



About an hour before Motor Company Grill began lowering the Ruby for the 7th Annual New Years Eve Ruby Drop in Franklin, a tractor trailer plowed into a power pole and knocked out power to all of Main Street. Street lights went dark, red lights were out, and store fronts were no longer illuminated, all while hundreds of people had descended on Main Street for the New Years Eve celebration. Timothy Crabtree and staff sprang into action and got a generator to power the Ruby, which hung high above Main Street on a crane provided by Sanders Crane. The event was held at 9 p.m. as a way to ring in the New Year, while still adhering to Gov. Roy Cooper's 10 p.m. curfew in place due to COVID19.

Board maintains decision to keep schools open

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The School Board of Macon County held an emergency meeting on Dec. 30, 2020, to evaluate options for returning to school this month. Highlands School had previously decided to start the New Year by allowing students to attend school remotely from Jan. 5-8. The principal cited the possible spike in cases of COVID after the holidays as the reason for the decision.

During the meeting Dr. Chris Baldwin, Macon Schools Superintendent, evaluated the number of staff and students who were either COVID positive or quarantined due to possible exposure. Just before the Christmas break, Macon Schools had 126 students in quarantine, along with 15 staff members. Students testing positive numbered at 26 along with and seven staff. After being under quarantine for the past two weeks, all are eligible to return to school in January. Due to the number of staff that were affected by COVID, Macon Middle School (MMS) and Cartoogechaye Elementary schools had to suspend face to face instruction in De-

ember, because of the lack of staff needed to run the schools.

Macon County Health Director Kathy McGaha said that North Carolina Health Department has a lag in information and that could push Macon from being designated an orange zone into red. Macon was at a 14% positivity rate at year's end. On Dec. 31, a spike of 80 COVID cases was reported in one day. Angel Medical Center reports 10 beds with COVID patients, out of the 23 beds in the hospital. Board member Melissa Evans conveyed that most parents want schools to remain open. Dr. Baldwin explained that there had been no known cases where staff has infected a student or vice versa. Although it was unknown where the exposure occurred, zero cases of COVID have been detected at schools through contact tracing. School protocol calls for anyone within six feet of a person infected or exposed for 15 minutes must be tested.

Since enough staff members were available to reopen

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Book illustrating just one of artist's many talents



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Museum's log cabin exhibit nearing completion



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Burns Night celebration moving to Clayton, Ga.

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Newly elected representatives sworn in to N.C. House and U.S. Congress



Western North Carolina's newest member of the N.C. House of Representatives representing the 120th District was sworn in on Sunday, Jan. 2, with his wife, Janet, and son, Logan, present. District Court Judge Kaleb Wingate did the honors. Gillespie said in a statement, "I could not have done this without your vote and the tireless work of countless individuals throughout the 120th. Thank you. I am humbled and look forward to serving you in Raleigh."



Rep. Madison Cawthorn was sworn into office Sunday evening, becoming one of the youngest members of Congress in modern history at 25 years old. Western North Carolina has been without a representative in the US House since March 2020, when Mark Meadows resigned to accept a position as Chief of Staff for President Donald Trump. Rep. Cawthorn was sworn in to the 117th Congress, with 51 freshman representatives and seven freshman senators.



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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

SUVS

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



BIKES AND 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	

VANS

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



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NCDHHS unveils rollout plan for COVID-19 vaccinations

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced Dec. 30 it had updated its vaccination plan to align with new federal recommendations. The changes simplify the vaccine process and continue the state's commitment to first protect health care workers caring for patients with COVID-19, people who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying, and those at high risk of exposure to COVID-19.

"While there is still much to do, we head into 2021 with a powerful tool to stop this pandemic – vaccines," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "However, because supplies are very limited, it's going to be several months before vaccines are widely available to everyone. Until most people are vaccinated, everyone needs to continue to wear a mask, wait six feet apart, and wash their hands."

Because vaccine supplies are currently limited, states must make vaccine available in phases. On Dec. 22, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices released updated interim vaccine prioritization recommendations for the next phases of vaccinations.

Current Phase – Phase 1a: Health care workers fighting COVID-19 and long-term care staff and residents.

• Hospitals and local health departments are vaccinating health care workers caring for and working directly with patients with COVID-19 and those giving vaccines. In addition, the federal government is vaccinating long-term care residents and staff.

Phase 1b: Adults 75 years or older and frontline essential workers.

The next phase of vaccinations will open in groups.
 • Group 1: Anyone 75 years or older regardless of medical condition or living situation. People do not have to have a chronic health condition.
 • Group 2: Health care and frontline essential workers who

New Year, New Schedule

Beginning January 4th, 2021, Macon County Public Health will use the following schedule for our COVID-19 response. Thank you for your continued support!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
COVID-19 Testing	Prenatal Clinic	COVID-19 Vaccination	COVID-19 Testing	COVID-19 Vaccination
8:30am - 2:00pm	No COVID Testing or Vaccination	10:00am - 3:00pm	8:30am - 2:00pm	10:00am - 3:00pm

Environmental Health and Animal Services will not be impacted by this change.

Macon County Public Health has released a schedule for its daily services. COVID-19 testing will be conducted on Monday and Thursday; a prenatal clinic is held on Tuesday; COVID-19 vaccinations in designated phases will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays.

are 50 years of age or older.

• Group 3: Frontline workers of any age and health care workers of any age, regardless of whether they work directly with COVID-19 patients. This phase is anticipated to begin in early January.

The CDC defines frontline essential workers as first responders (firefighters, police), education (child care, teachers, support staff), manufacturing, corrections officers, public transit, grocery store, food and agriculture, and US postal workers.

Phase 2: Adults at high risk for exposure and at increased risk of severe illness.

In this phase, vaccinations will also open in groups.
 • Group 1: Anyone ages 65-74 years regardless of medical condition or living situation.
 • Group 2: Anyone 16-64 years with a medical condition that increases risk of severe disease from COVID-19.
 • Group 3: Anyone who is incarcerated or living in other close group living settings who has not already vaccinated due to age, medical condition or job function.

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- Group 4: Essential workers as defined by the CDC who have not yet been vaccinated.
 - Phase 3: Students.**
 - College, university and high school students 16 or older.
 - Younger children will only be vaccinated when the vaccine is approved for them.
 - Phase 4: Finally, anyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccine will be able to get one.**
- All vaccine providers are expected to ensure that vaccine is administered equitably within each group

Macon County currently in Phase 1a of COVID-19 vaccine roll-out

With the arrival of 1300 doses of the Moderna vaccine in Macon County and the first vaccinations administered last week, Macon County Public Health issued a statement that assures that the vaccine roll-out process as to who is eligible will be as transparent as possible. "It is our goal to provide the citizens of Macon County with the COVID-19 vaccine as quickly and safely as possible," the statement reads.

MCPH was allocated 300 doses with Angel Medical Center and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital receiving the remaining doses.

North Carolina and Macon County are currently in Phase 1a of vaccine distribution. This phase includes healthcare personnel fighting COVID-19 and long-term care facilities residents. North Carolina will advance to the next phase of vaccination when NCDHHS determines that all interested persons within the Phase 1a priority group have been vaccinated.

The vaccines will be administered at no cost, however, those with insurance coverage are asked to bring their insurance card.

MCPH will update its social media pages to alert the public when the state and county advance to the next phase of vaccination. At this time, Macon County Public Health and NCDHHS are not scheduling individuals for vaccination in other vaccine phases other than Phase 1a. Individuals in Phase 1a must make an appointment with Macon County Public Health to be vaccinated by calling (828)349-2517.



Dr. Donald Dewhurst was one of the first to receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Thursday, Dec. 31. Administering the vaccine is nurse Ruthie Capaforte.

Town council approves retirement buyout for its 25-year employees

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The Franklin Town Council held its first meeting of the new year on Monday and closed out old business from December.

Franklin Town Clerk and Human Resource director Travis Tallent presented council members with a proposal to implement a program to allow an early retirement buyout option for law enforcement personnel.

"Municipalities have substantial obligations in funding the retirement of their officers," explained Franklin Town Attorney John Henning Jr. "State law now permits them to offer their officers with at least 25 years of service the opportunity to take a voluntary lump sum payment in lieu of their usual pension-style benefit ..."

time, place, and manner restrictions.

The council voted to unanimously approve the program, which states that when funds are available, at the sole discretion of the Town Council, law enforcement officers may be offered an early separation buyout. The one-time payment will be equal to the annual salary of an employee with 25 years or more of employment and the amount will be determined and allowed based on council approval during the budget process.

Council Member Mike Lewis worked with Tallent to ensure that employees who are eligi-

ble for the buyout will still receive employee-only health insurance from the town of Franklin until he/she reaches the age of Medicare eligibility at 65 or becomes covered under another plan.

According to Henning, the new early retirement policy buyout will be voluntary, for both the town and employees.

The Town of Franklin also unanimously voted to amend the town's parade and demonstrations ordinance. While the First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects free speech activities, the United States

Supreme Court has consistently ruled that municipalities like Franklin may regulate First Amendment-protected activities through reasonable

The council voted to change the definition of group demonstration from: "Any assembly together or concert of action between or among two or more persons" to "A public display of sentiment for or against a person or cause including protesting among two or more persons."

The proposed changes also add social events and festivals to the types of events regulated under the Parade and Demonstration ordinance. The change will add outdoor concerts, fairs, community events, or similar event that is primarily commercial and/or recreational in nature to the existing ordinance.

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Book illustrating just one aspect of local artist's many talents

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Amberly Downs recently illustrated her second children's book, "How I Became the Mighty Atlas," written by Macon Early College student Kristina Masta with Faithe Gi-



acinto. Downs' first illustrated book, "Elder Turtle," was completed for the 7th Annual Cherokee Children's Book Project and published in 2013. Yet, children's book illustration is only a minor part of her varied artistic life.

Downs has been a tattoo artist for seven years. She owns Atomic Annie's on Main Street in Franklin. "I do the most in that arena ... every day. But I also commission paintings. If someone wants art on their car, I'll design that. There's no turning it off. I sew as well. As long as it's hands on and visual, I'm doing it."

Downs even makes some of her Christmas presents each year. This past Christmas she created paper shadow-box butterflies. "People expect something artistic from me for the holidays," she said.

Downs' Main Street studio, named because her middle name is Ann, "and I wanted something fun ... a throwback to the '50s," is filled with examples of her work – including framed illustrations from the two children's books.

"I do everything. I can pinstripe to tattoo art to acrylic paintings to portraits. Trying to survive as an artist, you have to be good at everything. I think of my studio as an art piece ... whatever canvas you want is up to you. The body can be one type of canvas.

"A lot of people are artists. Some are fo-

cus. I'm just very broad."

Downs attended Southwestern Community College and earned an associate's degree in art and graphic design; she also studied under Tony Mingacci, a tattoo artist.

"And I just learned from other artists along the way to increase my skill set."

Another aspect of her artistry involves hand-drawn art images for such clients as Zippo Lighters; some of her freelance commercial art has received accolades and top-seller status. Beginning at age four,



Downs was studying and copying drawings in encyclopedias.

