a charter member at First Baptist Church of Port St. Lucie where he also served as a Sunday School teacher, was on many committees, and sang in the choir. He continued to serve his Lord when moving to the mountains. He was a member at Windy Gap Baptist Church where he liked to sing in the church choir. Two of his favorite songs that he would sing frequently were "His Name is Wonderful" and "How Great Thou Art."

He is survived by his three children, Joseph Richman Brooks III (Sharon) of Franklin, Christina Brooks Hoeffner (Raymond) of Fort Pierce, Fla., and Kathryn Brooks Hyams (Jimmy) of Charleston, S.C.; 11 grandchildren, Jacob Brooks (Misty), Elizabeth Padgett (Shawn), Jeremy Brooks (Kira), Cody Brooks (Lulu), Candace Wickham (Jay), Christina Floyd (Graham), Shari Orr (Brian), Adam Hoeffner, Clayton Hyams (Naomi), Amy Bearden (Hunter), Ashley Grace Hyams; and nine great grandchildren, Kanisha Brooks, Ean Brooks, Kylie Brooks, Jonah Brooks, Nick Padgett, Tyler Padgett, Emma Wickham, Cole Wickham, and Grayson Floyd; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by one great granddaughter, Macy Tate Brooks.

A private burial service was held by his children and a memorial service will be held next summer in his honor.

Virgie McConnell Southard

Virgie McConnell Southard, 62, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, Jan. 8, 2021.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Omah and Harley McConnell. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her best friend and husband of 39 years, Willard Southard; three brothers, Wade McConnell, Wayne McConnell, and Alvin Tallent; and two sisters, Dovie McConnell and Gennell Fouts.

She is survived by her son, Jeff Southard; grandson, J.D. Southard; brother, Harley Lee McConnell; sister, Betty Sue McConnell; sister-in-law, Pat Bell (Bobby); brother-in-law, Stanley Southard (Evelyn); and several nieces and nephews.

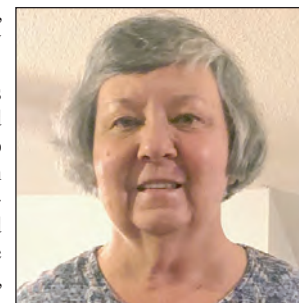
She was employed by Ingles Markets for 40-plus years where she served as the front-end manager and then book keeper later after semi-retirement. There, she touched the lives of many coworkers and young men and women as they entered the work force many of them for the first time. She enjoyed baking cookies and cakes for others especially at Christmas time. She loved her friends and family and would do most anything she could if one of them was in need. Her biggest joy in life came when her grandson J.D. was born, and she became "Nana." She was a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Jan. 10, in the Chapel at Macon Funeral Home. Burial followed in Woodlawn Cemetery. Rev. Phillip Cochran, Rev. Robert Dryman, and Rev. Guy Duvall officiated.

Pallbearers were Rob Bell, Adam Tallent, Keith Lewis, Mark Pruitt, Greg Hall, Jeremy Hurst and Mike Stamey. Honorary pallbearers were Marty Southard, Stanley Southard, Bobby Bell, Ricky Scott, Jeff Dockery and J.D. Southard.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



Virgie Southard



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Deaths & Funerals

Maurice George 'Biff' Keener

Maurice George "Biff" Keener, 80, a good man, a good father, a good brother, left us for a better place on Jan. 5, 2021.

He was born to Grover Lee and Vesta Pauline Peek Keener on Nov. 10, 1940. He was predeceased by both parents, a brother, Jackson Lee Keener, and a sister, Vesta Susan Walker.

He is survived by a brother, Frederick M. Keener (MaryAnn); a daughter, Kelli Keener Holland (Tim); two sons, Daniel Lee Keener (Robyn), and Brannon Jeffrey Keener; five grandchildren,



Maurice George Keener

April Tippett (Shane), Daniel Sanders (Jessica), Jessica Keener Dragoo, Tori Dragoo, Aaron Keener; and five great grandchildren.

How can a life well lived be summed up in just a few words? He was a family man who loved his family. He was a licensed builder whose word was his bond and whose work was a testament to his skill and integrity. He loved the outdoors, shared that love and treasured moments with family and lifelong friends, and passed that love on to his children. We love you Biff, and we will miss you.

A graveside service was held Sunday, Jan. 10, at the Mt. Moriah Cemetery in the Goldmine Community in Highlands, N.C.

Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Keener family.

James 'Jimmy' Shaver

James "Jimmy" Shaver, 82, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020.

He was born in Dallas, Texas, to the late James Roger and Dorothy Smith Shaver. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by five brothers and sisters.

