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SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS

October 15, 2020 • 24 Pages Volume 38 Number 22 FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER www.themaconcountynews.com



The Zonta Club of Franklin braved the elements on Saturday morning to participate in The Red Sand Project. The event was created to bring awareness of the pervasiveness of human trafficking in North Carolina and the world. Red Sand was poured into the cracks between the bricks at the downtown gazebo to symbolically represent those who “fall through the cracks” in the global social, economic and political systems. To find out more about human trafficking, see page 12. Photo by Betsey Gooder

IN THIS ISSUE



Page 8

Special Liberty Project relocates in Franklin

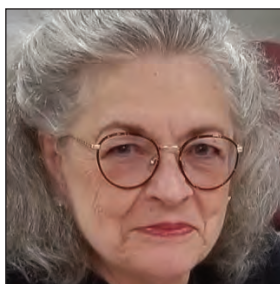
Candidate profiles: County commissioners

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

The Macon County Board of Commissioners Franklin district will appear on the November ballot, with one Republican and one Democrat seeking the open seat. Betty Cloer Wallace, a democrat, and Josh Young, a Republican, are both vying for the seat left open when Karl Gillespie announced he would be running for the N.C. House of Representatives.



Josh Young



Betty Cloer Wallace

to be a voice for all of Macon County. I feel that I can bring a breath of fresh air to our board of commission. A typical commissioner meeting has very few participants other than our county affiliates. I want to encourage other Maconians to become involved. I have found it is easy to complain about problems and issues plaguing Macon County. Instead of complaining, I decided to file for office.”

Young, a local business owner and father of five said that he is running for office because he wants to take a more active role in shaping the future of Macon County.

“I’m running for public office because I care,” said Young. “I have a deep love for this special place I call home. I want

Young is a fifth generation Maconian and has been married to his high school sweetheart for almost 12 years ago. The couple has been blessed with five children.

“I was taught how to work at a young age on our family’s

See COMMISSIONERS page 4



Page 13

SCC's Project Search earns national recognition

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County votes to lease SMCPA for jury trials

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

To slow the spread of COVID19, N.C. Chief Supreme Court Justice Cheri Beasley ordered courts to postpone all jury trials until August, because of COVID-19. That order was extended until Oct. 15 and Beasley directed courts across North Carolina to find alternative space for jury trials if social distancing cannot be maintained within their current locations.

Across the 43rd Prosecutorial District, which encompasses the seven westernmost counties of North Carolina, court officials have been identifying, examining and measuring large spaces for possible use as substitute courtrooms. Many of the courtrooms in the district are too small to accommodate trials and maintain safe spacing for those involved.

In Macon County, a group that included Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Bill Coward, District Attorney Ashley Welch, Clerk of Superior Court Vic Perry, and other officials toured the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts (SMCPA) in June and determined the space would be sufficient for a possible jury room, courtroom security, and possible to space people in the audience area to adhere to social distancing requirements.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners voted to enter into a lease agreement with the performing arts center during last night's monthly meeting which will allow the performing arts center to be used for jury trials over the next few months.

"We appreciate everyone stepping up to help as we all try to cope with the coronavirus threat," Chief Assistant District Attorney Jason Arnold. "Smoky Mountain Center will provide the judicial system with a safe venue to continue handling cases and trials."

The cost for the space will be leased for \$300 a day, which



Last June, officials toured the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts in search of a space large enough for possible use as a substitute courtroom. Macon County Commissioners voted to lease SMCPA at a cost of \$300 per day for upcoming jury trials.

covers the cost of cleaning the venue after each trial session. There are few calendared sessions on the Macon County docket over the next few months, which will keep the cost to a minimum, while ensuring that those convicted are afforded their right to a speedy trial.

Regular court sessions will continue to be held at the Macon County Courthouse, with only jury trials having a venue location change to the performing arts center as needed.

Commissioners in search of county attorney; names interim

The Macon County Board of Commissioners recognized Chester Jones Tuesday night for his 11 years of service at county attorney. Jones, who has spent much of his legal career advising governments across Western North Carolina, is set to retire from practicing law at the end of the month.

Earlier this month, commissioners voted to begin negotiations with local attorney Fred Jones to replace Chester as the county attorney, however, Jones rejected the county's offer and withdrew his name for consideration for the position.

On Tuesday night, commissioners met in a brief closed session to discuss Chester's replacement and after a quick deliberation, voted unanimously to enter into a contract with Kim Carpenter, who currently serves as the county attorney for Swain County. The contract with Carpenter will allow her to serve as county attorney for Macon for the next 60 days in an interim capacity at \$200 an hour while the county looks for a permanent replacement for Chester. Carpenter has served Swain County for more than 20 years and is knowledgeable in local government.

Commissioners vote to give \$8K to fair board

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

When leaders in Macon County met in 1953 to discuss the possibility of holding an annual county fair – without carnival rides – they were told that it would be impossible and not sustainable. The Feb. 12, 1953 meeting that first debated starting a county fair included Jaycees and agricultural workers who sought the input of A.Q. Ketner, a field representative of Coble Dairies out of Cherokee County. Ketner said that with his experience, which included 17 years operating the Cherokee County Fair, it would be impossible for Macon County to have a successful fair without a carnival.

"The only way to build a fair is to ignore the criticism of the carnival almost sure to come from preachers and newspapers," Ketner was quoted saying in 1953.

With agriculture being such a large piece of Macon County, J.P. Brady, who served as the chairman of the Junior Chamber of Commerce Committee ignored Ketner's advice and presented a plan for the Jaycees to get the ball rolling for the fair and then the local 4-H club would help to build it. This year, Macon County celebrated the 67th annual County Fair – and once again held the event without carnival rides and games.

This year's fair was different. Due to COVID19 for the first time since the fair's inception, it was closed to the public, only allowing Macon County Livestock Shows be held for exhibitors and families.

Because the Wayne Proffitt Agricultural Center obtains at least 70 percent of its annual operating revenue from the fair, Dennis Conley, chairman of the fair for more than five years, explained that a letter was sent out to the fair catalog mailing list as well as various vendors and buyers associated with the fair asking for a monetary gift in lieu of advertising or renting a booth.

While the community did provide the fair with donations and support when possible, the fair, and the Agriculture Center experienced a significant revenue decrease that put the future of the center in jeopardy.

To help alleviate some of the revenue loss, the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to provide the fair board with \$8,000 to be spent for operating expenses such as rent, electricity, and other day-to-day costs.

"The Wayne Proffitt building that houses the fair is used by so many different community groups," said Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale. "Since COVID19, the fairgrounds has served as a distribution site for MANNA Food boxes that has provided thousands of pounds of food to families in need in Macon County."

Beale noted that ensuring the fairgrounds could continue operating was imperative for resources such as food distribution.

The funding approved by the board will come out of CARES ACT funding, which was allocated by the federal government to offset the costs of unexpected expenditures caused as a result of the COVID19 pandemic.

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2020	Cadillac	Escalade	26,141
2020	Cadillac	Escalade	35,568
2020	Chevrolet	Blazer	4,708
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	8,360
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	21,284
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado	4,766
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	40,758
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	12,852
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	37,779
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	91,171
2019	Chevrolet	Cruze	13,911
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
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	44,615
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	202,191
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	28,879
2016	Chevrolet	Suburban	112,779
2015	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,475
2019	Chevrolet	Tahoe	17,270
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	61,375
2015	Chevrolet	Traverse	101,068
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	91,521
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
2016	Ford	F-150	73,912
2018	Ford	F-150	27,474
2016	Ford	F-250	190,896
1930	FORD	MODELA	78,269
2019	Ford	Ranger	2,749
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500	49,139
2013	GMC	Yukon	51,248
2019	GMC	Yukon XL	37,969
2004	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	9,778
2014	Honda	CR-V	59,929
2019	Honda	Ridgeline	12,928
2019	Hyundai	Elantra	36,506
2019	Hyundai	Tucson	36,252
2003	Jeep	Liberty	218,554
2014	Jeep	Patriot	60,586
2017	Jeep	Renegade	48,579
2007	Kia	Sorento	219,836
2019	Mazda	CX-5	36,819
2017	Mercedes-Benz	Metris	57,091
2015	Mercedes-Benz	ML 350	67,933
2018	Nissan	Armada	51,321
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	36,059
2018	Nissan	Pathfinder	73,681
2019	Nissan	Rogue	40,105
2019	Nissan	Rogue	39,470
2019	Nissan	Rogue	42,260
2019	Nissan	Sentra	38,658
2019	Nissan	Versa	35,717
2020	RAM	1500	25,556
2016	RAM	1500	92,141
2020	RAM	1500	5,478
2020	RAM	1500 Classic	18,621
2017	Subaru	Forester	44,665
2019	Toyota	Camry	34,683
2019	Toyota	Corolla	35,775
2019	Toyota	Corolla	27,529
2019	Toyota	Highlander	19,715
2018	Toyota	Tacoma	35,770
2018	Toyota	Tacoma	13,859
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COMMISSIONERS

continued from page 1

Christmas Tree Farm and that work ethic has molded me into the person I am today," said Young. "I spent eight years as a lineman for Duke Energy before I stepped away in pursuit of the 'American Dream.' I started Young Tree Service in May 2015 and have been blessed beyond belief with great employees and an incredibly supportive community. I am active in our community as I serve on many youth athletic boards as well as coaching numerous youth football, baseball, softball, and basketball teams. I enjoy the outdoors, spending time with family, and cooking."

Wallace is a sixth generation Macon County farm family and is retired from education and government. Wallace is a tree farmer who has planted 14,000 native hardwood seedlings and wildlife preservationist. She is also the author of "Tuckasegee Chronicles," a historical series set in Little Tennessee River Valley.

"My lifelong experience and credentials in public service administration have been a lifetime of preparation for serving as a Macon County commissioner," said Wallace. "I want to work toward practical and sustainable change and to up-end the status quo voting bloc that has controlled our board of commissioners for many years. We must change our current economic and social trajectory if we want to keep our young families here and move forward as a county. I'm an advocate for a strong multi-party system to maintain balance in our local government as in all other areas of our lives. At the moment, Macon County is clearly out of balance, lopsided toward the 'tea party' far-right while a contingent of far-left 'progressives' pull in the opposite direction. This extreme divergence on both extremes of our local political spectrum has split our local parties into five distinct factions, which is hurting our ability to sustain a moderate common ground in local government that we need, and must have, to move forward as a viable and economically competitive county. We must work toward a transparent local government by and for the people, rather than by special interests and top-down authoritarianism."

Wallace has served as the associate superintendent, Macon County Schools; director of Western Regional Education Center; Superintendent of Vance County Schools (15 schools, 1,100 employees); Deputy Assistant State Superintendent, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Department of Education Fellow, Washington, DC; Associate Superintendent, Northwest Arctic Borough School District; Adjunct Professor, Western Carolina University and Southwestern Community College; served on numerous boards and commissions for industrial recruitment and school facilities planning in Macon County and WNC; author of "Poisoned Apple," and the "Bell-Curve Crisis" (in our schools).

Macon County as the county, the town of Franklin, and the town of Highlands work closely on several projects. What are your thoughts on these current relationships and how can they be improved?