"I paid attention to the wrinkles of the elephants in the book, for example. As soon as someone handed me paper, I was off and drawing. I've been sculpting, painting, drawing, and more ever since. I've lived here my whole life, and my career as an artist is partly because of the Macon County School System. I took all the art classes offered."

For the "How I Became the Mighty Atlas" project, she was contacted by Michelle Masta early in 2020 and asked to illustrate Masta's daughter's story about her service dog, Atlas, an Anatolian shepherd.

"I have a soft spot for children with spe-

cial needs," said Downs. "I spent time with Atlas to get to know his personality, his movements. I actually became friends with Michelle and Kristina. It took about eight months to complete the illustrations. They are all hand-painted in watercolor. I'm really happy with the way they turned out ... the way the book turned out."

Downs also enjoyed the process of illustrating "Elder Turtle," which is written in the Cherokee language and in English. "It was a big project for me and I was thrilled to be a part of that."

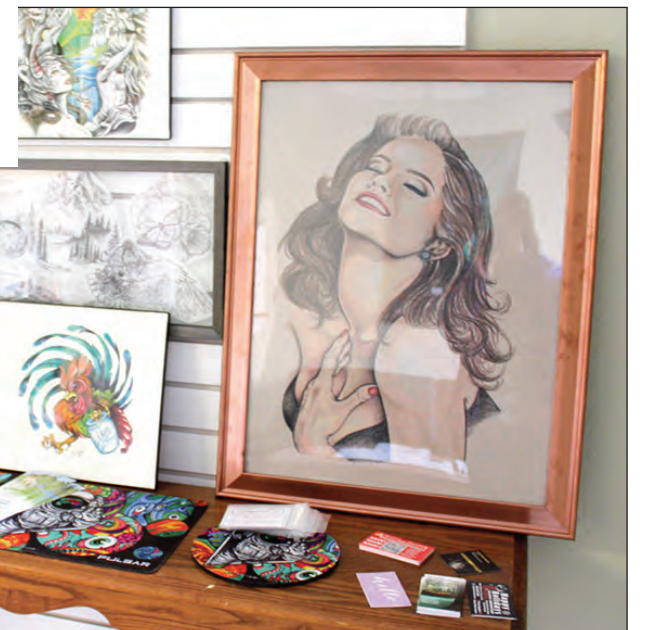
Downs' 14-year-old daughter, 12-year-old daughter, and 4-year-old son all dabble in different aspects of art, but she said her old-



Samantha Bateman requested rose tattoos with the names of her sons, Aksel and Jack. Artist Amberly Downs created the design.

est daughter "is an artist. She has a natural talent for it."

Downs also offers children's art education classes. "I try to do them affordably, for as little as \$10, just to cover supplies. I really enjoy inspiring kids to focus on art."



FFRF forces takedown of 'religious materials'

The Otto recycling center has been forced to remove displayed Christian paraphernalia after the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) raised the issue.

An employee contacted the organization to report religious materials on display at the Otto Center. These displays included the Ten Commandments, as well as various multiple other Christian postings.

FFRF informed the Macon County Solid Waste Department that when government agencies display religious materials, they "appear" to endorse religion in violation of the Establishment Clause.

"The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibits government sponsorship of religious messages," FFRF Legal Fellow Brendan Johnson wrote to Macon County Recycling Coordinator Shaun Cribbs. "The Supreme Court has said time and again that the 'First Amendment mandates government neutrality between religion and religion, and between religion and nonreligion.' Display of the Ten Commandments and other religious messages sends the unmistakable message that the department endorses religion."

According to further statements from the

FFRF, "the department's religious displays further exclude the 26 percent of Americans who are nonreligious, sending them the message 'that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community, and an accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders, favored members of the political community,'" to quote the Supreme Court. By removing these displays, the department will send a message that all employees are equally valued and welcome in the workplace, FFRF stressed.

FFRF's missive pushed the Macon County Solid Waste Department to take action.

"There are to be NO religious or political articles posted inside or outside of the attendant building," Cribbs recently sent a memo to all department employees. "This also applies to the recycling center grounds as well."

This incident is not the first time the FFRF has gotten involved in Macon County. Previously, it has issued complaints because of a pastor at a Nantahala School graduation, Bible verses on a spirit banner at a Franklin High School football game, and a Christmas greeting from the school superintendent.

SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 1

schools on Jan. 5, the board took no action and allowed the previous meeting's decision to stand. Schools reopened for face to face instruction on Tuesday. Dr. Baldwin also noted that every school will most likely follow an individual decision of suspending face to face based on daily COVID statistics, as they did with MMS and Cartoogechaye.

Franklin High School schedule changing for the spring semester

Franklin High School (FHS) will start the new year off with a new schedule for face to face students. A message was sent out from FHS explaining the new schedule.

"The schedule for non-virtual students to attend in person is changing in the spring semester. Students will no longer follow a schedule to attend based on their grade level.

Moving forward, students will attend based on the first letter of their last name. Students with last names beginning with A through L will attend on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. Students with last names beginning with M through Z will attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. These groups will alternate attending on Fridays, beginning with the A through L group in the first week.

"Students who failed to earn required credits in the fall semester will be rescheduled. An updated copy of student schedules will be available from advisors on the first day they attend in January. Mandatory face masks and social distancing will remain in place."

Persons who need an appointment for COVID-19 testing may contact the Health Department Call Center at (828)349-2517.

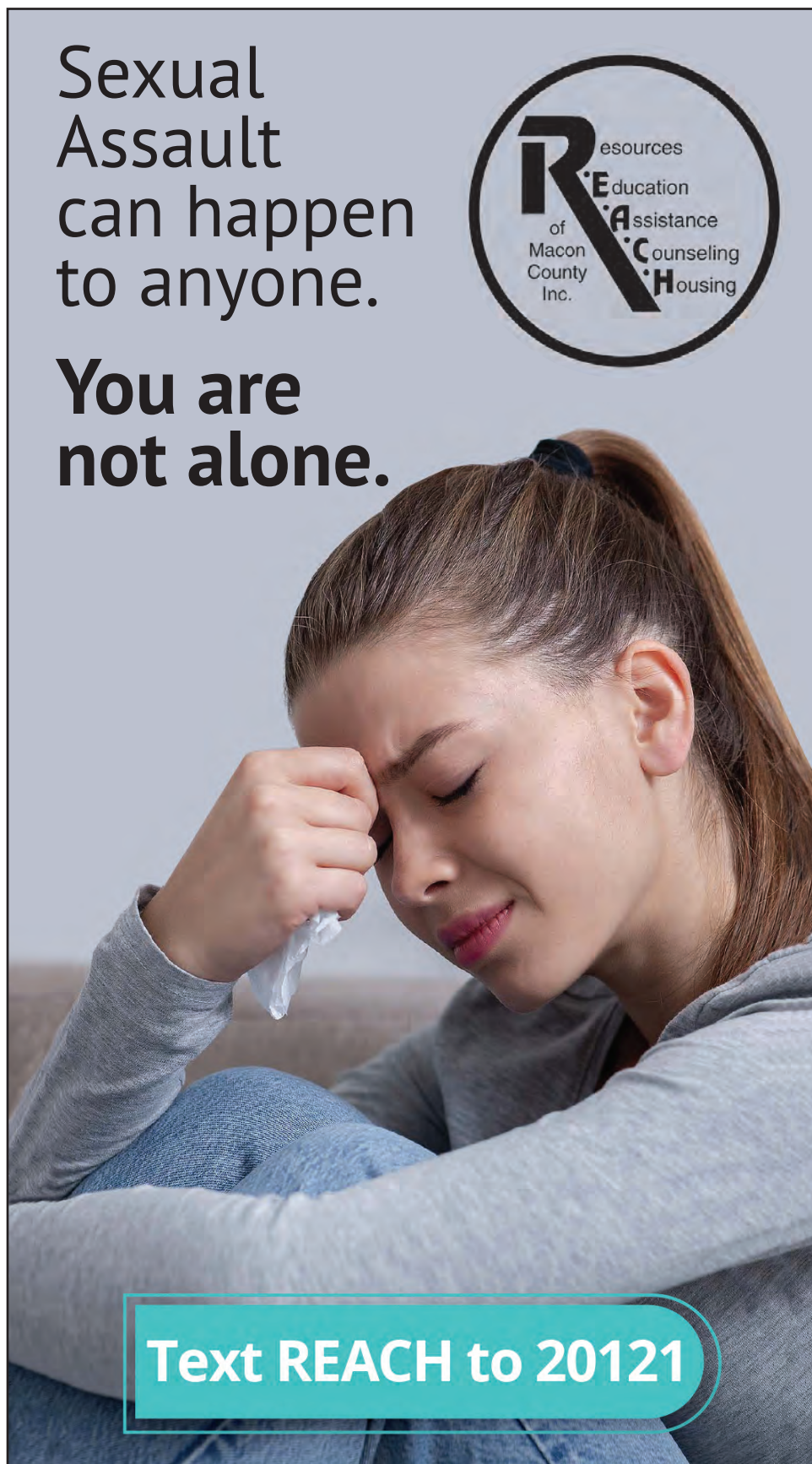


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EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems offers many free and mostly virtual workshops for farmers, entrepreneurs

EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems (EMFS) and its partners are kicking off the new year by giving the gift of learning- so many free and mostly virtual workshops and webinars featuring some of the most knowledgeable experts in the field. Topics include at-home butchery basics, how to add value to a farm business with agritourism, how to tap into available funding, budgeting and financial planning and growing vegetables large-scale for market.

The EMFS project aims to help farmers and food businesses increase their income through training, infrastructure support, and capacity building. While our COVID relief funding is wrapping up, opportunities for assistance are still available in 2021.

Opportunities

- Apprenticeship Program: The EMFS Apprenticeship Program matches paid Apprentices with regional food and farming Mentor Businesses along the local supply chain. Apply at cefs.ncsu.edu.

- Grants and funding available: Grant/loans designed to "buy down" the cost of purchasing equipment or infrastructure for farm and food businesses. Farmers and food businesses can reach out to their NC Cooperative Extension offices for project information or contact the project director Laura Lauffer at lwlauffe@ncsu.edu

Upcoming Events

- Agritourism Series- Diversify Your Income! Tuesdays in January (from Jan. 5- Jan. 26), 1 to 2:30 p.m., online. Register at eventbrite.com or see the EMFS Facebook event Agritourism Series – Diversify Your Income!

Is Agritourism right for your farming operation? NC State Extension -Tourism's work with small farms across the state reveals that many small farmers report high interest in receiving visitors as a strategy to earn additional income, selling farm products to the visitors, enhancing customer relationships, and even involving guests in farm work. In addition, many small farms want to increase their direct-to-consumer sales, whether to members of neighboring communities or to tourists visiting the area.

This virtual four-part series will define Agritourism, help participants determine if their personality is suited for agritourism as well examine pricing, marketing, legal issues and developing a business plan.

Each 1.5 hour session will include presentations from extension agents and specialists, panel discussions including small business consultants, credit service consultants and farmers currently in the Agritourism business.

- Appalachian Farm School 2.0 (Advanced) Wednesdays (from Jan. 20 - Feb 10), 4 to 6 p.m.; in-person at Southwestern Community College Small Business Center Burrell Conf. Center - Rooms C & D. Visit the website at ncsbc.net.

