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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Macon County Fair looked very different this year with no exhibits, no booths, no prize-winning vegetables or giant pumpkins. Many activities and events were cancelled this year since North Carolina is still under a partial lockdown. However, youth livestock shows were held with goats, pigs, sheep and steers with the exhibitors' family members in attendance. For more photos and a winners' list, see pages 11, 12, and 13.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Governor moves North Carolina into Phase 3

North Carolina will once again cautiously ease some restrictions while continuing safety measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 as the state's metrics remained stable in September, Governor Roy Cooper announced Wednesday.

"Our top priority remains getting children back to in-person learning. This month marks a major shift for many families now and in the coming months as schools open their doors, some for the first time since the pandemic," said Cooper. "The virus continues to spread, so we must take the next steps methodically, and responsibly."

No-cost testing events are being deployed across the state and testing turnaround times are improving. New contact tracers are bolstering the efforts of local health departments. A new NCDHHS app, SlowCOVIDNC, is notifying users of exposure to the virus. Personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies are stable.

As these metrics and capacity remain stable, the state will ease some restrictions starting Friday. Executive Order 169

See PHASE 3 page 2

Candidate profiles: N.C. House District 120

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

Macon County Republican Karl Gillespie and Cherokee County Democrat Susan Landis are both vying to represent North Carolina's westernmost district – House District 120. The seat, which has been held by Kevin Corbin for the last two terms, is up for election this November as Corbin is seeking election in the North Carolina Senate.



Karl Gillespie



Susan Landis

founded National Communications, Inc., and has since grown the company into a regional provider of low voltage systems.

"I never started out to be an elected official," said Gillespie. "I was appointed to be on the Macon County Planning Board and served on it for several years. Through being a public servant, I became familiar with the needs of the county and the projects that were on the table.

When I was asked to run for County Commissioner, I decided to because I felt like I was up to speed on the needs of the citizens and would be able to continue to work toward

See DISTRICT 120 page 4

IN THIS ISSUE



Page 16

Toy museum at Cowee School opens back up

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2020	Cadillac	Escalade	35,568
2007	Cadillac	Escalade EXT	157,114
2020	Chevrolet	Blazer	4,708
2013	Chevrolet	Camaro	10,190
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	21,284
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	91,171
2017	Chevrolet	Cruze	37,965
2019	Chevrolet	Cruze	13,906
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	26,219
2018	Chevrolet	Impala	7,195
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	11,584
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	41,705
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	51,696
2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	159,491
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	28,879
2016	Chevrolet	Suburban	112,779
2015	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,475
2019	Chevrolet	Tahoe	17,270
2015	Chevrolet	Traverse	101,068
2014	Chevrolet	Traverse	86,545
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	91,512
2014	Chevrolet	Traverse	102,511
2018	Ford	EcoSport	5,000
2019	Ford	Edge	45,478
2018	Ford	Explorer	49,223
2020	Ford	F-150	23,354
2013	Ford	F-150	153,636
2016	Ford	F-150	73,912
2016	Ford	F-250	190,896
1930	FORD	MODELA	78,269
2019	Ford	Ranger	2,749
2015	GMC	Acadia	92,742
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500	49,139
2013	GMC	Yukon	51,248
2019	GMC	Yukon XL	37,969
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	FATBOY	2,318
2019	Honda	Ridgeline	12,928
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2008	Toyota	Tacoma	138,530
2018	Toyota	Tacoma	13,859
2009	Toyota	Tacoma	117,498
2008	Volkswagen	Eos	115,733



¹ Excludes select base trims. Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1,000 you finance. Example down payment: 3.5%. Must finance with GM Financial. Some customers may not qualify. Not available with lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 6/30/20. ² Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take new delivery by 6/30/20. ©2020 General Motors. All rights reserved.

School board votes to return to Plan 'A' for Grades K- 5 Oct. 5

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The Macon County School Board, approved by a 5-0 vote, for South Macon Elementary School, East Franklin Elementary School, Cartoogechaye Elementary School and Iotla Valley Elementary School as well as Mountain View Intermediate 5th grade to begin Plan A on Monday, Oct. 5. Students at these schools will attend school Monday through Thursday. Fridays will remain a remote learning day.

Franklin High School, Macon Middle School, Union Academy, Macon Early College and Mountain View Intermediate School 6th grade will remain in Plan B.

Highlands School and Nantahala School will remain in their current plan.

Fridays will continue to be a virtual day for all students in order for the teachers to assist virtual students with their classwork, answer emails, take phone calls, grade assignments and hold zoom conferences.

Macon Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin expressed gratitude for all the teachers that have been working well over the hours normally required to teach their classes. Many teachers are putting in at least 10-12 hours daily trying to teach both in person and virtual. Dr. Baldwin also noted that when they first decided to offer virtual classes, it was thought that there would be enough teachers opting to teach full time virtual classes. That did not work out as planned, but instead, there are only about five dedicated virtual teachers in the county, so that facilitate the need for all teachers to help with virtual classes. Currently 925 students are enrolled in plan "C" full time virtual. Any student in grades K-5 who are enrolled in Plan "C" will now have a choice to transition to Plan "A." Parents will need to contact their child's principal to let them know they want to begin in-person instruction on Oct. 5.

Board member Fred Goldsmith expressed concern regarding students enrolled in Plan "C" not being able to complete their work. He is worried that these students will be falling behind due to lack of supervision at home. Many of the families whose children are enrolled in this plan either work during the day, are being raised by grandparents who do not fully understand iPads and their function or have poor connectivity issues. He fears that upon returning to in person instruction will find them far behind their peers who have been attending school under Plan "B."

Board member Gary Shields agreed with Goldsmith, noting that nothing takes the place of being in a classroom with a teacher.

"The Raleigh leadership that allowed 100% virtual put a disadvantage on the schools, the teachers, the parents and the students. Students enrolled in pure virtual cannot come back to class until the end of the semester. By then, they can be so far behind that there is no way for them to catch up. That is not to say that anyone is discounting a parent's decision based on COVID 19 concerns. There is no perfect scenario concerning educational needs this year," said Shields.

John deVille, president of the Macon County Association of Educators, addressed the board.

"I am asking you this evening to work on the issues of providing N95 masks for all faculty and staff of Macon County Schools who wish to wear one going forward, and to investigate the possibility of doing ongoing testing at all Macon County Schools as is currently happening at Highlands School.

"The North Carolina Association of Educators, as are all state associations of the National Education Association, are asking their respective school boards, county commissions, and state legislatures, to provide three essential measures of safety as more students return to our schools for face-to-face instruction:

"1. No return to the classroom unless the local positivity rate is at 3% or less. Macon County is at 3% positivity rate as of today.

"2. More rigorous testing regimens, ideally on-site testing capacity as is being done at Highlands School.

"3. N95 masks provided on an ongoing basis for all faculty and staff who wish to avail themselves of their substantial additional protection from both contraction and spread of Covid-19 and other airborne pathogens.

"Currently, the Highlands-Cashiers Foundation is providing on-site testing at Highlands School. According to principal Brian Jetter, of his 65 staff members, 13 said "yes" to testing. Parents of the 347 students attending in-person school were given a permission form; 67 said "yes" to testing.

DeVile went on to say he was also requesting the assistance of commissioners to provide funding for the testing and the masks.

"We appreciate your efforts thus far to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe during the pandemic and as we add more

students to our classrooms Oct. 5, we would surely appreciate the board's efforts, the county commissioners' efforts, towards the extra margins of safety afforded by additional testing capacity and higher quality masks."

School Board recognitions

Recognition went out to three people who assisted a teenage boy, who accidentally shot himself in the leg. On April 16th the father of a teenage boy, who accidentally shot himself in the leg, pulled into the South Macon Elementary School parking lot. Two School Resource Officers (SRO) and a staff member of the school rushed to offer aid to the boy. Sandy Edwards, Administrative Assistant, SRO Anthony Zari, and SRO Chris Owens, were all quick to help stop the bleeding. The boy was then airlifted to Mission Hospital in Asheville where he has since recovered from his wound. The boy's father feels that by having had such quick medical aid, the three heroes helped save the boy's life.

PHASE 3

Continued from page 1

begins Oct. 2 at 5 p.m. and continues for three weeks through Oct. 23. Its new provisions include:

Large outdoor venues with seating greater than 10,000 may operate with 7% occupancy for spectators.

Smaller outdoor entertainment venues, like arenas or amphitheaters, may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity, or 100 guests, whichever is less.