Young: "We are all in this together," said Young. "It is important to keep a good rapport with other local municipalities within our county and outside our county. There is always room for improvement. I want to see our local infrastructure support business growth and local development within our county. I would like for it to be easy for businesses to plant seeds here."

Wallace: "Our county commissioners have pleasant social relationships with the municipal governments of Franklin and Highlands with annual meetings for discussion, but practical interaction and joint planning are scarce," said Wallace. "A serious study of overlapping responsibilities is needed in order to eliminate duplication, inefficiency, and confusion about who is responsible for what; and many citizens are especially confused about the overlapping governments of Macon County and Franklin. Issues needing better county-town cooperation include facilities and space needs, water and sewerage management, broadband equity countywide, and better public information communication regarding the TDA and TDC tourism development groups, the Economic Development Commission, and town and county planning boards and committees. The large Nantahala community should consider working toward incorporating itself as a town in order to have a more influential seat at the table for funding and oversight along with Franklin and Highlands."

As an elected official – how would you improve educational opportunities for Macon County?

Young: "Our kids deserve the best. Period," said Young. "We have to work with our state legislatures to ensure we have the proper funding to keep our kids on the cutting edge of education. As I understand the county is responsible for the brick and mortar (facilities) while the state furnishes the education. However, the county is constantly helping assist Macon County Schools system fund many areas in which our state allotment does not cover. As commissioner I want to work closely with our school board and teachers and most importantly, listen."

Wallace: "Our Early College and SCC programs are doing well and leading the way toward showing the need for expansion of broadband internet access, but our PK-12 schools need expanded and more adequate facilities," said Wallace. "County commissioners are responsible for providing school facilities, while state and local school boards are responsible for operation of our schools, albeit our local school board is often reduced to requesting additional funding from our county commissioners simply to stay afloat, which should not be necessary every year. Together, these two boards and 'we the

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Local government relations are crucial for

people' have a moral obligation to our children and grandchildren to do better, to provide schools that give every young person the best chance for a successful future. Decisions are long overdue about improving facilities and infrastructure at Nantahala, Highlands, and Franklin High School in a fair and equitable manner. We spend far too much time plugging holes rather than long-range planning and setting priorities. As our state legislature continues its juggernaut toward privatization of our public schools, we cannot simply blame the state for cutting our funds. As a county, we must fill the gaps to the degree that we can financially do so, and go even beyond the basic essentials to the degree that we can afford it. Unfortunately we have consolidated our elementary schools so that the majority of young students are taken out of their home communities and must commute long weary miles elsewhere. Many adults would not suffer through such long hours of busing to get to their workplace every day, but yet our children are forced to do it. We could initiate long-range planning to decentralize our large elementary schools and return students to smaller community schools, while at the same time plan for reconditioning our middle and high school facilities in Franklin, bringing them up to standard and expanding them. It would take time to decentralize, but that's what long-range planning is for; and we should consider restructuring grade-level offerings at each school level, which is not as formidable as it might seem if done in conjunction with facilities planning. Our basic education needs, including technology, should supersede all other aspects of our county finances, if we expect to meet our moral obligations and prepare our children for a future here in Macon County or elsewhere, depending on what they want to learn and do. Having the basic education to allow for choices is the most important legacy we can provide for our children."

What is your stance on Macon County's current broadband issues and how would you address it?

Young: "I have spent years in the utility industry and have a deep understanding of the many challenges we face in rural America," said Young. "We just don't have the population to ensure large corporations can guarantee a return on their investment. We have lots of hard-to-access neighborhoods, lots of rock (underground) and hard to maintain rights-of-way that may only service a few potential customers. This drives the cost each customer would pay through the roof. During our virtual learning period, we had a horrible time with my children connecting to the internet. If we had any, it was slow. Covid has put a huge spotlight on our broadband service and Rep. Kevin Corbin is actively fighting for us on a state level. He is helping to remove some of the barriers between State and local governments to minimize some regulation and bring more funding to Western North Carolina. Broadband is so important to help keep our local business competitive."

Wallace: "High-speed internet access is as

vital now and as much a giant leap forward as when the TVA brought rural electrification to our homes in the 1930s and as when highway programs of the 1950s brought us paved secondary roads and interstate highway connections," said Wallace. "In order to close the distance learning homework gaps among our communities, to provide communication with our healthcare providers, and to provide opportunities for jobs at home, we and our local officials must (1) be knowledgeable of the massive federal technology grants approved by Congress this month, (2) provide local internet infrastructure that can adequately use those grants countywide, and (3) work toward dovetailing federal, state, and local funds with private providers to narrow the digital divide. Private providers large and small are simply not working out for the public, so ultimately we should work toward broadband as a basic public utility such as we have with electricity carried to every house. Congress recognized the digital divide in March, 2020, by passing the Broadband DATA Act, creating a more accurate and detailed map of broadband availability, helping counties such as ours have the information needed to determine our specific focus and cost of deployment; and just this month Congress approved multi-billion dollar legislation that provides funding through FCC, USDA, and DOE for rural high-speed broadband as part of the next stage of federal stimulus relief. So, our local government officials and the private sector must be ready locally with accurate data mapping and local providers identified to ensure that no Macon County community is overlooked. To date, Macon County has made some effort, but not nearly enough; and with federal assistance newly approved, we have no excuse for delay in providing countywide access. Unfortunately, Frontier failed to meet FCC broadband requirements for the Connect America Fund for rural areas that stipulated reaching 80% of rural locations by December 2019, leaving us with several disparate choices, and so we must now look at all current options. We can (1) help Morris Broadband continue to expand in our county, or (2) bring in one or more companies with competitive pricing, or (3) look at satellite access, albeit cost and limited access would be problematic. Fortunately, Congress is asking our largest broadband providers to expand coverage areas and temporarily suspend some customers' data caps, in order to accommodate access, especially for remote education that requires daily interactive communication; and we can all benefit from that, both businesses and individuals. Looking even further into our future in Macon County, albeit not that far away, we will eventually need to create local 5G infrastructure to be able to handle Virtual Reality (simulated experiences for interactive learning) for our schools and families and for local industry training, not to be confused with our current web-based distance learning or online learning.

See COMMISSIONERS page 6



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COMMISSIONERS

Continued from page 5

What do you see as being the biggest issue facing Macon County?

Young: "I have several issues that really bother me," said Young. "If you look around, we are overrun with vacant buildings. Lots of large and small shopping centers all over Franklin. I also feel that, employees are one of our greatest assets. I feel one of the largest issues facing Macon County are the County employee wages. The private sector pay far exceeds the county pay rate. I also see broadband to be a huge issue. Broadband is imperative to help keep our local business competitive."

Wallace: "Jobs that pay a living wage plus benefits and opportunity for retirement is our greatest need, and we must analyze the factors hindering us from attracting industries here, large and small," said Wallace. "Our poverty rate (30.1%), median household income (\$39,000), needy schools, children in low-income households (58%), a growing homeless population, reduced medical and health care facilities and professionals, lack of affordable housing, lack of broadband internet access, and growing crime statistics related to drug trafficking are the main factors that prospective businesses and industries look at beyond a potential workforce. Industry scouts considering our current data are not impressed with our general need for education infrastructure, our 'welfare queen' numbers, our crime statistics, and our 'dollar store' economy."

Anything else you would like for the voters to know?

Young: "I want to be a county commissioner to represent the people of Macon County," said Young. "I am not a politician. I am a tax-paying citizen of Macon County. I work with my hands for a living and likely will show up to many meetings with my dirty work boots. I hope to bring an unbiased, independent mindset and a new energy to the board of commissioners. I am prepared to make tough business-minded decisions to represent the taxpayers of this county!"

Wallace: "Facilities are greatly needed for expanded law enforcement detention facilities, additional courthouse space, expanded services for seniors and disabled citizens, and a civic center large enough for graduations, entertainment, arts and crafts fairs, gun shows, and trade shows," said Wallace. "Space and cost studies should be carried out jointly for these large-ticket

projects, public hearings held, and priorities determined by our citizens through referendum by ballot. The most important offerings we have here to entice business and industry are (1) relatively cheap land with large open spaces, (2) a willing workforce, especially young people who want to stay here or who have moved away and want to come back home if they had jobs, and (3) access to transportation systems in Atlanta, Asheville, and Knoxville. But we have to take the initiative to look for new businesses and industries and to let them know what we have to offer."



Therapy dog to aid domestic violence victims

An initiative by Cyndy Caravelis, associate professor of criminology and criminal justice at Western Carolina University, will include a pilot program to use a therapy dog to aid domestic violence victims and their families in Jackson County.

Caravelis' German shepherd Atlas will escort victims and family members into court procedures and stay with children while parents receive counseling and legal services. The dog also will serve as an ambassador for programs and outreach, putting a friendly face – and wagging tail – to destigmatize attitudes about seeking help in domestic violence situations.

"Therapy dogs can assist in serving as a distraction and, in many cases, a bright spot during challenging times. Once the therapy dog program is established, we hope to have a number of dog and handler volunteer teams to support other local agencies that work with children," said Caravelis. "Atlas is currently in training, sponsored by the Center for Domestic Peace with a grant from the Great Smokies Health Foundation, and will soon be a certified pet therapy animal."

Caravelis has an extensive career background in law enforcement involving sexual offenders, domestic abuse cases and endangered and missing persons. She serves on the board of directors of the Center for Domestic Peace, the local domestic violence agency, and plans to involve WCU criminology and criminal justice students, as well as other majors, in the project.

"With his large stature and sweet disposition, I thought Atlas would be a perfect dog for the pilot program," Caravelis said. "All therapy dogs need to meet a certain standard of temperament and obedience, but what sets a domestic violence therapy dog apart from, say a therapy dog who visits nursing homes or hospitals, is that a courthouse setting has



Cyndy Caravelis and her German shepherd Atlas.

its own set of policies and procedures, which includes passing through security, sitting with the clients while waiting for their turn, and staying calm and responsive to their handler in potentially tense environments.

"Additionally, Atlas will serve as an escort of sorts to give a sense of comfort and security to clients who feel unsafe. For example, some clients may not feel that they need a therapy dog in the courtroom per se but may request that we meet them to walk them from their vehicle into the courthouse. Atlas, at 90 pounds, is especially well-suited for this role."

Caravelis received full support from the Center for Domestic Peace board as well as encouragement from other agencies that work with vulnerable children.

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Special Liberty Project happy to be relocated in Macon County

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

A crisp fall day marked the celebratory nature of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce's recognition that Special Liberty Project, now based in Macon County, is its newest member. On Oct. 14, Special Liberty Project officially opened its East Coast Retreat Center and new Franklin, N.C., headquarters with the chamber, local and state politicians, area veterans, and the local media present.

Among the officials attending the event were Macon County Commissioners Gary Shields, who spoke about being a Vietnam veteran, and Karl Gillespie. U.S. Representative NC 11th district candidates Madison Cawthorn and Morris "Moe" Davis also spoke.

Special Liberty Project recently re-located to the Holly Springs area of Macon County. Founders of the organization, Cory and Jessica Merritt, first established the nonprofit four years ago in San Diego, Calif., where they were stationed for 20 years. Cory, a U.S. Navy Senior Chief involved in search and rescue, grew up enjoying outdoor pursuits like hunting, while Jessica has always had a love of nature and a passion for understanding food origins and sustainable living.