This four-part series of in-depth, hands-on work sessions are designed for agriculture-based businesses who have attended the Appalachian Farm School in the past or who already have a business plan. These are "work sessions" where you will get to work on creating a current budget, understanding your accurate financial picture as well as getting a clearer marketing strategy and developing a brand.

For more information, contact the SCC Small Business Center at 828-339-4426 or email: t_henry@southwesterncc.edu

- Butchery Basics for Home Consumers Tuesday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Online. Register at eventbrite.com.

Join Butcher Ross Flynn of Left Bank Butchery, and NC

Choices' Lee Menius, as they walk you through a live "Butchery Basics for Home Consumers" demonstration. This two-hour training is geared toward home consumers or novice meat cutters with little to no meat cutting experience interested in breaking down a carcass in their home kitchen.

Topics will include:

- proper safety and handling of carcasses
- home set-up and tools needed
- followed by a step-by-step breakdown of a pig carcass into its most basic cuts for consumers to safely store and eat
- intro to the basics of grinding & sausage making
- cutting tips for what to do when you've lost your way
- practical storing and wrapping will be included
- nomenclature will be compared across species, so this demonstration is not just limited to hog producers.

This is a zoom demonstration with live chat for questions and answers.

- On-Farm Food Safety Basics & Is GAP Certification Right for You? Thursday, Jan. 21, 2 to 4:30 p.m. Online. Register at eventbrite.com.

This Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) webinar will address how farmers of all sizes can achieve USDA GAPs certification, deliver information on principles of fresh produce safety and on-farm hazard assessment, as well as provide assistance with creating a fresh produce farm safety plan.

Farmers will receive instruction concerning the tools needed to identify potential food safety concerns as well as strategies to minimize issues. By attend-

ing participants will understand the GAP Process and be able to understand if GAP Certification is best for your farm.

- 2021 Winter Vegetable Conference & Trade Show, Feb 24 and Feb 25, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Online. \$40* to register at eventbrite.com

The two-day conference includes a virtual trade show and presentations on many different topics to help vegetable growers. We hope that you take advantage of this opportunity to learn about current issues associated with vegetables and take time with the representatives from agricultural companies and other businesses that support our industry during live "virtual" breakout sessions. NC Pesticide credits will be available for attendees.

Topics will include:

- Tomato Hybrid Field Trials
- Herbicide carryover and injury from drift
- Weed control in pepper, tomato, and cucurbits
- Thrip management in tomatoes and pepper
- Tomato disease management
- Hybrid tomato varieties for commercial production
- Progress in breeding for combined resistance to verticillium and bacterial spot

To register & learn more about break-out sessions visit eventbrite.com or contact Ellen Moss at 828-685-3989, or email ellen_moss@yahoo.com

*EMFS provides scholarships to all regional farmers and food producers. Visit cefs.ncsu.edu and search "scholarships."

- Farm Funding with NRCS, FSA and Ag Options, Jan 21, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Online. Register at ncsbc.net.

How can these agencies support your farm revenue, infrastructure and marketing efforts? Is your farming operation eligible? This session will cover the diverse funding opportunities available to new and established farming operations. This webinar is put on by Southwestern Community College Small Business Center. Reach out for more information at (828)339-4211. Email: t_henry@southwesterncc.edu



Harris welcomes nurse midwife

Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva welcomes certified nurse midwife Emilee Lazo to Harris Women's Care with locations in Jackson, Swain, and Macon counties. Lazo joins OB/GYN providers Sabine Kelischek, MD, Alvin Strasburger, MD, Ja'Pel Sumpter, MD, and Kathy Walsh, NP, and certified nurse midwives Anne Karner, Darci Walker, and Judi Layton in caring for the families of Western North Carolina.



Emilee Lazo

Lazo completed her master of science in Midwifery at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing after receiving a bachelor of arts degree in French and International Studies at Berry College. She is fluent in Spanish. Most recently, Lazo practiced at Alivio Medical Center in Chicago.

"We are excited to welcome Emilee to Harris Women's Care where she joins a team of expert providers caring for the women of

western North Carolina," said Steve Heatherly, CEO of Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital. "It is our privilege to expand access to high quality women's care in communities across the region. Emilee's arrival and experience help us bring care closer to home."

Harris Regional Hospital is the only facility in the counties west of Jackson providing labor and delivery services. Lazo also serves as the women's care provider at

the Macon County Health Department under the supervision of Dr. Sumpter for high risk OB and OB patients.

For an appointment with Lazo or any of the providers contact Harris Women's Care at (828) 631-8913 or visit www.myharrisregional.com. Harris Women's Care has three locations: 70 The Village Overlook in Sylva; 55 Holly Springs Drive in Franklin; and 45 Plateau Street in Bryson City.

NC Medicaid launches website to learn more about Medicaid Managed Care

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has announced the launch of NC Medicaid's managed care enrollment website, www.ncmedicaidplans.gov, in preparation for the launch of Medicaid Managed Care scheduled for July 1, 2021.

The purpose of the enrollment website is to help Medicaid beneficiaries learn more about Medicaid Managed Care. In 2015, the NC General Assembly enacted legislation directing NCDHHS to transition Medicaid and NC Health Choice from a primarily fee-for-service delivery system to managed care. Under managed care, the state contracts with insurance companies, which are paid a predetermined set rate per enrolled person to provide all services.

The enrollment website provides information about who will have to choose a health plan, who will stay in the traditional Medicaid program (NC Medicaid Direct) and who can choose between the two. It will also share the basic medical and behavioral health benefits that are offered. There will be a list of frequently asked questions and answers to help beneficiaries understand the changes.

Most people currently receiving Medicaid benefits will need to enroll in Medicaid Managed Care. Open enrollment will begin March 15, 2021, and will continue through May 14, 2021. Medicaid beneficiaries will be able to choose from five health plans — WellCare, United HealthCare, Healthy Blue, AmeriHealth Caritas and Carolina Complete Health (serving regions 3, 4 and 5). Those who are federally recognized tribal members or qualify for Indian Health Services are exempt from managed care. Those who live in Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Jackson or Swain counties or in a neighboring county may choose to enroll in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Tribal Option.

A small number of people will not need to choose a Medicaid Managed Care health plan because of the type of health services they need. They will stay enrolled in NC Medicaid Direct. To learn more, beneficiaries can visit the NC Medicaid Direct services page on the enrollment website.

To learn more about North Carolina's transformation to Medicaid Managed Care, visit the Medicaid Transformation webpage at medicaid.ncdhhs.gov



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

I will not miss 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have many things to still be thankful for, the pandemic has put major stresses on all aspects of community life. Thankfully the Highlands Cashiers Hospital has not seen a surge of COVID patients as we all had feared happening back in the spring.

I realize we were making decisions in an emergency situation with very uncertain variables. I and the board were concerned that the town would see a sudden spike in cases to the level that are now being seen in other communities. Looking back, I wish we could have had a "do over," with information and time to respond. But, that is not the way life is.

Back in the spring some folks believed we didn't react as quickly and as forcefully as the situation warranted. Other folks think I and the board over reacted. One person sent me a letter calling me a "Nazi Communist," whatever that may imply. As an elected official I have come to realize that sweet spot where everyone is happy doesn't exist. I have to carry that burden of displeasing some folks and balance that load with those who are pleased. The final measure takes place at the ballot box.

My concern throughout the year has been the toll the virus has had on community rituals that we all treasure. I think of the cancellation of many events, beginning in the spring with the Highlands Food and Wine Concert in the park. We also saw almost all our arts and cultural events cancelled, postponed or converted to virtual events. The Bascom's exhibition schedule was curtailed, the Chamber Music Festival suffered a blow, the Playhouse schedule was decimated, as well as the schedule at the Performing Arts Center. I hated to see a great rite of spring, graduation of our high school seniors, delayed and scaled back. The concerts in the park were lost, the Friends of the Park Shrimp Boil was cancelled. While the art show in the park was modified, the Highlands Motoring Festival had to be converted to more of a motoring rally rather than a car show. I hated to see a Fourth of July without fireworks, and the loss of the Twilight 5K Race. The annual CLE program with face to face lectures was set back. The Highlands Food and Wine Festival that was scheduled for November was cancelled, along with the Main Street Halloween event, and the Christmas Parade. The town Christmas Lighting was modified to be more of a drive thru event. Our churches have also suffered greatly in not being able to have full, in-person services. I have missed not having town hall fully opened so people can drop off their utility bills and say hello to the staff. I have missed in-person town board meetings. These changes all have added up to big missed

See TAYLOR page 11

Letters to the Editor

Wearing a mask 'a Christian gesture'

While President Trump plays golf, millions of Americans lost their unemployment benefits this weekend, damaging the economy and forcing some families into eviction and food shortage. The result of the eclipse of the federal relief will be foreclosures, hunger, homelessness, and suicides. Even when federal relief funds are finally approved it will still take states weeks, maybe months, to get any federal relief money into state unemployment systems and budgets.

Keep in mind the House of Representatives passed a relief package in May 2020 and the Senate would not even enter the bill into debate.

This disaster would be behind now, if, for just six weeks in the March April time frame, 90% of Americans wore a mask in public, tried to avoid contact with strangers anything closer than six feet, and washed their hands frequently. We could have avoided seven months of closed retail business and restaurants, curtailed travel, and most important, the strain this virus has put on our healthcare systems.

Wearing a mask and avoiding contact with strangers by staying home whenever possible is not cowardice or an offense to our Constitutional rights. It is a Christian gesture of our love for our neighbors and a patriotic duty to keep as many Americans healthy as possible. Studies conducted by the most respected medical researchers in every country has shown that masks are 40 to 80 percent effective in preventing the spread of the virus.

The U.S. Armed forces have reported for 10 years that the greatest threat to the safety of our nation is a viral epidemic. They have told us multiple times that we are not adequately prepared to defend against this greatest of threats.

The vaccines now being distributed will not stem the spread of the virus for another three months at minimum. Please, take care of our family, friends, work colleagues, and neighbors by simply wearing a mask in public places.

This is not only a Christian thing to do, it is an act of patriotism.

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

Another con job from the District of Criminals

The public Fool System (sometimes mistakenly referred to as a "school system" has for many years told our children that there are 50 states in this country.

The District of Columbia was defined by a Proclamation of the President Dec. 23, 1788.

First, we need to understand the true historical background of that 10-mile square piece of land on the Potomac River carved out of the State of Maryland and the State of Virginia in 1800 and called the "District of Columbia" (1 St. L. 130 and 2 St. 102).

There were many chameleon-like changes in the laws in the District over the years as well as land exchanges with Virginia and Maryland

One truly remarkable thing was that in the years between 1861 and 1874, in 1862, "a new Supreme Court was established." See D.C. Code Volume 1, Page 9. What happened to the original Supreme Court?

The Act of 1871, Feb. 21, 1871, 16 St. 419, ch 62 named that area called District of Columbia a corporation.

So, the so-called "government" is really just another big business corporation, a municipal entity.

If you were to read through the Supreme Court decision in *The Metropolitan Railroad Company v. The District of Columbia*, 122 U.S. 221, 1889, it becomes evident that whatever is happening up there, it has a split personality acting in two different capacities.

That decision at Page 234 clearly says "That the District of Columbia is a separate State (capital S)" also quoting Justice Marshall in *Hepburn v. Ellzey*, 6 U.S. 2, 445.