Movie theaters and conference centers may open indoor spaces to 30% of capacity, or 100 guests, whichever is less.

Bars may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity, or 100 guests, whichever is less.

Amusement parks may open at 30% occupancy, outdoor attractions only.

The limits on mass gatherings will remain at 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors.

The 11 p.m. curfew on alcohol sales for in-person consumption in locations such as restaurants and outdoor bars will be extended to Oct. 23.

State and public health officials will continue watching key trends over the next several weeks to determine if any further restrictions can be eased when the current Executive Order expires Oct. 23.



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DISTRICT 120

Continued from page 1

accomplishing some of the very projects the planning board had been tasked to work on. Since being elected as a commissioner for Macon County, I have taken the job of serving very seriously and learned a lot from it. When Senator [Jim] Davis announced his retirement our current Representative Kevin Corbin decided to run for Senator Davis's seat. After conversations with several folks in the 120th House District, I decided that my experiences had prepared me to represent the citizens of the 120th district."

Landis said that she is running for office to be a voice for the West.

"I'm running for office to have a part in the conversation about what is best for this area, politically," said Landis. "I'm a blue dot in a sea of red, but I think it's important for people to hear more than one side of things and to make informed decisions about who represents them best."

Landis is originally from Chattanooga, Tenn. She and her husband moved to Murphy, N.C., 7 years ago when they retired. They have been married for 37 years and have three adult daughters who all work in science-related fields across the country.

Landis holds a B.A. and M.S. degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, both in psychology. She worked in the mental health field for about 10 years at a psychiatric hospital and then a psychiatric clinic. Then she spent 28 years working as a school psychologist for the local public school district. Landis worked mainly in special education helping to evaluate the needs of students.

1. *Police reform is a major topic across the country and here in WNC. What is your stance on law enforcement and current discussions for reform and defunding police?*

Gillespie: "These topics are both dis-

heartening and disturbing. I have spoken to several sheriffs and they are all open to making any necessary changes. Interestingly, most of these changes require additional funding. We need to work with law enforcement at all levels to make sure they have adequate funding to provide the services our taxpayers deserve."

Landis: "I wish that the term 'defunding the police' was not being used. I don't actually know anyone who feels that police should not receive more pay, training and support. What I regret is that the police have become more militarized over time and often treat citizens as though they are enemies. I think outfitting police in military garb and weapons makes it hard to relate to them on a personal level. Their training has caused some of them to be less aware of, and less sensitive to the needs of the people. Having worked in the field of mental health, I have personally witnessed police treating mental health emergencies as criminal behavior to the detriment of the mentally ill person. Police have an incredibly hard but important job to do, but their training is essential to our safety and well being. Obviously, there are problems in their training or in the selection of recruits, so that people who should not be police are being given badges. Like many social problems, it is complex and the solutions will be complex but it's important to try to get it right so that innocent people are not murdered at the hands of police."

2. *As an elected official, how would you improve educational opportunities for WNC?*

Gillespie: "First, we must fund our K-12 schools at a level so our children can compete on a global playing field. We need to create a pathway for technical training and admission to undergraduate studies. Second, we must fund our community colleges as they provide the specialized training in

the trade fields that we need. I was fortunate to have been able to serve on the Board of Trustees for Southwestern Community College, this gave me an opportunity to see how community colleges change lives. I look forward to working with Southwestern Community College and Tri-County Community College to ensure they have the tools they need."

Landis: "Having spent decades working in public schools, and having attended school in many different places as a child, I think I can bring a lot to any discussion of education. I have a whole lot of opinions and insights into what changes need to be made in education but it boils down to this...money. There has never been one single day in the history of this country that the schools have had all the money they needed to do the job. Not even close. If teachers were paid the salaries of CEO's, people would be running to colleges to become teachers. That has never happened. Just like with police, the vast majority of the thousands of teachers I have worked with over the years are hard working, sincere, smart, educated professionals who would give anything in their power to help a child or teach that child. They just do not always have the tools or training. I remember going into a brand new school where they had a brand new computer lab full of brand new computers, but it was locked up because no one in the building was trained on what to do with those computers. Grant money had paid for hardware, but not training. So, money is a start, or at least we need to try it for a change."

3. *What is your stance on WNC's current broadband issues and how would you address it?*

Gillespie: "Like so many other rural communities, WNC suffers from the lack of affordable broadband, in some areas over 40% of the households do not have access

to affordable broadband. Currently the USDA's e-Connectivity program, North Carolina GREAT Grant, local county grants along with government/private partnerships are all working to enhance broadband. The main issue with deploying fiber optic technologies in WNC is the cost of construction. To make any significant impact will require a substantial financial commitment by the federal and state government."

Landis: "Broadband is at the top of the issues I would like to address if elected to the legislature. Personally, I only have two options at my house for internet...both of them are terrible. I don't even have cell phone service at my house. I can't stream anything, zoom meetings freeze up constantly and I run out of my so called "fast" gigs of internet every single month. For this lousy service, I pay a satellite company \$147 per month, so I know first hand how frustrating it is to not have decent internet. It is one of the few things that could make me move out of these beautiful mountains. One step that the legislature could take is to change the law that prohibits local municipalities from creating and operating their own broadband systems. They can also allocate more money for this purpose. The GA recently allocated some money for this purpose, but it was a laughably small amount compared to what is needed, and it only went to a few counties. Legislation could be put into place to require any business offering broadband to make it available to everyone. That is what is missing now. I have decent wifi less than a mile from my house but no hope of ever getting it in my area. In the seven years I've lived here, my options have not changed at all."

4. *What do you see as being the biggest issue facing WNC?*

Gillespie: "Lack of affordable broadband, economic development/sustainable employment opportunities, healthcare are the biggest issues facing Western North



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Carolina,” said Gillespie. “Western North Carolina is a great place to live and an even better place to do business, but we have to provide our residents and business owners with the tools they need to be successful. Things like healthcare and access to broadband have to be improved if we want to stay competitive and keep moving our economy forward.”

Landis: “The biggest issue facing N.C. right now is probably the divide between the urban and rural areas. Urban areas such as the Triangle, Charlotte, Raleigh have needs that are very different from the needs in the rural areas. We need to insure that some basic infrastructure is in place everywhere, such as broadband, but also in education, roads, water quality, media access, mail service, and training for public employees. I used to be on the board of our county social services. The staff had a terrible time getting all the required training because it was held so far away. It would require two days of travel to get to and from a place like Raleigh (360 miles away), which presented a hardship to the agency to be without employees for so long. Why the trainings were not offered virtually is probably due to the lack of funding and broadband access. It again hurts rural areas and costs rural areas more. During this pandemic we literally have students sitting in parking lots trying to do their homework that requires broadband because up to 50% of the people in this area do not have it at home. Thank God for Bojangles and McDonald's. They offer free internet.”

5. Anything else you would like for your voters to know.

Gillespie: “I love calling Western North Carolina my home. As a native, I grew up fishing, camping, rock hunting, riding the back roads and climbing all over these mountains. I worked on the road for 17 years and as I traveled in and out of the country I came to realize how truly blessed I had been to grow up in this region. If elected, I will be its voice. I will represent it with integrity and enthusiasm. I am a small business owner and understand the issues a small business faces and will bring that experience with me. My family and I live on the family farm, where we raise registered black Angus cattle, being a farmer, I think I can represent the region with this knowledge and experience.”

Landis: “I am currently the Treasurer of the Cherokee County Democratic Party, the President of the Tri-county Democratic Women (Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties), as well as a candidate for NC House District 120. I am the delegate for this county in the Senior Tar Heel Legislature, which is a nonpartisan advocacy group that works to obtain funding for services for senior citizens across NC (programs such as Meals on Wheels and transportation). I am also one of the people who evaluates scholarship applications annually for the Ronald McDonald college scholarships for this region. And, in my spare time, I enjoy time on my porch with our two dogs, two cats and lots of wild birds. My website is susanlandisnc.com.”