The couple decided to combine their passions, interests, and concerns to establish Special Liberty project after Cory had the opportunity to be involved in an event for Wounded Warriors. "He invited a Wounded Warriors friend he knew," said Jessica. "The very next day after they came back from being in the woods shooting and hiking, I got a message from his spouse. She was over-the-top thanking us because she said her husband had been in a very dark place, but she could see the difference the time with my husband had made and she felt encouraged that her husband was going to be okay. We decided the next day to start a nonprofit."

Special Liberty Project, in essence, provides nature-oriented programs for individuals and groups of people who have experienced traumatic military-related loss. The organization is named Special Liberty Project "because we want people and children to come to us for at least three days so there is an opportunity to truly unwind and benefit from the program,"

said Jessica. The term "special liberty," means a special three-day pass or "anything above and beyond what is granted to you by your commanding officer," she explained. "Being a military family is extremely hard, even without loss. Freedom is not free."

The initial intention of Special Liberty Project was to provide outdoor experiences for veterans who are healing physically and emotionally. It quickly became apparent that programs for children and spouses – whole families – were needed as well.

"When my husband is deployed, I am the one there for my kids," said Jessica. "And then for families who have lost someone ... we realized kids especially need something more than what one spouse can provide for them."

Thus, Special Liberty Project offers Gold Star Kids, Gold Star Families, and Gold Star Parent/Spouse. Currently, according to the Veteran's Administration, in the U.S. there are 453,000 "survivors of veterans who died from service-related conditions." Many Special Liberty Project participants are involved not only as a result of a military loved one who has been disabled or killed in combat but because of suicide. Jessica shared a recent statistic: 22 veterans commit suicide per day, nearly 79,000 since 2005.

Veteran Christian Pruitt said, "With programs like this one, the hope is that the suicide rate will go down."

Gold Star Kids have a chance to pair up with veterans and volunteers and learn and participate in such activities as woodworking, archery, fishing, hiking, camping, hunting, power tool use, and more. Gold Star Parents/Spouses participate in nature-based retreats that focus on their well-being in three key areas: physical (yoga, hiking, equine activities, kayaking, and more); skills (soap making, preserva-



Veterans, politicians, business owners, and more attended the chamber recognition event at the new Holly Springs headquarters for Special Liberty Project.

tion of home-grown vegetables, pottery, jewelry design, gardening; and, emotional well-being (meditation, journaling, etc.).

"We try to be outside as much as possible and focus on peer support," said Jessica. "Oftentimes, these people who come to our programs are so judged. They won't or can't share unless they're around others who have gone through what they've gone through ... especially if a parent/spouse died by suicide. These programs are life-changing for many of them."

"I can speak to how important it is to get outside – in nature – after

chief executive officer. When Cory retires from the Navy, he plans to take at least a year off to build the retreat center, farm the land, and work full-time for the organization.

"When we first started Special Liberty Project, it was a lot, but then we got a lot of wonderful volunteers. And we have amazing employees and board of directors," said Jessica. Currently, there are three employees and hundreds of volunteers. All of the veteran mentors are volunteers. Around 500 people and/or children have been involved in Special Liberty Project programs so far.

"What participants gain from our services," said Jessica, "is accomplishment, much needed camaraderie with participants who've experienced similar trauma, self-love and respect. Participants are generally happier and less stressed after attending a Special Liberty Project program ... they return home with a renewed sense of self and fresh techniques or activities to help them navigate difficult days."

All Special Liberty Project programs are free. "No one has to pay out of

pocket, and in order to do that we host many fundraisers and look for tax deductible donation opportunities," said Jessica.

Becoming involved with the Franklin Chamber of Commerce will not only bring local awareness to Special Liberty Project, but Jessica said, "We want to form relationships with local businesses, companies, and other organizations. We enjoy partnering with other organizations and nonprofits. We're not competing; we are interested in a win-win."

Jessica pointed out that it is a "breath of fresh air" to operate Special Liberty Project in Macon County compared to the lack of encouragement experienced in California. "I just want to thank the community as a whole. We've been so well respected and welcomed. When people find out we are a military family, they thank us and tell us to thank my husband. And they ask us how we can help."

Anyone interested in volunteering at Special Liberty Project can fill out the website form or email jessica@speciallibertyproject.org. "We are always looking for individuals and teams, youth groups for example, to be involved," she said. "The Franklin High School agriculture class came out recently and helped us put up fencing. I will pattern the project to the individual or the type of group."



From left, Founder Jessica Merritt thanked the community for welcoming Special Liberty Project to Macon County. Above, Camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, and more will take place at the Special Liberty Project headquarters in Holly Springs area. At right, a renovated barn for equine therapy horses is part of the new East Coast retreat center campus for Special Liberty Project.

a traumatic event," Cawthorn told the crowd. "Being in nature reminds you life still goes on ... encourages you. So important that whatever we're facing, we continue to push through it."

The Merritts are originally from Michigan and were high school sweethearts before marrying 13 years ago. They have 10-year-old twins, Wesley and Charlotte. Cory will be retiring next month, but he has deployed nine times during his 20 years of service.

The couple decided to make Franklin their permanent residence for their family and Special Liberty Project because of the natural surroundings, opportunities for outdoor pursuits, and proximity to numerous bases in North Carolina and surrounding states. Said Jessica, "We wanted to expand our operations and build a retreat center facility. We looked on the West Coast for a very long time, but we couldn't find what we needed. So we ventured to the East Coast last summer and looked all over different states. This area had everything we were looking for."

Davis shared that there are about 65,000 veterans in the district. "It's so important to preserve the Veteran's Administration and to support veterans," he said.

Currently, Special Liberty project is Jessica's full-time job. She is



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor - Highlands Mayor

Tonight is the October meeting of the Highlands Town Board. It will begin at 7 p.m. by way of ZOOM. I had hoped the meeting could be in person, but technical problems and the ongoing virus concern makes ZOOM the best and safest option. The ZOOM information can be found on the town website. Public comments and public hearing statements will still be made by way of ZOOM, or by sending them to me in advance at Mayor@highland-snc.org.

We have a full agenda for tonight's meeting. There will be a public hearing concerning the town applying for a loan to build the new fire station. This hearing is requirement of the North Carolina Local Government Commission who will review and approve the loan application. The loan will be paid back from fire tax revenues.

The board will also revisit the request for water and sewer for the proposed Highlands Cashiers Hospital Workforce Housing Project. A committee of commissioners recently met with hospital officials concerning the request. This committee will give a report and a recommendation to the full board before a decision is made.

The board will also revisit a town employee cost of living adjustment. In July, as the pandemic was in full swing, the board delayed including a COLA in the budget, with the understanding that it would be revisited toward the end of the year. Our administrative staff now have a clearer picture of the financial situation. I believe it is time to make this adjustment at this midpoint in the year. Town employees have been steadfast in doing their duties during this critical period.

The board will also review a proposed bear ordinance that prohibits the feeding of bears. Also, it is time to review the moratorium that was placed on requiring bear resistant toters. This moratorium was instituted in August because of a back order issue. I believe it is time to move forward with this requirement. I appreciate the vast majority of residents who have already purchased these toters.

Early voting at the Highlands Recreation Center got underway this morning. It will run through October 31. Any questions should be directed to the Macon County Board of Elections. Their number is (828) 349-2034.

On Thursday, October 22, there will be a public input meeting that is being orchestrated by the Highlands Community Plan staff. The meeting is open to the public and starts at 5 pm at the

Highlands Community Center. This session is an opportunity for residents to share their views about their vision for the future of Highlands. I will not be at the meeting because it is a citizens meeting, not an elected officials meeting. For further information about this meeting and the comprehensive plan, please visit: www.highlandcommunityplan.com/get-involved.

I like the last part of the website address, "get-involved." In order to have a truly representative community plan, I hope all Highlanders will participate in the process. This meeting is just the beginning.



Patrick Taylor

Letters to the Editor

Salvation is only for bad people!

The Bible teaches that "the [human] heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked..." (Jeremiah 17:9)

The Pharisees were an ancient sect of people who prided themselves in how much better they were than other people because of their religious practices. In Luke 18:9-14, we read a parable about this. The Pharisees had observed that Jesus "ate with tax collectors and sinners." They couldn't understand why He would associate in any way with such "scum" of the earth. Tax collectors were employed by the Roman government to exact whatever the tax rate was. Anything they were able to extort from the people above that was theirs to keep. In this way, some became very rich and were therefore viewed as traitors and charlatans. They were hated as you can imagine.

The other group, sinners, refers to those people who overtly broke the rules, especially the Ten Commandments. They were also despised and scorned by the Pharisees. One of the Pharisees prayed to himself saying, "I thank God [actually referring to himself] that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, or even like this tax collector." He went on to summarize all of his virtues. But Jesus saw through his hypocrisy, condemning him for his self-righteousness and lack of humility.

Another man, one of those tax collectors, standing far off, felt unworthy even to lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat on his breast saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Jesus said this man went away justified, rather than the Pharisee.

Many, if not most people today, believe like the Pharisee. We tend to focus on our virtues and ignore our faults, reasoning that we are not as bad as others. We incorrectly think God is like us and will overlook our sins. But the Bible teaches that God is holy. That means He is absolutely perfect and without sin. He commands, "You also be holy, as I am holy." (Matthew 5:48) Because none of us can measure up to this standard, we, like the tax collector, need to fall on our faces and beg for mercy. This is called repentance.

No one can be saved until we reach that point. Jesus stands ready and willing to save those who acknowledge their need and ask for forgiveness. But, He condemns those who think they can earn favor with God by any other means including religious rituals and virtuous living (by human standards).

Are you ready to turn away from yourself and fall on your knees before God? This is the only way to salvation according to Jesus. He said, "I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life: no one comes to the Father (God) except through me." (John 14:6)

Ed Hill - Franklin, N.C.

Think before you move the fence

Say what you will, but the statement that man is naturally good and will better himself over time, is simply not true. We moderns are more so capable than ever of spewing out evil, confusion and hatred as those of the past. We have traded what was once good about America, for a disdained and evil America. Many that display this behavior have hijacked or attached themselves to what was once a worthy or good cause and made it into an evil cause, but yet call themselves good.

This confusion and lack of direction is the bedrock of corrupt leadership filling the void of a people seeking anything that seemingly will satisfy a troubled life. Riots and destruction of property and even killings are looked upon as justified in the eyes of many. So evil men can make themselves seem right, given the right lies and deception. Many great men like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and President John F. Kennedy and others, would be saddened by what was once a goal towards peace and equality for all people, and asking not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for the betterment of your country. We as a people have moved so drastically from what was once a united common goal as a nation, to something most nations regret; or should I say, what the people regret; because the deception of the powerful get what they want and that is a blind willing vessel of people to carry their cause. As in the warning statement by G. K. Chesterton, "Before you remove a fence, you should first find out why it was there in the first place."

Many see America with scornful eyes to the point of wanting their pound of flesh from anyone who dares gets in their way. They force moving the fence without even allowing the question of "why?" They shut the questioner down with insults and false narratives and any open discussion is not allowed.

This hijacking of a good thing or cause is nothing new; humanity has left no stone unturned in using whatever it can to get what it wants; and the question is left begging, just what is it do we want? What is it you want? It's a honest question that needs an honest answer, and many are not honest with even themselves. We seem to bury our hearts yearning with whatever quiets the question of what is it that will satisfy, what is it we are forever in search of?