Whoa!??? Doesn't that make the count 51 States?

Perhaps, but if we look further and see all of the many "Reorganizations" (what happens to corporations when they go into bankruptcy) and other transmutations of the District of Criminals until we get to 1982, we can look at Page 375 of the District of Columbia Code, Volume 1, *The Michie Company*, 1991, we can read through "The Constitution of the State of New Columbia." Ratified in 1982.

Why is this interesting at this point in time?

Because of all of the mealy mouthed politicians and Lame Scream media talking heads who are bleating the concerns that the Comrades in the Socialist Communist Democratic Party will make D.C. and Puerto Rico two more States and pack the Court.

Hey, folks, this was done in 1982 so what nefarious plan are they trying to foist off on us now?

As with most politicians, we have to ask ourselves if they intentionally lie or are just plainly uneducated regardless of what expensive Ivy League school they go to.... Or more likely, both.

Why don't you try asking the Congressmen and Senators to explain this one away? How about asking the history teachers in the Fool System where we send out children and grandchildren?

Wake up all you Woke Folks who worship at the feet of the Democratic Socialists driving this skewed agenda and learn from Venezuela, Cuba, China, Laos, Vietnam and North Korea and what they have done to their people. Either that, or if you really desire to live under such a regime, simply pack your bags and go there and stop trying to facilitate that onerous system in this country.

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

Peter K. Stern, USAF Retired – Franklin, N.C.

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All Trump thinks about is money

Seems that reading some of the letters, if a man shows respect to his fellow workers, and doesn't call everyone nasty names, and full of hatred and a bully he's considered "weak." It takes intelligence which Trump don't have. All he thinks about is money. That's why he calls our Military losers, as he said. They should have stayed out and made more money. I would hate to think what this country would do with out them. He has shown what a coward he really is. He lies all the time telling the American people how he is so well liked around the world. Yet other countries were shocked to think that 80 million people could vote for him. Guess they all took a sigh of relief when they found out Bidon won. Especially Germany, France, and the U.K. Our Military wasn't guaranteed any more any place. We were always the powerful country. Trump has shown what a coward he is, by not being able to take any responsibility guess that's why he gets mean and nasty, trying to cover it. He blames everything on every one else. Like all the disorderly conduct, killings and burning a person's business, even to say it was OK for a 15 yr old to carry a military assault weapon. Doesn't believe in any kind of gun control, and is trying to blame it all on the Democrats. This has been Trump's country for the past 4 yrs. That makes him responsible. It's easier to blame someone else. A coward's way out. As far as the rest of the world, he will go down in history as the worst president the U.S. has ever had. Sorry!

Kathy Whitley – Franklin, N.C.

Sedition can not be allowed to go unchallenged

"Incitement of discontent or rebellion against a government, or any action (especially in speech or writing) promoting such discontent or rebellion." That is Webster's least complicated definition of sedition and what, in my modest opinion, the president of the United States, 18 states attorney generals, at least 126 congressmen and women, and a multitude of enablers who eagerly signed on to Trump's ill-advised, short-sighted, half-baked and very, very dangerous endeavor to overturn a free and fair election, are guilty of.

Armed only with consistently debunked conspiracy theories, unsubstantiated and frivolous allegations of wide-spread voter fraud and the shock of having to accept the short end of the voters' choice, these men and women enthusiastically sold out their country and intentionally violated their oaths of office in exchange for power and personal gain.

This cannot be allowed to stand unchallenged. These men and women must be charged and held accountable for their misguided adventures that have damaged our country immeasurably and left many Americans permanently distrustful of the essential institutions that have held our nation together and reinforced our democratic form of government for over 200 years.

Zeynep Tufekci stated recently in TheAtlantic.com, Trump's attempted coup may have seemed "buffoonish" but he's "writing the playbook for stealing elections." It seems to me we cannot just simply dismiss (like it was an aberration) the reality that Trump has wide support in a political party desperately obsessed with retaining power no matter the cost, however grave the loss, even if that sacrifice is democracy itself.

Trump's presidency has revealed chinks in the armor of our Constitution, severe vulnerabilities in our system of checks and balances and critical, deep-rooted flaws in our approach to law and order. Most importantly, this president has inadvertently (and most certainly unwittingly) uncovered a harsh truth about the United States of America. Our institutions (at least in their present form) cannot stand up to such an onslaught that unprincipled and disreputable men like Trump can create.

We may have escaped a disaster – this time. This time we

elected a totally incompetent, mentally unstable conman unencumbered by rational sensibilities. However, a smarter, more capable authoritarian of sound mind (one less unhinged) and supported by a more dedicated and determined political party hell-bent on destroying democracy – a closer election coupled with the same apathetic and divided electorate – and we'll have the elements comprising the perfect storm forming a fully realized dictatorship. Next time we will not be so lucky.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

'We the people' philosophy lost in modern world

I'm so in awe of our founding fathers, men and women with unbiased hearts, writing and setting in place a foundation for America's direction. Unlike today, they seemed to have had a very unselfish mindset. They themselves came out of very oppressive governments or kingdoms, with restrictions on speech, religion and personal livelihoods. The government was the end all of everything and people trying to free themselves of this oppression were met with scorn, severe punishment or were made outcasts. I'm thankful that these men and women were neither Republican, Democrat, Conservative, Liberal nor any other label we like to attach ourselves to. They were a unified "we the people," who sought freedom to live and worship without the heavy hand of a chosen few who would control their lives and their families.

I truly don't believe in this modern era, that it would be possible for the men and women to be able to write such a document. If it were written today it would show bias in all forms, from Progressive, Conservative, white, black, and a cause for freedoms of whatever the mind can invent. Which now, it's no longer "we the people," it's the selfishness of "my rights," my way. We feel the need to rid any of our past history unless it fits our personal gain. Values of the past are changing fast, for the new values of today which have no foundation, for it's based on what seems good for self and not, "we the people." Ask most people where their values come from. See their uneasiness in giving an answer, then ask yourself is this worthy to follow, does it have a foundation, or is it the whim of man?

It's a harsh statement but political and government systems seem to run more like a political mafia than a civil government for the people. It seems people, whether in or out of government, humanity just wants more, but can never say what this "more" is. It's obvious we are looking for something! Americans are blessed with more freedoms and possessions than ever, and within this, the pains of life seem more evident. We seem to forget, that all we chase comes to an end. All your freedoms and possessions will someday stay for others to pick up and chase where you left off. And this is what we leave our children? In thinking if evolution is true, it seems evolution has played us all for fools. I believe we need to take a hard look within ourselves and why we've become what we are. For us and our children, all mankind, for we all want meaning in life, one that makes sense, one that satisfies that longing of heart, mind and soul. I honestly don't believe confusion of this life is what we were intended for, I believe life to be much better than this.

Within the book of old (the Bible), it tells and answers all that I have written and in greater detail. It speaks of how life was to be but is not. How humanity has struggled with humanity and the forces that beg for allegiance within the soul of mankind. It tells of one who came out of love for humanity to restore the heart, mind and soul, for each and every one of us, and He (Christ), is the one who can lead our personal lives out of this internal confusing maze we all are part of, for our internal being manifest itself externally of who we are. Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

TAYLOR

From previous page

opportunities for community engagement. The sense of community in going to restaurants and meeting friends and neighbors was impacted. Sallie and I missed the option of meeting friends for dinner out. Takeout is nice, but not the same. The food is just better when surrounded by others. I can't wait to see the masks go away from tables and conversations flourish.

As we go into the new year and recover from the pandemic, I am optimistic that so many of these ritual events will be restored to their original level, or even better. With the challenges that we have faced, new ways of doing things will be incorporated into the fabric of our community.

Happy New Year to all. I hope the Almighty will shower us with blessings.

January 7, 2021

I started the New Year with optimism, especially with the prospect of a robust vaccination program that would finally get us over the Coronavirus pandemic. A number of people have called asking when they could get the COVID-19 vaccination. Several pointed out that folks in Florida were already being vaccinated, so when would that program begin in Highlands?

I have been making inquiries about the status of an area vaccination program. As I have said before, the town does not have a public health department. We rely and work with the Macon County Public Health Department. Our county department is apart of a system that involves state and federal health agencies. Macon County is allocated vaccine doses based on a complex federal and state formula.

The county has received an initial allocation of Moderna vaccine. Area hospitals were sent the Pfizer vaccine for their critical workers and nursing home residents. The feedback I have received is that the extreme temperatures required for the Pfizer vaccine presents major challenges in distribution in an isolated area like here. Extreme cold storage facilities are limited or nonexistent. On the other hand, Moderna's vaccine has less stringent cold storage requirements, so it is the vaccine of choice for this area.

Some patience is needed when it comes to getting vaccinated. The vaccination program at the national and state levels has major distribution problems that have impacted local communities. The health department has been working this week to resolve these issues, but the challenges of vaccinating thousands of people will not be solved overnight. Those early reports of folks getting vaccinated in Florida were not that accurate. In Florida, senior residents have experienced long, long lines for the shot, and many have been delayed.

I don't believe local health departments will have the capacity and resources to meet the vaccination needs for a short-term response. Local pharmacies, doctors and hospitals across the nation will have to become involved in the process. I know major pharmacy chains are planning to become vaccination sites, but they, too, are encountering delays within the distribution chain. I am aware that potential local providers are also exploring possibilities. Vaccinating on a large scale is a problem that has not been done before. It goes back to patience and the continued practice of wearing masks, socially distancing and washing hands frequently.

I have a few ideas about how to speed up the vaccination process, but they are just my thoughts. We need to quickly train additional professionals how to give the shots. We also need to create large vaccination centers where folks can get a shot without red tape. Maybe the national guard and first responders could be involved?

Finally, there may be a game changing vaccine just around the corner. Johnson and Johnson has been developing a one-shot vaccine. It doesn't require the extreme cold storage requirements. Early clinical reports indicate it may have a high efficacy level. The company intends on asking for emergency authorization sometime in February. There may be multiple vaccination options as we move into the new year. I will muster up more patience, while at the same time advocating for the best outcome for Highlands.

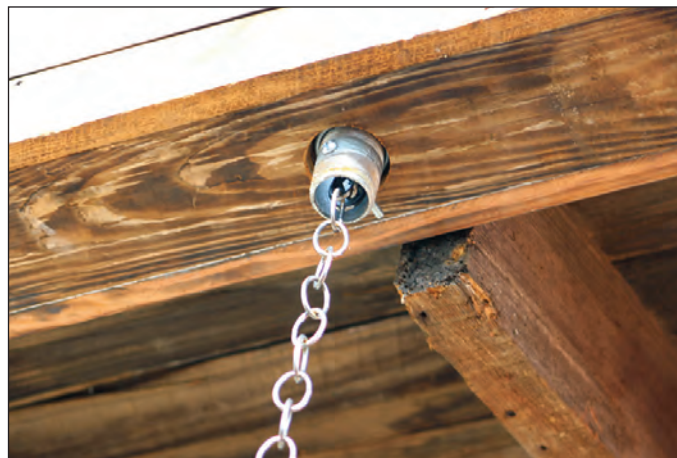
Historical museum's log cabin exhibit nearing completion



In October, a donated 19th century cabin was moved from a nearby rural location to its new home beside the Macon County Historical Museum. Since being carefully placed into its new spot, (see Oct. 8, 2020 edition online of Macon County News), the hand-hewn, dove-tailed construction, one-room chestnut and oak cabin has received an authentic stone chimney, new steps, and laurel-branch porch railings – all architectural elements that could not be saved when the cabin was moved. Still authentic to the cabin are the heart-pine floors and detailed hardware. Several local construction crews have worked on the project, including Stacy Vinson Builders. Young Tree Service supplied the crane to set the cabin in place and contractor Jerry Vinson helped work out the logistics of the move. Museum director Robert Shook is in the process of equipping the home with period pieces so that visitors can participate in a living history experience. Shook told Macon County News in October: "I'm looking forward to recreating the space down to the coffee pots and pans of the time period."