He enjoyed fishing, camping, boating and woodworking. He was a family man and was of the Catholic faith. He served in the United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard for a combined 24 years. Some of his military accomplishments were in 1970 placing third in pistol on the U.S.C.G. rifle team. In 1966, he crossed the equator with the 180th Meridian on their way to the Arctic Circle. He was also a master electrician in the Coast Guard. He served on the Ice breakers, buoy tenders and rescue ships. After retiring from the military in 1978, he started his own cabinet making business before moving to Franklin.

He is survived by his wife, Jackie Pilkerton Shaver; children, Patricia (Felipe) Lara of Santa Rosa, Calif., Teresa Shaver (Chip Coleman) of China Grove, N.C., Chad (Missa) Pilkerton, Charlie (Robin) Pilkerton, Tommy (Tasha) Pilkerton, all of Franklin; Jeanie Conte of Fonda, N.Y., and Lynne Dunlavey of Fort Myers, Fla.; 12 grandchildren; six great grandchildren; one great great grandchild; and a sister, Patsy Weber of Arlington, Texas.

No services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be sent to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



James 'Jimmy' Shaver

Pearl Angel Holland

Pearl Angel Holland, 88 of Franklin, N.C., went to her heavenly home on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, after a period of declining health.

A native of Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Fred and Cordie Gibson Angel. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, VL Holland; a son, Mike Holland; and a brother, Carl Angel.

She was a member of Mashburn Branch Baptist Church; her hobbies included, embroidering, adult coloring, puzzles, and crocheting.

She is survived by her daughter, Bonnie Manogue of Jefferson City, Tenn.; six grandchildren, six great grandchildren and one great great grandson.

Funeral service was held Thursday, Jan. 7, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Mike Chastain officiated. Burial was in the Sugarfork Baptist Church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Thomas Ramey, RL Gibson, Casey Holland, John Click, Mike Bingham, and Doug Angel.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Pearl Angel Holland

Cheera Lona Soper Roadarmel

Cheera Lona Soper Roadarmel, 101, passed away on Jan. 5, 2021, after a brief illness.

Daughter of the late Elsie and Marcus Soper, she was preceded in death by husband, George Lehman (killed at Saipan during WWII, 1944) and husband Willard F. "Bud" Roadarmel, 1992.

Her life is celebrated by her children, Bonnie Cromley (Carl) of Quitman, Pa., Eileen Hess (Sheldon) of Westerville, Ohio, Mark Roadarmel (Cindy) of Macon, Ga., and Jan Ledford of Franklin; eight grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; five step great grandchildren, and additional family including Jim Ledford, Cheryl Pelham, Tammy Grimshaw; and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was raised in Everett, Wash., and eventually moved to Warner Robins, Ga., in the late '60s. While there she worked at the local newspaper in various roles but most notably as the author of *It Wonders Me*, a slice-of-life column for which she is still remembered. She used the venue to express her musings on everything from patriotism to religion to family and community happenings. She moved to Franklin, N.C., in 2010.

She was an avid cross-stitcher, and most everyone she knew received a piece of her needlework. She completed hundreds of pieces, from little pins and bookmarks to large complex pictures. She loved music, was a self-taught pianist, and sang in various choirs. She especially enjoyed sing-alongs at family get-togethers. She passed her love of words and reading to the family as well. Reunions always included rapid-fire word play and favorite family stories.

She was proud of her Scottish heritage and belonged to Clan Gordon. She obtained the Scottish title of Lady Cheera and enjoyed the annual Kirkin' o' the Tartans celebration at her church, First Presbyterian of Franklin.

Donations may be made in her memory to Clarity Ohio (2602 Oakstone Dr. Columbus, OH 43231; counseling center founded by one of her granddaughters), First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, or a charity of your choice.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

"With needle, pen, and music note

She stitched her world

She sang and wrote

Steadfast Soper Woman she

Bearer of the Fleur-de-lis"

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Cheera Roadarmel

Cheryl 'Cher' Jean Spring

On Jan. 5, 2021, surrounded with love at home, the heavens gained an angel, Cheryl "Cher" Jean Spring, 75.

Born in Michigan, she and her husband Ted, resided in Missouri, Florida and then settling in the majestic Smokey Mountains of North Carolina.

She worked for the Brown Shoe Co. in Missouri, the Florida Turnpike and the City of Highlands in North Carolina. She loved to cook and always had fresh baked cakes, pies, and cookies. You could always find her leaning on the counter cutting bite size pieces with her cup of coffee.

Her love for the outdoors was like no other. From the thousands of hand carried rocks landscaped throughout her property, gorgeous flowers and hand planted trees, to rafting down the river and even ziplining. At the age of 65, she competed in the Warrior Dash. Up at the crack of dawn enjoying her coffee was her favorite time of the day.