In the greatest of detail and boldness, the history book of past, present and future, the Bible walks each of us through the history of life and the knowledge within each of us of good and evil, which it shows itself daily in what we call life. It shows with stunning accuracy and is direct to the point that I find myself within its truth of what I am, and what I can or should be. Like a mirror, seeing myself for who I am and the light of Christ that dispels darkness, but shines truth, justice, kindness, forgiveness, peace ... the same things people of the past and the present seek out so, so, desperately. Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard - nds13@frontier.com

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We the people ...

We, the people respectfully request a return to civility by all candidates for public office.

In this highly charged political season, we are asked to choose from the two viable parties competing for offices in our national, state and local government.

No offense is intended to the libertarians and other alternative parties but we have not had a strong third party candidate since Ross Perot.

While bearing in mind that some campaigns have become increasingly negative in the portrayal of their opponents, a change is long overdue.

We, the people have endured the many negative advertisements that portray various candidates as irresponsible, flip floppers, and flat out liars.

Few voters are swayed by the constant negativism of many political advertisements. Even fewer believe their accuracy. Most voters believe them to be self-serving exaggerations designed to inflame. Such negative advertisements only appeal to the hard-core partisans whose votes were decided long ago.

Nonetheless, some candidates seem to feel that consistently portraying their opponents in a negative fashion is all they need to insure their own election to office.

Many voters are so disgusted by the continual barrage of negativism that they wish there were a viable third party alternative to vote for.

We, the people are very tired of the partisan rhetoric from both sides.

Be it therefore ordered and adjudged that the following shall be implemented henceforth:

No candidate may refer to their competition as anything other than, "My worthy opponent."

Each candidate will provide an exact and simplified platform of their stand on the hot, push button issues of concern to the people. Explanations will consist of the utmost in brevity and no variance will be permitted.

Each candidate shall submit a written version of their personal vision, including what they shall try to change and how they intend to accomplish this. Again, brevity is required.

The candidate's vision will become the focus of their campaign advertisements.

Each candidate will quickly and strongly condemn negative advertisements against their opponent, even by groups not affiliated with them.

Candidates, campaign staff and their supporters will acknowledge that the other political party is decent and honorable but their vision is different. This shall not be portrayed in negative terms.

Candidates will not be penalized by anyone if they respond to a question in this manner, "That is a good question but I do not know the answer. Give me some time and I will find out for you." Such a statement will be taken as a sign of the candidate's honesty. The statement will be followed up with an answer as quickly as possible. Brevity is required.

Candidates shall not suddenly change the subject or slip into an irrelevant diatribe in order to avoid a hard question requiring a specific answer.

Each candidate should clearly state that while loyal to their party, they would not do so to the detriment of their constituents. If a candidate's party should require a vote against legislation that would be of benefit to their constituents, their party loyalty must become secondary. Serve the people not the party.

Candidates should make every effort to be responsive to the needs of their constituents. Ignoring requests for action and failure to provide explanations for their votes shall not be tolerated.

We, the people respect and greatly appreciate the fact that a candidate is willing to serve in public office. For far too

long, candidates and their families have become targets for their opposition. Their most casual statements and their simple jests are dissected, expounded and spun out of control by their opponents and the media.

We, the people admire and respect self-deprecatory remarks and off the cuff opinions. Give us credit, we can tell what counts.

Some politicians have the gift of spontaneity. Perhaps, as political novices, they simply do not know any better than to speak before checking with their political consultants and opinion polls.

It seems that truth and accountability have been replaced by plausible deniability and procrastination until the issue disappears.

In today's political climate, one must wonder if leaders like "Honest Abe" Lincoln or "Plain Speaking" Harry Truman could survive.

We, the people understand that candidates are fellow human beings. As such, they will make mistakes and deserve the same degree of forgiveness applicable to all.

We, the people call for a return to civility that we may focus on the important issues and visions of the candidates.

Arjay Provost – Franklin, N.C.

It matters where the garbage comes from

Back to garbage ... That was a quite impressive haul at greenway cleanup, 2,040 tons. Does it matter where it comes from? It needs to be addressed, again! The islands of Thilafushi, Bahamas, Barbados, DR and many more are banning single-use plastic. It takes 450 years to decompose. They do not have the alternatives that we have. Also to Mr. Puckett's note about denuding all interchanges, I was sitting at one of Mainspring's preserves and it looked like a Monet painting, all indigenous plants, goldenrod, ironweed, asters, and natural grasses, would that be a thought? Of course if a few of the trees were left it would enhance the area. Then there's the truck turnaround. An eyesore for sure, plus as it was under construction held traffic up for months and didn't a semi recently crash going on the gorge, blocking traffic for hours? So do they notice the turnaround or just ignore it?

J.A. Williams – Franklin, N.C.

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Voter information for November 3 General Election

**Absentee ballots requests
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An N.C. state absentee request must be completed and returned to the Macon Board of Elections in order to receive an absentee by mail ballot. Request forms at www.maconnc.org or www.ncsbe.gov or by calling (828)349-2034 or email Macon.boe@ncsbe.gov.

**Voter Registration Deadline
Friday, October 9 at 5 p.m.**

Same day registration is possible only during one-stop voting.

**One-Stop Voting - Franklin
October 15 - October 31**

Robert C. Carpenter Community Building
Hours Mon-Fri, 8-7:30;
Saturdays, Oct. 17, 24, 8-6; Oct. 31, 8-3

**One-Stop Voting - Highlands
October 15- October 31**

Highlands Civic Center, 600 N 4th St.
Hours Mon-Fri, 8-7:30;
Saturdays, Oct. 17, 24, 8-6; Oct. 31, 8-3

**General Election Day
Tuesday, November 3**

Voters will cast ballots at registered polling location.

Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Contact the Macon County Board of Elections at (828)349-2034 or visit www.maconnc.org/elections.

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*

Zonta brings awareness of human trafficking through Red Sand Project

The Zonta Club of Franklin, as part of their “Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women” sponsored the Red Sand Project Saturday morning in downtown Franklin. The Red Sand Project was first launched in Miami in 2014 by Molly Gochman to raise awareness about vulnerabilities that can lead to human trafficking and exploitation. It is a participation-based artwork that fills sidewalk cracks with red sand, symbolically representing the individuals who fall through the cracks – whether the cracks of social, economic, and political systems or those of personal consciousness.

“We can’t merely walk over the most marginalized people in our communities—those who fall through the metaphoric cracks,” said Gochman.

Debra Williams shared information to those gathered on the pervasiveness of human trafficking and characteristics of potential victims.

Human trafficking is a crime that involves exploiting a person for labor, services, or commercial sex. Trafficking became a public concern in the 1990s in part due to the fall of

the Soviet Union resulting in migration flows and growth of transnational criminal organizations.

The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally, 81% of them are trapped in forced labor, 25% of them are children and 75% are women and girls. Nearly one in five homeless youth have been a victim of human trafficking. The trafficking “industry” yields \$150 billion annually with \$99 billion in sex trafficking alone. The U.S. Human Trafficking hotline fields 48,000 calls per year with 11,500 reported cases resulting in 713 charges.

North Carolina consistently ranks in the top 10 in the U.S. with 266 cases reported last year. California, Texas and Florida are the top three.

The most vulnerable are those who have recently moved into the area, those who suffer from substance abuse, mental health concerns, are runaways or homeless and an average age of 12-14 years old. Key indicators include malnutrition, visible signs of physical abuse, avoidance of social interaction and lack of personal



The Zonta Club of Franklin met at the gazebo in downtown Franklin on Saturday for the Red Sand Project. The event was created to bring awareness to the pervasiveness of human trafficking in North Carolina and around the world. Photos by Betsy Gooder



Participants in the Red Sand Project were given bags of red sand to pour into the cracks of the bricks at the gazebo, to symbolically represent individuals who “fall through the cracks” of social, economic or political systems when they need help the most.

documents or possessions.

In Franklin, REACH of Macon County served 46 trafficking victims, offering shelter to 25; provided 1,208 meeting sessions; provided 8,735 services including court advocacy, crises counseling, accompaniment to medical forensic exams, safety planning, and wrap around services.

Today, Red Sand Project actions have been done in all 50 states and in 70 countries, with more than one million participants.


After Williams’s presentation on Saturday, the Zonta Club handed out packets of red sand that they, as a group, poured into the cracks of the bricks surrounding the gazebo. The sand is non-toxic and non-staining but will be a reminder of the victims of human trafficking and to create opportunities for people to question, connect and take action against those vulnerable to exploitation.

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SCC's Project SEARCH program gets national recognition

Even as the United States has grappled with record-high unemployment figures, one of Southwestern Community College's job-preparation programs has managed a 100-percent employment rate.

All six members of SCC Project SEARCH's 2018-19 graduating class currently have jobs in the region, landing program leaders and coaches a nationwide "Employment Outcome Award."

At the time awards were presented, all but one of the 2018-19 alumni had secured employment – so the honor reflects an 80-89 percent job-placement rate. But the timing didn't lessen the significance for program coordinator Devonne Jimison.

"Our program is all about bringing hope to families who desperately need it, and ultimately helping young people lead more fulfilling lives," said Jimison, who's overseen SCC's Project SEARCH operation since its inception in 2014. "Every year, we have received the award for placing between 80-to-100 percent of our graduates in jobs. These are individuals who've been told their entire lives that they could never be productive members of society, so to see them gaining confidence and feeling good about themselves brings tears to my eyes."

A national non-profit effort, Project SEARCH partners with businesses to create internships for young men and women from



Members of the SCC Project SEARCH program's 2018-19 graduating class include, from left: Jamie Grace of Highlands, Shannon Albert of Cherokee, Heather Tomberlin of Franklin, Jesse Crowe of Cherokee, Mikayla Roper of Sylva and Ryan Key of Franklin.



Devonne Jimison (center), who oversees Project SEARCH at SCC, holds the "Employment Outcome Award" Southwestern recently received. Jimison is standing between Kay Wolf (left), SCC's Director of College and Career Readiness, and Sarah Cheatham (right), Vocational Rehabilitation Casework Technician.

ages 18-30 with disabilities. Over the years, the local program's host sites have included Harris Regional Hospital, Western Carolina University and SCC.

Project SEARCH annually presents job-placement awards for graduates from the previous year, allowing each host site 12 months to help graduates find employment.

Employers who hired SCC's 2018-19 graduates include Tomberlin Tax & Accounting, Inc., in Clayton, Ga.; Lowe's of Franklin; Old Edwards Inn of Highlands; Granny's Kitchen in Cherokee; Paul's Restaurant in Cherokee; and Full Spectrum Farms in Cullowhee.

"Devonne does an amazing job with our

Project SEARCH students," said Kay Wolf, SCC's College and Career Readiness Director. "I'm pleased that the national organization has recognized all the wonderful work our Project SEARCH team does on behalf of these exceptional individuals."

The 2018-19 graduates are Shannon Albert of Cherokee, Jesse Crowe of Cherokee, Jamie Grace of Highlands, Ryan Key of Franklin, Mikayla Roper of Sylva and Heather Tomberlin of Franklin.

SCC and Jimison are seeking prospective students for the 2021-2022 academic year. For more information, contact her at 828.339.4486 or devonnej@southwesterncc.edu.