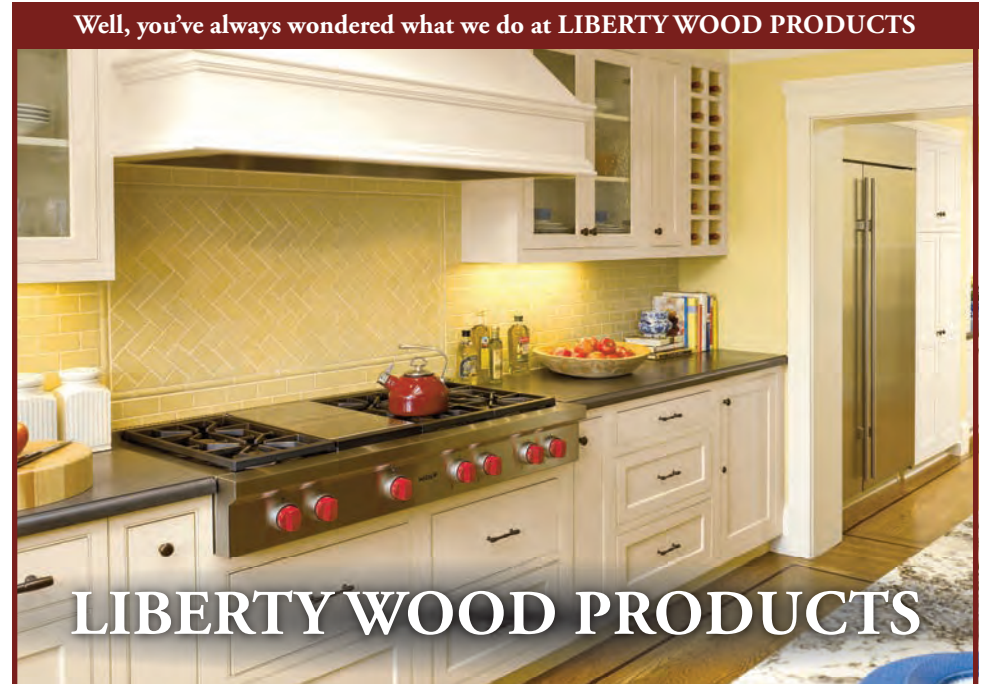


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Annual River Cleanup yields a ton of trash

Mainspring Conservation Trust's annual River Cleanup was held Saturday, Sept. 19, with 2,040 lbs. of trash going into the dumpster. Rachel Newcomb, Conservation Outreach director said that Mainspring was pleased with the efforts of some 40 people who volunteered for the cleanup. Pictured above are Karl and Alex Haiss.



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Ruby Cinemas making preparations to reopen movie theatres

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writers

After the shelter-in-place mandate went into effect this past spring, movie theaters nationwide closed. In order to generate some revenue, Ruby Cinemas on Georgia Road in Franklin, began offering weekend drive-through concessions and then weekend, drive-in, previously released movies. The practice continues as North Carolina's governor Roy Cooper announced Sept. 1 that the state is currently in Phase 2.5, which conveys: "... movie theaters, indoor entertainment facilities, amusement parks, dance halls will remain closed."

However, at 2 p.m. on Sept. 30, Gov. Cooper announced that Phase 3 begins Friday, Oct. 2, and he will allow movie theaters in the state to finally reopen, to 30% capacity to start. For Ruby Cinemas, that means about 45-60 people in each of the four auditoriums.

David Parlier, who purchased Ruby Cinemas with his wife, Holly, five years ago, said he hopes the governor's move into Phase 3 is not too little too late for independently owned movie theaters like his own. In most other states, theaters have been for several weeks gradually reopening with safety measures in place such as social distancing, mask wearing, and limited audiences. However, since March, Parlier said Gov. Cooper's office has not responded to any personal, business, or lobbyist questions and requests for information regarding North Carolina theaters.

Parlier said he is a member of the National Association of Theater Owners.

"Lobbyists have tried for months to talk to the governor or someone in the governor's office about the plight of movie theater businesses ... when we can safely reopen, but no one – no one will talk to them."

Parlier added that cinema owners have even tried to convey to the N.C. governor's office information about CinemaSafe, a pandemic-motivated program, developed and supported by leading epidemiologists, that offers guidelines for a safe return to movie theaters. "As far as we know, the governor hasn't even looked at it. It's maddening," said Parlier.

As of July, Ruby Cinemas' revenues were down 78%. Yet, Parlier pointed out that he must continue to pay monthly bills on the almost 40-year-old Franklin theater as well as pay employees.

"The concessions, the drive-in movies, and now the theater rentals (10 people can rent each side of the theater for \$10 each for private movie showings), have slowed down losses only slightly. We're still leaking significantly, but these measures slowed the flow just a little."

With theaters reopening in neighboring states, Parlier has already seen a decrease in attendance for the drive-in movies and private screenings. "People want to see new releases. The community has been wonderful for months, awesome really, about trying to support us, but we can't keep the drive-in movies going as it gets cold and the novelty of what we've had to offer during these last months is wearing off, understandably."

Parlier did apply and was approved for an Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), providing economic relief to small businesses and nonprofit organizations experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Yet, the 30-year loan will have to be repaid. "So it just means I'm further in debt," said Parlier.



David Parlier, who purchased Ruby Cinemas with his wife, Holly, five years ago, stands with their five children in front of the marquis that has not publicized new movies since March.

In an effort to ready Ruby Theater for reopening, Parlier and his staff have taped off two rows of seats between each open row. "So really we have about 10 feet of social distancing," said Parlier. "We have sanitizing stations all over the theater, social distancing indicators on the floor in the lobby, and plan to wipe down and disinfect the theaters between shows. We've learned from studies that the risks are relatively low. So we are able to mitigate risk, but it's like we're in the dark about what the future holds. But the North Carolina theater owners are keeping the pressure on."

He added, "Even if the governor would allow us to have 25% capacity, at least I could have 50 people in each theater."

Opening back up for regular, new-release movies presents another logistical challenge because production companies have struggled since the pandemic began and the flow of new entertainment has been disrupted.

"Based upon what's happening in Los Angeles and New York City, some production companies are afraid to release some new movies because they want to show them at theaters that can get the good numbers," he said. "Big studios are kicking some new releases down the road, but smaller studios may be perfectly content to get an average showing at this point."

Parlier said he will be happy to see new movies once again listed with showtimes on the Ruby Cinemas roadside marquis.

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- ★ Karl Gillespie (Candidate for NC House)
- ★ Kaleb Wingate (Candidate for District Court Judge)

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Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

At least a dozen storms – some of which have become hurricanes – have formed in the Atlantic since August, and more are predicted to affect especially areas of Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. In late August, Hurricane Laura formed in the Caribbean, killing at least nine people there and then did the most damage in the U.S. near Cameron, La., killing at least 27 people. Laura was followed by several tropical storms, including Sally, which developed into a category 2 hurricane and did some damage in Gulf Shores, Ala. And Beta made landfall on Sept. 21 as a tropical storm that affected the eastern coast of Texas.

People like Michael and Lee Willis as well as Gary Holland pay attention to natural disasters, both in Macon County and throughout the U.S. Hurricane season is particularly a time of great awareness as they participate in and/or help coordinate disaster relief at the drop of a hat.

“We’re always ready,” said Michael Willis. “My wife and I have our bags packed and are ready to take off to help wherever we are needed.”

The Willis family, since retiring – he as a band director at Franklin High School and she as a dental assistant – have participated in disaster relief through an organization called Baptists on Missions. While there are many areas of training which takes place over a weekend in locations around North Carolina, the couple is trained



Franklin residents Michael Willis and Lee Willis help people from all walks of life in all areas of the country through Baptists on Mission when there is a natural disaster and relief is needed.

in at least five, including administration and chaplaincy.

Disaster relief volunteers go into areas affected by such disasters as fires, floods, and hurricanes, and serve food, participate in cleanup efforts, provide assessment reports, assist with temporary shower and laundry facilities, handle administrative efforts, oversee communications, help with childcare, and more. After 2017’s Category 4 hurricane Harvey that devastated portions of east Texas, the Willis family said the Baptists on Missions’ “massive food trailers” fed 40,000 people daily.

The couple thought they would be needed recently in Louisiana and then Florida, but they learned that volunteers in other states were covering those areas.

“But if we’re called, we’re ready to be deployed.”

Samaritan’s Purse is another organization based in Blowing Rock, N.C., that has volunteers ready and able to manage disaster relief.

Michael said that even though these organizations are faith-based, the intention is not to evangelize but to help.

“We help with physical needs and emotional and mental needs,” he said. “We listen ... offer guidance. It’s a big deal when people go through something like a natural disaster, and we are there to help in whatever way we can. Just like Jesus, we are there to be His hands and feet ... to meet needs when people go through a tragic event.”

He added that volunteers do not have to be affiliated with any particular denomination to be part of a disaster relief effort; they just need to sign up and be trained and understand what is involved.