Her greatest love is her husband, Eugene "Ted" Spring. Married for 34 years, their love story was full of respect and admiration, one to be modeled after. They shared their love of animals, dancing, and peaceful moments on their porch. Her other great loves were her four-legged babies and of course, her children and grandchildren. She also always looked forward to her Fridays with Sandy and Jean, having breakfast, playing Bingo and Thrift Store shopping.

To sum up this beautiful woman in a few words, she is an amazing wife, mother, sister, friend and all around "Bad Ass."

She was born to Woodie Phillips and Helen Shankland; had a sister, Marlene Wood; four sons, James Heberger (Laura); Scott Heberger (Michelle), Michael Spring (Karen), Kirk Spring (Karen); a daughter, Sandy Harvey (Tim); and grandchildren, Colin, Eric, Hannah, and Jade; pets, Bella, Zeus, Willow and Holly

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Cremation is serving the Spring family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



Cheryl Jean Spring

Rev. Roger Wayne Alewine Sr.

Rev. Roger Wayne Alewine Sr., 83, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, January 7, 2021.

Born in Red Bank S.C., he was the son of the late Lonnie and Ileen Goodwin Alewine. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Larry Alewine and sisters, Miriam Alewine, Evelyn Alewine and Lois Alewine.

Rev. Alewine, a Franklin resident since 2016, was a minister of music and senior adults at First Baptist Gulfport in Gulfport Miss. He served in the National Guard until 1957 and enjoyed playing golf in his free time. He also served as minister of music at First Baptist Franklin, Franklin from 1980-1985.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Patricia "Anne" Sox Alewine; daughter, Lindy (Jerry) Blanton of Franklin; son, Wayne (DeAnn) Alewine of Gulfport Miss.; sisters, Pat Miles of Lexington, S.C. and Nettie Alewine of Lexington, S.C.; five grandchildren, Tyler (April) Blanton, Logan (Rebekah) Blanton, Ryland Alewine, Savannah Alewine, Skylar Alewine; and two great grandchildren, Charlie and Camilla.

A celebration of life will be held at First Baptist Gulfport, Miss., at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC, PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Rev. Roger Alewine Sr.



Deaths & Funerals

Ronnie Dean Stiwinter Lowing

Ronnie Dean Stiwinter Lowing, 84, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at the Franklin House on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021.

She was born Aug. 6, 1936, to the late L.C. and Ruby Fox Stiwinter. She is also predeceased by her life partner, George Shook; son, Tommy Mauldin; daughters, Robin Dawn "Princess" Mauldin Coggins, Mary Alice Mauldin; sister and brother-in-law, Lola Mae and Odell Stewart; brother and sister-in-law, T.W. and Carolyn Stiwinter; and sister-in-law, Doris Stiwinter.



Ronnie Dean Lowing

Surviving is the father of her children, William Robert Mauldin; sons, William Robert "Mark" (Sheila) Mauldin, John "Eric" (Carla) Mauldin; son-in-law, Allan Coggins; brother, Jack Stiwinter; grandchildren, Amanda, Mary Alice, Nathan, Logan, Jeanna, Jake, Joey, Tommy, Travis, Xander and Krissi; great grandchildren, Coleman, Ethan, Jeremiah, Dylan, Kaid, Kinley, Kasyn, Charleigh Jo, KC, Abby, Allie, Ruby, Erica, Erin, Aubrey, Leah and Gwyn.

She worked many years and retired from Cashiers Plastic, but in her away from work time, she was an avid flower and vegetable gardener. She planted and nurtured many flowers and trees. She also enjoyed harvesting the summer vegetables she had lovingly planted in the spring. She loved her family. In the earlier days, she and her sisters would take long walks together which brought them all a lot of joy. She collected rocks for her flower beds, and shopped and smiled when she found a bargain.

A graveside funeral service was held Monday, Jan. 11, at Stewart Cemetery in Cashiers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Stewart cemetery fund, c/o of Carl Stewart.

Online condolences can be sent to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Gay Eldridge Fouts

Gay Eldridge Fouts, 91 of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Jan. 4, 2021.

A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late Ralph and Lola Holbrooks Fouts.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Maude Fouts; sister, Palma Maslin; and brother, Dolpha Fouts.

He lived most of his life in Franklin, and was a member of Iotla Baptist Church. He would very much be considered a mountain man and enjoyed most of his time being outdoors and gardening.

Surviving are children, Wanda Fouts and Gerald (Karen) Fouts and a brother, Nick Fouts, all of Franklin; grandchildren, Amanda, Zachary, Angie and Tiffany; nine great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Thursday, Jan. 7, at Fouts Cemetery with Rev. Guy Duvall officiating.