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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 October 3 - 11. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

October 6

Erin Rebekah Hall, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Chad Denton Allen, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

James Ronald Teems Jr., was charged with assault on a female. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

October 7

Micah Dillon Breedon, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Jason Robert Mock, was charged with probation violation. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

October 8

Clarissa Anne Smith, was charged with failure to appear. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

William Prince, was charged with failure to appear. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Jennifer Lynn Nations, was charged with breaking and entering, attempted break/enter a motor vehicle, communicating threats. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Carole Forrest, was charged with second degree trespass. Michael R. Hollifield made the arrest.

Morgan Corissa Cowart, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a stolen firearm, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

October 9

Juanita Harris, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

David Matthew Green was issued an order for arrest for damage to coin/currency machine. Garrett D. Hovis made the arrest.

Monique Laverne Smith, was charged with uttering a forged endorsement, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Shandra Leigh Elliott, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Austin Harley McCall, was charged with assault inflicting serious bodily injury. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

October 10

David Matthew Green, was issued warrant service. Stephanie Robbins made the arrest.

Louis Edward Testa, was charged with assault by pointing a gun. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Glenn Edward Forrest, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

October 11

Brian Keith McConnell, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, felony possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

October 3

Jonathan Sam Brady, 38, of Mineral Springs Rd., was charged with assault on a female, possession of a firearm by a felon. No bond was set.

October 4

Hung Thang Huyah, 45, of Cullowhee, was charged with second degree trespass, failure to appear for felonious larceny, breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

October 5

Jonathan Sam Brady, 38, of Mineral Springs Rd., was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Heather Michele White, 25, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Crystal Beth Arkansas, 38, of Ruth Sneed Lane, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass, failure to appear for resisting a public officer, intoxicated and disruptive. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Jimmy David Williams, 51, of Rock Hill Church Rd., Whittier, was charged with school attendance law violation. No bond was set.

October 6

Randy Lynn Olvey, 54, of East Martin Luther King Dr., High Point, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Jonathan Sam Brady, 38, of Mineral Springs Rd., was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Randal Lewis Marrinan, 52, of Elm St., was charged with assault inflicting serious injury. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

October 7

Billy Jack Hicks, 48, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury. No bond was set.

Eddie Bingham, 46, of Dellwood Dr., was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

October 8

Marcos Edmund Mundo, 39, of Olivine Place, was charged with false imprisonment, resisting a public official, assault on a government official, assault on a female. No bond was set.

Kristin Lee Devecki, 37, of Allen St., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jessica Ashley York, 25, of Sylva, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

William David McCoy, 33, of Lee St., was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen goods/property, Haywood County misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

CORRECTION: In the Oct. 1 issue of *The Macon County News*, an arrest report received from the Macon County Sheriff's Office listed in error the arrest of Alyssa Nicole Anglin with charges. The Sheriff's Office sent a corrected report listing the arrest of Alexandria Rae Anglin, who was charged with violation of domestic violence protection order.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

All A.A. meetings in the greater Franklin area including Otto have been suspended until further notice. To speak with a member of A.A. call (828)349-4357 or (828)837-4440 or visit www.aawnc80.com.

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

October meeting of the Otto Garden Club has been cancelled. For more information call Joan at (828)369-2801.

Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Graduation will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10 a.m. in the Center auditorium, 336 Living Hope Way (formerly 336 AG Camp Rd). Please wear masks until you are seated and when you leave. Chairs will be spaced apart. For more information, call (828)524-2157 www.livinghopeway.com.

Jackson County Branch of the NC NAACP will meet online Saturday, Oct. 17, at 10 a.m. On the agenda is a report from the nominating committee to select officer candidates for the November branch elections. GOTV efforts will also be discussed. Email jcnacp54@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online. All are welcome.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike on Saturday, Oct. 17, with an elevation change 600 ft., to Mingus Mill in Smoky Mtn. Nat'l Park, hiking up Mingus Creek to Deeplow Gap, (part of the Mountains to Sea Trail), and visiting the mill on the return. Meet at Bi-Lo at 9 a.m. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information or reservations, call Leader Gail Lehman at (828)524-5298.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on Sunday, Oct. 18, elevation change 300 ft., to Jones Creek, following a Forest Service road along the rushing creek to a small waterfall. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 2 p.m., drive 30 miles round trip. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information and reservations, call leader Kathy Ratcliff at (828)526 6480.

N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Control Kudzu Free Online Seminar will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via zoom. Participants will learn how Kudzu was introduced and spread in the United States, names of Kudzu, plant descriptions, various ways to use Kudzu, economic and ecological impacts, and finally various control strategies. To register go the Eventbrite link at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/controlling-kudzu-tickets-121561823687. For more information, call the Macon County Extension Center at (828)349-2049 or e-mail Christy Bredenkamp at cbreden@ncsu.edu.

Gem Country Republican Women's Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday Oct. 20, 11:30 a.m., at Fat Buddies. Guest speakers include Susan Pons and candidate Matt Mason. Meetings are always informative. Bring "white elephant" items for the Treasure Table.

Pesticide Collection Day will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Environmental Resource Center, 1624 Lakeside Drive, Franklin. Pesticides that will be accepted include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, fumigants, rodenticides and growth regulators. For pesticides with unreadable or missing labels, contact the Cooperative Extension Office for instructions. Please save any portion of the label to help identify the material so you can be assisted with disposal. Unknown materials cannot be accepted. For more information, call the Macon County Extension Center at (828)349-2046.

American Red Cross Blood Drives are being held in Franklin, on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Southwestern Community College, 225 Industrial Park Loop; Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Discover Church, 47 Macon Center Drive. In Highlands, Monday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main Street. Make appointments by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, call (800)733-2767 or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

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

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

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

Alzheimer's Association Western Carolina Chapter Telephone Support Group for Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia is designed to provide caregivers opportunities for sharing, education, and support through a telephone conference. Support group participants and a support group facilitator connect each month for one-hour confidential sessions. For more information, call (800)272-3900.

Franklin Covenant Church has a grocery delivery service for anyone at higher risk for COVID-19. If you are unable to leave home to get the supplies you need due to sickness, disability or age, please contact us for more details. The only cost to you would be the items you order, there is no delivery charge. FCCdelivery@yahoo.com.

Volunteer drivers needed at Macon County Senior Services. Mileage will be reimbursed. For more information, call (828) 349-0211.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church Sunday School begins at 9:30. Worship service begins at 10:30 with guest speaker Rev Dan Kirk. Guest vocalist is Becky Haas Tyrone. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828)369-7977.

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, Oct. 18, 11 a.m., Lisa Ezzard" will speak on "Harvest: Sewing, Reaping, & Cultivating Gratitude." Tuesday, at 3 p.m. Movie Matinee, enjoy a good movie or documentary followed by a lively discussion. Thursday, Oct. 22, 4:30 p.m. Bill Groves will host a Spiritual Discussion in the Fellowship Hall. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

Franklin First United Methodist Church Meet on Sunday, at 8:30 a.m. for in-person worship or online on Facebook Live at Franklin First United Methodist Church. Please note that they are following COVID-19 health protocols for in-person worship. Please plan to arrive early for check in, masks are required. The church is located at 66 Harrison Ave. Senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524.3010 or visit www.firstumcfranklin.org

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

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

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

Prentiss Church of God is discontinuing its 9 a.m. service and will only have one Sunday worship service in its sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m. Social distancing is observed and safety measures are in place. Pastor Kevin Chapman invites the community to attend. Services are also streamed online on the Prentiss Church of God Facebook page. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone: (828)369-3885.

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

Spiritual Light Center is now open for in-person services every Sunday at 11 a.m. Covid-19 protocols are in place. The public is invited. The center is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., Franklin.

Email your church events to maconcountynews@gmail.com



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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

S	P	A	S	M	P	O	L	P	H	E	W	
A	O	R	T	A	I	D	W	E	A	V	E	
C	L	E	A	N	I	L	O	I	S	L	E	T
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Art Association seeks to convey message that ‘Art is Essential’

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

After months of quiet on the art community home front, Macon County Art Association is hosting an exhibit at the Macon County Public Library that conveys the theme and message during this pandemic era that “art is essential.”

The exhibit, which opened Sept. 24 and runs through Oct. 26, features a variety of mediums, including oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, fiber art, silk, mixed media, and reproductions. Nine local artists’ works are represented: Bonnie Abbott, Cheryl Binnall, Marty Brown, Carol Conti, Terry Evans, Margie Kellam, Pat Mennenger, Kathy Ratcliff, and Karen Smith.

Artists of all types have been especially affected by the lingering pandemic since viewing art, art classes, demonstrations, all involve gatherings. As the state has entered Phase 3, however, artists such as Cheryl Binnall and Carol Conti, past president of Macon County Art Association, are encouraged.

“Now more than ever, I think people realize the importance of public art,” said Binnall. “It has this capacity to bring joy, to bring wonder, to bring a glimpse of hope when you’re outside during this time that is so challenging and difficult.”

“As an artist, I felt challenged in the beginning, when the reality of this unprecedented time hit me and what would be the new ‘normal,’” said Conti. “In July, I began holding my classes outdoors and personally, have really focused on my plein air painting. For me, I relish the peace of being out in nature as I try to convey the joy I feel through my work. My goal is to provide the viewer with a moment of light during this dark season. Art is essential in reflecting our human nature, recording history, and providing hope that we can get through this time together.”

The exhibit at the Macon County Public Library includes everything from old barn scenes to fairy tale images to realistic animal paintings.

“We ask our community to please support the arts and drop

by to see the creativity of our artist members both at the Macon County Public Library and Uptown Gallery,” said Conti.

Uptown Gallery, operated by Macon County Art Association volunteers, opened back up Memorial Day weekend. The gallery on Main Street in Franklin is currently open Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Monday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is stocked with one-of-a-kind artistic gift ideas for the holidays. “We have safety protocols in place so our customers can feel safe while they browse and look for that special handmade art piece made by local artists,” said Conti. “We are still in the process of discussion for holding classes and workshops at a

The Macon County Art Association is hosting an art exhibit at the public library offering artists an opportunity to display their work after a months-long shutdown due to the pandemic. Photos by Vickie Carpenter



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future date.”

For Halloween, the Macon County Art Association is hosting an Autumn Witches Walk, to be held Saturday, Oct. 17, at 11 a.m. All ages and pets are welcome. Participants will meet at the Main Street Clock Tower at 11 a.m. and parade on the sidewalks of Main Street and end at the gazebo for a photo opportunity. Participants are encouraged to wear witches masks and costumes. Then stop by the gallery and see how they have decorated for Halloween. A 50/50 raffle is also going on at the Uptown Gallery. Tickets may be purchased at the gallery. Half the money raised goes to the winner of the raffle and half to the gallery. A winner will be drawn at 3 p.m. Saturday.

“We are raising funds for the gallery to continue to be maintained as a support for local artists and for community enrichment,” said Conti.

All COVID-19 safety protocols will be observed for these events.



The Macon County Public Library is located at 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin. For more information call (828)524-3600.

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The Uptown Gallery has Halloween events on its calendar. On Saturday, the gallery is hosting an Autumn Witches Walk in which participants will dress up as witches and parade down the sidewalks, ending at the gazebo. The walk will commence at 11 a.m. Visitors are invited to stop by the gallery and enjoy the Halloween decorations, and participate in a 50/50 raffle.