“We work alongside people from all walks of life. When the forest fires were happening around here in 2016, we set up and were feeding people.”

Gary Holland is a disaster relief coordinator for Macon, Swain, Graham, and Cherokee county volunteers. He said that while no one that he knows from these counties is currently assisting in areas already affected by recent tropical storms and hurricanes, hurricane season does not officially end until Nov. 30.

“People from this area have helped with disasters in the past and several are ready to go when they are needed.”



Manna One food trailers provided by Baptists on Mission travel to disaster relief areas, and volunteers like Michael and Lee Willis are trained to serve food to people in need.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor - Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

I had hoped we could do a hybrid town board meeting. The plan was to ZOOM the meeting and conduct an in-person meeting following standard COVID-19 protocols. There were technical glitches that I had not anticipated. I take responsibility for not foreseeing the problems.

At our October meeting adjustments will be made. Either we will do a ZOOM only format, or return to an in-person format without ZOOM. Town staff have recently installed a fixed camera at the Highlands Conference Center that might be used in streaming the meeting on the town website. Several test runs will be done before a final decision.

The September meeting was rather long. First, the town board voted to reject the five bids that companies submitted for the operation of the broadband network. Each bid submitted had some incomplete information that made them incomplete bids. For an initial bidding cycle, state law requires there to be three complete bids before the best bid can be accepted. The lack of three complete bids necessitated the rebidding of the project. The board approved the issuing of a new RFP [Request for Proposal] with additional clarifications. The original bidders have been sent the new RFP. This second bid cycle will be for 30 days and all five bidders can resubmit their bids with updated information. New bidders can also submit. After the end of this second bid cycle, the board can consider any complete bid.

Second, I gave updates on several road projects that DOT has on their short list. These projects are contingent on state funds being released in the coming weeks. They could continue to remain on hold if this funding is delayed.

The resurfacing of Main Street is scheduled for this spring. There are several phases. First, in late March the existing asphalt on Main Street will be milled down by an inch and a half. Vehicles will be able to use the street afterward, albeit a rougher ride.

Some time in April when 60 degree days return, the repaving of road will begin. The goal is to have Main Street completed and re-stripped before the new season. The original plan called for the road to be resurfaced only to 4th Street. This new contract will extent the new paving all the way to the Mountain Fresh area.

The other phases involve paving US 64 from Main Street out to Buck Creek; and NC 28 from Main Street to Clear Creek will also be repaved. Our town engineer is in ongoing discussions with DOT engineers about how the intersection at NC 28, South Street and Satulah can be improved. These two highway projects will get underway after Main Street is completed. Both will continue into the summer. Expect traffic delays coming into and leaving Highlands during this period.

Recently there was a meeting with DOT officials about the possible paving of Big Bear Pen from Upper Lake down to Chestnut. Discussions are in the preliminary stage.

Letters to the Editor

Population control paramount in years to come

One of the unfortunate aspects of human lives is we rarely think or plan for the future. Some do but it's usually about their existence when they get too old to work and plan for a comfortable retirement.

But I'm talking about a long term future, not simply for the short term. Let's take the year 3020, 1,000 years hence.

By this time, the theoretical world population would have grown to about 100 billion. We are currently just under 8 billion.

Can we survive with this many humans? Well obviously not. There wouldn't be enough space for all of us and there wouldn't be enough food to feed so many people. The end result would be death for all of us save for a very few. Obviously, this ain't the way to go and we need to find solutions well ahead of an impending human disaster.

In spite of religions in general telling us God will destroy earth but in the meantime we should just keep having babies and of course religions will have to find some middle ground. Fortunately God isn't going to destroy the earth and there won't be a "final judgment."

Well if it does happen, don't blame God because we would have brought it on ourselves. God ain't going to hit Delete the earth on his computer.

So where the heck are we headed? Are we going to reduce the population through a world war? I dunno. I do realize there is some truth to the Green New Deal idea, however, implementing it suddenly would bring disaster to America. (As some would like to do.)

Honestly, China and Russia would leap for joy because we would be out of their way to take over, perhaps the entire world. The liberty and freedom we have in America would be a distant memory.

By the way, don't forget most of the world depends on America to defend them. Without our military China and Russia would be free to dominate the entire world. So, giving up fossil fuel too soon would all but stop our industries and manufacturing which of course includes military equipment. China could simply go park themselves on the west coast.

Our electric demand is far too great to depend on windmills and solar panels so it becomes obvious we would have to depend on nuclear power. Clean Nuclear power is something we have ignored due to our fears, but would have to wake up and take over from fossil fuels.

Then, population control comes under consideration.

Unlike China, we can't live with millions of babies killed each year. But, there is an alternative and this is to allow each family just one child and this would be allowed only if the family has an IQ of for example 120 or better. And sterilization may be required. And that won't come easy.

Sounds pretty harsh, if not horrible, but it may be the only way to our survival and save our planet.

But how are we to get all the competing religions to agree to cutting back on childbirth?

Sure brings up a lot of difficult problems and of course no one has even begun to think what we will need in the year 3020 but if we don't, we will destroy ourselves and we can't blame God.

Bob Wilson - Franklin, N.C.

The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions. Letters are neither accepted nor rejected on the basis of the opinions expressed. Writers are asked to refrain from personal attacks against individuals or businesses. Letters are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of the publisher, editor or staff of The Macon County News.

How to vote by absentee ballot

If a voter would like for their ballot to be sent to them in the mail the following is required:

Voters must fill out the absentee request form available on the board of elections website at maconnc.org under county agencies, click on ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST PORTAL and follow the instructions; visit the NCSBOE website, or call the office at 349-2034 and one will be mailed to them.

Once the BOE office receives the request form, the ballot, return envelope, and instructions are then mailed out and sent to the voter.

Once the voter receives their ballot, they mark their ballot, fold it back up, place it into the provided return envelope, seal it, sign it, and have a witness, print their name, provide their address, and sign it.

The voter will then mail it back to the BOE office or bring it into the BOE office, or take it to an early voting site Oct. 15-31 (the voter will sign a log when they bring it back in person).

Only the voter or a near relative can bring the envelope back in person.

*Submitted by Melanie D. Thibault,
director Macon County Board of Elections*

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Goat Show
Wednesday, Sept. 23

Breeder Class - Meat

- 1st Place - Grayson Ledford, Boer
- 2nd Place - Gage Ledford, Boer
- 3rd Place - Taylor Lawrence, Boer Mix

Breeder Class - Dairy

- 1st Place - Madeline Bishop, Lamancha
- 2nd Place - Jadin Talley-Bush, Lamancha
- 3rd Place - Carley Specht, Lamancha

Market Class - Meat

- 1st Place - Macie Ledford, Boer
- 2nd Place - Hannah Smith, Boer
- 3rd Place - Andi Setzer, Boer

Market Class - Dairy

- 1st Place - Mary Bishop, Nigerian Dwarf
- 2nd Place - Hayden McDonald, Nubian
- 3rd Place - Aven Crawford, Nigerian Dwarf

Junior Showmanship

- 1st Place - Andi Setzer
- 2nd Place - Mary Bishop
- 3rd Place - Noah Green

Intermediate Showmanship

- 1st Place - Kenleigh Deal
- 2nd Place - Grayson Ledford
- 3rd Place - Madie Ledford

Senior Showmanship 13 and over

- 1st Place - Hannah Smith
- 2nd Place - Gage Ledford
- 3rd Place - Gabby Nelson

Obstacle Course

- 1st Place - Ben Holland
- 2nd Place - Silas Crawford

4-H Market Lamb Show
Thursday, Sept. 24

4-H Cloverbud Exhibitors (5-8)

- Jessica Crisp
- Kenleigh Deal
- Ben Holland
- Mason Keener
- Braylen Keener
- Lane Ledford
- Olivia Reynolds

4-H Junior Exhibitors (9-12)

- 1st Place - Caroline Deal (Showmanship Grand Champion)
- 2nd Place - Haylee Ledford
- 3rd Place - Heidi Brogden

4-H Senior Exhibitors (13-18)

- 1st Place - Juliona Garber (Showmanship Reserve Champion)
- 2nd Place - Elliott Engelking
- 3rd Place - Abigail Angel

Conformation Class

Lightweight Class

- 1st Place - Braylen Keener
- 2nd Place - Mason Keener
- 3rd Place - Abigail Angel

Middleweight Class

- 1st Place - Caroline Deal (Grand Champion)
- 2nd Place - Addie Deal (Reserve Champion)
- 3rd Place - Heidi Brogden

Heavyweight Class

- 1st Place - Olivia Reynolds
- 2nd Place - Juliona Garber
- 3rd Place - Kamryn Cunningham

Market Hog Show Showmanship
Friday Sept. 25

- Andrew Garrison - Grand Champion
- Ayden Garrison - Reserve Champion

Youth show livestock at the fair



Reagan Brown, 2 1/2
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Ivy Ray Vanhook, 2
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- 10/24 **CHANGING OF THE LEAVES**
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Judging the youth livestock shows was Sean Garcia (bottom photo, center), who judged on a collegiate level at Clairedon College and then continued at Sam Houston University graduating in 2013 with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science and a minor in Agricultural Education. Garcia spent five years in Texas and three years in Grey's Creek, N.C. teaching agriculture.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter, Betsey Gooder and Ellen Randall



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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 September 16 - 28. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

September 21
 Joshua Lawrence Burr was issued a warrant for indictment. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

September 22
 Jessie Mal Cowart, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction.