Pallbearers were David Sherwood, Zachary Fouts, Gerald Fouts, Cody Rogers, Shawn Cruise, Eli Mercier.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Fouts Cemetery, C/O Nancy Krag, 3339 Burningtown Road, Franklin, NC 28734 Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

Patricia Anderson Pittari

Patricia Anderson Pittari, 88, died on Jan. 7, 2021, at her home on Amelia Island, Fla., after an extended illness.

He is survived by her beloved husband of 64 years, John Joseph Pittari, M.D.; her five living children, Carolyn Ann (Kurt Marasco) of Amelia Island, John Joseph Jr. (Kathleen) of Auburn, Ala., Jeanne Marie (Paul Hanna) of Sugar Land, Texas, Patricia Ann (John Voss) of Jacksonville, Fla., and Michael Christopher (Karen Beall) of Lebanon, Pa.

She is preceded in death by her eldest daughter, Mary Catherine, and her youngest child, Natalie Christine.

Patricia "Patsy Ann" Anderson was born on Nov. 1, 1932, in Bronx, N.Y., the daughter of Catherine Kelly Anderson (1901-89) and Joseph Paul Anderson (1900-61). She had two older brothers, Joseph Anderson Jr., and George Anderson, and is survived by a younger sister, Caryl Cunningham of Millsboro, Del.

She graduated from Saint Simon Stock School and attended the College of Mount Saint Vincent, where she studied nursing and graduated with highest honors (B.S.) in 1954. She joined the Visiting Nurse Service of New York City, where she worked until her marriage to John Pittari on May 26, 1956.

The couple moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., where John began his medical residency at Kings County Hospital. In the ensuing 12 years, the couple would live in four different cities and Patricia would give birth to seven children, Mary, Carolyn, John, Jeanne, Tricia, Michael and Natalie, who was born in 1969 but died in infancy the following year. Throughout the 1960s and early-1970s, she was active in a number of organizations in Reading, Pa., and was a member of Saint Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church.

The Pittari's moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in 1974, where Patricia was a member of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church, singing in the choir and later serving as a lector and Eucharistic minister. She was especially proud to sing with the Archdiocese of Miami choir for Pope John Paul II during his Mass in Tamiami Park in 1987. She was committed to social causes, actively working for the right-to-life movement and supporting homeless shelters for runaway teens.

The couple bought a house in Highlands, N.C., in 1982, where Patricia spent several months each summer. She was a devoted member of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church and was a regular supporter of the Highlands Biological Center, the Hudson Library, and the Center for Life Enrichment, where she volunteered for a number of years.

In 1987, Patricia and John moved to Bainbridge, Ga., where John While there, she volunteered for a literacy project teaching young unwed mothers to read and she took college courses in history and literature. In 1996, she and John established their primary residence on Amelia Island but continued to spend several months in Highlands each year until Patricia's health began to decline in 2017.

She was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was an avid singer and a voracious reader and book collector with a deep love of literature and a keen interest in current events. She loved travel and participated in numerous pilgrimages to religious sites around the world. Regardless of where she lived, she was a devoted supporter of art, music, and regional culture. Above all, she was a deeply compassionate person whose selflessness was an integral part of who she was and she will be remembered by all who experienced her generosity of spirit.

In addition to her husband and children, she is survived by eight grandchildren, John Joseph Pittari III (Stephanie) of Belcamp, Md., and Francesca Lane Pittari of Auburn, Ala., John Madison Voss Jr. (Kelsy) of Jacksonville, Fla., Emma Catherine Voss of Atlanta, Ga., Peter Anderson Voss of Jacksonville, Fla., Elizabeth Marie Hanna of Atlanta, Ga., Asa Maren Pittari of Lebanon, Pa., and Nina Beall Pittari of Lebanon, Pa.; one great-grandchild: Zachary John Pittari of Belcamp, Md.

A funeral mass will be held on Jan. 14 at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands, followed by the Rite of Christian Burial at Highlands Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Maryknoll Sisters.

Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Pittari family.



Patricia Anderson Pittari

A. Jane Huffman

A. Jane Huffman, 77 of Franklin, N.C., passed away Jan. 3, 2021.

She was born on Nov. 8, 1943, in Des Moines, Iowa, to the late Lucille and Jim Redman. Also preceding her in death was sister Jean Redman Kurtz.