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Plenty of reasons to go downtown in October

The Streets of Franklin Association is working hard to make sure that residents and visitors alike have plenty of reasons to come downtown in the month of October. The Town Council approved to close the streets for the Hometown Spirit of Fall on Oct. 3, from 4 to 7.

This Saturday, Oct. 17, Franklin will see music, crafters, balloons and Harvest Full of Saving Coupons for those participating and shopping in Main Street stores. Watch for fliers in the store windows. Some stores are giving 20% on certain items. For example, The Dusty Pallet is doing 20% off paint party picture; Rockin' Rollie Pollies is giving 20% off dessert; and some may have buy 3 get 1 or 50% off items. Coupons will be given out this coming week and next weekend to come back into stores Oct. 24 thru 31. Participants can use the coupon as many times as they like in any participating store.

On Saturday, Oct 24, local crafters will line the streets and plans are in the works to provide walking live music.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, Hometown Spirit on Main. A DJ

will provide music from 12 - 7 in front of Wells Fargo

The Teal Pumpkin Project will again be a part of Halloween in downtown Franklin in stores from 3 to 4 p.m. This event is for children who have allergies to be able to Trick Or Treat for non-food items. Teal Pumpkin signs will be in the windows of participating businesses.

Signs will be posted for cars/trucks to be off the street by 3:30 and closing street at 4. Families, fire departments, businesses, churches, some non-profits, and Main Street merchants may set up a table on the sidewalks and parking spaces if needed, decorate that table, and hand out candy from 4 to 7 p.m. Candy must be wrapped individually or in baggies. All participating must wear a mask and gloves throughout this whole process, while promoting safe distancing. Everyone is encouraged to dress up.

Masquerade down Main Street from 4 to 7 p.m., not a parade, just get out in the street with a decorated mask and show your "Spirit of Fall." What better way to come out and have fun and mask up but decorate them for Halloween.

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In Memoriam
Gavin Andrew McKinney

We, the McKinney Family, Garry, Kathy, Kyai and Garrett, remember our son, a great father to his children and family are all mourning our loss. I will forever remember and cherish our playing sports and working times together. The fact that he was a special son and a great man, he always gave so much to so many. Yes, he had faults as we all do but there was never a doubt that his heart and actions were greater than most. We miss you buddy. Rest in peace until we all meet again.

Love, Mom, Dad & Children

Tuberous begonia a showy summer bloomer

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

Several years ago, I wrote about the leader of North Korea Kim Jong’s obsession about a tuberous begonia that was named in his honor. He built multiple large greenhouses country-wide to grow thousands of his name variety called “Kimjongila” while a large portion of North Korea’s population was starving to death. It’s curious that “gila” means mad or crazy. Shortly after writing about this I visited a friend here in Franklin who was growing beautiful tuberous begonias successfully. So, I decided to try a few last year with limited success. The problem is that I do not have the right amount of sunlight and a limited potential growing area. It is shaded in the morning and in full sun in the afternoon. This is exactly opposite of what is needed for successful growing.

Tuberous begonias are showy summer blooming plants perfect for high elevations and cooler locations. They cannot stand heat or direct sunlight. For example, I have seen hundreds of them growing as bedding plants in British Columbia at Butchart Gardens that has high shade. These plants are grown from round flat tubers. They are convex on one side where the roots emerge and concave on the other where the plants develop. The concave sides are potted up. They are not the same fibrous types of begonias sold as bedding plants in the spring. Here in Franklin tuberous types will do well on a deck that does not get the afternoon sun or a bright porch will work. There are now hanging basket selections that bloom continually all summer. Non-Stop Begonias are one example. Their blooms are smaller but very showy.

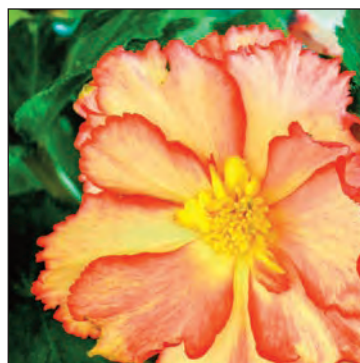
Another great feature is that the tubers can be stored over the winter to grown again the next year. These are not annuals. In the fall let the plant completely dry out. Then you remove the soil and after the tuber is very dry and store it in a brown paper bag with a little peat moss in your garage or someplace cool until spring. In the spring you will find small



Dr. Bob Gilbert

buds forming on the concave side of the tuber. Place the tubers slightly submerged into tray full of potting soil. Keep the soil barely moist. When the new shoots are about 2-3 inches tall plant each tuber into a separate pot and cover the tuber with about ½ inch of soil and water. Always be aware that these tubers will rot standing in overly wet soil.

Tuberous Begonia blooms come in all sizes, many colors and bloom configurations with both single and double blooms. Picotee selections are quite showy with thin red petal margins. Some varieties have blooms that can reach up to five inches in diameter. The first year I had trouble growing them successfully because I had too much sun and it was too hot and humid in my greenhouse. This year I decided to give it one more try. However, I needed to create the right environment: Namely bright but not direct sunlight, high shade. We had an unusual amount of rain this year so I also needed to control moisture if I was going to grow them outside. I happened to have an unused greenhouse bench and some other easily assembled big box store plastic benches. I stacked them to create an enclosure. It is not attractive but



it works. Over the top to control moisture and overhead sunlight, I placed plastic opaque roofing material. Then, I ordered shade cloth from a greenhouse supplier to create a shade curtain. This was needed because my enclosure received direct sun all afternoon. I rotated the plants about every two weeks in order to get even light because the back of my enclosures faces the wall of the garage.

All summer I moved the heaviest bloomers to the screened porch. I would like to be able to view them all together uncovered but I do not have the right conditions for that. They are fertilized with a weak dilution (half strength) of a liquid fertilizer every two weeks.

One trick to get larger blooms is to remove the smaller female buds that are right beside the larger male bud. (See photo) Usually the female blooms are single and much smaller. This directs more energy to the male bloom which enhances its size.

I have searched for the variety “Kimjongila” for sale without success. It is truly beautiful. Curious that it has not reached the commercial market.

Next year I want to try couple of varieties I do not have. Do not be intimidated by tuberous begonias. They will make you look like a master gardener. Also, being able to save the best performers for the following year is another plus.

Dr. Bob Gilbert co founder of Smith Gilbert Garden in Kennewick, Ga.

Karen Lawrence professional wildlife and botanical photographer from Franklin.



Dr. Gilbert created a shaded area for his tuberous begonia experiment from benches, shade cloths and roofing material. Photos by Karen Lawrence



Deaths & Funerals

Patricia Ann Davis

With profound sadness we announce the passing of Patricia Ann Davis, loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to all whose lives she touched, on Oct. 9, 2020. She left us while peacefully sleeping at her home in Franklin, NC. She was in her 76th year.

She was born July 9, 1944, in Greenville, Ala., to Zentleman and Willa (Till) Hargrove. Born and raised in Greenville, she spent most of her life in Pensacola, Fla., where she worked many years in the Escambia County School System. Her retirement years were spent living in the mountains of western North Carolina.

She treasured her family first and foremost including the many animals living on the farm. She loved her role as Nana. She made friends everywhere she went. She will be dearly missed and forever in our hearts.

She is survived by her husband, Gary Davis; son and wife Bren and Shawna Davis; granddaughter, Ashley Davis; sisters, Rita Tisdale and Felecia Beasley; and brother, Cyril Hargrove.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, 851 Lake Emory Rd, Franklin, NC 28734 or at www.appalachiananimalrescuecenter.com

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

Phyllis Jean King

Phyllis Jean King, born on March 19, 1956, went home to be with the Lord on Sept. 16, 2020. How wonderful to be in Heaven with no more pain, sickness, or tears.

She worked in the restaurant business for many years. She had a heart of gold and as the oldest she took on many roles in the lives of the people she loved – mom, sister, aunt, grandmother, best friend and negotiator. She was known for her quick wit. Even though she spent her last days in the mountains of North Carolina, she was always proud to be from Miami. She enjoyed ocean fishing with her dad and grew to love seeing dolphins play in the water. Her collection of dolphin figurines were a reminder of days gone by. One of her favorite memories was when she actually was able to swim with Flipper, the dolphin star of a television show.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Joan K. Wright; her two sisters, Sherrie Campbell and Alvin Wells; her stepfather, Bobby Wright; and her stepmother, Toni King.

She is survived by her father, Charles King of South Carolina; three children, John Atkinson of South Carolina, Charles Atkinson of North Carolina, and Dusty Musser of Virginia; six grandchildren, Kimberly, Anthony, Corey, Kyle, and Trevor Atkinson, and Kayla March; 11 siblings, Debbie Ray (Kerry) and Keith Wright (Rhonda) both of Kentucky, Darcie Hearn, Trina Graham (Stephen), and Tammy Yarbrough (David) all of South Carolina, Patty McCoy (Doug), Teresa Carter (Steve), Bobbie Jean Pate (Mike), Melissa Vandyun (CJ), and Rebecca Sherman (Michael) all of Florida, and Debra Toole (Algernon) of Indiana; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

A special thank you goes to Michelle. The family appreciates the loving care and attention she gave. Phyllis was well loved and will be missed. She is gone from this world but not from our hearts.

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



Phyllis Jean King

Charles Hillard McCall

Charles Hillard McCall, 86, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020.

A lifelong resident of Macon County, He was the son of the late James Albert McCall Sr. and Flora Fitzgerald McCall. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters, N.A. Persky, Elizabeth Huscusson and Jenny Sue Brendle; and a brother, Dan McCall.

Prior to his retirement, He was a supervisor at Burlington and CR Industries. He was a faithful member of Iotla Baptist Church. Anyone that knew him knew he could fix absolutely anything. He enjoyed deer hunting, fishing, ginseng digging, hiking and just loved being outdoors.

He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Faye Ledford McCall; children, Vickie McCall Carpenter (Gary) of Pisgah Forest, Mike McCall (Renee) of Franklin and Steve McCall (Nina) of Pisgah Forest; brothers, James McCall and Johnny McCall, both of Franklin; sister, Karen Stinson; six grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

A private memorial service will be held. Rev. Steve Reeves and Rev. Brandon Breedlove will officiate. Burial will follow at the Iotla Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Iotla Baptist Church Serve Fund, 1537 Iotla Church Road, Franklin, NC 28734

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Charles Hillard McCall

Gail Ruffner

Gail Ruffner, 86, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Oct. 4. She was born in Greensburg, Pa., to the late Glenn H. Wright and Florence Anderson Wright. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas E. Ruffner and a sister, Janet W. Paxton.

She loved her family. One of her greatest joys was to have the family around her dinner table.

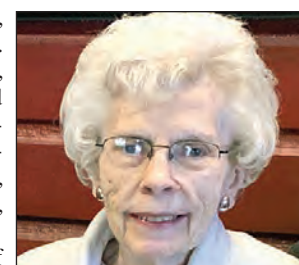
She was a member of Homestead First United Methodist Church in Homestead, Fla., for 50 years, where she had been an active member of the United Methodist Women. She was also an associate member of Memorial United Methodist Church in Franklin since 1996.