September 23
 Robert Leonard Pitcher, was charged with assault on a female. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.
 Brevon Kimsey, was charged with failure to appear. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Richard Kaleb Bates, was charged with assault on a female, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Heidi Johanna Dremil, was issued an order for arrest for driving while license revoked no impaired revocation. Garrett D. Hovis made the arrest.

Hilario Garcia Aguilar, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Garrett D. Hovis made the arrest.

September 25
 Jacob Lee Norris, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Jay Wright made the arrest.

September 26
 Jane Rae Hodges, was charged with domestic physical. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.

September 27
 April M. Nations, was charged with failure to appear on communicating threats. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

September 28
 Jody M. Stanfield, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

September 17
 Rickie Antes II, 29, of Cherry St., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

September 18
 Doyle Dooger Ramirez, 34, of Stiwinter Mountain Rd., was issued a warrant for arrest for injury to personal property, breaking

and entering, larceny after breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

September 16
 Alexandria Leigh Mozinski, 28, of Travelers Nest, was charged with resist an officer, malicious conduct by a prisoner. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Ashley Elizabeth Hooper, 32, of Country Club Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

David Ray Sims, 45, of Grassy Creek Rd., Tuckasegee, was charged with felony conspiracy, burning personal property. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

September 17
 Megan Dawn Wilnoty, 27, of Mary Jackson Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Michael Scott Frizzell, 22, of Gardenia Lane, was charged with assault on a child under 12, intentional child abuse causing serious physical injury. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Michael Jerome Drakeford, 39, of Old Glory Ridge, Whittier, was charged with misdemeanor child abuse. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

September 18
 Samantha Nicole Namorka, 22, of Sparks Dr., was charged with larceny, larceny of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$2,5000 was set.

Lane Adriane Stalker-DiRicco, 40, of Jenks Gap, Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass, resisting a public officer, simple assault. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Penny Lynn Ferretiz, 48, of Bigwitch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for failure to secure passenger under 16, driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$750 was set.

September 19
 Caleb William Sutton, 27, of Dave St., Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$6,000 was set.

September 20
 Kevin Todd Mathis, 56, of Brasstown Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with child abuse, assault by pointing a gun, communicating threats. No bond was set.

Jacinto Tienda Dominguez, 43, of Big Witch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

September 21
 Deundra Rodgers, 28, of Nashville, Tenn., was charged with possession of stolen goods/property, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering forcible. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

Robert Joseph Beasley, 30, of Front St., Dillsboro, was charged with larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering forcible. A secured bond of \$1,200 was set.

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Cowee School reopens museum spaces; some classes offered

Deena C. Bouknight, Contributing Writer

Jim Geary, director of the Down Memory Lane Toy Museum, housed inside the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center, said the 2,500 or so toys in the space he and his wife, Sandy, opened four years ago have not had children or adult visitors to enjoy them since March. But all that will change, he hopes, when some aspects of Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center reopen Oct. 1.

“We’re going to reopen the school for limited classes and allowing museum spaces to reopen. We’ll be limiting each room to six students and/or visitors. We will also require folks to wear a face covering while inside the building,” said Cowee School director Stacey Guffey

Guffey indicated that Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center, like other businesses and organizations, has struggled since it closed its doors in the spring due to the N.C. governor’s pandemic mandates.

“We’ve spent the summer pursuing grants to help us through the pandemic and to replace some of the lost revenue,” he said. “Thanks to funders such as the North Carolina Arts Council and the North Carolina Humanities Council, we have been able to survive. We continue to be extremely grateful to the county for their support. We couldn’t have made it through the year without Macon County.”

A playful history

Rent and upkeep for the Down Memory Lane Toy Mu-

seum are a labor of love for Jim and Sandy Geary. They sometimes receive donations, but primarily the couple uses their own funds to offer the museum to the public. Jim began collecting toy cars in 1950 when he was 10 years old. A parade of antique cars in his hometown of Latrobe, Penn., spurred his interest. His 1911 toy Rolls Royce is in the museum, as are his more than 600 Studebaker toys, the wooden toy tractor his father made him, Sandy’s 30-plus-year collection of antique construction equipment toys, and much more.

The museum also houses donated doll collections, including one donated by Pat Mesta, a former geography teacher who used her collection of international dolls to explain cultural differences to students.

However, at least 80% of the museum exhibits items collected or obtained by the Gearys. “It’s definitely a lifelong hobby,” he said. “I guess I’m a



Jim Geary, director, curator, and founder of Down Memory Lane Toy Museum, has compiled two extensive books on antique toys.

big kid. I play with the toys, and my blood pressure goes way down when I’m here at the museum ... when the trains are running.”

Recently, he acquired a child’s-size circa 1900 wooden fire truck as well as a hand-made in 1995 child’s-size version of a 1930-33 Duesenberg.

Geary is a member of at least a dozen antique-toy-related Facebook sites, has published two informational books on antique toys, spends hours researching, and has become a go-to source for historic toy aficionados nationwide. “I tell them where to find parts, history of the toys, how to restore ...,” he said. “And talking about the toys and allowing people to reminisce and go down their own memory lanes is why my wife and I have this museum. There are stories that go along with all old toys.”

Although the Gearys enjoy being inside the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center, their existing collection has outgrown the space there; plus, more people want to donate impressive toy collections to the museum and there is no additional space. The couple would eventually like to occupy a 2,000-2,500-



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The Gearys would like to find a larger venue for their extensive collection and also to expand the play area to allow children to play with and learn about antique toys and the history behind them.

square-foot space closer to downtown Franklin that an owner might provide as a tax write-off. Another goal is a larger playroom where children can be surrounded by the antique toys but then play with toys like Lincoln Logs and trains.

“Children these days don’t play as much with actual toys,” said Geary. “They are focused on screens instead. But when kids come to play in our very small play area at the museum space we have now, parents can’t get them to leave. Kids begin to realize how much fun it is to actually play with toys.”

With so many children schooling from home due to the pandemic, Geary would like to see more parents bring children into the museum as an educational outing to learn history through the toys.

Although museums and some classes became available Oct. 1 at Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center, Guffey explained that all of the live events were canceled for the rest of the year. “But we hope conditions improve so we can have a great season starting next spring with the concert series and our regular festivals,” he said.

Guffey encouraged the Macon County community to support Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center by attending classes or visiting the exhibits.

“Follow us on social media and in the local media for announcements on upcoming fundraisers and on-line events this fall and winter.”



The notice under the 1911 Rolls Royce says it’s the first model in the collection started in 1950.



The Down Memory Lane Toy Museum includes many memories of founder and curator Jim Geary’s life, including a photo of him as a toddler in a child’s-size 1940s Pontiac blue peddle car like the one restored and on display.

He also pointed out that Cowee School is making drive-up WiFi internet access available to students, families, and workers who need to work or study on-line. The signal reaches both the upper and lower parking lots. The network is coweecommunity. The password is coweewifi.

To learn more, visit www.coweeschool.org.



Studebaker Jr. Farm Wagon

Deaths & Funerals

Patricia Ann Millikin Salenius McClure

Patricia Ann Millikin Salenius McClure, 81, passed away on Monday, Sept. 28, 2020.

She was a native of Weldon, N.C., and the daughter of the late Almond Millikin and Jane Gregory Millikin.

She is survived by her husband, Sam McClure; two sons, Howard George Salenius Jr. “Skip” of Antioch, Tenn., and Charles August Salenius II “Chad” of Atlanta, Ga.; one grandson, Maxwell Prince Salenius of Antioch, Tenn.; two nieces; three nephews; three great-nieces and four great-nephews.