Stacy Vinson Builders (above) constructs back door steps for the Historical Museum (below) adjacent to the log cabin.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter



Old fashioned wooden gutters were installed on the front and back of the cabin with chains attached that serve as "downspouts."

Winter rains complement Macon waterfalls



Recent heavy rains in the past couple of weeks have added significantly to the water flow in area lakes and rivers. Driving up Highlands Road, Bust Your Butt Falls, Dry Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and finally, the Lake Sequoyah Dam Falls in Highlands, make for spectacular scenery. Photos by Betsey Gooder

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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 Dec. 13 - 31. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

December 13

Jonathan Hurst, was charged with trespass. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

December 14

Richard Austin Dyer-Cook, was charged with failure to appear. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

John Paul McCall, was charged with probation violation, larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of stolen goods, breaking and entering, injury to personal property, larceny. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Daniel Edward William Stanfield, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods/property, larceny of a motor vehicle, injury to personal property, probation violation, parole warrant. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Haley Morgan McCall, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

December 15

Jacob Henry Biringer, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

December 16

Michael Kenneth Argo, was charged with fugitive out of state felony, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

December 17

Haley Morgan McCall, was charged with probation violation. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

Avery Allison Bates, was charged with possession of fentanyl, possession of drug paraphernalia. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Carlos May-Gomez, was charged with possession of a malt beverage unfortified wine by a 19/20 year old. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Daniel Edward William Stanfield, was charged with failure to appear, carrying a concealed gun. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

December 19

Whitney Clarene Shuler, was issued a warrant for indictment. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Aaron Cherise Parker, was charged with failure to appear for resist/obstruct/delay a public officer. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

December 20

Jacob Ray-Vincent Nicholson, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Smantha Marie White, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Amando Thomas Virata, was charged with failure to appear for possession of heroin. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

December 21

Kathleen Johnson, was charged with misuse of 911 system. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Cory Jason Watts, was issued a warrant for offense committed in jurisdiction. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

December 22

Jonathan Hurst, was charged with first degree trespass. Timothy B. Carger made the arrest.

Joseph Matthew Swafford, was charged with simple assault, assault and battery or participates in simple affray. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Anthony Vincent Alos, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Michael Austin Henry, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Calvin Daniel Waldroup, was charged with failure to appear.

December 23

Michael Owen, was charged with assault on a female. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Lauren Greenwood, was charged with probation violation out of Georgia. James E. Crawford III was set.

December 24

Sara Beth Rowe-Ritter, was charged with simple assault. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Richard Kaleb Bates, was charged with failure to appear for assault on a female, resisting arrest. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

December 26

Jody Ray Allen, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

December 27

Richard Steven Willis, was charged with identity theft, probation violation. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Alyssa Jean Edwards, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, carrying a concealed gun. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

December 31

Donald Kyle Cabe, was charged with driving while impaired. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

December 17

Brandon Michael Hart, 33, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$35,000 was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

December 18

Cory Jason Watts, 30, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Officer Cabe made the arrest.

December 19

Brian Keith McConnell, 44, was charged with larceny, possession of stolen goods. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

Paul Mark Belmont, 56, was charged with driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Officer Cabe made the arrest.

Tony Dustin Bateman, 30, was charged with simple assault. Officer Evans made the arrest.

December 20

Colton Ryan Butch, 29, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

December 22

Crystal Eve Hayes, 35, was charged with possession of a controlled substance on prison jail premises, larceny of public record. A secured bond of \$5,500 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

December 26

Jeremiah John Jones, 29, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set. Officer Chastain made the arrest.

December 31

Amber Lynn Williamson, 34, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

December 21

Juan Nicolas Ramirez, 28, of West Ridge, was charged with misdemeanor child abuse. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

December 22

Stephen Nathaniel Ashe, 31, of Whittier, was charged with larceny from outside a residence. No bond was set.

Jorge Alvarado Guzman, 26, of Siesta Lane, Tuckasegee, was charged with resisting a public officer. An unsecured bond of \$100 was set.

Hugo Tomas Lozao Alvarado, 28, of Rhodes Cove, was charged with no operators license, reckless driving to endanger, resisting a public officer. An unsecured bond of \$250 was set.

December 23

Kevin Ray Nations, 32, of Mini Lane, Cherokee, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Kyle Warren Broom, 26, of Barlow Ct., Tuckasegee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. No bond was set.

December 24

Ernest Patrick Epps, 62, of Dancing Bear Trail, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

December 25

Dustin James Kirkland, 35, of Wayhuttea Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with assault on another person in the presence of a minor, assault on a female. No bond was set.

Eugene Kelley Langley, 46, of Heady Mountain Rd., Cashiers, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

December 26

Trevon Da'monte Columbus, 22, of Dublin Ct., was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

December 27

Elizabeth Hope Wallace, 26, of Birchwood Circle, Clyde, was charged with failure to appear for first degree trespass enter/remain, breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Michael Willard Morgan, 43, of Tilley Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with second degree trespass, breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Sara Jean Hinger, 43, of South Mount St., Salt Lake City, Colo., was charged with felony worthless check. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Highlands' The Bascom Center lines up early 2021 public exhibitions

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

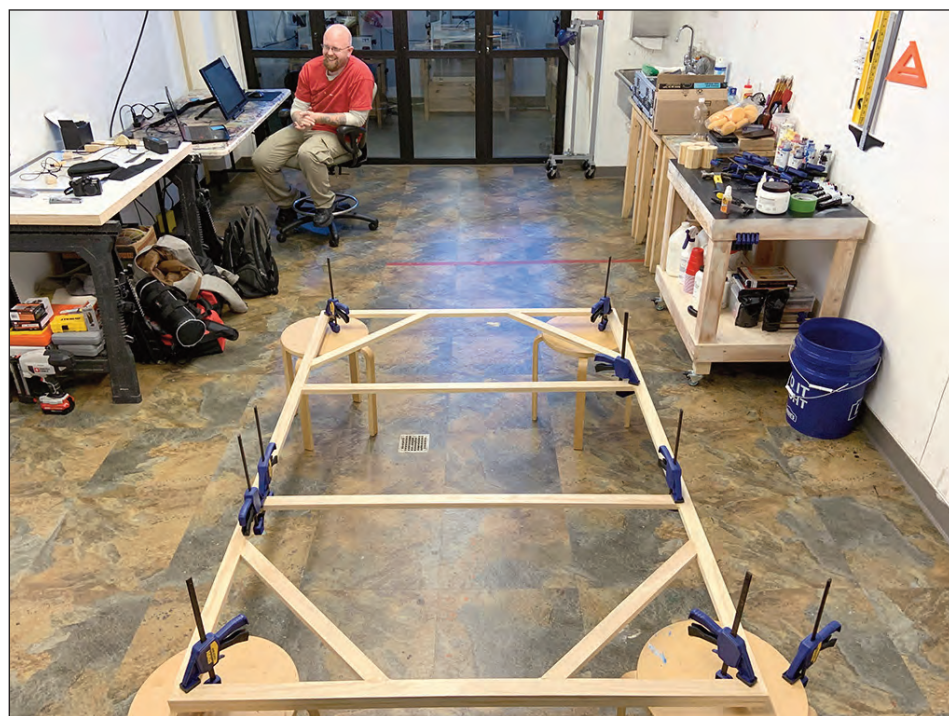
Even though the pandemic has drastically affected artists in all avenues, the show must go on – according to Zach Rogers, exhibitions manager for The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts in Highlands. “So, starting at the beginning of the year we have three new exhibitions lined up,” he said.

After the New Year, the public will have access to:
 – “100 Miles II” in the Bunzi Gallery; it will run Jan. 26 – April 24. Rogers explained, “After a successful inaugural exhibition last year, ‘100 Miles II’ will continue the tradition of showcasing new artwork by faculty and their students from surrounding colleges and universities. This diverse exhibition provides many emerging artists and established teachers the chance to come together for professional development in a gallery setting. Over 30 institutions are eligible to participate.”

W.R.A.P (Winter Resident Artist Program) in the



Selections from The Bascom's permanent collection will be featured in the Joel Gallery, Jan. 9 – March 27.



Thompson Gallery; it will run Jan. 12 – March 20. Similar to “100 Miles,” W.R.A.P., also calls on students or faculty from surrounding colleges and universities. “Students and faculty from across the Southeast apply for this unique and challenging opportunity to live and work on The Bascom campus to design, build, and install their

W.R.A.P. artist Kyle Kelsey, a second year Master of Fine Arts candidate from Western Carolina University, has been working in The Bascom's studio to design, build, and install an art project that will be on display to the public at The Bascom in Highlands Jan. 12 - March 20, 2021.

project proposal in only four weeks,” said Rogers. This year's selected applicant is Kyle Kelsey, a second year Master of Fine Arts candidate from Western Carolina University.

– Selections from the permanent collection in the Joel Gallery; it runs Jan. 9 – March 27. Added Rogers, “With over 100 works in our permanent collection, each installment promises to be a unique experience in the Joel Gallery.”

In 2009 The Bascom was opened as a state-of-the-art, 27,500-square-foot main building that includes multiple studios devoted to a range of art media. Plus, on the campus in Highlands is a covered bridge entrance, creek-side nature trail, outdoor terrace, separate pottery center and studio, and more. The Bascom offers a wide range of exhibitions, art workshops, a permanent art collection, and community events.

The Bascom's pandemic safety policy includes a limited number of guests in the exhibits, regular cleaning of the facility by staff, face coverings, social distancing, hand sanitizing, and contactless payment on purchases.

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Annual Burns Night celebration moving to Clayton, Ga. for 2021

Scots all over the world celebrate the birth of Robert Burns, national poet of Scotland on or near his birthday of Jan. 25. This year the Taste of Scotland Society invites visitors and townspeople to celebrate the life, poetry, and songs of the Ploughman poet at First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, at Clayton, Ga., on Jan. 16, 2021.

Burns was largely noted for saving old melodies by adding new words to well-known tunes. Burns was beloved by many common folk for writing poetry in the Old Scots language that everyday people used.

Robert Burns, also known as Rabbie Burns, was born in Alloway, Ayreshire, on Jan. 25, 1759, and died in Dumfries on July 21, 1798. He grew up on a tenant farm, which was a hard life. His father and tutors enabled Robert to receive a good education; some subjects were Latin, French, and math. He could speak Scots and English. He was touched by everyday events and wrote his poems mostly in Scots, although some of his poems were written in English. He had a deep love for his homeland and was creative in using ways to keep the Scots language im-



The Jacobites By Name is the featured musical entertainment for this year's Burns Night.

portant to the people He would take traditional lyrics, the tunes well-known to all, and use some of his own poems to the familiar

tunes.

In 1786, he published his first volume of poetry, "Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect." His poetry proved to be an immediate success, and he became very popular. Some of his poems included: "Auld Lang Syne," "To A Mouse," "A Man's a Man for That," "Tam O'Shanter," and "Ode to a Haggis."

The Taste of Scotland Society in Franklin will host Burns Night in Clayton, Georgia. Doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the Rabun County Chamber of Com-

merce, Franklin Chamber of Commerce, and Books Unlimited.

Guest speaker is slated to be George McClellan, director of the Burns Club of Atlanta, and the director of the Robert Burns Association of North America. He will be sharing the "Ode to the Haggis" and "The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns."

The Jacobites By Name will once again be the musical entertainment. George James, chairman of the Burns Night committee, is a member of the band. Nathan James, another band member will be the piper for the event.

Several parts of a Burns Night program have common parts whether in a pub, a large concert hall, a small group, or a restaurant. One at the beginning is the roll call of the clans or the Muster Roll song, a reading of Burns prayer, "Selkirk Grace," a presentation of the haggis, a vivacious recitation of "Ode to the Haggis," and a humorous toast to the Lassies and the Lads, which is usually done by a married couple. A highlight of the evening is always the "Immortal Memory of Robert Burns." The evening can end with all participants gathering in a large circle and singing the bard's beloved song, "Auld Lang Syne."

A new addition to the usual program will be the crowning of Little Miss Tartan by the retiring Little Miss Tartan.

After a year of a dearth of Scottish activities such as Highland Games, socials, and others, Burns Night will be a chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

Submitted by Merrilee Bordeaux, publicity chairman



For many years Burns Nights has been celebrated at Tartan Hall in the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Franklin. This year, the celebration is moving to First United Methodist Church in Clayton, Ga. Photos by Ellen Randall



Arthur Hayes presents the Haggis at last year's Burns Night celebration.

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Deaths & Funerals

Pansy Lou Crisp Long

Pansy Lou Crisp Long, 84 of Franklin, N.C., died on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020.

A native of Macon County, she is the daughter of the late Everett Ernest and Ruth Ann Sanders Long. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by three sisters, Dorothy McConnell, Betty Sanders, and Marie Williams.

She was a member at Windy Gap Baptist Church and enjoyed crocheting. She loved spending time with her family and was always willing to give a helping hand.

She is survived by one son, Terry Crisp; one daughter, Diane McConnell (Michael) both of Franklin; brother, Bobby Long of Umatilla, Fla.; and two sisters, Shirley Flake of Umatilla, and Josephine Stevens of New Broughton, Ala.; four grandsons, Brian McConnell, Chad McConnell, Josh Crisp, and Travis Crisp; seven great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Private graveside services were held at Windy Gap Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Mark Bishop officiating.

Memorials can be made to the Windy Gap Baptist Church Cemetery Fund.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

William A Berry

William A Berry "Paw," 92, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Dec. 28, 2020. He was born in Macon County, North Carolina, on March 29, 1928, to the late William Jack Berry and Anna Gertrude Coggins Berry. He liked hunting and playing the French Harp, but most of all he loved spending time with his family. He served in the U.S. Army in the Korean War and later worked at Champion Paper Company. He was a Deacon for Yellow Mountain Baptist Church and Walnut Creek Baptist Church for many years and was a Mason for the Glenville Chapter.

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Geraldine Henderson Berry of Franklin; a daughter, Sheila Regina Berry Keever (Danny) of Sylva; a son, Ricky Dean Berry (Misty) of Cullowhee; three grandchildren, Brittney Keever Stevens (Jason), Emily Berry Milligan (Dustin) and Nathan Berry; three great-grandchildren, Will Milligan, Ella Milligan and Ava Milligan; two sisters, Mattie Berry Devlin of Candler and Virginia Berry Dills of Franklin. In addition to his parents, William is preceded in death by his twin brother William J Berry and brothers, William Edward Berry and William Jack Berry, Jr.; sisters, Lora Berry Hedden, Edlay Berry Pruitt, Marie Berry Hedden, Elmira Berry Hedden and Martha Berry Dowdle.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 2, at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Carson Gibson and Rev. Jason Stevens officiating. Burial followed at the Pine Creek Cemetery, Cullowhee, N.C.

Pallbearers were Nathan Berry, Jeffrey Stewart, Dustin Milligan, Larry Dills, Sammy Hedden and Jason Stevens.

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

David Wiley Henry

David Wiley Henry, 90, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Jan. 2, 2021.

Preceding him in death were his parents Robert and Laura Williams Henry; brothers, Walter Henry, and John C. Henry; sisters, Edna Roberts, and Kathleen Woody; and grandson, David Henry.

He was a veteran of the Vietnam and Korean Wars where he served as a Combat Engineer. He was awarded with two Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars. He entered the U.S. Army in April 1948 completing basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. He earned jump wings and glider wings. He was assigned to Combat Engineers with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C. In 1956, he was sent to Germany where he taught map reading and bridge building. There he completed NCO Academy and atomic demolition school. He was reassigned to the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Ky., where he was on the All-American Pistol Team, and completed Chemical, Biological and Radiological school. Reassigned to Korea, he then was assigned to Combat Engineers tasked with building air strips, roads, bridges and clearing mine fields.

After returning to Fort Benning, he was sent to Vietnam on Special Operations with Combat Engineers. He was wounded three times and awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. After serving in Vietnam, he was sent to Charlotte, N.C., as an advisor to a Reserve unit. He notified next-of-kin of service member losses and missing-in action soldiers. He retired with 21 years of military service. His numerous military awards include: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct medal (8th award), National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device (1960), Expert badge with carbine bar with rifle bar, Glider Badge, and Parachutist badge (basic). After retiring from the military, he lived in Franklin and worked in construction. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Columbus, Ga. He attended Sugarfork Baptist Church where he was a deacon.

Surviving are his wife, Freida Pauline Mason Henry of Franklin; children, Carolyn (Bill) Bonner of Davey, Fla., Sandra Henry and Janet (Tony) Shuler both of Franklin; sisters, Hattie Moffitt and Ann Green of Franklin, and Betty McKelvey of Atlanta Ga.; brothers, Bob Henry of Asheville, N.C. and Billy Henry of Tuckaseegee, N.C.; three grandchildren, Mason Bonner, Matthew Bonner, and Austin Shuler; two great grandchildren, Dana Henry and Stetson Shuler; and three great-great grandchildren, Zoeie, Jacse, and Kristopher.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, Jan. 6, at Sugarfork Baptist Cemetery with Rev. Gene Hawkins officiating. The family will have a celebration of life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Teen Challenge of the Smokies.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Online condolence at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Larry B. Ledbetter

Larry B. Ledbetter, 89, a native of Macon County passed away Dec. 30, 2020, in Shreveport, La. He was the son of the late Lawrence and Pearl Frazier Ledbetter of Franklin, N.C. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Trellis Ledbetter; a son, Larry B. Ledbetter Jr.; one brother, Max Ledbetter; and two sisters, Jane Brookshire and Geneva Stanfield.

He is survived by his second wife, Frances Ledbetter; two daughters, Marcy (Richard) Boyce, Ginger (Rocky) French; six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; a brother, Charles (Margaret) Ledbetter; a sister, Kathy (Andy) Hurst; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Lt. Colonel in 1971 after 23 years of service. He served both in the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

He was a 33 1/3rd degree Master Mason, a member of the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Overton Brooks High Twelve Club, and past Grand-Commander of the Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.

Funeral services and interment will be held in Houghton, La.



David Wiley Henry



Pansy Lou Crisp Long



William A Berry



Deaths & Funerals

Doris 'Deanie' Hurst

Doris "Deanie" Hurst, 81, of Franklin, N.C., went to her heavenly home on Monday, Dec. 21, 2020.

She was born in Rabun County, the daughter of the late J.C. and Jessie Faye McClure Watts. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Harrison Watts; a sister, Reba Grist; uncles who were like brothers, Donald, Lewis, and Calvin Watts; and a cousin who was also like a brother, Johnny Watts.

She was a longtime member of Watauga Baptist Church, where she had previously served as treasurer and had worked with the children's Vacation Bible School. She had owned Hurst Daycare for more than 40 years. Anyone who knew her knew how much she enjoyed walks, singing in the church choir and basketball, but most of all how much she loved being with her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 60 years, Horace A. Hurst; son, Derrick Hurst (Rhonda); and a grandson, Colby Hurst all of Franklin; a special "granddaughter," Lindy Beck of Franklin; sisters, Betty Hall (Roy) of Easley, S.C., Brenda Cannon (Danny) of Clayton, Ga., and Kay Kennedy of Long Creek, S.C.; brothers, Jerry Watts (Jennifer), Skip Watts (Robin) both of Clayton, Ga., and Freddie Watts (Ramona) of Mountain City, Ga.; special aunt, Thelma Watts; and special cousins, Travis and Von Watts; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral service was held Sunday, Dec. 27, at Watauga Baptist Church. Rev. Wesley Price and Rev. Danny Cannon officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Watauga Baptist Church cemetery fund or Gideons Bibles.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.
Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Helen Lenora Vaughan Morton

Helen Lenora Vaughan Morton, 87, of Franklin, N.C., died on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020, after a period of declining health.

She was born in Webster County, Miss., the daughter of the late John W. Vaughn and Marie Faulkner Vaughan. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by a son, Jeff Morton; one sister, Kathryn Morgan; and one brother, J.W. Vaughan.

She moved to Franklin from Mississippi in August 1970. After moving to Franklin, she became a member at the First Baptist Church of Franklin, where she was very active in the WMU. She enjoyed square dancing, ceramics, and wood working.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Clell Howard Morton; daughter, Cindy Curtis (Steve) of Bluffton, S.C.; and three grandchildren, Melissa Morton of Nashville, Tenn., Capt. Courtney Curtis and Ethan Curtis, both of Bluffton, S.C.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private service was held at Macon Funeral Home, with a celebration of life to follow in the future. Rev. Steve Reeves officiated. Burial was in the Watauga Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to the Watauga Baptist Church cemetery fund.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.
Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Doris 'Deanie' Hurst



Helen Morton

Jodie Lorene Pressley Carver

Jodie Lorene Pressley Carver, 47, died on Jan. 2, 2021.

Born in Toccoa, Ga., she was preceded in death by her parents Joel and Betty Pressley.

She has lived in the Franklin area for 24 years. She loved fishing, hiking, riding four-wheelers and being outdoors. She especially loved her grandchildren and spending time with them. She was a machine operator in the textiles industry.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Carver of Franklin; her adopted parents, Bill and Ann Gibbs of Toccoa, Ga.; children, Tiffani (Cody) Campbell, Carissa Russell, all of Franklin, Kaitlin (Justin) Wall of Tiger, Ga., and Nelli Anne (T.J.) Wright of Rock Hill, S.C.; two sisters, Leesa Parham of Franklin and Barbara Manders of Georgia; two brothers, Lee Gibbs and Bronson Gibbs, both of Georgia; eight grandchildren, Lexy, Ryan, Ethan, Chase, Brantley, Lacy, Aislee, and Ember; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held Friday, Jan. 8, at 2 p.m., at the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with the Rev. Mike Ream officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

The family requests that masks be worn and social distancing guidelines be followed.



Jodie Carver

Virginia Marie Gould Reynaud MD

Virginia Marie Gould Reynaud MD of Highlands, N.C., died peacefully in her sleep on Dec. 16, 2020, after being sharp as a tack for 99 years. She was born in Rochester, N.Y., on Nov. 16, 1921, to Patrick Stephen Gould and Frances Fien. She graduated from Nazareth College where she was valedictorian and the May Queen. She enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and was a WAVE until 1946 where she attained the rank of Lt. JG. She was a radar specialist and also helped serve on the Manhattan Project. After the war she was one of a handful of women who attended the University of Maryland Medical School. There she met her future husband across a cadaver, Louis Favrot Reynaud. She was always the smartest person in every room and was a women's libber before the term was invented.

After their wedding, Louis and Virginia moved to Atlanta where they practiced pediatrics together for 40 years. Along with working full time, she raised three children and always read at least two books a week. Her books were not the top best sellers; they were more like "The History of the Byzantine Empire" and other light reads.

When the Reynauds retired to Highlands, she had a chance to do all of the civic-minded activities that she never had time for while practicing medicine. She was president of the Garden Club, on the board of the Watershed advisory, a trustee of the Biological Station, on the board of Reach, and more. She and her husband hiked daily and in her spare time she created a wildflower garden that many made a special trip to see.

She was one of those special people who didn't act like she was any smarter or better than anyone else. If a problem needed to be solved, she just got to work, figured out a solution and got it done. She was the person who always told you that you could do anything if you just put your mind to it. Louis was the love of her life and they had 67 incredible years together. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her three children, Louis (Kelly), Christine Dunn (John) and Suzanne King (Thad); seven grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Reynaud family.

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



Virginia Reynaud MD

Linda Long

Linda Long, 61, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday Dec. 31, 2020.

She was born in Columbus, Ga., to Ellis Howard and Margaret Dodd Steele, who preceded her in death. She moved to Franklin in 1995. She loved animals and knitting and was also very gifted at sign language. She had a heart of gold and would do anything anyone needed. She loved children of all ages. She attended Cowee Baptist Church.

Surviving are husband, Richard Long, of Franklin; a daughter, Anita Mae (Jacob) Sieg of Charleston, S.C.; mother-in-law, Willia Mae Long of Franklin; brother-in-law, Roger Long of Hayesville, N.C.; sister-in-law, Arlene Hall of Gainesville Ga.; sisters, Phyllis Carpenter, Amy Carr, Stella (Mike) Langley, Debbie (Mark) Runaldue, all of Franklin; brothers, Robert (Julia) Steele of Vienna, Va., and Roland (Joann) Steele of Anadale, Va.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Jan. 5, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Jason Smith and Rev. Ronnie Branson officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society and/or Appalachian Animal Rescue.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.
Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Linda Long

Loren Hugh Sterling

Loren Hugh Sterling, 72, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020, at his home.

He was born Nov. 27, 1948, in Inyokern, Calif., to the late Jesse and Agnes Sterling. He is also preceded by a son, Michael Sterling; sister and brother-in-law, Denise and Art Becker.

He was an automobile mechanic by trade, he loved NASCAR, enjoyed hunting, fishing and drag racing and even built cars for the NRA. Raised by his parents as Catholic, locally, he attended Cartoocechaye Church of God from time to time.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.
Surviving is his wife of 19 years, Mary Hall Sterling; children, Tina (Donald) Marsh, John (Lorelei) Sterling, Leona (Mark) Burrell, Jesse (Cliftney) Sterling, Dennis (Rennata) Sterling; stepchildren, Ronald (Donna) Shearl, John (Lila) Shearl and Lisa (John) Ray; 19 grandchildren; and 15 great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews as well. He will be sorely missed.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.
Condolences to the family can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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Deaths & Funerals

Dr. Jimi Mehta

Dr. Jimi Mehta, 83, passed away peacefully at his home on Dec. 18, 2020. He was born Oct. 15, 1937, in Bombay, India. He came to the United States at the young age of 23 with a degree in Dentistry. He also received a degree in Orthodontics and a Master's Degree in Anatomy from the University of Alabama. He taught Anatomy for one year at the University of Alabama and then moved on to Washington, D.C. to further his career in teaching orthodontics at Howard University. Upon arriving in Washington, D.C. he met the love of his life, Carol in 1966. Jimi and Carol were married in 1967 and the memorable journey began. Later he opened private practices in both Fairfax and Centerville Virginia.



Dr. Jimi Mehta

His life took him and Carol around the world and home again. They visited many countries and continents creating many wonderful memories together. He was a lover of life. He loved to cook and entertain. He would always give generously to others. His presence was a source of comfort and his sweet smile and charismatic charm and style would light up the room. His devotion to his family and others will be greatly missed. The world has lost a beautiful soul. His love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories and in our hearts.

He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Carol Lee Huggins Mehta, a host of special brothers- and sisters-in-laws, nieces and nephews, special cousins, countless patients and friends from around the world.

A private graveside service was held Dec. 22, in Burningtown for immediate family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to charities of your choice in honor of Jimi's life.

"When you lose someone you love you gain an angel you know." Forever in our hearts.

John David Wilson

John David Wilson, 61, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020. He was born Oct. 13, 1959, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late James Paul Wilson and Kathleen Mathis Wilson. He was married to Jenny Fay Wilson. He worked in the construction industry roofing and building. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, delivering firewood, mechanic work and helping out anyone that he could.



John David Wilson

He is survived by two sons, David Lee Wilson and James Anderson Wilson; a brother, Rick Lee Wilson and two sisters, Patricia Faye Wilson Brooks and Joyce Ann Brooks. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by two brothers, Larry Wilson and Steve Wilson.

A memorial service was held Sunday, Jan. 3, at the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Kevin Chapman officiating.

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

Agnes Marie Gibson Crowe

Agnes Marie Gibson Crowe, 78, of Highlands, N.C., passed away on Friday, Dec. 25, 2020. She was born July 26, 1942, in Macon County to the late James Thomas Gibson and Tina Savilla Henry Gibson. She was such a gracious and caring soul. Working in the office at Highlands School, she left a lasting impression with all that knew her, and she loved each student as her own. She will be missed by many in our community. She liked gardening, working with her flowers, canning and could bake the best chocolate and coconut cakes. Most of all, she loved her family. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Highlands.



Agnes Marie Crowe

She is survived by a daughter, Tina Rogers (Michael) of Highlands; two sons, Christopher Mack Crowe (Melissa) of Athens, Ga. and John Stephen Crowe (Marjorie) of Highlands; seven grandchildren, Maggie Barden (Christopher), Courtney Welch (Josh), Tyler Crowe, Travis Crowe (Amy), Ann Marie Crowe, Emily Crowe and Gypsy Boulden; two great-grandchildren, Statten Barden and Haven Barden. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Merlin Mack Crowe; siblings, Myrtis (Corbin) Talley, James (Genevieve) Gibson, Alice Crane, John Gibson, Peggy (George) Erskine, Clyde (Linda) Gibson, Charlie (Betsy) Gibson, Harold (Noreen) Gibson, and Emily Lyons.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring and will be announced.

Honorary pallbearers are her cheerleaders: Mary Allyson Chauvin, Francine Montgomery, Carla Zoellner, Parrish Calloway, Sarah Stottlemeyer, Tonya Clontz, Leah Ferree, Ashley Aspinwall, Jessica Ochoa, Robin Armstrong Neil.

The family asks in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Rathbun House, 121 Sherwood Road, Asheville, NC 28803.

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

Wayne Anderson Justice

Wayne Anderson Justice, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020. He was born March 17, 1942, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late Ralph Justice and Ruby Buchanan Justice. He was employed with Duke Energy formerly Nantahala Power for 30 years. He was an avid fisher and turkey hunter, loved coaching basketball and collecting things. He was smart and loving, he was always willing to help anyone he could and was a member of Dryman's Chapel United Methodist Church in Otto, N.C.



Wayne Anderson Justice

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Penny Justice of Franklin; a nephew, Harold Justice (Cindy) of Franklin; a niece, Leslie Stainback of Greensboro; three great-nephews, Trevor Justice of Franklin, James Stainback of Franklin, and Thomas Stainback of Greensboro; great-niece, Laney Justice of Franklin; his aunt, Tee Henry (Bob) of Franklin; and his best friend, Calvin Rogers of Franklin. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Albert Justice.

A funeral service was held Monday, Dec. 28, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. David Dewitt and Rev. Kelly Dotson officiating. Burial followed at Wright Cemetery. Pallbearers were Harold Justice, Trevor Justice, Calvin Rogers, Randall Rogers, Mike Bell and Terry Bell. Honorary pallbearer was Junior Cabe.

In lieu of flowers, donation may be made to Wright Cemetery Fund; Attn: Tommy Nicholson, 93 Day Break Lane, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Donald Bruce Tallent

It is with great sadness that the family of Donald Bruce Tallent announces his death on Dec. 24, 2020. Born on Sept. 8, 1968, he made his living first by splicing cable, but he was best known by the locals as a worker and co-owner at Tallent's Produce Stand. He was a caring person who loved to spoil the children who visited his business.



Donald Bruce Tallent

Clever and honest, he was a man of many interests. He possessed a wonderful memory and loved to recall the birthdays of family and friends. He was a traveler and an adventurer who liked visiting Seattle for the music and culture. He enjoyed raising game chickens and was an avid "rooster man" who traveled across the country periodically to one of his chicken farms. He was also a voracious reader, interested in every subject from A to Z. His interest in cattle led to him receiving certification in bovine artificial insemination from Texas A&M.

He is survived by his mother, Janet C. Holland, and his step-mother, Barbara Tallent, along with his siblings, Steve Tallent, Sandi Lynn Morgan, and Travis Tallent; aunts, Loretta Holland, Shelby Holland, and Reva Jones; his uncles, Phil Holland and Ronnie Holland; and several cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, D. Wayne Tallent.

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

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Bruce's family. Online condolences at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.

Jo Ann Raulerson Sloan

Jo Ann Raulerson Sloan was a lady, and a lady always knows when it's time to leave. Jo Ann, age 90, made her graceful exit from this world on Dec. 22, 2020, at Grandview Manor in Franklin, N.C.

She was born in Ft. Pierce, Fla., on July 22, 1930. She was a third generation native Floridian born to Alfred Keightley and Mae Pierce Raulerson. After her father's untimely death when she was 8, she was raised by her fraternal grandparents, State Senator Frank and Louise (Mother Lou) Raulerson. The Raulersons were among the early settlers of south Florida and operated Cow Creek, a large cattle ranch.

She attended Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., in the late 1940s. In 1952, she married Thomas Leighton Sloan (deceased 1995). She traveled extensively around the world. Some of her most favorite trips were to Holland to visit the large tulip farms, to China to see the Great Wall, and to England, Scotland and Israel. Her traveling companion was her dear friend, Sally Wright. Other close friends were her mother-in-law, Catherine (Honey) Sloan, Sam and June (Nunnie) Urso, Katie Enns (her birthday twin), and the artist Edna Hibbel. Her Tellico family/friends were Mike Macke, Joe Youdel, Mary Lee McMullan, and Dion and Cathy Sena.

She was an avid squirrel hunter; she hunted with a .22 rifle and almost always shot them in the head. She enjoyed bird watching, cooking for her family and friends and her beloved German Shepherd, Gunner.

In 1970, the Sloans moved to the Tellico Valley in Macon County, North Carolina. She loved the Tellico Valley. She graciously welcomed everyone who came to see the great oak tree on the farm and visit the "big house." They began the Tellico Trout Farm in the mid-80s, which they operated until the farm sold in 1995.

She is survived by her two daughters, Kathryn Blanton and Debra Sloan; four granddaughters, Alexis Bell, Tara Breeden (Ronnie), Myrna Summerlin, and Grace Summerlin; 10 great grandchildren, Erika Moses (Jordan), Cheyanna Bell, Shalya Wisman, (Adam), Lathea Watts, Mariah Watts, Ava Breeden, Kaija Graves, Tristan Graves, Kyler Summerlin, and Addison Summerlin; eight great-great grandchildren, Keily Moses, Kadan Moses, Kaylen Moses, Kason O'Neal, Keightly Moses, Emma Tyte, Andrew Wiseman, and Roman Wisman.

She will be dearly missed by her family and friends who were blessed to have had her in their lives.



Deaths & Funerals

Mary Frances Cabe

Mary Frances Cabe, 83, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020.

Born in and a lifelong resident of Macon County, she was preceded in death by her parents, Floyd and Daisy Hughes Roper, her husband, D.L. Cabe, and her brother, Wade Roper.

She worked from the home and was of the Baptist faith. She was a member of Tessentee Baptist Church.

She is survived by her children, Teresa Cabe Young (Thomas) and Doug Cabe (Christy) both of Franklin; five grandchildren, Brandon (Shannon) Franks, Rosie Young, Kimberly Cates, Kayla Cabe, and Lydia Cabe; four great grandchildren, Dusti, Shane, Austin, and Gavin; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Monday, Jan. 4, at Wright Cemetery with Rev. Rondal Owen officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Wright Cemetery Fund.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be sent to the family at www.maconfuneral-home.com.



Mary Frances Cabe

Rufus 'RM' Miles Hunter Jr.

Rufus "RM" Miles Hunter, Jr., 76 of Otto, N.C., went home to be with his Lord on Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020.

A native of Screven County, Georgia, he was the son of the late Rufus Miles Hunter Sr. and Lina Waters Hunter. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Keith Griffis, who died in January 2020.

He retired from CSX Railroad and served in the Marine Corp Reserves. He was very active and a member at South Macon Baptist Church. He spent countless hours, alongside his wife, Betsy, on fund raising for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, a cause that was extremely personal to him.

He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Betsy Punzel Hunter; children, Rufus "Rusty" Miles Hunter III (Virginia) of Savannah, Ga., Nikki Parris (Scot) of Atlanta, Ga., and Jeff Griffis of Chattanooga, Tenn.; a daughter-in-law, Missy Griffis of Springfield, Ga.; sister, Patricia Becton of Augusta, Ga.; brother, Jimmy Hunter (Ruth) of Newport News, Va.; grandchildren, Taylor, Ethan, Emma, Abby, Gwyn, Anna, Nick, Taylor M, Jessica, Brandon, Logan, Melissa, and Sunshine; six great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 2, at South Macon Baptist Church with Rev. Albert Grey officiating.

Burial will be in the Screven County Memorial Park in Sylva, Ga., on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to South Macon Baptist Church, PO Box 441, Franklin, NC 28744 or The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at <http://give.CFF.org/tribute/RMHunter>

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Rufus Miles Hunter Jr.

Ruth Elizabeth Enloe

Ruth Elizabeth Enloe, 101, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at Grandview Manor Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020. She was born Oct. 16, 1919, in Lawrence, Essex County, Massachusetts, to the late Arthur Raymond and Ruth E. Remick Drummond.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brothers, Arthur Drummond, William Drummond, sister, Marilyn Chase and step grandson, Nik Fredrick

Surviving are her sons William (Ann) Enloe, Jeff (Melaine) Enloe, James "Jimmy" (Kerry) Enloe and Gregory (Patti) Enloe; her grandchildren, Cynthia (Doug) Neff and Timothy Enloe; and several nieces and nephews.

She was a member of Memorial United Methodist Church. She was trained as a nurse and was a homemaker but put her talents in the medical field to use by volunteering. She volunteered many hours with the hospital auxiliary and volunteered with the mobile blood bank as well as various clinics when they would come to town. She enjoyed flowers and flower gardening.

A graveside funeral services was held Monday, Dec. 28, in the Mt. Zion cemetery with Pastor Evan Hill officiating.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.maconfuneral-home.com.



Ruth Elizabeth Enloe

Stephen Keener

Stephen Keener, 60 of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020. A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late William and Gwendolyn Rogers Keener. In addition to his parents, he was preceded by a son, Jeremy Matthew Keener.

Known as Stevie by his family, he was a family man. He loved more than anything sharing a good meal and swapping stories with the those he loved most. He loved to tell stories of his many adventures which usually revolved around hunting and fishing. He spent a lot of time in the woods and passed on his love and respect for them to many.

The stories that he would tell could light up a room and cause fits of laughter. He had an amazing sense of humor and had many tales of jokes and pranks from throughout the years. He loved to make everyone, especially his grandchildren, laugh. Everyone who ever knew him has stories about him making them laugh.

He had so much love for the Lord. He was a member of Newfound Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon. His hope was for all those he loved to be with him again one day walking the streets of Heaven.

He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Marcella Keener; daughter, Katrin (Dustin) Rholetter; son, Jaric Keener; granddaughters, Adaline and Aria Rholetter; a sister, Sherri (James) Bates; two brothers, Scott (Sandy) Keener and Shawn (Beth) Keener; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Dec. 20, at Newfound Baptist Church with Rev. Alan Waters officiating and Katrin Rholetter presenting the eulogy. Burial was at the Black Mountain Baptist Church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jaric Keener, Dustin Rholetter, Scotty Keener, Shawn Keener, Luke Keener, Boyce Cunningham, Ronnie Ledford and James Bates. Honorary pallbearers were Adam Bates and Caleb Bates.

Memorials can be made to the Newfound Baptist Church. Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Stephen Keener

Maria Lurdes Mira

Maria Lurdes Mira, 87, passed away peacefully on the evening of Dec. 23, 2020, at the Carolina Reserve of Hendersonville Memory Care facility. Born on Dec. 5, 1933 in the small village of Alge in the mountain province of Serra da Lousa in Portugal, she would soon move to Lisbon where she would spend the better part of her formative years. At the age of 14, she developed a strong vocational proficiency as an accomplished seamstress.

In 1950, she had a chance encounter with a young man taking a lunch break from his job at a car radio repair shop. The young man's name was Manuel Sousa Mira. In December 1952, Manuel, looking for a better future, emigrated to Brazil. Courtship via letters culminated with an overseas proposal. On Jan. 10, 1954, she made the decision to marry Manuel by proxy while still living in Lisbon, and shortly thereafter, she left the only country she had ever known to join her new husband in Brazil. This marriage would take the young couple from Brazil to Canada and eventually the United States where they would live out their dream of familial and financial success. This marriage would endure until Manuel's death in 2017.

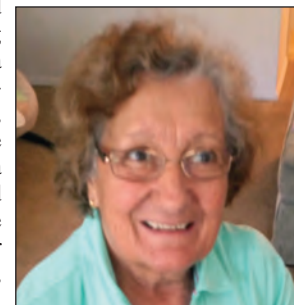
Of all of her achievements, however, none would prove to be as great as the influence that she had in the raising of her family. She was unique in that she served a principal role in raising not only her own two children, Carlos and Teresa, but also her grandchildren and great grandchildren as well. Her love, manifested over several generations, would prove to be the sustaining force of the extended family for many years. This sustaining influence was even evident in her signature dishes which became legendary within the family. Whether it be her fish stew known as caldeirada, her shrimp cakes known as rissois, or her boiled dinner known as cozido, the primary function of all of these dishes was to bring her family together in unity and love.

The family would like to especially thank the nurses and caregivers that were there for Maria over the course of the past several years. We can never truly express the gratitude we have for the help you provided to our family.

She is survived by her two children, Carlos Mira (Sheila) and Teresa Mira Knippel (John); six grandchildren, Wesley Mira (Tatiana), John Mira-Knippel (Karmen), Melissa Faetz (Tyler), Ryan Mira, Michelle Mira, and Kimberly Pinkston (Jesse); and 12 great grandchildren, Braxton Mira-Knippel, Savannah Mira-Knippel, Dominic Faetz, Patrick Faetz, Alexandre Mira, Elizabeth Mira, Leila Pinkston, Larkin Pinkston, Sage Pinkston, Eleanor Hoefler, Kendall Reis, Kamden Reis. Maria Lurdes Mira was preceded in death by her husband, Manuel Mira.

A small ceremony with immediate family took place at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home on Dec. 30.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Mira family. Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneral-home.com.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT
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THEME:
INTERNATIONAL MENU

- ACROSS
1. Arithmetic operation
 6. Romantic getaway destination
 9. "Hold on!"
 13. Foolish
 14. Unit of electrical resistance
 15. Ann Patchett's novel "Bel ____"
 16. Parallel grooves
 17. New Zealand's bygone bird
 18. Daisy-like bloom
 19. *En ____, cooked and served in individual pot
 21. *Raw fish
 23. Like Second Testament
 24. Archipelago unit
 25. Fool's Day mo.
 28. "Days" in Havana
 30. Just one of TV's "American ____"
 35. Russian mountain range
 37. Urban haze
 39. Spiral-homed African antelope
 40. Aggressive remark
 41. 10 percent to charity, e.g.
 43. Milk choice
 44. Burnt ____
 46. "Nobody ____ It Better"
 47. London art museum
 48. Evening party
 50. Boll weevil, e.g.
 52. Dianne Feinstein, abbr.
 53. Windmill blade
 55. "... ____ he drove out of sight"
 57. *It's battered and fried
 61. *Cheese and potato dumplings

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65. Loudspeaker noise
66. Sheep sound
68. Frank Wright's middle name
69. Atones, archaic
70. Days of ____
71. Containing fat
72. Cut the crop
73. College degrees
74. Stainless material
17. New Zealand's bygone bird
18. Daisy-like bloom
19. *En ____, cooked and served in individual pot
21. *Raw fish
23. Like Second Testament
24. Archipelago unit
25. Fool's Day mo.
28. "Days" in Havana
30. Just one of TV's "American ____"
35. Russian mountain range
37. Urban haze
39. Spiral-homed African antelope
40. Aggressive remark
41. 10 percent to charity, e.g.
43. Milk choice
44. Burnt ____
46. "Nobody ____ It Better"
47. London art museum
48. Evening party
50. Boll weevil, e.g.
52. Dianne Feinstein, abbr.
53. Windmill blade
55. "... ____ he drove out of sight"
57. *It's battered and fried
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65. Loudspeaker noise
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