She graduated from Janesville Sr. high school in Janesville, Wisc., in 1961; and received her associate of science degree from Sullins College in Bristol, Va., in 1963. She continued her education at the University of Wisconsin, receiving her B.S. in Physical Medicine in 1967. She worked two years at the Cripple Childrens Hospital & School in Sioux Falls, S.D., and acted as Chief Physical Therapist at Shriner's Children's Hospital in Greenville, S.C. She later moved back to Iowa where she married her childhood sweetheart, David Huffman on May 16, 1970. She worked several years for the United Cerebral Palsy of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She continued her career in Lynn County working as a pediatric physical therapist for the Cedar Rapids school system. In 1977, she and her family moved to Vero Beach, Fla., where she became a certified middle school instructor for ESOL, Math and Science and taught for 21 years in the Indian River County School District before retiring in 2005 and moving to Otto, N.C. She was active in theater and opera and sang in her church choir for many years as a soprano and soloist. She was a co-founder of Chapter CL in Franklin in 2006, a member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, DAR, Red Hats, Republican Women, served for several years on the Board of Heritage Mountain Estates Owners Association and a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church where she served on the board as the financial secretary.

Surviving is her husband of 50 years, David Huffman of Otto; daughter, Terri (Robert) Nichol of Tampa, Fla.; a sister, Joan Redman Boyce of San Anselma, Calif.; sister-in-Law Kathy Karr of Traer, Iowa; five nephews, two nieces, and their families.

No services are planned at this time.

Interment will be at Cedar Memorial Park Cemetery and Mausoleum in Cedar Rapids Iowa.

Bernice Moselle Keir (Welch)

Bernice Moselle Keir (Welch), 94, passed peacefully from this life to her eternal home on Jan. 4, 2021, to join her beloved husband John to whom she was married for 71 years

A native of Waco Texas, she was the daughter of the late Addie and Frank Welch. She lived most of her adult life in St. Cloud, Fla., before moving to Franklin, N.C., six years ago to live with her son (Jack) and granddaughter (Paula)

She enjoyed gardening, shopping, car rides, keeping up with current fashions and cooking. One of her favorite dishes was chicken and dumplings. She loved having friends to visit and talking about "the good old days." She was a strong, outspoken lady who had a smile for everyone. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her husband, John Keir Sr., who passed away in 2015, three sisters and seven brothers.

She is survived by two sons, John Keir Jr. of the home, and Frank Keir (Lawanda) of Mt. Dora, Fla.; three grandchildren, Paula Keir (Travis) of the home, Heather Critchfield (Aaron) of Braselton Ga. Wesley Keir of Mt. Dora, Fla.; two great grandchildren, Cody and Kaycie Critchfield; niece, Kathy (Jimmy) Keir; and nephew, Dennis (Donna) Everette; and her two grand cats, Dozey and Squeakerz.

No services are planned.

Burial will be at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Ocoee, Fla.



A. Jane Huffman



Bernice Moselle Keir

Calvin Woodrow Cowart

Calvin Woodrow Cowart, 77, of Otto, N.C., passed away Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, in Franklin, N.C. He was born July 12, 1943, in Rabun County, Georgia, to the late Ned and Violet Ruth Ledford Cowart.

He was a CDL "Over the Road" truck driver for many years and even drove as a team with his wife, Patsy. In the later years he drove a dump truck for Rhodes paving company. He was also very active with the WNC Wagon Train and owned a team of mules and wagon that he used to participate in the yearly events. He really enjoyed his three fur babies, Blaze, Bobo and Ginger and could often be seen selling firewood for Macon Program for Progress.

Surviving is his wife, Patsy Taylor Cowart; son, Calvin "Edward" (Barbara) Cowart; step-son, James Stacy Passmore and partner Carl Sly; grandchild, Brandy (Randy) Webb; great grandchild, Skla Cowart; sister, Nancy (Charles) Chidester; and brother, Don Cowart.

A celebration of life will take place at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Calvin Woodrow Cowart

Wayne Jackson Coleman

Wayne Jackson Coleman, 83, passed away on Jan. 8, 2021.

He was born in Eastman, Ga., on April 13, 1937, to Braudus (BJ) and Verma Coleman, but spent most of his formative years in Reidsville, Ga.

In eighth grade, he was recruited for the high-school one-act play at Reidsville High. It was there he met a cute, bossy tenth-grader named Annette. They would go on to marry and spend the next 60 years together.

He studied journalism, history and French at Mercer University and the University of Georgia. He began his career on a newspaper in Anderson, S.C., but eventually found success in furniture sales at Rich's and Mangurians. In the mid 1970s, he partnered with two friends to form Omni Manufacturing (Basic America Medical today), a firm that designed and manufactured furniture for nursing homes.