Patricia McClure

She was a two-year business major and held a B.S. degree in primary education from East Carolina University where she received the first “Outstanding Educator Alumni Award” in 1986. She was Macon County’s Teacher of the Year as well as District 9 Teacher of the Year in 1982. McClure was named “Personality of the South” and “Outstanding Woman of the World” while teaching in Spartanburg, S.C., in 1976. She served as the “Grand Marshal” in Franklin’s Christmas Parade in December 1991 and also received the “Woman of the Year” award presented by the Business and Professional Women’s Club of Franklin in 1992. In 2018, she was awarded the Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award.

“Ms. Patti,” as she was affectionately called by her friends and students, was very active in her church and community and she dearly loved people. She taught 28 years in the public-school systems in both North and South Carolina, spending her last 14 years teaching in Franklin until heart problems forced her to retire. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Franklin where she taught Sunday School, was a youth director and delighted in doing the “Moments of Children” for many years. She was a member of the Retired Teacher’s Association. “Ms. Patti” also thoroughly enjoyed working on fund raisers for many good causes.

After retiring from teaching and having a heart transplant, “Ms. Patti” spent a great deal of time volunteering at the schools, nursing homes, churches and hospitals. She also attended the Transplant Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1996, where she won four gold medals running, race walking, 50-yard free style and 50-yard breast-stroke in swimming. She devoted much of her time to “walking and talking” and telling her “heartwarming” stories to all ages for all occasions. In 2010, “Ms. Patti” wrote a book entitled “With Every Beat of My Heart.” The book was comprised of two sections. The first section was a short autobiography of Patti and the second was filled with poems about her friends, acquaintances and events that inspired Patti to write her book.

“Ms. Patti” was a wife, mother, grandmother, poet and storyteller who loved her husband and family and her pet, “Lucy Belle” unconditionally. She certainly lived her life to the fullest and she never left home without her sense of humor.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at 12 p.m., at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, Franklin. Burial will be in the Woodlawn Cemetery. Revs. David Beam, Tracy Tallent and Margaret Freeman will officiate.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 12 p.m., prior to the service at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. For the protection of all, masks and social distancing will be required. With these measures in place, everyone is welcome.

Pallbearers will be Steve Millikin, Eddie Elias, Jim Paliouras, Lee Elks, Gary Cooke and Joe Chavis. Honorary Pallbearers will be Jason Arnold, David Parlier, Scotty Corbin and Lyle Jones.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC, PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744 or Kids Place, PO Box 693, Franklin, NC 28744.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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Deaths & Funerals

Leo Bennette Huckabee III

Leo Bennette Huckabee III, 77, of Highlands, N.C., passed away on Friday, Sept. 25, 2020.

He was born in Macon, Ga., on Dec. 18, 1942, the eldest son of the late Leo Bennette Huckabee Jr. and Randall Adams Huckabee. After graduation from Lanier High School in 1960, he attended Mercer University where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. He continued his education at the University of Georgia earning a Master of Business Administration. While attending Lanier High School and Mercer



Leo Bennette Huckabee III

University, he was a cadet in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). Subsequent to completing his education, he served as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

He began his 38-year career at Huckabee Auto Co. in Macon, Ga., in 1968. He was the owner/operator of the General Motors dealership at the time of his retirement in 2006. During his adult years living in Macon, he was a member of Idle Hour Country Club.

He was a dedicated family man, always putting the needs and feelings of his two children before all else. Both of his children believe whole-heartedly that he was the greatest "Daddy" in the world. For many years, he enjoyed running, tennis, snow skiing and traveling. In more recent years, he spent his time reading books of different genres and viewing thousands of photos of all the experiences and travels he enjoyed during his lifetime.

Survivors include his wife Dorothy Moore Huckabee of Highlands, N.C.; daughter, Marjorie Huckabee Carter (John) of Macon, Ga.; son, Leo "Jack" Bennette Huckabee IV of Highlands; and his grandson, John Thomas Carter III of Macon, Ga.; his brother, William Allen Huckabee II (Patti); his sister, Mary Huckabee Howard of Macon, Ga.; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Bennette Huckabee Jr. and a sister, Randall Huckabee Flournoy.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

The family requests, that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Highlands United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741 or the donor's favorite charity.

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

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

Louise Alice Spier

Louise Alice Spier, 88 of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020. She was born Sept. 19, 1932, in Allegany County, New York, to the late Hazen Carpenter and Ellen Whitney Carpenter. She was a homemaker and was a member of the Cornerstone Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Fred Spier; two daughters, Donna Blanco (Ruben) of Tampa, Fla., and Sheila Householder of Zephyr Hills, Fla.; a sister, Dorothy Williams of New York; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister Lois Hackett and a brother Thomas Carpenter.

No services are planned at this time.

The family requests in lieu of flowers to send contributions to the Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, 70 Trimont View Drive, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

William Cary (Bill) VanHook

William Cary (Bill) VanHook, 83, of Palm Bay, Fla., passed away Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020, at his home in Palm Bay, Fla. He was born Sept. 13, 1937, in Franklin, N.C., to the late Cecil VanHook and Addie Ledbetter VanHook. He retired as a Master Sergeant from the United States Marine Corp. with 22 years of service. He later worked with the U.S. Forest Service and retired from FEMA-MERS (Mobile Emergency Response Support), in 1999.



William Cary VanHook

He is survived by his wife, Linda VanHook; sons, Billy VanHook of Franklin and James VanHook (Leslie) of Franklin; daughters, Jeana VanHook Hand (Jeff) of Roebuck, S.C., and Janet VanHook Newsom (Preston) of Clarksville, Ga.; step-sons, Bruce Davis of Palm Bay, Fla., and Jim Davis Jr. (Lillian) of Riverside, Calif.; grandchildren, Anthony Capaforte (Ruthie), Cory Dills, Josh VanHook, Jared VanHook, Cara McClure, Amelia Jones (Tom) and Candice Dooley (Josh); step-grandchildren, Jim Davis III (Kayla), Justin Davis (Shauna) and Corinne Mejia (Henry); great grandchildren, Carson Phillips, Ben Caudell, Cooper Caudell, Dante Jones, Addie Dills and Adelaide Capaforte; step-great-grandchildren, Xavier Mejia, Isaac Mejia, Jim Davis IV, Esme Mejia, Scarlet Davis, Emma Davis and Artemis Davis; two sisters, Beverly VanHook-Schrey (Herb) of Franklin and Betty Dowdle of Franklin; various nieces, nephews and other extended family.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Sept. 30, at Prentiss Church of God, Franklin, with the Rev. Kevin Chapman and Rev. Keith Ashe officiating. Burial followed in Rush Cemetery Otto, N.C.

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

Robin Denise McKay Webber

Robin Denise McKay Webber, 55, of Chiefland, Fla., went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, Sept. 25, 2020, surrounded by her loving family.

A native of Franklin, N.C., she was the daughter of Linda Cochran McKay, and the late Charles McKay. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by an infant sister, Melissa Ellen, maternal grandparents, Louie and Eleanor Cochran, and paternal grandparents, John and Liz McKay. She relocated to Chiefland, Fla., in 1988, where she and her husband started a church and spent 30 years serving in ministry, blessing all who knew her with her humble spirit, hospitality, encouragement, and her beautiful voice. She also worked in public health for 15 years serving the community and school system where she became well known and well loved. All who knew her described her as having a sweet soul and being loving and compassionate, beautiful inside, as well as out. She loved her God first and foremost, closely followed by her love for her family. She was in her element entertaining, decorating, and creating.

She is survived by her husband of 36 years, Rev. Dennis Webber; mother, Linda Cochran McKay, of Franklin; three children, son Bradley and wife, Amy, of Chiefland, Fla., daughter, Brittany, and son, Joshua, both of Gainesville, Fla.; grandchildren, Tarryn Givorns, Kaitlyn Webber and fiancé, Tyler Harmon, and Ansleigh Webber; and great grandson, Teagan; brother, Jeff McKay and wife, Carrie of Florence, S.C., and their children, Zachary and Claire; also surviving are numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A memorial service was held in Chiefland, Fla., on Sunday, Sept. 27, and Wednesday, Sept. 30, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home in Franklin. Her husband officiated. Burial followed in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Macon Funeral Home, Franklin, and Knauff Funeral Home, Chiefland, Fla., are in charge of the services.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Sammie Elmer Beck

Sammie Elmer Beck, 85, went home to be with the Lord on Sept. 16, 2020.