She is survived by a son Bob (Holly) Ruffner of Wellington, Fla.; two daughters, Sharon Ruffner of Franklin and Sharlene (Craig) Kossuth of Cutler Bay, Fla.; five grandchildren Laura (Patrick) Hughes, Rebecca (Simon) Gonzalez, Jessica (Daniel) Ruffner, John (Nicole) Rose, Victoria Rose; and two great grandchildren, Lea and Thomas Gonzalez.

The family wishes to extend their appreciation to the staff of Angel and Mission hospitals for her care. A service to celebrate her life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

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



Gail Ruffner

James Louis Brown

James Louis Brown, 95, of Waynesville, N.C., formerly of Otto, N.C., passed away Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020.

A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late John Cling Brown and Sarah Houston Brown. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Shope Brown; son, Mark Alan Brown; siblings, Zelma, Harrell, Paul, Elmer, Cecil, Burco and John. He was a retired Heavy Metal Press Operator with the Pontiac Motor Division, a member of Coweeta Baptist Church, and a past member of the American Legion. He enjoyed gardening and music, especially bluegrass and gospel.

He is survived by his children, Gary Brown (Anne) of Missoula, Mont., and James Dewayne Brown (Julianne) of Sun City, Ariz.; four grandchildren, Kristie Krejci, James Brown, Jessica Brown Marshall and Victoria Audritsh; four great grandchildren, Annabelle Krejci, James Krejci, Johnny Audritsh and Avery Audritsh; also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Oct. 16, at 11 a.m., at Coweeta Baptist Church with Rev. Davis Hooper officiating. Burial will follow in the Rush Cemetery. Mr. Brown will lie in state 30 minutes prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be Jacob Krejci, James Krejci, John Audritsh, Kevin Brown, Ronnie Dowdle and Alex Comprani.

The family requests that social distancing and mask wearing be observed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Coweeta Baptist Church, 780 Coweeta Church Rd. Otto, NC 28763

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



James Louis Brown

Rosemary Neill Seacott

Rosemary Neill Seacott, 77, of Scaly Mountain, N.C., passed away on Monday, Sept. 28, 2020.

Born in Homestead, Fla., she was the daughter of the late Daniel Neill and Elizabeth Bryant Kinard. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a step-daughter, Rebecca Farmer. She worked at The Dry Sink in Highlands for 20 years and loved everything about Christmas.

She is survived by her husband, Ronald Seacott; five children, Robert Blasky of Orange City, Fla., Lorie Ann Blasky of Deland, Fla., Theresa Blasky Wheat of Port Orange, Fla., Launda Soper of Orange City, Fla. and Gabby Seacott of Daytona Beach, Fla.; brother, Danny Neill of Ormond, Fla.; several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the ASPCA at www.aspc.org/donate, to help animals find their forever homes and fight animal cruelty.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



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Elliott advances with Playoff win at the Charlotte ROVAL

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

In only his fifth NASCAR Cup Series season, Chase Elliott is proving himself a road course master, easily besting the field Sunday at the Charlotte ROVAL and more importantly, the 24-year old continues to establish himself as a perennial championship contender.

Elliott's win in the Bank of America ROVAL 400 Playoff race was his fourth consecutive road course victory, a mark of excellence shared only with NASCAR Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon, who won six straight road course races. It's his second consecutive win in this race and Sunday's trophy is an automatic qualifier for Elliott into the three-race Playoff Round of 8, which begins next week at Kansas Speedway.

Elliott's No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet tied teammate William Byron for most laps led – a race best 26 laps on the day including the final 18, as he held off runner-up Joey Logano by a healthy 3.895-seconds to earn his third win of the year.

Erik Jones, Kurt Busch and Ryan Blaney rounded out the top five. Elliott's Hendrick Motorsports teammate William Byron was sixth, followed by Martin Truex Jr., Hendrick driver Alex Bowman, rookie Cole Custer and Clint Bowyer, who was trying to race his way into the next Playoff round but did not move forward despite the top 10 effort.

"Just had another really fast NAPA Camaro and really appreciate the effort," Elliott said. "Road courses have been fortunate to us the last few trips, but I feel like we just try to get a little better every time, tweak on the small things. I feel like I tweaked on small things and got a little better than I was here last year, which was good. Just really proud of the effort."

The ROVAL was the second round Playoff cut-off race – sending eight drivers forward and eliminating title hopes for four. None of those four drivers - including reigning NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch - still needing to gain points to advance, were able to improve positions Sunday afternoon.

Busch, Bowyer, Austin Dillon and Aric Almirola have dropped out of championship eligibility as the series moves on to Playoff races in Kansas, Texas and Martinsville, Va. before the Nov. 8 championship finale in Phoenix.

The Playoffs standings were reset following the ROVAL checkered flag with regular season champion Kevin Harvick, a nine-race winner, topping the chart by 13 points over Denny Hamlin. Brad Keselowski is 32 points back in third place followed by Elliott, Logano, Truex, Bowman and Kurt Busch, who won his way into the next round with a victory at Las Vegas three weeks ago.

Kyle Busch's exit marks the first time a reigning series champion did not advance to the Round of 8 and it will mark the first time in six years that Busch was not part of the Championship 4 that decides the sport's ultimate trophy.

"Just been the year, nothing has played out or been on our side, it's just been unfortunate circumstances and a lot of bad luck," said Busch, driver of the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.



Chase Elliott, driver of the #9 NAPA Auto Parts Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Bank of America ROVAL 400 at Charlotte Motor Speedway on October 11, 2020 in Concord, N.C.



Busch entered the race, ranked ninth and needing to make up 21 points to nudge his way into the next round of the Playoffs – but like all drivers faced a challenging afternoon that featured rain tires on the cars for the first time in modern day competition.

Busch's day got especially dramatic, however, after the field changed back to slick tires once the threatening weather cleared shortly before the opening stage completed. His No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota suffered damage mid-race after a collision with Bowyer. However, Busch's crew chief Adam Stevens kept the two-time series champion calm and ready to rally and he responded – making his way back up through the field.

He was running fourth when the cars in front of him pit during a late race caution. Busch stayed on track and led three laps, but he was soon passed – his tires 20 laps older than the others who pit. Ultimately, he finished 30th needing to pit on the next to last lap for fuel.

Bowyer was one of only two drivers (also Bowman) to have top-five finishes in both previous races at the track. Bowyer's 10th-place finish ended his Playoff run but it was impressive considering he drove most of the race with no power steering. He was exhausted after the race and went to the infield care center to be checked out.

Almirola's day featured similar struggles. He had a spin and was just never able to sustain a run front-pack. He finished 16th unable to make up ground on the 48-point deficit he started the race with.

"It was tough man," Almirola conceded. "I struggle here, in particular. I'm not the greatest road course racer and specifically here has been a challenge for me."

"Not the day we needed, for sure, to move on. But we've still got four races to go to perform at our highest level."

On the other end of the emotional spectrum, the 27-year old Bowman will be making his first appearance in the Playoff Round of 8. Earlier this week, Hendrick Motorsports announced Bowman will be driving Jimmie Johnson's No. 48 Chevrolet next year, moving from the No. 88 when the seven-time champion Johnson retires from fulltime competition.

Certainly Bowman's work on track this weekend was well-timed success as he prepares for the enviable move next season. At times on Sunday, he was on the verge of elimination. But after climbing out of his car he fully conceded it had been a nerve-wracking drive despite his top 10 performance.



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"It's a lot of validation for us to make that round," Bowman said. "When you are racing champions of the sport to advance you're never comfortable, especially when it is Kyle Busch."

As for Elliott, the victory and historical significance were a well-timed boost heading into the next Playoff round as he attempts to earn his first ever appearance in the Championship 4 making a run for his first NASCAR Cup Series title. He won the 2018 Playoff race at next week's Kansas Speedway oval.

"Like I've always said, they're way too hard to get [wins] to get picky about when and where and how," Elliott said. "So I'm just glad to be here and, hopefully we can do something with this next round."

Allmendinger splashes his way to a Charlotte ROVAL Xfinity win

A.J. Allmendinger prevailed in a hard-fought NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoff race that ended in overtime on the Charlotte Motor Speedway ROVAL Saturday evening. After a long afternoon negotiating the road course in rainy weather against a field of drivers with championship hopes on the line, the veteran edged 22-year old Noah Gragson by a mere .446-seconds in a rooster-tail run to the checkered flag.

It marked the second win of the season for Allmendinger in the No. 16 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet and his second career win on the ROVAL.

Daniel Hemric, Alex Labbe and Ross Chastain rounded out the top five. Team Penske's Austin Cindric, Cody Ware, Jade Buford, Michael Annett and Brandon Jones completed the top 10.

The Drive for the Cure was the final race in the Round of 12 of the NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoffs with Chase Briscoe, Cindric, Justin Allgaier, Gragson, Justin Haley, Jones, Chastain and Ryan Sieg advancing to the next three-race round of Playoff competition that begins next week at Kansas Speedway.

Drivers Harrison Burton, Brandon Brown, Michael Annett and Riley Herbst were eliminated from Playoff contention at Charlotte.

Allmendinger and Briscoe, the driver of the No. 98 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford, were vying for the win, door-to-door, corner-by-corner in the closing laps which featured five lead changes between the two in just the final 17 laps of the 68-lap overtime thriller.

Briscoe was leading with three laps remaining when a caution flag came out for Brown, whose car was precariously dis-

abled alongside the track. Racing side-by-side for the lead on the ensuing restart, Briscoe spun out in Turn 1, allowing Allmendinger the opportunity to take control of the race and navigate the wet track to victory. Briscoe, who led a race best 23 laps, instead finished 18th.

Gragson and fellow Playoff contender Herbst collided only 28 laps into the race, and later contact between the two further damaged Gragson's No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet. Still, he was able to come back and turn in a podium-worthy finish.

The Joe Gibbs Racing rookie Herbst was one of the four Playoff drivers who needed to gain massive points or straight out win the race for an opportunity to advance to the next round. He led seven laps, but finished 12th – ultimately recovering from a spin in overtime as well.

Fellow rookie Harrison Burton, a two-race winner this season and Herbst's JGR teammate, also looked strong early in the race contending among the front of the field, even if he didn't lead laps. His No. 20 JGR Toyota had a transmission problem and he was scored 33rd of the 38 drivers.