Wayne and Annette were deeply involved in Clairmont Baptist Church and Dunwoody Baptist Church (both in Atlanta), and First Presbyterian Church of Highlands (North Carolina). He was a popular Sunday School teacher in each congregation and had a knack for weaving historical context into a compelling story. He was never afraid to challenge traditional thinking. He sang in choirs in each church and was a sought-after soloist.

The theme of performance never left his journey. Over the years he acted in plays at Dunwoody Baptist Church, Stage Door Players, Highlands Playhouse, Aurora Theatre, Actor's Express, Highlands Performing Arts Center, and others. Favorite roles included Big Daddy in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," Pseudolus in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," and Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof" (which he played twice).

The couple spent most of their adult years in Atlanta, but retired to Highlands, N.C., in 1997. In retirement, Wayne remained active in the Highlands Men's Chorale, a local writer's group, and the architecture committee at First Presbyterian.

He loved to argue, politics in particular, and was quite adept at taking a contrary position to most anyone in the room. And, he always wore red socks.

He is survived by three generations of boisterous and opinionated family members in Atlanta, Ga., Knoxville, Tenn., and Denver, Colo.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Coleman family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



Wayne Jackson Coleman

James William (Bill) Fuchs

James William (Bill) Fuchs, 71, devoted husband, father of two, passed away January 8, 2021 after a brave battle with cancer. He was born March 11, 1949, to Fred and Barbara Fuchs of Homestead, Fla. His first grade report card described his personality best: "He is a great student, but he must S-L-O-W down!" Slow down, he did not! He had an intense zest for life. Even during the throes of cancer, he managed to continue his travels to Africa, Costa Rica, Alaska, the Amazon, and his treasured Wyoming. He never wanted to "burn daylight." He was known for his folksy, humorous expressions – some could be repeated and some should not, but many will be remembered by all who knew him.

His love for adventure was deeply ingrained. He came from a family of world travelers, nature lovers, outdoorsmen, agriculturists, and horticulturists. He was a 1967 graduate of South Dade High School in Homestead, Fla., where he was Senior Class President, a track and football athlete, a natural leader – charismatic and well liked. He loved growing up in South Florida, enjoying the ocean, with its beautiful coral reefs, and the wonders of the Everglades. It was while diving on the coral reefs that he had an accident that left his left hand with only three fingers. That injury never limited him. In a matter of seconds, he could intricately tie a beautiful Adams Dry Fly while sitting at his fly tying bench. His "special" hand was a favorite to hold by his children and grandsons. Ultimately, he became an award winning taxidermist, creating beautiful wildlife art with those unique hands.

He graduated from the University of South Alabama where he "majored" in hunting and fishing and minored in Biology and Chemistry. He was also a member of Sigma Tau Kappa. It was in Mobile, Ala., where he met the beautiful Linda Jane Johnson who became the devoted love of his life for 47 years. If time allowed, he spent it in the woods or on the water and always wanted his best friend, Linda, by his side every step of their life together. After graduating from college, he taught biology and chemistry and was also a noteworthy football coach at McGill-Toolen Institute in Mobile.

In 1978, Bill and Linda moved from Mobile to Franklin, where they purchased his grandfather and grandmother Williams' summer home. Growing up, he, his siblings, and cousins had enjoyed their vacations at this home. His first jobs in Franklin were teaching at L.B.J. Job Corps and holding an adjunct faculty position at Western Carolina University. While teaching and farming, he and Linda started what would become their life's work: Wilderness Taxidermy and Outfitters, later to become the largest taxidermy and outfitting business in North America. He was passionate about adventure and wanted to encourage everyone he met to explore new places, the outdoors and, of course, hunting and fishing. He was a master salesman and by the time you finished listening to him you were ready to "get in the game of life" or buy whatever it was he was selling. He was unapologetic when it came to his conservative political views, Alabama football, and the conservation and preservation of hunting and fishing for future generations.

There will never be another Bill Fuchs, JW, Billy, Fuchs, or Wild Bill. However, his legacy will be in all those who have met him and were inspired to enjoy God's natural creations and not take this life for granted. He loved life and lived it fully.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Fred Fuchs Jr. and Barbara Williams Fuchs of Homestead, Fla.; and his brother Charles (Judy) Fuchs also of Homestead.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Linda Jane Fuchs of Franklin; daughter, Corie Fuchs (Chris) Carr and grandsons, Colton and Cooper Carr of Mooresville, N.C.; son, Jason Fuchs and grandson, Bryton Fuchs of Missoula, Mont.; his brothers, Robert (Michael) Fuchs of Homestead; Richard (Linda S.) Fuchs of Jacksonville, Fla.; sister, Susan (Rhonda) Fuchs of Chattanooga, Tenn.; and many nephews and nieces.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring and announced at a later date. Thank you to our community and all who have stood with us in prayer and support.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the Fuchs family. Online condolences at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.