He was born in Macon County, North Carolina on Aug. 12, 1935, to the late Jim and Beulah Henry Beck. He worked at OshKosh Trucking Co. as a machine operator. He loved to fish and hunt. He was a hard worker, loving husband, father, and grandfather, and was of the Baptist faith.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his three brothers, Jimmy Beck, Jake Beck, and Gilbert Beck.



Sammie Elmer Beck

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Patricia L. Littleton Beck; daughter, Debbie Brock of Pensacola, Fla.; granddaughters, Melissa Brock of Irvine, Calif., and Ann Brock of Williamstown, N.J.; two brothers, Johnny Beck and Butch (Beth) Beck.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Sept. 23, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home with burial to follow in Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery, Highlands, N.C. Pastor Oliver Rice officiated.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

Georgia Eulene Miller Bracken

Georgia Eulene Miller Bracken, 84, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sept. 24, 2020, at her residence surrounded by her devoted husband and family. She was born Nov. 13, 1936, in New Kensington, Pa., the daughter of the late George C. Miller and the late Dorothy Roberts Johnson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, Dennis, Bill and Richard, a sister, Penny Phelps, and a grandson, Denver Cantwell.



Georgia Bracken

She lived for many years in North Ridgeville, Ohio, as well as in Florida before settling in Franklin in 1978. She loved traveling and flower gardening but most of all, spending time with her beloved family.

She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Raymond E. Bracken Jr.; daughters, Cheryl Wiegard (Harold) of Talmage, Ohio, Linda Henry of New Market, Tenn., Jody Puckett Crisp of Franklin; sons, Gary Puckett (Charlene) of Franklin, Keith Puckett (Laurie) of Franklin; step-daughters, Laurene Bracken (Mike) of Sevierville, Tenn., Cheryl Wyatt of Sevierville, Tenn.; step-son, Richard Bracken (Suzanne) of Franklin; 26 grandchildren; 40 great grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at 2 p.m. at Oak Grove Baptist Church with Tom Nolen officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Oak Grove Baptist Church, 28 Lakey Creek Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Special thanks to Four Seasons Palliative Care and Hospice.



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Deaths & Funerals

Anthony Scott Walker

Anthony Scott Walker, 42, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, Sept. 11, 2020.

Born and raised in Macon County, he was the son of the Emma Jean Smith Walker and the late Jimmy Wayne Walker. He was a member of Mount Hope Baptist Church and more recently attended Ridgecrest Baptist Church. He enjoyed spending time shooting pool and fishing.

He is survived by his mother, Emma Jean Walker; two children, Angela Walker and Booker Walker; three sisters, Sarina Lynn Walker, Melody Ann Burch and Sheena Walker; two brothers, Alvin Walker and Lincoln Walker; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles also survive.

Graveside services were held Friday, Sept. 25, in the Ridgecrest Baptist Church Cemetery.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Anthony Scott Walker

Carrie Chastain Crain

Carrie Chastain Crain, 96, passed away peacefully Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020, at the Eckard Living Center in Highlands, N.C. She was born May 8, 1924, in Macon County to the late David Edward Chastain and Ada Bryson Chastain. She was the last of eight children. She was a Christian lady and was a member of Clear Creek Baptist Church.

She was a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother. She loved cooking and having her family over to visit and eat. She also enjoyed working in her garden and flowers. She had a yard that was always full of pretty flowers and birds.

She was married to Andrew Jackson Crain who preceded her in death in 2006. They made their home in the Clear Creek Community.

She is survived by a daughter, Lucille Nix (Steve); grandson, Lamar Nix (Melanie); three grandsons, Justin Watson (Sarah), Jacob Watson and Luke Nix; one great great grandson, Jackson Lamar Watson; three nieces and two nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Carl Chastain, Earl Chastain (Buck) and Clyde Chastain; four sisters Maybelle Neely, Estelle Talley, Ona Beck and Frances Chastain.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, Sept. 30, at the Clear Creek Community Cemetery with Rev. Mike Wilson and Rev. Zane Talley officiating.

Pallbearers were Justin Watson, Jacob Watson, Luke Nix, Stanley Houston, Stacey Houston and Ralph Reed.

The family is at the home of Steve and Lucille Nix of the Satolah Community.

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



Carrie Chastain Crain

Carol B. Kelley

Carol B. Kelley, most recently a resident of The Cove in Tavares, Fla., passed away on Sept. 16, 2020, following a lengthy battle with dementia. She was born on Nov. 4, 1939, in Akron, Ohio, the daughter of Albert Lee Kelley Sr., and Gladys Kelley, as well as younger sister of Al Kelley Jr., all of whom predeceased her.

When she was 12 years old, her parents moved the family from Akron to Orlando. She graduated from Winter Park High School and subsequently earned a B.A. in religion and social sciences, followed by a master's degree in Christian education from Scarritt College in Nashville, Tenn.

Never a fan of hot weather, she happily returned to Ohio after she completed her education. She held several jobs in Christian education at Methodist churches before beginning her life's work teaching teens with mental disabilities through the Montgomery County School system in Dayton, Ohio. She worked for Montgomery County for 30 years, retiring in the late 1990s.

Her faith was very important to her, and she was active in the Methodist Church throughout her life, including serving as an elected member of the National and Conference Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. She was devoted to College Park United Methodist Church in Florida and First United Methodist Church in Franklin, North Carolina.

Carol is survived by her dear friends Suzanne Fosselman and Rita St. Clair of Franklin, North Carolina, who contributed this lovely tribute: "Carol spent most of her life giving to others – her students, colleagues, friends and her church. She was kind and



Carol B. Kelley

caring and seldom said anything negative about anyone. She loved her family and cared about the people in her world and did what she could to make their lives better. She loved her God, and we are certain that He loves her."

She is also survived by her loving cousin, Dorothy Ward, of Orlando; her sister-in-law, Norma Kelley of Santa Rosa, Calif.; her nephew, David Kelley of Apopka; her niece, Melissa Kelley of Santa Rosa, and Melissa's husband and two daughters.

Donations in honor of Carol may be directed to Friends of the Greenway, Franklin, N.C.; College Park United Methodist Church; First United Methodist Church of Franklin or the arts organization of your choice.

Sandra F. Maxson

Sandra F. Maxson, 82, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020.

Born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., she was the daughter of the late Neil and Nena Waddell Calhoun. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Maxson and brother, Donald Calhoun. She loved her cats and collecting things. She attended Longview Baptist Church.

She is survived by a son, Jeffrey Maxson (Cathy) of Hobe Sound, Fla.; daughter, Sheila K. Gies (Scott) of Fernandina Beach, Fla.; sisters, Donna Ormsby Reil and Susan Ormsby Eluett; nine grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

No services have been planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Sandra F. Maxson

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for your indescribably
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Jean Welch

We appreciate you all!



Kurt Busch hits jackpot with first career win at hometown Las Vegas Motor Speedway

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

With a career record of 0-for-21 coming into Sunday night's South Point 400 at his hometown Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Kurt Busch may have felt like a "long shot." But with fortunate track position late in the race and some surebet restarts at the front of the field, Busch can now count himself a Vegas winner.

The victory was a high stakes haul, automatically earning a position for Busch in the next round of the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs – moving the 2004 series champion from last place among the 12 Playoff drivers entering the race to the first driver with a guaranteed spot in the Round of 8.

With only one top-10 finish in the last six races at the 1.5-mile Vegas track and so much on the line, Busch was understandably emotional as he climbed onto the hood of his No. 1 Chip Ganassi Racing Chevrolet to celebrate the big win after the checkered flag.

"This is what kids dream of when they grow up racing, you dream of winning at your home town track," Busch said. "For two decades it's kicked my butt and tonight with this Monster Energy Chevy, I'm in awe."

"I knew the race would come to us. We needed to get to night-fall and one of those quirky [crew chief] Matt McCall pit sequences finally unfolded and we got lucky. You have to be lucky and you have to be lucky in any race, but we did it tonight with teamwork, pulling through and not giving up."

Busch held off Wood Brothers Racing driver Matt DiBenedetto by a mere .148-seconds for the win – keeping the fan favorite DiBenedetto from a first career victory celebration. Again.

Denny Hamlin, who led a race best 121 laps, finished third. Martin Truex Jr. and Alex Bowman rounded out the Top-5.

"It's heartbreaking to come that close," DiBenedetto conceded.