AJ Allmendinger, driver of the #16 Ellsworth Advisors Chevrolet, celebrates after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Drive for the Cure 250 at Charlotte Motor Speedway on October 10, 2020 in Concord, N.C.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE 1970s

- ACROSS**
- Muscular contraction
 - D.C. mover and shaker
 - "That was close!"
 - Blood circulation organ
 - FEMA provisions, e.g.
 - Not bob, to a boxer
 - Like a whistle?
 - UN labor org.
 - Speck in the ocean
 - *Fallen South Vietnamese capital
 - *War movie and Oscar-winner
 - Once around
 - Hippocrates' promise
 - Ribonucleic acid
 - Bakery unit
 - Foliage vein
 - In fine fettle
 - Scoop or skinny
 - Nephew's sister
 - "Metamorphoses" poet
 - *ABBA's genre
 - Thailand money
 - Temporarily ban
 - Way to fry
 - Jamie Fraser of "Outlander"
 - **"The Gods Themselves" author
 - Romanov ruler
 - Give it a go
 - It prevents objectivity
 - Brewed beverage
 - *First U.S. space station
 - *Mr. Jefferson
 - Nest for an eagle
 - Between Fla. and Miss.
 - Cold cream brand
 - Does like some coffee makers
 - Tasseled hat
 - Not snail mail
 - Back talk
 - *Nicklaus' peg
 - Smartly dressed
- DOWN**
- Anatomical pouch
 - Plural of #6 Across
 - ___ 51, Nevada
 - **"___ way to Heaven"
 - Feed beet
 - Some have a high tolerance for it
 - *1973 ___ crisis
 - *Oliver Sacks' "Awakenings" drug
 - Boll weevil, e.g.
 - Saintly sign
 - Like never-losing
 - Steven
 - Kind of nurse
 - Not outside
 - Egg-shaped
 - Cash dispenser
 - Compensating equivalents
 - **"The Mary Tyler Moore Show" spin-off
 - Center of a church, pl.
 - Defendant's excuse
 - Black tropical cuckoo
 - "I call first ___!"
 - Undergo a chemical reaction
 - Blood of the Greek gods
 - *First Lady, familiarly
 - Dutch export
 - South American wood
 - sorrels
 - Talk like Demosthenes
 - Paso ___, CA
 - By means of
 - Go back into business
 - Behind a stern
 - Pleasant odor
 - Serum, pl.
 - *Cheryl Ladd on "Charlie's Angels"
 - Golfer's dread
 - Fixed look
 - Flying biter
 - Blue pencil mark
 - Internet pop-ups
 - **"Enter the Dragon" star
 - **"Rocky" star's nickname

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The Classifieds

Services

PAINTING & STAINING Residential, Interior/Exterior, Repaint, Pressure Washing, Deck Repair, Locally Owned & Operated, Franklin/Highlands Area, 30 Years, Excellent References, Free Estimates, Insured, Chandler Contracting. (828)369-5104, (828)226-3792.

ALL PHASES OF Remodeling, Trim, Paint, Decks, Furniture Finishing and Repair, 30 Years of Experience. Call (828)421-8639.

GUTTER & DOWNSPOUT Cleaning and Repair. New Installation, Leaf Guards. No Job Too Small, Free Estimates. (828)524-5475.

CAROLINA PAINTING & Remodeling, Pressure Washing, Painting, Home Repairs, 28 Years Experience in WNC. Home (828)349-9087, Cell (828)371-9754.

GARY BROWNING'S HOME Repairs, Decks, Pressure Washing, Interior Remodels, Painting, Etc. No Job Too Small, Prompt Response. (828)342-4039.

C & C PUMPS Well Pump Sales, Service & Installations. Iron Removal Filter Systems. Call David Cheek (828)369-5176.

GRADING, FINISH GRADING Hydroseed, Driveways, Roads, Hauling, Land Clearing, Chipper. Install Septic Systems, Retaining Walls, Rock Work, Boulders, Patio, Perez. (828)524-8650, (828)347-6793 Excellent References.

CNA TRAINED Caregiver, In Home Aid, Run Errands, Dr. Appointments, Grocery Store/Pharmacy, Light Housekeeping. References. Over 15 Years Experience. (828)342-3750.

LAWNS MOWED in Macon County Area, 24 Years Mowing Experience. Starting at \$30. Call (828)524-0114.

STALLSWORTH PAINTING Interior/Exterior, Pressure Washing, Handyman, 35 Years Experience. (239)860-0117.

NEW CREATIONS Landscaping LLC. Landscaping Projects, Cleanup, Annual Color, Mulch, Pine Straw, Aerating, Fertilizing, Hardscapes, Steps, Retaining Walls, Grading, Gravel, Design, Grounds Maintenance and Much More! Licensed & Insured, Free Estimates (828)524-6959.

J&D HOME REMODELING & Repairs, 35+ years experience in Kitchen and Bath Remodels, Exterior & Interior Painting, Decks, Tile Work, Etc. Have References. (828)424-1795. Ask for James.

SQUID'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR & Service, 867 Highlands Rd., by Franklin Flea Market. (828)342-5135.

MONITOR & TOYOSTOVE Vented Heaters Service/Repair, 31 Years Experience Serving Macon & Jackson Counties. Leon (828)349-3949.

GREENTHUMB LAWN SERVICES Do you need Fall Cleanup? Lawn Maintenance, Landscaping, Leaf Blowing, Handyman Services. 16 Years Experience. Call (828)421-8847.

PROFESSIONAL KNIFE and scissor sharpening Mon-Sat. Kitchen Sink Inc. 72 E. Main Street, Franklin (828)524-2956.

CRANE BROS. WELL Drilling, 6" Drilled Wells for Farms Homes and Industries, Free Estimates. 248 Crane Circle, Franklin. (828)524-4976.

HILLBLAZER PROPERTY Maintenance/Management: Pressure Washing, Repairs, Painting, Debris Removed, Insured, Property Inspections, Monitoring (828)371-6844 US Navy Veteran Retired.

ALL AMERICAN TREE Service, Full Tree Removal, Stump Grinding, Pruning, Storm Cleanup, View Cutting, Excavating, Bush-Hogging, Gravel-hauling, Firewood. Fully Insured. Free Estimate. (828)506-8480.

GRAVEL * GRAVEL * GRAVEL Franklin, Otto, Dillard, Jackrabbit Hauling (828)332-8283.

Misc. For Sale

(2) 6' FREE STANDING Jewelry Display Cases, Ideal for Retail. \$100 each. Call Sarah at Diva's on Main. (828)369-7300.

RYOBI RADIAL ARM SAW on Rolling Stand w/New Blade, Works Great. \$125.00. (727)631-2906

GE ELECTRIC RANGE/OVEN 5 ceramic top burners, self-cleaning, works great but white color, \$150. Call or text Warren (517)202-9381.

MILITARY SURPLUS BDU Pants/Shirts, Boots, M65 Field Jackets Gortex, Parkers, Field Gear, Sleeping Bags, Much More! (828)349-3140.

FARMERS MARKET Fall Season 8am-Noon, every Saturday. Produce, Honey, Fresh Chicken, Artisan Breads, Pastries, Preserves, Handcrafted Soaps, Eggs, Peonies, Hydrangeas. Large Assortment of Cookies. 200 Block East Palmer.

Motor Vehicles

AUTO PARTS/COLLISION Parts: Bumpers, Fenders, Headlights and Used Parts, Motors, Transmissions, Accessories. Installation Available. Franklin Body Shop. (828)524-7494

Animals

VOLUNTEERS & DOG WALKERS Needed at Macon County Animal Services. 18 years and older. Call Debbie (941)266-7084.

Garage & Yard Sales

BIG YARD SALE Saturday, Oct. 17, 8am-1pm, 245 Bennett Rd. Off Hwy 28.

SATURDAY ONLY 8AM-3PM Guns, Knives, Coins, Jewelry, Movies, Art, Antiques, Much More! 441S. to the Old Mexican Restaurant.

MOVING Selling Contents of House and Garage, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Call (843)670-2177 for Appointment. 3 at a time. Masks Required.

MOVING SALE Everything must Go! 9am-3pm, 283 Blue Ridge Dr., Follow Signs off Hwy 28.

INDOOR SALE Saturday, Oct. 17, 8-1, Multiple Houses, Starting at 525 Bryson Branch Rd., Follow Signs from Highlands Rd.

YARD SALE Friday, Oct. 16 and Saturday, Oct. 17, 8am-? Maples Park Club House, Lake Emory Rd., Rain or Shine. Masks Please.

TWO FAMILY SALE Saturday, October 17, 8am-3pm. Furniture, Electrical Items, Ladders, Boys Clothes, Toys, Small and Large Appliances. 6356 U.S. 441S Sylva.

MULTI-FAMILY Son Rise Ministries, 462 Depot Street Thursday, Oct. 15 through Saturday, Oct. 17. Household Items, Jewelry, Tools & Lots More!

Wanted

WANTED TO BUY U.S. and Foreign Coins and Currency. Top Prices Paid. Free Appraisal. Call Dan (828)421-1616. danhazazer@gmail.com

BUYING WILD GINSENG Best price paid. Large amounts welcome. Call Ricky Teem (828)371-1802 or (828)524-7748.

Community Fundraisers

REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow, open Tues.-Sat. 10am-3pm. Benefits Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

CARENET THRIFT STORE 45 Macon Center Dr., Franklin, Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am-4pm. 100% of proceeds benefit the Mission of CareNet to help bridge the gap during times of crisis for families in Macon County. (828)349-9064.

MULTI-FAMILY Son Rise Ministries Yard Sale, 462 Depot Street Thursday, Oct. 15 through Saturday, Oct. 17. Household Items, Jewelry, Tools & Lots More!

HABITAT RE-STORE 56 W Palmer St., Franklin. Furniture, Lighting, Plumbing, Building Materials, Doors & Windows, Appliances & More! (828)524-5273. Sylva Re-Store, 1315 W. Main St. (828)586-1800. Hours for both Stores Mon./Wed./Fri./Sat. 10-4pm.

Help Wanted

MS. LOIS' RESTAURANT Grill Cook. 2 Years Minimum Experience. Apply in Person. 145 Highlands Rd.

ZAXBY'S OF FRANKLIN Now Hiring Full-time Assistant Managers, Cooks, Cashiers. Apply at www.zaxjobs.com. Come grow with us!

FREELANCE FITNESS Instructors Spin, Barre & Pilates. Old Edwards Spa, Highlands NC, Send Resume in PDF format to Kyra Russell krusell@oldedwardsinn.com

OLD EDWARDS INN & Spa, Highlands NC, Housekeeping and Dishwashing starting at \$13 per hour. Now recruiting for Housekeepers, Houseman, 2nd Shift Laundry, Turndown Attendants, Dishwashers, Sous Chef, Cook, Baker, Gardener Assistant, Servers, Host/Hostess, Bussers, Old Edwards Inn Rooms Manager, Bellman, Night Audit, Fitness Manager, Spa Attendants, Cosmetologist, Acorn's Warehouse Associate, Retail Sales Associate. Benefits offered after 90 days employment. Apply online: www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

COMPANION HEALTH CARE is needing CNA's, special opportunities are available with this position. Call Donna for more information, it will be worth the call. (828)524-6444.

Real Estate

4 UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL Cullasaja Riverfront Lots, \$69K-89K, Water, Electric and septic permit provided, Eco Homes and RV Barns. Also South Facing 5 Acre Parcels \$49K-59K. (828)371-7940.

FSBO HOLLY SPRINGS 2BD/1BA, Deck, Shed, Large Pond, Mountain View, Wildlife, Nice \$138,900. (828)342-6736.

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Matt Iannuzzi
Broker/Associate

Sitting on almost 9 rolling acres of woodland and fields, this hilltop home offers mountain living just outside the city limits. With 2-level living plus a spacious loft, you'll enjoy an open concept living area, 4 large bedrooms, 3 full baths, bonus room, large shop/gym, craft area, oversized double garage, 2 rock fireplaces, cathedral ceilings and lots of wood throughout. A screened porch off the master bedroom, decks and patios with 6 sliding doors for easy accessibility and space for a fire pit, makes a perfect home for entertaining or your personal retreat. MLS: 26017251 \$439,900





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