James William Fuchs

Robert L. Lahmers

Robert L. Lahmers, 93, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born June 21, 1927, in Reedurban, Ohio, to the late Fredrick and Grace Horne Lahmers, he is also predeceased by his sisters, Ethel, Margaret, Jeanette and Nellie.

Surviving is his wife of 72 years, Patricia Clepper Lahmers; children, Robert D. (Debbie) Lahmers, Carol (Mark) Smith, Joanie (Jimmy) Signore; grandchildren, Heather Lahmers, Crissi Lahmers, David Lahmers, Mike Kacprowicz, Rex Kacprowicz, Wendy Dewitt and Adam Odzic; 11 great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Robert and his wife Patricia moved from Dellroy, Ohio, to Sarasota, Fla., then to Franklin more than 30 years ago. Back in Dellroy, the couple lived on a working family farm, raising cows, pigs, chicken, row crops, hay and their children. He was an automobile mechanic. He loved cars, he even at one time worked on stock cars. In his later years, he loved to feed the birds. He enjoyed spending time with his family, and he will be sorely missed.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 16, at 2 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Tempe Fussell officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



Robert L. Lahmers

Thomas R. Renner

Thomas R. Renner, 77, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at his residence on Monday Jan. 11, 2021. He was born on Sept. 23, 1943, in Waukesha, Wisc., where he graduated high school. On March 8, 1969, he married Kaylynn Kaiser. She preceded him in death on Oct. 31, 1988. He married his wife of 30 years Nancy Hanson on Nov. 10, 1990.

He was a member of the United States Army Reserve from 1965-1971. He attended culinary school at MIT from 1962-1964 and was a chef for over 40 years. He was a wonderful salesman and restaurant manager in his career. Together with his wife, Nancy, he owned a restaurant (Mariners Inn) in North Fort Myers, Fla., for 5 years. He moved to the mountains of North Carolina in 2005 where he attended Trinity Church and served as a deacon for six years and loved the Lord. Through different stages of his life, he enjoyed boating, golfing, car races, his Corvette, the pool, and reading. He was a wonderful storyteller and had a witty sense of humor known for his endless knowledge of jokes. But of course, his passion was especially cooking and entertaining for family and friends.

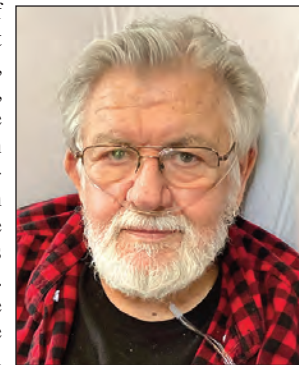
He is survived by his wife, Nancy; two daughters, Trisha (Joe) Renner, Tara (Todd) Feiter; a step-son, Jesse (Joanne) Gabrielski; step-daughter, Leana (CJ) Gabrielski; seven grandchildren, Katrina, Kaylee, Henry, Elliot, Kaisten, Brewer, and Jordynn.

He was preceded in death by dear friends as well as his parents, Donald and Charlotte (Ott) Renner, one brother Jerry Renner, one sister Judy Higbee and first wife Kaylynn.

He will be missed by his family and friends as he was a loving, devoted, and caring spouse, father, brother, uncle, and friend. His great stories, warm heart, and sunny disposition will be deeply missed by all.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Food Ministry at Trinity Church, or JDRF or Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance.



Thomas R. Renner



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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CROSSWORD

THEME:
FAMOUS DUOS

- ACROSS
- *Timothy Q. Mouse's friend, in Disney classic
 - River in Germany
 - Bridle parts
 - Whatever
 - Like tuna tartare
 - Forearm bones
 - Plural of #3 Down
 - Hardware store
 - "Gladiator" setting
 - *Ferb Fletcher's step-brother
 - *Mr. White's unfortunate student
 - Welcome spot for weary traveler
 - It shall, for short
 - Cul de _____
 - Young herring
 - Dieter's cuisine, for short
 - Gator's cousin
 - French "place"
 - Chunk of iceberg
 - St. Louis monument
 - Like new TV set
 - Front of ship
 - Singular of loci
 - Additional
 - Reality TV's Spelling
 - *Assistant to regional manager Michael Scott
 - Missing a limb
 - More, in Madrid
 - Like acne-prone skin
 - Pimple fluid
 - *Shirley's roommate and fellow bottle-capper
 - *Rory Gilmore's mom
 - Make an effort
 - Legal org.
 - Long stories
 - Scottish valleys