Busch's younger brother Kyle finished sixth, followed by non-championship eligible drivers Ryan Blaney, Erik Jones and Chris Buescher. Championship leader Kevin Harvick rounded out the top 10.

A caution flag flew on Lap 189 – just after the race's leaders had pitted but before Busch and nine other cars had. That changed the complexity of the race and forced the more dominant cars such as Hamlin's No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota and Hendrick Motorsports teammates Bowman and Chase Elliott to play catch-up in the closing laps. Those three drivers combined to lead 199 of the 268 laps. Busch led 29 in total, but most importantly the last 26 laps.

Hamlin's 121 laps out front marked the fourth time this season he's led at least 100 laps and the second time he did not win after doing so.

"Just same thing as happened at Darlington, untimely cau-



Kurt Busch, driver of the #1 Monster Energy Chevrolet, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series South Point 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sept. 27, 2020, in Las Vegas, Nev.

the Charlotte Roval road course. Eight drivers will advance to the penultimate three-races following Charlotte that will decide which four drivers contend for the NASCAR Cup Series championship trophy at Phoenix on Nov. 8.

With his win Sunday Busch has the automatic ticket into the next round. Harvick leads the Playoff standings with a three-point edge on Hamlin. Brad Keselowski, Truex, Joey Logano, Elliott and Bowman round out the Top-8 after Las Vegas.

Kyle Busch heads to Talladega nine points behind Bowman for that final eighth transfer position. Clint Bowyer is 20 points back, Aric Almirola is 27

points back and Austin Dillon is 32 points from the cutoff line.

Chase Briscoe continues dominance, punches ticket to next round of Xfinity Series Playoffs

Chase Briscoe began his 2020 NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoff run at Las Vegas Motor Speedway Saturday night just as he has competed so much of the regular season – out front.

Briscoe led a dominating and career-high 165 of the 200-laps, and swept both stage victories in the Alsco 300 Playoff opener en route to his series best eighth victory of the season. He joins NASCAR legends Sam Ard and Jack Ingram as the

tions," Hamlin said of the night. "That's what's keeping us out of victory lane. We obviously had a dominant car today and I'm proud of the whole FedEx team for giving me such a great car, by far the best car I've had in Las Vegas and maybe a long time at any mile-and-a-half [track]. Just really happy with it."

"Really encouraged by the way we ran, obviously just very disappointed we didn't get a win."

Hamlin won Stage 1, his ninth stage win of the season. Elliott, who led 73 laps, won Stage 2 - his eighth stage victory – but he finished 22nd.

Two races remain in this second round of the Playoffs, next weekend at Talladega Superspeedway and Oct. 11 at



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only drivers to amass eight wins in the opening 27 races of an Xfinity Series season.

Briscoe's No. 98 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford beat Las Vegas native Noah Gragson's No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevy by a healthy 1.370-seconds - with Briscoe forced to hold off the field on a late, furious race restart with 10 laps remain-

led by more than four seconds with 25 laps remaining and had increased that advantage to more than six seconds with 20 laps remaining when he radioed to his crew that he felt a small vibration. He was reminded of his healthy lead and reassured it was his race to manage - that all was okay. And indeed it was for Briscoe.



Chase Briscoe, driver of the #98 FIELDS Ford, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series AlSCO 300 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sept. 26, 2020, in Las Vegas, Nev.

ing making a strong statement about his championship intentions.

"Just didn't have enough for the 98 [Briscoe], a lot of race cars out here and one space shuttle," Gragson said of Briscoe.

The victory earns the 25-year old Indiana-native Briscoe an automatic bid into the second round of the Playoffs with two races - at Talladega Superspeedway and the Charlotte Roval - still remaining in this opening Playoff round. It's the first time in his two seasons at the Xfinity Series level that Briscoe has swept both stage victories en route to a race win.

Daniel Hemric finished third, one of only two non-Playoff drivers among the Top-10 at Vegas. Playoff competitors Justin Allgaier and Ryan Sieg rounded out the top five. Regular season champion Austin Cindric was sixth, followed by Michael Annett, Anthony Alfredo (the other non-Playoff driver in the top 10), Harrison Burton and Justin Haley.

Playoff drivers Brandon Jones and Riley Herbst finished 11th and 12th. Brandon Brown and Ross Chastain finished 15th and 16th - Chastain's 15 laps led second to Briscoe's effort.

While restarts were dramatic as drivers made daring moves to challenge Briscoe and negotiate their places, Briscoe was inevitably able to hold his place out front. He

"First off, incredible car by everybody at Stewart-Haas and that made my job way too easy, honestly," Briscoe said, acknowledging, "We've had a lot of wins this year, but this was by far our most dominant car. I'm so glad I can sleep a little bit easier this week going into Talladega and the [Charlotte] Roval and just enjoy."

"I knew this team is fully capable of achieving that and even more. I just can't say thank you enough to [team owners] Gene Haas and Tony Stewart and everybody that lets me drive these race cars.

"It's been an unbelievable season and we've still got six more wins to try and gain and a championship so that's what we'll try to do.

"I'm so happy to be able to start the playoffs like that."

The outcome gives Briscoe the automatic ticket to Round 2 and leaves Cindric leading the standings, 17 points ahead of Allgaier. Gragson is next, 25



Austin Cindric, driver of the #22 Menards/NIBCO Ford, 2020 Regular Season Championship trophy prior to the NASCAR Xfinity Series AlSCO 300 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sept. 26, 2020, in Las Vegas, Nev.

points behind Cindric. Despite the impressive Vegas showing, Sieg is ninth place in the standings - eight points behind Chastain in the final transfer position for Round 2.

Annett is tied with Sieg. Herbst is one point behind them and Brown is only 10 points off Chastain's pace in a highly-competitive situation heading into next Saturday's Ag-Pro 300 at Talladega Superspeedway (4:30 p.m. ET, NBCSN, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD

THEME: OKTOBERFEST

ACROSS

- 1. Worry
- 6. Fleur-de-_____
- 9. One of Egyptian christians
- 13. Nary a soul
- 14. Dot-com address
- 15. Pretend, two words
- 16. Flogger's tool
- 17. Romanian money
- 18. Dostoyevsky's master-piece, with The
- 19. *Royal Brewery in Munich, a.k.a. _____ M_nchen
- 21. *Original Oktoberfest location
- 23. Tree juice
- 24. Cathedral part
- 25. Lysergic acid derivative, acr.
- 28. Children's author Roald
- 30. Bivouac
- 35. Heroic poem
- 37. Taro or cocoyam, technically
- 39. Relish tastebuds' sensation
- 40. Russian governmental agency
- 41. Musketeers' weapons
- 43. Presidential "No!"
- 44. Make corrections
- 46. Kind of palm
- 47. A in B.A.
- 48. Indian Ocean's saltwater inlet
- 50. Carvey or Plato
- 52. "Sesame Street" watcher
- 53. One-horse carriage
- 55. Sunday newspaper inserts
- 57. *Kind of Oktoberfest band
- 60. *Salty snack
- 64. Meltable abode
- 65. Go wrong
- 67. Sore spot
- 68. African prairie
- 69. "Wheel of Fortune" vowel request
- 70. All-season ones, on a car
- 71. Affirmatives
- 72. Beaver's construction
- 73. Noise of contempt

DOWN

- 1. Egyptian hieroglyph for "life"
- 2. "You're not allowed!" to a baby
- 3. Mistake
- 4. Spurs
- 5. Between triad and pentad
- 6. Comic strip Moppet
- 7. Anger management issue
- 8. Economic crisis
- 9. Ghana monetary unit
- 10. Ear-related
- 11. Tubby little cubby

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- 12. Ted Turner's TV acronym
- 15. Bedding and towels
- 20. Lickety-split
- 22. Wear and tear
- 24. "So soon?"
- 25. *____hosen
- 26. Sea foam
- 27. Like United States Capitol
- 29. *Flower used in beer-making
- 31. Spanish sparkling wine
- 32. Deflect
- 33. "'O'zapft is!" or "It's tapped!"
- 34. *Cheers!
- 36. Without, ‡ Paris
- 38. Start of something big?
- 42. Echo sounder
- 45. Joseph Stalin was one
- 49. "Eureka!"
- 51. Experts
- 54. In the lead
- 56. *Beer garden mug
- 57. Curved molding
- 58. Paella pot
- 59. '60s British teenagers
- 60. "Hunger Games" sister
- 61. Goose egg
- 62. Second to last word in a fairy-tale
- 63. Just in case
- 64. Woody creeper
- 66. Biochemistry acr.

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