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- Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
- *One of The Carpenters duo
- Bone-dry
- Opposite of WSW
- Red or orange announcement
- Slightly wet
- *Malone and Stockton of the _____ Jazz
- Skirt length
- Shrovetide dish
- *Mary-Kate and Ashley
- Geologists' studies
- *_____ and cheese
- Moved under the rug
- "All _____, no bite"
- Footnote word
- *Amy Poehler's comedic partner
- Welsh alternative to Siobh-n
- Was almost out of gas, e.g.
- Source of indigo dye, pl.
- "_____ Be Home For Christmas"
- In the best possible way
- Coffee burn, e.g.
- *Bow and _____
- Spherical bacteria
- *Corona's main squeeze?
- What willow did
- Read-only chip
- Greek bazaar
- *Clark's fellow traveler
- College party chant
- Celestial bear
- Dancer's beat
- Daisy dukes, e.g.
- "Wizard of Oz" man
- Archimedes' exclamation
- Furlough
- Flower part
- Frog delicacy
- Wheel shaft
- Swerve
- European sea eagle
- *David and Paul on the "_____ Show"
- Italian currency, pl.
- Maple genus
- Negative contraction
- *Jerry's fellow treat-maker

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The Classifieds

Real Estate

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Community Fundraisers

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CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2014	Chevrolet	Camaro	104,018
1997	Chevrolet	Camaro	16,606
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	91,171
2019	Chevrolet	Cruze	14,078
2018	Chevrolet	Impala	8,465
2018	Chevrolet	Malibu	41,816
2017	Chevrolet	Malibu	66,094
2002	Honda	Accord	217,842
2018	Honda	Civic	26,676
2019	Hyundai	Elantra	36,506
2013	Kia	Rio	205,399
2011	Nissan	Maxima	97,688
2019	Nissan	Sentra	38,658
2017	Subaru	Forester	44,665
2017	Subaru	Outback	48,356
2019	Toyota	Corolla	35,775
2019	Toyota	Corolla	27,529

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado	4,769
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	40,758
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	13,389
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	37,779
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	3,987
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado	884
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	6,915
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	11,584
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	41,705
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	51,696
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	85,479
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	34,952
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	9,141
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	11,559
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	123,077
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	6,147
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	71,489
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	4,832
2020	Ford	F-150	23,354
2016	Ford	F-150	73,912
2018	Ford	F-150	27,491
2018	Ford	F-150	25,711
2014	Ford	F-150	130,566
2017	Ford	F-150	70,315
2016	Ford	F-250	190,904
2012	Ford	F-250	83,239
2019	Ford	Ranger	2,749
2017	GMC	Sierra 1500	43,356
2014	GMC	Sierra 1500	54,681
2020	GMC	Sierra 1500	16,220
2019	Nissan	Frontier	39,039
2020	RAM	1500	25,556
2020	RAM	1500 Classic	18,621
2018	Toyota	Tacoma	35,770

SUV

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2017	Buick	Encore	43,236
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	26,234
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	21,036
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	48,398
2016	Chevrolet	Suburban	112,779
2016	Chevrolet	Suburban	51,472
2015	Chevrolet	Traverse	101,068
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	91,551
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	17,683
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	37,692
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	78,569
2018	Chevrolet	Trax	10,745
2020	Chevrolet	Trax	1,172
2017	Chevrolet	Trax	64,432
2015	Chevrolet	Trax	135,060
2019	Ford	Edge	45,478
2018	Ford	Explorer	49,223
2000	Ford	Explorer	229,025
2014	Ford	Explorer	99,318
2014	GMC	Terrain	82,762
2019	GMC	Yukon XL	37,969
2019	Hyundai	Tucson	36,252
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	9,020
2004	Jeep	Liberty	130,097
2017	Jeep	Renegade	48,579
2016	Jeep	Renegade	85,600
2019	Jeep	Wrangler	6,861
2017	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited	88,737
2018	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited	52,465
2016	Kia	Sorento	73,214
2019	Kia	Sorento	21,976
2013	Kia	Soul	128,626
2016	Land Rover	Range Rover Sport	55,302
2011	Lexus	LX 570	111,266
2019	Mazda	CX-5	36,819
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	49,318
2019	Nissan	Rogue	39,871
2017	Nissan	Rogue	86,430
2015	Nissan	Rogue	65,358

VANS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2016	Dodge	Grand Caravan	102,307
2017	Mercedes-Benz	Metris	57,091

BIKES & RECREATION

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2004	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	9,778
2018	HARLEY DAVIDSON	STREETGLIDE	2,693
2019	KAUFMAN	TRAILER	
2019	POLARIS	SLINGSHOT SL	

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES