

# The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

*Free  
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weekly*

**ONE STOP VOTING  
THRU OCTOBER 31**

**COMMUNITY BUILDING**  
MON. – FRI. 8AM – 7:30PM  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 • 8AM – 6PM  
SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS

October 22, 2020 • 24 Pages

Volume 38 Number 23

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Beautiful autumn weather drew families outside over the weekend to experience crisp fall temperatures and spectacular mountain scenery. Macon County is conveniently located within driving distance of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Wayah Bald, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Cherohala Skyway. Photo by Betsey Gooder

## Early voting underway



Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Early voting began in North Carolina on Thursday, Oct. 15 with record turnouts across the state including in Macon County. As of Wednesday morning, 6,027 voters had cast an in-person ballot at the polling places in the communities of Highlands, Nantahala and Franklin. That accounts for 32.5% of registered voters in Macon County. According to the State Board of Elections, 2,773 by mail ballots had been cast in Macon County. Statewide, 1.5 million one-stop early voting ballots have been cast – 44% Democratic; 27% Republican; and 28% Unaffiliated; and 662,000 absentee ballots cast. Early voting continues through Oct. 31.

## Candidate profiles: Macon County School board

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

The Macon County Board of Education has three candidates vying for the open seat to represent the Franklin area on the board. Jim Breedlove, who currently serves as chair of the board is up for re-election and is facing two opponents this November.

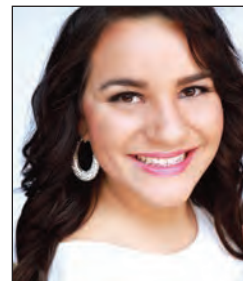
“I have always been committed to public service, especially in the community where I live and work,” said Breedlove. “My most passionate belief is that one of the highest callings a person can follow is investing time and energy into the betterment of education for our children. I feel compelled to continue to serve as a board member and help make decisions that represent the best interest of all students. I have served on the Macon



Jim Breedlove



Matt Macon



Emily Ritter

County Board of Education for the past 12 years, and hope to continue to serve for the coming four years. I strongly believe our county and state will be facing uncertain and

See **SCHOOL BOARD** page 5

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# Macon students not faring well under current learning plan

**Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer**

At Monday night's meeting of the Macon County School Board, members and online observers got a glimpse into how students are faring with the ever-changing learning climate of the '20-'21 school year.

**Lower than Average Reading Scores**

Social distancing guidelines have had a dramatic effect on student's achievement this school year. Assessment scores for students in grades 1-3 saw a decrease in learning gains from February 2020 to September 2020. Scores were based on Istation assessment results.

Istation is an online adaptive assessment that provides reliable data with frequent, age-appropriate measurement for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade in the area of : phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension and fluency.

The results revealed that students in Grade 1 who were at a level 1 or 2 went from 38% at risk to 51% at risk. Grade 2 students went from 29% at risk to 38% at risk. Those students in grade 3 increased from 26% to 37% at risk. Fourth grade students were also included in this assessment revealing a uptick from 21% to 34% at risk. Levels range from 1-5 and any student scoring lower than a 3 would be considered at risk.

K-12 Curriculum Director Josh Lynch explains.

"The district's Istation scores are considerably lower than usual for the beginning of the year benchmarking period. We attribute this drop to the school shutdown that occurred back in March. We also understand that the blended learning model of 100% virtual as well as Plan B, (A/B cohort) has had a significant impact on our students' learning and growth at the elementary level.

"Now that the governor's executive order allows K-5 to resume full capacity face-to-face

instruction, we as a district are hopeful to develop intervention plans to support our students' reading goals. There are still many barriers that teachers must navigate on a daily basis that impedes the teaching and learning process for our students. However, our teachers throughout the district are the best of the best and they are very capable and willing to provide best practice instruction for each child regardless of the learning modality."

**High enrollment still seen in virtual school**

Although virtual school student enrollment has dropped from 900 students enrolled in September to 678 currently enrolled, the number of students not attending in-person classes is still high. The fluctuating enrollment number has a lot to do with the incidents of COVID cases at various schools. Parents are placing their children into the virtual academy during quarantine and then re-enrolling them back to in-person a few weeks later. High school students are able to enroll and re-enroll as long as their teachers are in agreement with the change. Elementary schools are still adhering to the nine-week rule, aside from the students who were able to re-enroll after the governor's newest orders allowed to go from two days to four. At this point, FHS has 158 students enrolled in virtual school, MMS has 168, and MVI has 107 students. Highlands School virtual attendance is at 40 and Nantahala is down from 15 to 6. Elementary schools have seen the largest decline in virtual enrollment since the governor's announcement on Oct. 1, that allowed student in grades K-5 to attend school four days per week. South Macon went from 100 to 40; Iotla was also around 100 and went to 49; Cartoogechaye went from 80 to 40; and East Franklin went from 84 to 39.

**High school athletics to begin in November**

Franklin High School will begin to hold high school sports in November. Although it will

be a condensed season with 14 sports taking place from November to May, parents, students and coaches are glad to be able to offer any sports at all this year.

Cross Country and Volleyball both begin on Nov. 4. Swimming and Diving has a start date of Dec. 7. Swimming is held at Franklin Fitness Center and diving is offered at a site in Asheville. Basketball is due to begin on Jan. 4, and Lacrosse and Men's Soccer both begin on Jan. 25. Football season starts on Feb. 26. Men's and women's golf both begin on March 15 along with Men's Tennis, Softball and Women's Soccer. Baseball picks up on April 26 along with Track and Field and Wrestling. Due to the social distancing guidelines that are still in place a limit of 25 spectators will be allowed at any indoor court game. Unfortunately, Cheerleaders are considered spectators, so it is unclear how that will play out this year. Outdoor sporting events will be limited to 100 spectators on the field. The logistics of holding all these sports in such an abbreviated amount of time will be challenging. As school board member Fred Goldsmith pointed out, some students normally involved in two or more sports will have to make a choice of only one sport this year due to the overlap of times.

**Macon schools gets more Jetpacks**

When Macon County Schools announced in August that they would be providing families with Jetpacks to assist with wireless internet needs, more than 350 families applied for one. At that point there were not enough available to distribute to every family who requested one. Since that time, the state has supplied Macon Schools with additional Jetpacks. The total number of available jetpacks is now at 520. Schools will be contacting parents who had previously applied to see if they still need one.

**Additions made to MMS reno project**

Renovation plans for Macon Middle School

continue to progress forward. The project, which is expected to top \$13 million will be the first significant overhaul the school has seen since its construction.

The scope of work to renovate Macon Middle School includes the addition of a 6,400 square foot locker room facility – which would be added to the facility's existing 100,477 square footage. Work needing to be addressed includes roof repairs, wall assembly, cabinet and window replacements, interior finishes such as paint and restroom partitions, HVAC replacement, and plumbing updates.

The Macon County Schools Facilities Review committee, which is comprised of members of the board of education and county commissioners met earlier this month to discuss additions to the renovations for the middle school. Additional needs include updated security technology by adding a door contact monitor capability to all exterior doors, updated security finishes to the front desk lobby, and renovations to a classroom to fall in line with the rest of the school. The additions were approved by the review committee as well as Macon County commissioners.

Commissioners also voted to approve a pre-qualification policy for the bidding process for the renovation project due to the \$13 million price tag, which will require bank financing to complete. Prior to a board vote to award the construction contract, applicants will go through a prequalification process by a committee comprised of Macon County Finance Director Lori Carpenter, Macon County Planning Director Jack Morgan, Macon County Purchase Agent Lindsay Leopard, and Macon County Manager Derek Roland on the county level. The committee will also have four slots comprised of approved members by the Macon County School system.

*Brittney Lofthouse contributed to this article.*

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| YEAR | MAKE            | MODEL            | MILES   |
|------|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| 1930 | FORD            | MODELA           | 78,269  |
| 1972 | CHEVROLET       | CORVETTE         | 91,171  |
| 2003 | Jeep            | Liberty          | 218,554 |
| 2004 | HARLEY DAVIDSON | ROAD KING        | 9,778   |
| 2010 | Buick           | Enclave          | 182,003 |
| 2011 | Chevrolet       | Silverado 1500   | 79,519  |
| 2013 | Jeep            | Patriot          | 121,063 |
| 2014 | GMC             | Terrain          | 82,762  |
| 2014 | Honda           | CR-V             | 59,929  |
| 2014 | Jeep            | Patriot          | 60,586  |
| 2015 | Buick           | Encore           | 24,299  |
| 2015 | Chevrolet       | Colorado         | 52,137  |
| 2015 | Chevrolet       | Silverado 2500HD | 71,489  |
| 2015 | Chevrolet       | Traverse         | 101,068 |
| 2015 | Mercedes-Benz   | ML 350           | 67,933  |
| 2015 | Porsche         | 911              | 8,616   |
| 2016 | Chevrolet       | Suburban         | 112,779 |
| 2016 | Chevrolet       | Tahoe            | 61,375  |
| 2016 | Ford            | F-150            | 73,912  |
| 2016 | Ford            | F-250            | 190,904 |
| 2016 | RAM             | 1500             | 92,141  |
| 2017 | Chevrolet       | Silverado 1500   | 41,705  |
| 2017 | Chevrolet       | Suburban         | 28,879  |
| 2017 | Chevrolet       | Traverse         | 91,521  |
| 2017 | GMC             | Sierra 1500      | 43,348  |
| 2017 | Jeep            | Renegade         | 48,579  |
| 2017 | Mercedes-Benz   | Metris           | 57,091  |
| 2017 | Subaru          | Forester         | 44,665  |
| 2018 | Cadillac        | CT6              | 29,695  |
| 2018 | Chevrolet       | Camaro           | 8,360   |
| 2018 | Chevrolet       | Colorado         | 40,758  |
| 2018 | Chevrolet       | Colorado         | 13,382  |
| 2018 | Chevrolet       | Colorado         | 37,779  |
| 2018 | Chevrolet       | Equinox          | 26,234  |
| 2018 | Chevrolet       | Impala           | 8,465   |
| 2018 | Chevrolet       | Malibu           | 41,812  |
| 2018 | Chevrolet       | Silverado 1500   | 51,696  |
| 2018 | Chevrolet       | Trax             | 167     |
| 2018 | Ford            | EcoSport         | 5,000   |
| 2018 | Ford            | Explorer         | 49,223  |
| 2018 | Ford            | F-150            | 27,474  |
| 2018 | Nissan          | Armada           | 51,321  |
| 2018 | Nissan          | Pathfinder       | 73,689  |
| 2018 | Toyota          | Tacoma           | 35,770  |
| 2018 | Toyota          | Tacoma           | 13,859  |
| 2018 | TRAILMOBILE     | HOMS             |         |
| 2019 | Chevrolet       | Cruze            | 14,076  |
| 2019 | Chevrolet       | Tahoe            | 17,981  |
| 2019 | Ford            | Edge             | 45,478  |
| 2019 | Ford            | Ranger           | 2,749   |
| 2019 | GMC             | Yukon XL         | 37,969  |
| 2019 | Honda           | Ridgeline        | 12,928  |
| 2019 | Hyundai         | Elantra          | 36,506  |
| 2019 | Hyundai         | Tucson           | 36,252  |
| 2019 | Mazda           | CX-5             | 36,819  |
| 2019 | Nissan          | Pathfinder       | 36,059  |
| 2019 | Nissan          | Rogue            | 40,105  |
| 2019 | Nissan          | Rogue            | 39,470  |
| 2019 | Nissan          | Sentra           | 38,658  |
| 2019 | Nissan          | Versa            | 35,717  |
| 2019 | Toyota          | Camry            | 34,683  |
| 2019 | Toyota          | Corolla          | 35,775  |
| 2019 | Toyota          | Corolla          | 27,529  |
| 2019 | Toyota          | Highlander       | 19,722  |
| 2020 | Cadillac        | Escalade         | 26,141  |
| 2020 | Cadillac        | Escalade         | 35,568  |
| 2020 | Chevrolet       | Blazer           | 4,773   |
| 2020 | Chevrolet       | Colorado         | 4,769   |
| 2020 | Chevrolet       | Silverado 1500   | 11,584  |
| 2020 | Ford            | F-150            | 23,354  |
| 2020 | Jeep            | Gladiator        | 36,710  |
| 2020 | RAM             | 1500             | 25,556  |
| 2020 | RAM             | 1500             | 5,478   |
| 2020 | RAM             | 1500 Classic     | 18,621  |





# FHS cheerleaders looking to 'raise spirit' in the local community

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Realizing that COVID19 has impacted many in the community, the Franklin High School cheerleaders wanted to do something to give back. With October serving as Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness Month, the squad launched a campaign to collect desperately needed supplies for families staying in REACH's residential shelter.

"In passing we became aware that REACH's donations and supplies were being depleted due to the increase of service need uptick during the recent months," said Lynn Baker, FHS cheerleading coach. "Upon hearing this, the coaching staff talked with the team and came up with the idea of hosting a donation drive."

Macon County Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove said that seeing students take the initiative to be leaders in the community is something he is proud of.

"I continue to be both amazed and proud of the students of Macon County Schools," said Breedlove. "This project by the cheerleader's, it's just another example of our students going above and beyond by volunteering their time to the benefit of our community and to help others in their time of need."

According to the National Coalition Against



Franklin High School cheerleaders began a "do good" challenge to collect needed items for REACH residential clients. The challenge went out to other organizations to commit to doing the same and then pass it along.

Domestic Violence, one in three women and one in four men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.

On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines across the United States receive approximately 21,000 calls. That's 15 calls every minute.

In North Carolina, 44% of women and 19% of men experience intimate partner physical violence, sexual violence or stalking in their lifetimes. The residential shelter REACH in Macon County services women and children who are victims of domestic violence and is

at full capacity for most of the year. Often times, those who come to the shelter have to leave everything behind and have to start from scratch.

Baker said that while discussing options with the team, they decided they wanted to do more than just a one-time donation collection in order to have the largest impact. The donation drive is asking for essentials for families staying in the shelter.

"We knew that REACH needed more than just a one time donation, so we brainstormed to start a 'pass it along' or 'do good' challenge so that we could get more people involved," said Baker. "Basically our team worked for a couple of weeks gathering donations and upon completion, we challenged another group at the high school to do the same. Our hope is that they will keep it going and pass the challenge along to another team/group."

Baker said that the service project for REACH is just one example of how the cheerleaders take an active role in the community.

Baker said that by launching the donation drive as a challenge to other student teams and groups at the high school, the squad hopes to

have a bigger impact on those most in need.

"We hope that the challenges continue on and that REACH, and their clients are positively impacted," said Baker. "We know that women and children leave their homes with literally nothing and come to REACH in order to escape life-threatening situations. If we can make a difference in this small way then imagine what other groups getting involved and continuing it on could do."

Baker said the team has several ideas for future projects that are currently in the planning stages.

"We believe that our job as spirit leaders is not just high school related, but we also need to help raise spirit for the community. We aim to help others and promote good causes in any way reasonably possible," said Baker. "We are very proud to represent our school, community and WNC. As coaches, we aim to help our team members learn how to give back to the community and become kind, advocating members of society. We have an amazing team of young athletes who have expressed the desire to be the change they wish to see in the world."

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*2 Chronicles 7:14*



# SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 1

considerable challenges and obstacles due to the current pandemic and the economic impact it will undoubtedly have on education as a whole. I feel my experience and proven leadership will be invaluable in helping lead the school system through these coming turbulent times.”

Breedlove is a Macon county native and is proud to have attended school here.

“I am a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a BS and MBA in Business Administration and Finance. After completing my education at UNC, I returned to Macon County where I began a long and sustained commitment to public service,” said Breedlove. “Some of my community service includes two terms as president of Iotla School PTO, three terms as president of Franklin Little League Baseball Board, Macon County Youth Soccer Organization board, volunteer soccer and baseball coach and referee/umpire for over 20 years. I have been married for almost 40 years to Kathy Breedlove, a long time school counselor. We are the proud parents of two children who attended Macon County Schools K-12, are graduates of [Western Carolina University], and live and work in Macon County. In addition, I am also proud to have three grandchildren who are all currently students in Macon County Schools. I am a member of First United Methodist Church in Franklin; and my greatest joy is spending time with my family, reading, traveling, and an occasional round of golf.”

Breedlove’s devotion to Macon County drew him home in 1979 despite tempting employment opportunities in the

Research Triangle Park area. Upon returning from UNC-Chapel Hill, he entered the banking profession, where he has served in local banking and finance for the last 40 years. Breedlove was first employed at Northwestern Bank for five years, Macon Bank for 17 years, and is currently employed at United Community Bank as bank manager and city president, where he has served for the last 18 years.

“My continued desire to serve has led me to be involved in numerous professional and community volunteer service commitments,” said Breedlove. “I have been elected and am currently serving a fifth term on the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce board, serving as president during three of those terms, three terms as president of the Franklin Jaycees, secretary/treasurer of Macon Program for Progress Board for four years, Community Foundation of WNC board for two terms, and currently serving on the Macon County Economic Development Commission board.”

Matt Mason filed for school board this year and hopes to bring a fresh perspective to the school system.

“I am running for Macon County School Board in order to bring a fresh perspective for the issues facing the Macon County School System. Running for the School Board has been a part of my long-range plan for several years. Currently, I have two children, a niece and two nephews enrolled in our school system ranging from 10th grade down to first grade. I feel that it is imperative to work diligently for the children of Macon County and it is also important for me to begin “giving back to our community.”

Mason and his wife Robin and have been married for 21 years and have two children who are 13 and 15 years old. Mason is a native of Macon County and graduated from Franklin High School in 1995.

“I graduated from Clemson University with Bachelor of

Landscape Architecture degree in 2000,” said Mason. “After graduation, I owned and operated a landscape design/build company in upstate South Carolina. I am also an active member at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.”

After moving back home to Franklin, Mason worked as the Sedimentation and Erosion Control officer for Macon County. After several years of working within the Planning, Permitting and Development Office, Mason was promoted to Macon County Planner.

“In 2014, I left county employment to work as a design and sales manager for Tate Landscaping Services Inc.,” said Mason. “I am a former fire chief at Clarks Chapel Fire Department. Currently I am the president of Macon County Boys Basketball and a board member for Franklin Little League Softball. I also serve as an elected board member for Macon County’s Soil and Water Conservation District.”

Like Mason, Emily Ritter hopes to bring a new voice to the board if elected.

“I am running for office to give young people a voice in Macon County,” said Ritter. “As a proud graduate of Macon County schools, I understand the challenges facing students as education is changing to adapt to incorporate more technology and prepare students for a modern workforce. I want to be an advocate for giving Macon County students the tools to be the best that they can be.”

Ritter is a graduate of Macon Early College, Southwestern Community College and Western Carolina University with a degree in Public Health Science and Marketing, and is currently a Master’s student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill earning her degree in Public Health Science with a concentration in Health Policy. A Franklin resident

See SCHOOL BOARD page 6



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# SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 5

since 2000, she has participated in several charities in the community including Relay for Life, REACH, Rotary, and Angel Medical Center Auxiliary, totaling more than 3,000 hours of local volunteer work. She enjoys a good book, knitting, and kayaking.

Ritter has worked in the healthcare industry since graduating with her Bachelors, but currently has the pleasure to serve Macon County citizens as a Health Educator and Public Information Officer for the Macon County Public Health Department. Ritter also served on the 2020 Think Tank for the American Journal of Public Health, where she writes original research and editorial, as well as works on online engagement.

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

**Breedlove:** "I believe we already have the best teachers and central office staff in the state. We have excellent trained professionals who are consistently seeking to improve the best interests of our children in all aspects of education. If elected, I pledge to work to provide continued resources and support to help further the educational opportunities for our students. In addition, I commit to continue to work with the Macon County Commissioners to improve and upgrade facilities that our students are currently attending. While it might have been beneficial in the past to develop short and long range plans, planning such as this will have to be accomplished when it is financially feasible and responsible. Along with continuing to try and fully reinstate enrichment opportunities for students to have such as art and music in all our schools, I feel it is important to expand our early interventions programs. The best example of this is our outstanding pre-kindergarten program, which has demonstrated great readiness and success for our youngest students. It has always been my goal to provide students with the highest level of quality education whenever and wherever possible."

**Mason:** "My goal is to assist educators in removing barriers in order to enable them to be strong leaders as they face current and future academic challenges."

**Ritter:** "I want to see Macon County Schools embrace technology and for Macon County Schools to emphasize the need to modernize our school system. We need solutions that work for all students, and I think that requires a new and different perspective. Specifically from someone who has gone through the system more recently."

*What is your stance on Macon County's current policies for returning to in-person instruction during COVID19?*

**Breedlove:** "I would first like to address that school closures and re-openings are a result from having to adhere to the changing and current executive orders of the North Carolina governor. These guidelines created the most challenging and difficult conditions for normal student instruction. My goal has and always will be to try and return our students to in-person instruction as soon as possible, while keeping in mind the safety of the students as the overriding concern. I completely see and hear your anger and frustration. In my opinion, there is simply no reliable substitute for face-to-face learning in this county or any county. If re-elected, I will continue to push hard for the option for students to have as much in-person instruction as possible."

**Mason:** "While I understand that Macon County Schools must follow state mandates, I strongly believe that every K-12 student should return to in-person instruction five days per week immediately. I also feel that students are being significantly impacted in a negative way by the current interpretations of the protocol for classroom quarantines. My goal is to create a discussion with the leaders of the Macon County Public Health Department so we can limit the number of students within quarantine protocols. By doing this we would allow a significant number of students to return or never miss in-person instruction."

**Ritter:** "Given my position, I do not feel it is appropriate to comment on this at this time."

*What do you see as being the biggest issue facing Macon*

*County Schools?*

**Breedlove:** "I believe the two biggest issues facing our schools are (1) the projected and probable funding cuts and shortfall of revenues on both the state level and local level due to the economic impact of Covid-19 and (2) the ongoing educational, social and mental health issues that have inevitably arose and will continue to impact students in Macon County Schools during this sustained pandemic crisis."

**Mason:** "Currently the biggest issue facing Macon County Schools would be navigating through the Covid-19 pandemic. Beyond that, I feel that the biggest issue facing Macon County Schools is a lack of long-range planning for current and future needs. Our duty should be to create a planning process that develops a needs assessment which outlines current and future infrastructure needs. The product of this process would be a 5-year Capital Outlay Plan that would include stronger internet infrastructure throughout Macon County while also creating a plan of attack for school renovation projects and/or the construction of new school campuses."

**Ritter:** "Macon County Schools need to embrace and prepare for the future. If anything, this COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that the future of education, careers, and even business is online. We need someone who will be dedicated to preparing young people to enter a new and modern world, and for students to have the tools to navigate that world."

*Anything else you would like for voters to know?*

**Breedlove:** "I would first like to express my utmost respect and deepest appreciation to all Macon County Schools faculty and staff for their beyond amazing and tireless efforts during these stressful unprecedented times. Every individual has gone above and beyond the call of duty, and worked ceaselessly to provide an ongoing and outstanding education and environment for all our students. I also want to extend my sincere admiration to all parents and guardians who have had to balance so many things for their children during these past few months. My fervent wish is that I will be able to continue to serve on the school board in what I believe is a continued calling, to help the students of Macon County

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# Cleaver's, Franklin's newest burger joint opens in West Gate Plaza

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Cleaver's, Franklin's newest burger joint, to the business community with a ribbon cutting celebration. Cleaver's is located at 349 Westgate Plaza and is co-owned by Kevin Covell and Josh McCoy. Restaurant hours are Thursday to Monday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Cleaver's offers traditional and unusual burgers focused on take away service. Limited inside seating is also available. Six signature burgers and nine meats are on the menu to create your own. Cleaver's meats are sustainably raised and harvested. The beef is 90/10 lean and the game meats are 95/5 lean. The burgers are seared to lock in natural juices, so they are always juicy, never dry.

Cleaver's signature burgers are offered as combo specials with fries and a drink and are at a special price. The



“make your own” menu allows you to create your own masterpiece burger, any way you like. All the burgers are cooked medium-well unless otherwise specified.

Online ordering through the website at [www.Cleavers.kitchen](http://www.Cleavers.kitchen) is an easy way to place your order. The management asks that orders of five burgers or more be placed via the website, which will also allow you to order ahead. Delivery service is available with a minimum order of three burgers within the city limits.

“We at Cleaver's pride ourselves with serving a high quality, fair value product. Consistency and efficiency are how we strive to meet our goal. We hope you give us a try. All of us at Cleaver's are excited to be part of the Franklin Community and look forward to serving you” said co-owner Kevin Covell.

## Jobless rate up slightly

The state's seasonally adjusted September unemployment rate was 7.3 percent, increasing 0.8 of a percentage point from August's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.5 of a percentage point to 7.9 percent.

North Carolina's September 2020 unemployment rate increased 3.6 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 38,683 over the month to 4,558,033 and decreased 352,111 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 44,278 over the month to 356,952 and increased 166,666 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 48,100 to 4,316,200 in September. Major industries experiencing increases were Government, 13,100; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 12,100; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 8,500; Professional & Business Services, 4,700; Other Services, 2,400; Financial Activities, 2,200; Construction, 2,000; Manufacturing, 2,000; Information, 700; and Education & Health Services, 400. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Since September 2019, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 267,400 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 246,700 and Government decreasing by 20,700. The only major industry experiencing an over-the-year increase was Financial Activities, 1,400. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 115,000; Education & Health Services, 42,500; Manufacturing, 37,800; Government, 20,700; Professional & Business Services, 20,200; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 14,400; Construction, 10,400; Information, 5,800; Other Services, 1,800; and Mining & Logging, 200.

## Fish Tales Outfitters makes move to Main Street

There's a new fly shop in town, Fish Tales Outfitters, and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon cutting celebration to welcome them to Main Street. Fish Tales Outfitters has relocated to their new shop at 29 East Main Street in downtown Franklin. The shop can be reached at (828)421-0732 or by visiting [www.Fish-TalesWNC.com](http://www.Fish-TalesWNC.com). Shop hours are Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Fish Tales is a full-service fly shop offering top quality rods, reels, accessories and gifts at prices to meet everyone's budget. They offer guided fishing trips throughout Western North Carolina which include both float trips and “Walk & Wade” trips. From beginners to experts, they have you covered. Many of their clients have never fly fished before and all come back to the shop asking why they waited so long.

Co-owners Ernie King and Josh Berg say they are ex-



Fish Tales Outfitters has moved its store to 29 East Main Street next to Outdoor 76.

tremely excited to be a part of Franklin and represent the incredible outdoor activities that the area offers. Come on by and visit with them. Advice is free and service is always done with gratitude and a smile.

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## What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor - Highlands Mayor

The Highlands Cashiers Hospital workforce housing water and sewer request was defeated in a 4 to 1 vote at last Thursday's town board meeting. I know some folks think it is a major setback for the hospital, but others, like four of the town commissioners, may think differently.

I had concerns from the beginning. My primary concern was that HCA was unwilling to fund the project. It seems they were willing to do a land lease to some other entity that would fund, build and operate the housing project designated for medical workers only. Frankly, I would have been more supportive if HCA had indicated that the project was critical to hospital operations, and they were funding the project.

Some would counter that HCA has invested \$4 million this year in hospital upgrades. HCA recently revealed they have made over a \$200 million commitment to capital upgrades to the entire Mission system. They plan to build a \$68 million new hospital in Franklin. If HCA had requested water and sewer for building additions to their existing apartment complex, or for a new separate development, I would have been more supportive. For that matter, I am supportive of any business within the town that wants to build employee housing, provided zoning requirements are met.

When I became mayor some seven years ago, the new Mission Hospital signs were going up, along with the hope of improved access and service. Soon thereafter many people started thinking the opposite was happening, that services were being reduced and access meant going to Asheville. A few years later, Cashiers and Highlands folks were told that they needed to build a first rate emergency department that would be consistent with other Mission facilities. Six million dollars in local donations made that emergency department a reality in 2017.

In March of 2018 it was announced that Mission Healthcare was being sold to HCA. We were assured that the sale would be great for Cashiers and Highlands. In all candor, the jury is still out concerning the sale of the hospital, as well as the Mission system. There have been some problematic situations in the transition where outlying communities feel that healthcare access continues to be centralized in Asheville.

With that said, I suspect skepticism and unanswered questions drove Thursday's vote. There may be alternative solutions to hospital staffing and housing issues. I had a good conversation after the meeting with Tom Neal, the hospital CEO. He assured me that he and his staff will continue to serve and advance the medical needs of the community. I made the commitment to Tom that I would do everything I could to support their efforts. Everyone can support the hospital by using their current services whenever possible.

On the town website is information about meetings concerning the Highlands Community Plan, along with a survey. I hope there is a strong turnout at these meetings. If you can't attend, please complete the survey. Citizen involvement is key to the plan. I encourage everyone to make the time to participate.



Patrick Taylor

## Letters to the Editor

### Unite together and defeat this Covid enemy

Don't you get it? Mask (keep your germs to yourself); socially distance (don't stand close to each other); wash (send germs down the drain); stay home (unless absolutely necessary). As of this morning (10-19-20), no matter how you choose to rationalize it, there are almost 221,000 (that's 221 *thousand*) deaths from Covid in the United States - our formerly *United States of America*.

If we had practiced these simple rules early enough and locked down long enough in the first place, we would not be treated to empty words from DC. We would factually, measurably, truthfully, be in a far better economic, educational, and personal place now. It is a given that some would still contract the disease and die, but these internationally, per capita, excessive numbers are totally uncalled for.

Covid-19 should *not* still be increasing. It's your fault if you think you don't need to follow rules which are in the best interest of everybody. You aren't the only one in the universe or the U.S.A.

Yes, this is a *war*. We're all "tired" of it but note - in both past World Wars, Korea, and yes, Vietnam too (tho' by then we were all very tired of war), we unified. We pulled together. Fathers, husbands, sons were fighting on the front lines. We all knew someone who was wounded or had been killed. Blue Stars hung in military family windows. Sadly sometimes Blue changed to Gold, announcing a son, father or husband had been killed. Gold Star families were next door, or down the street.

We did *not panic* - we were "One Nation!" Our government asked and our nation's factories retooled. Our flower gardens became vegetable "Victory Gardens." Moms' kitchens became canneries, and ladies knitted sweaters, socks, scarves and caps "for the troops." Men not in service shared the ride to work, so gas and tires could be saved. Many women went to work (shared rides, rode a bus or street-car) going to offices and factories, taking the place of men serving in the military. Kids worked in "paper drives," peeled foil from gum and cigarette packs, fought over which kid got to stomp a rare tin can flat to put aside for a "metal drive," saved great balls of string and rubber bands (I never figured out why) and even picked fluff from some kind of weed that would be filler for "mae wests," which were flotation devices for our fighter and bomber pilots of the day. We fought at home and pulled together. BTW, our common enemy? Fascism!

That was then, this is now. We can and should pay attention to present information, knowledge, and science, and should ignore internal and external divisiveness. So, vote as if your lives and your families lives depend on it, because they do. Let me remind you, Social Justice is *not* Social-ISM. The memories above are how "Social Justice" worked. We were and are one nation. We didn't tolerate Fascists back then and we don't tolerate Fascists, or Com-

munists, or Socialists or any other kind of "ists" now. No matter your political party, we are the United States of America! Now we're *all* on the "front lines." Just as we pulled together in the past, pull, dang it, pull! You don't have to like it. Just *do* it and help resolve this. Beat this Covid "enemy." It is a common, nationally divisive, weakening enemy. Beat this just like we beat our common enemies in the past.

Shirley Ches - Franklin, N.C.

### Big tech platforms threaten freedom of speech

The United States Congress gave full immunity to burgeoning technology companies such as Microsoft, Apple, Twitter, Facebook, etc. They did so, supposedly, to give American corporations an edge over foreign competition. These companies, in their early stages, were given immunity from prosecution in ways never granted over centuries of American history. Big tech has generously enriched Congress for their votes.

By Congressional fiat, they effectively surrendered every American's freedom of speech as granted in the U.S. Constitution. When they accorded that right, they shortsightedly surrendered their freedom along with every other American.

Today, political bias and censorship has become the icon for big tech. The technology companies rival the U.S. government in power, as they cross global boundaries, work for and with foreign governments that are enemies of our nation and all the freedoms it represents.

Zuckerberg and corporate heads have testified before Congress over their censorship platform practices. Each, to a man, continued their policies of determining what their corporate definition of freedom of speech is. Accounts which did not meet their undisclosed limitations are closed at the whim of the platform if the verbiage fails to meet corporate perceptions. The attempt at molding the minds of users has resulted in users not being able to say that something is "on target." They have elevated themselves to the arbiters of correct speech that George Orwell might have designed for his futuristic novel "1984."

Politically protected censorship, a growing fungus within these companies and without staunch opposition, mind control, thought control will suffocate our freedoms as granted under the United States Constitution. We cannot accept levels of freedom of speech, one for the average American, another for politicians, and the ultimate for big tech companies. Congress did not have the power or right to elevate anyone or any corporation above the United States Constitution.

We the people, may not be able to destroy the wealth of these iconic corporations or behemoths, but we can pulverize their power by demanding Congress redesignate the big tech companies properly, as corporations with the same liabilities as every other corporation.

Only by taking down the platforms do the citizens of this country have a prayer of protection of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to protect oneself.

Kathryn van Heyningen - Franklin, N.C.

## The Macon County NEWS & Shopping Guide

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## America gets the government we deserve

Without truth, a country will fail. America is no longer just a country, we are a global empire whether we want to admit it or not. The current chaos that we see unfolding is merely a symptom of a much bigger problem. The problem is a misinformed people throughout America. For too long Democrats, Republicans, and Independents have voted based on superficial emotions and shallow things like leader's personalities rather than take time to get educated on the issues affecting our lives. We have allowed a biased mainstream media to spoon feed us information that rarely deals with what is legitimate, Constitutional government. The vast majority of Americans cannot tell you the difference between the 4th Amendment and the 10th Amendment, or more importantly that America is a self-governing republic and NOT a democracy. It is simply human nature to let others tell us exactly what we should think and what we should do, so we do not dig for real truth even though we have never before in history had as much information at our fingertips. We ignorantly believe lying politicians and lying media rather than use common sense and trust in the Lord God. America has too much bread and circus that clouds our judgment and the ruling elite in government realize this basic fact. From both sides of the aisle they prey upon the people's desire for security whether it be safety from a blown-out-of-proportion virus or safety from a boogeyman living in a cave half way around the world. According to the US Constitution (which our corrupt leaders only give lip service to), our "safety" is not the responsibility of federal government. That job lies solely with each of us individually, cooperation within our local communities, and our local sheriff's departments. Federal government is only responsible for national defense and protecting free trade within the sovereign, individual States. But, Democrat and Republican voters both have been fooled into believing it is government's job to regulate, intrude, manipulate, and control each and every aspect of our lives. The Constitution be damned. Many in the electorate welcome this intervention instead of repel it by choosing freedom. For example, it is not enough for Washington DC to take freedoms away from We the People; they now patrol the entire globe wasting obscene amounts of tax dollars, meddling in sovereign nations' internal affairs, killing innocents, and enriching the military industrial complex. Of course, the typical Republican or Democrat will try to justify these actions saying that our military is "fighting for our freedoms" or "the war on terror" or some other ignorant excuse. If we cannot keep our own house in order, how can we attempt to control the world? This is not what America is suppose to be. Our founders were very clear on foreign policy and what justified national defense. They are rolling over in their graves at how we have allowed this out of control federal government to gain so much influence over our daily lives. Both sides are responsible for this current chaos because both sides utterly fail to understand history, Constitutional government, and its proper role in our society. When the rule of law is thrown out the window along with any remaining morality, and we allow our emotions and apathy to guide us, then we will always get the government we deserve. We claim we want our leaders to be principled, yet we have no principles ourselves. The solution? Freedom, truthful education, and decentralization. Our founders never intended for a population of over 325+ million people to be ruled by a handful of toadies in a centralized city. Just as the 13 colonies decentralized away from Great Britain and just as Texas decentralized away from Mexico, as well as many other successful examples throughout history, so too must we consider decentralization in America. Why should California be bound by what Alabama wants to do? Or why should South Carolina be subject to the whims of New York? With a diverse population, there can never be a one size fits all, as it is criminal to force others into limiting their pursuit of happiness

and taking away their freedoms. With decentralization, we can all freely move and align with whatever government is shaped in a localized region while amicably trading with each other and collaborating for defense against foreign invaders. That is what America began as and what the founders intended. Those ideals are what really made America great in the past. We can return to them if the people were willing to think for themselves rather than being controlled by an establishment religion of politics. It was the cunning politician and now myth, Abraham Lincoln, who once said, "Any people, anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off the existing government, and form a new one that suits them better. Any portion of such people, that can, may revolutionize, and make their own of so much of the territory as they inhabit." Of course, the hypocritical Lincoln didn't keep to this universal Jeffersonian belief and the rest has become history to a collectivist, herd-oriented, misinformed society in today's America.

Jim Gaston – Franklin, N.C.

### Mail-in ballot procedure proven to be secure

Recently I used the mail-in ballot procedure to vote in Macon County.

Did you know that the Macon County Board of Elections has a computer service allowing voters to check each ballot's path? Learning this, I typed in my name and viewed a screen noting dates: (1)my application for a ballot was received at the Court House, (2) the ballot was mailed to my house, (3) postmark of my ballot, and (4) the date it was recorded at the Board of Elections. I had handed my completed ballot to an employee at the counter inside the Post Office, but my husband dropped his ballot into one of the two drive-by mail boxes in front of the Post Office. His ballot was also delivered to election officials, similar stats showed. Seeing these careful tabulation dates on the computer assures us that our completed ballots are secure.

Eleanor Swift – Franklin, N.C.

### What these people did was wrong

Why would you – you know who you are – do that to a group of American veterans in our community? You now wear a sign on your back and it says: here is a very small man who did what he did as to deprive a group of local brothers and sisters a few minutes to sit and swap old war stories about their time in combat action. This for some is the only interaction they might have with someone in a day sharing their thoughts with other vets about current events.

Yes, it happened this week and shame on all of you who made so many calls to the state ABC board and report us open. Other facilities such as the craft beer places can be open but I guess because we're an older group we don't count. Remember this: What goes around come back around.

Well, now it is off our chests, see you at the famous "Cherry Tree Inn." You won't squeal on this one.

William Trapani – Franklin, N.C.

... and a group of old vets still feeling young

## What's on your mind?

Email letters to the editor to  
[maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com)

## Voter information for November 3 General Election

### Absentee ballots requests Sept. 4 - Oct. 27

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](http://www.maconnc.org) or [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov) or by calling (828)349-2034 or email [Macon.boe@ncsbe.gov](mailto: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](http://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](http://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



## Southwestern plans to stick to original spring calendar with high percentage of online classes

Southwestern Community College's spring semester will include a spring break, an Easter break ... and a relatively high number of online classes.

College officials have decided to start classes as scheduled on Jan. 11, and the semester will run through Thursday, May 13.

Dr. Thom Brooks, Executive Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, said the schedule has already been built and is designed to help keep students and employees as safe as possible while still providing much-needed breaks during the stress of a global pandemic. Face coverings and social distancing will still be required inside college buildings.

The vast majority of face-to-face classes will be in programs with lab components and in-person requirements such as Cosmetology, Automotive Systems Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant and Nurse Aide.

"The calendar we've put together is very similar to what we had in the fall, and we are very optimistic it will remain as is," Dr. Brooks said. "There are only a small percentage of classes that have to be conducted in person, but we will take every possible precaution with those."

For students struggling with depression from lack of socialization, SCC employs a professional counselor who can meet in-person or virtually.

The college also offers assistance to students who are unable to get reliable internet service at home.

"This has been a challenging season for everyone, so we want to support our students in every way we possibly can," said Dr. Don Tomas, SCC President. "Our top priority is to



Southwestern Community College's Advertising & Graphic Design program is accepting new students for the upcoming spring semester. Instructor Bob Keeling (center) is pictured here in 2019 with students Sarah Dooley (left) of Whittier and Jose Garcia of Sylva.

keep everyone safe, but we also want our students to have all the resources they need to be successful."

Complete spring semester class schedules will be mailed out next month to every home in Jackson, Macon, Swain Counties and the Qualla Boundary. That info will also be available at [www.SouthwesternCC.edu](http://www.SouthwesternCC.edu), and hard copies will be available at all of SCC's locations by mid-November.

### About SCC

For more than 50 years, Southwestern Community College has served Jackson, Macon, Swain Counties, and the Qualla Boundary by offering a wide range of educational options for residents in all stages of life. SCC provides a supportive learning environment and more than 40 degree programs in Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences/College Transfer and Career Technologies.

## WCU to waive application fee as part of statewide campaign

Western Carolina University is among the institutions of higher education that will be participating in "North Carolina Countdown to College," an annual campaign to support college access through the waiving of standard application fees.

Sponsored by the College Foundation of North Carolina, what is traditionally called College Application Week has been extended to two weeks this year, beginning Monday, Oct. 19, and continuing through Friday, Oct. 30. The campaign is designed to support high school seniors in completing three important college enrollment steps: establishing residency, filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and applying for undergraduate enrollment.

This year will mark the first time that WCU is waiving its application fee as part of College Application Week, said Mike Langford, director of undergraduate admissions.

"Because of the economic impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on many households across the state, we thought it was important that Western Carolina University participate in the fee waiver aspect of this annual campaign," Langford said. "Especially during these trying times, we want to ensure that the doors of opportunity to higher education are open to all students, regardless of their economic situations."

During College Application Week in 2019, hundreds of volunteers at 441 sites helped 21,209 students submit 54,950 admission applications and 63,914 electronic high school transcripts, with 18,443 of those applications submitted from Tier 2 counties and 17,934 applications submitted from Tier 1 counties, which represent the most economically distressed areas of North Carolina.

Following College Application Week, requests for the waiver of the undergraduate application fee are considered on a case-by-case basis for applicants who demonstrate significant financial hardship, are U.S. Armed Forces personnel or veterans who have received a non-punitive discharge, or are permanent, full-time WCU employees. For more information about the undergraduate application fee waiver process at WCU, visit the website <http://applicationfee-waiver.wcu.edu>.



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# SCC offering high school equivalency programs

Southwestern Community College is now providing both online and in-person opportunities for adult learners who have not yet earned their high school credentials.

SCC instructors are experienced in working with students at all levels of education no matter how long they have been out of school. Courses are competency-based, and there are no costs for tuition, lessons, books or materials.

Distance students in the program can expect to receive instruction through Essential Education, a software program with thousands of interactive lessons, practice tests and activities that are personalized to each individual's current education and skill level. Students will have 24/7 access to this software and can work at their own pace. Students are also welcome to participate in live video classes with SCC instructors through Google Meet during the week at no cost.

For those without reliable internet, SCC will mail curriculum booklets with lessons and exams. Students complete the booklets at their own pace and return them to SCC using prepaid postage provided by the college. Upon successful completion of the booklets, students will be able to register for the official High School Equivalency test.

A third option is in-person instruction at SCC locations in Jackson, Macon, Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary. COVID-19 safety protocols are in place and masks are required.

Kay Wolf, director of College and Career Readiness at SCC, stresses the importance of offering online education services to adult learners now more than ever.

Wolf is one of thousands of instructors across the country who have joined the #MovingAheadWithAdultEd campaign, a movement that recognizes the importance of adult education in helping millions of Americans gain a high school credential in order to get a higher-paying job during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We knew early on in the pandemic that we would have to quickly transition our High School Equivalency programs on-



**Kay Wolf, Director of College and Career Readiness at SCC, oversees the High School Equivalency program.**

line. The need for education and financial security is at an all-time high, and we want people to know we are here and ready to help them right now," said Wolf. "All new students, regardless of instruction method, are required to complete an orientation session and take a skills assessment prior to registering.

For general information about SCC's High School Equivalency program, contact Crystal Snover at c\_snover@southwesterncc.edu or by calling 828.339.4361.

### Modified Open House sessions to begin Oct. 24 at WCU

Western Carolina University will pop up the tents for prospective students and their families and friends as the university holds Open House on Saturday, Oct. 24, with a new outdoor format.

Hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Open House gives visitors a chance to tour the campus, learn about the university's wide array of award-winning academic programs, and find out the important details of topics such as financial aid.

Students are asked to select an arrival time when they register online. Arrival times start at 8:30 a.m. and repeat every hour until 12:30 p.m. Once on campus, students and their families will walk approximately 1.5 miles around campus visiting departmental representatives located in tents around campus. Residence halls and academic buildings will not be open for guests to tour.

Lunch will not be available at campus dining locations.

Preregistration for Open House and more information are available by going to [openhouse.wcu.edu](http://openhouse.wcu.edu) or by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 828-227-7317 or toll-free 877-928-4968.

For interested students who cannot attend the Oct. 24 event, Open House also will be held at WCU on three other Saturdays – Nov. 14, Feb. 20 and March 20. In addition, weekday campus tours are available year-round by appointment for students and their families, with information at [visit.wcu.edu](http://visit.wcu.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 9 - 19. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

October 12

Eric Mitch Brommer, was charged with domestic physical. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.

Dalton Ray Gravitt, was charged with failure to appear. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

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Michael Anthony Rowland Jr., was charged with failure to appear. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Preston Ross Hathcock, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Amy Victoria Crawford, was charged with misdemeanor child abuse. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Avery Allison Bates, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Jeremiah Noah Smith, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine, trafficking opium or heroin, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, maintaining a place to keep a controlled substance, sell/deliver heroin. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Kara Nicole Ervin, was charged with possession of heroin. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Callie Elizabeth Rogers, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Gina Renee Breedlove, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

October 13

Richard Dewight Collins, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

James Casey Evans, was charged with school attendance law violation. Michael R. Hollified made the arrest.

October 14

Kaylee Larissa Mayhorn, was charged with failure to appear, fugitive out of state felony. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

David Lee Bowling, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Bayshen Emanuel Chavis, was charged with assault on a female. Jay Wright made the arrest.

October 15

Jessie Shyanne Stiwinter, was charged with breaking and entering, trespass. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Wyatt Lane Qualls, was charged with interfering with a electric monitor device, possession of deer taken closed season. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Jason Robert Mock, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Tim Holland made the arrest.

Nicole Michelle Schwagger, was issued a true bill of indictment. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Danny Brice Fowler Jr., was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, carrying a concealed gun. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Ann Marie Mock, was charged with violation of conditions of release. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Jason Robert Mock, was charged with violation of conditions of release. Jay Wright made the arrest.

October 16

Gina Renee Breedlove, was charged with alter/steal/destroy criminal evidence. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Gabriel Macias, was charged with fugitive out of state felony. Tim Holland made the arrest.

Dustin Waldroop, was charged with warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Andrew Chimel, was charged with assault on a female. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

October 17

Roy Shannon Cromer, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

October 18

Jennifer Lynn Nations, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle, larceny after breaking/entering. Timothy B.

Carter made the arrest.

October 19

Richard Dewight Collins, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

October 9

Travis Ray Morgan, 25, of Rock Hill Church Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle, motor vehicle theft. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

October 10

Otono Milan Rodriguez, 28, of Grassy Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with all other offenses, resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

October 11

Fernando Esau Alvarez-Blanco, 18, of Petunia Lane, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

October 12

Joshua Michael Roberts, 30, of Highway 74 E., was charged with resisting a public officer, larceny of a dog, possession of marijuana. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

October 13

Ian Jacob Snow, 21, of Paniolo Dr., was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Kimberly Dawn Webb, 47, of Too How Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin, possession of methamphetamine, possession of stolen goods, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

Antonil Jamr Williams, 25, of Warp Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with unsafe movement, driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Michael James Goode, 45, of Ola Dr., Fort Mill, S.C., was charged with felony stalking. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Robert Justin Steele, 34, of Easthall Heights, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Clifford Jason Keller, 41, of Golden Lane, Whittier, was charged with false imprisonment, first degree forcible sex offense, first degree forcible rape. A secured bond of \$400,000 was set.

Johnathan Aaron Wheatley, 46, of Larkspur Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with possession of stolen goods, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering a motor vehicle. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

October 14

Jeffery Allen Best, 31, of Jasime Lane, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury, second degree trespass, domestic violence protection order violation, assault on a female. No bond was set.

October 15

Trista May Best, 29, of Jasmine Lane, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

October 16

James Tyler Griffin, 29, of Carolina Village, Cullowhee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of schedule IV controlled substance, misdemeanor child abuse. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Leah Jordan Szittai, 31, of Carolina Village, Cullowhee, was charged with misdemeanor child abuse. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Arthur Andrew Hughes, 21, of Oakway Ridge Ct., Kernersville, was charged with credit card/automatic teller machine fraud, financial card theft. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Jonathan Michael Freeman, 31, of Nations Creek Rd., Whittier, was charged with larceny. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.



**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.

Memorial UMC Free Drive Thru Community BBQ Meal To Go will be held on Saturday Oct. 24, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Just drive up to the church, and they will bring the food to you. The church is located at 4668 Old Murphy Rd. by Loafer's Glory.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, on Saturday, Oct. 24, with an elevation change of 600 ft., from Jones Gap on the NC Bartram Trail to a spur trail up White Rock Mtn. for a spectacular view of the Tessentee Valley, the Nantahala Mountains, and Albert Mt. in the distance on the Appalachian Trail. Meet at 145 Main St., #1 Nails in Highlands at 9 am, drive 17 miles round trip. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information and reservations, call Leader Robin Lurie, (954)632-7270.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike on Saturday, Oct. 24, with an elevation change 600 ft., to Camp Branch off Wayah Road, hiking along a logging road for 3 miles with views of Wayah Bald along the way. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 8:30 am, drive 18 miles round trip. Visitors and dogs on leash are welcome to attend. For more information or reservations, call Leader Katharine Brown, (828)421-4178.

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on 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.

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

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

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

Macon Chips, the Franklin Wood Carving Club meets on Thursday, 6:30 p.m. in Franklin High School Wood Shop. 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.

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.

Macon County CareNet is in need of volunteers. Positions open are food pantry, soup kitchen and file room. If interested stop by for an application at 130 Bidwell St., or call (828)369-2642.

Volunteer at Angel Medical Center Enjoy the reward of making someone else's day brighter by sharing your talents and time. Become a volunteer at Angel Medical Center. Volunteers serve in a variety of roles such as mail and flower delivery, guest service, information desk assistance, student volunteer programs, pet therapy, chaplain, administrative support and more. For more information, call (828)349-6639 or email Bonnie.Peggs@msj.org.

CareNet on Bidwell Street will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A box of food may be picked up once a week.

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.

Appalachian Animal Rescue Center is looking for volunteers to help at the thrift store. Call for information about the store (828)369-3046 or the shelter (828)524-4588 if you are interested in volunteering.

Macon Medication Assistance Program located at the back of the First Baptist Church is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call (828)524-5258.

Mens Teen Challenge Needs Good Quality Lumber for its wood-working Shop. Pick up in Franklin area. To donate, call (828)369-1177.

**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. 25, at 11 a.m., Bill Groves will be sharing on "Navigating Through this Time of Deep Feelings." Every Tuesday, at 3 p.m. Movie Matinee, enjoy a good movie or documentary followed by a lively discussion. 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. Note that they are following COVID-19 health protocols for in-person worship. 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 church calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

**SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

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| 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
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| 6 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

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# Two authors compile new book exploring Horace Kephart's diverse set of writings

Several years of research, compilation and collaboration by two writers from Western Carolina University have resulted in a scholarly book about Horace Kephart, a pivotal and sometimes controversial figure in the region from the early 20th century.

The University of Tennessee Press recently published "Horace Kephart: Writings," a collection of magazine articles, unpublished manuscripts and correspondence, edited by Mae Miller Claxton, professor of English, and George Frizzell, retired archivist of Special Collections at Hunter Library.

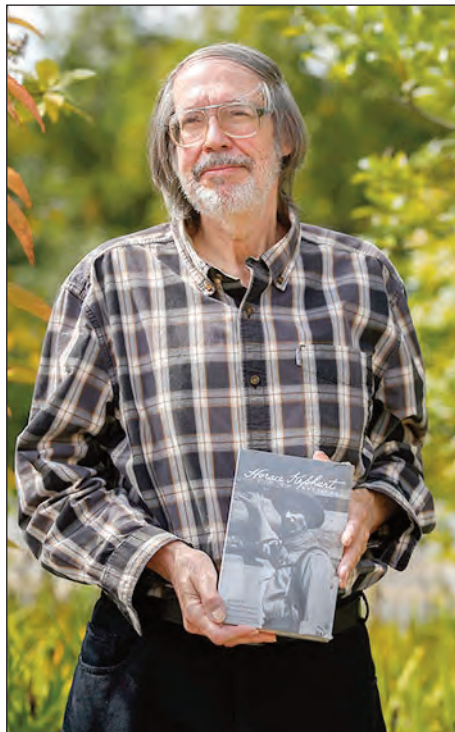
Kephart, an outdoorsman, writer and advocate for establishing Great Smoky Mountains National Park who lived from 1862 to 1931, is best known for "Camping and Woodcraft" and "Our Southern Highlanders." Both books are still in publication, more than 100 years after first printings. Kephart lived the latter part of his life in Bryson City.

"We felt that more of Kephart's diverse writings should

be available to the general public," said Claxton. "Most people think he wrote just a few things – important though they were. Also, the Kephart family, especially Libby Kephart Hargrave, has donated so much important archival material that needed to be part of a more complete Kephart portrait."

A collection of Kephart belongings, including camping and fishing gear, photographs and documents, is held by WCU through Hunter Library and the Mountain Heritage Center, with a digital exhibit available online. Kephart has been criticized as exaggerating and stereotyping native mountain peoples in his works.

The book has nine chapters, each accompanied by an introductory essay by a notable Appalachian scholar providing context and background. The book is organized by seven distinct themes to tackle biographical information, as well as his frequent writing topics, such as the outdoors, firearms, Southern Appalachian culture, fiction, the Cherokee, the Boy Scouts, and formation of the Smokies national park and the Appalachian Trail.



George Frizzell



Mae Claxton

# Book by local author pays tribute to a former president

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Samantha Narelle Kirkland has been many things: an attorney in Judge Advocate General's Corps, a soldier in the United States Army, historian, researcher, and author. John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963 actually changed Kirkland's life trajectory from entrance into the Peace Corps to enlistment in the Army.

"I was a freshman at Yale and planning to go into the Peace Corp because Kennedy encouraged young people to do that, but his assassination changed that for me – and I wanted to enlist instead of getting drafted because the Vietnam War was still going on."

Year later, Kirkland decided to write a book to honor Pres. Kennedy. "Something Small That Saved Us All" is dedicated to: "... the many millions of Americans who were sentient, eager, and hopeful citizens on one fateful November day when our collective national faith in the future was shattered. We were fortunate to have had John Fitzgerald (Francis) Kennedy as our inspiration, albeit too briefly. This tribute is intended to return, if only for a whimsical moment, to a time when Camelot was ours."

Kirkland learned to write "concisely" as an Army JAG attorney. "Something Small That Saved Us All" is the result of in-depth research and visits to such relevant historic sites as Dallas, Texas, where the assassination took place Nov. 22, 1963.

Kirkland's thesis focuses on: "Once you loved and respected JFK, you never got over him." Through 34 chapters and roughly 350 pages, Kirkland weaves in aspects of personal life as it relates to the Kennedy era and timeline.

Kirkland's other books are "Ride the Sea," due to a fascination with the Titanic, and "Europe in Low." The latter is about Kirkland's father's journey through Europe immediately after World War I. "He and his roommate biked across Europe after the Armistice," said Kirkland. "I found his diary after my mother died and his diary was filled with details about his travels."

The book is packed with photographs and historical details.



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### NSDAR honors programs for service to community

At an Oct. 12 event, The Battle of Sugartown Chapter NSDAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) recognized and honored two worthy programs in Macon County at their Day of Service – Macon County EMS and Macon County New Beginnings. Macon New Beginnings was given \$250 for their work with the homeless and with veterans, and cookies and brownies were given to all Macon County EMS locations. Above, Regent Vicki Baker is with Debbie Bourke (R), director of Macon New Beginnings. Below is coordinator of Macon County EMS Todd Doster and Baker.



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# Deaths & Funerals

## Russell William Wood Jr.

Russell William Wood Jr., 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

Born in Oakland City, Ind., he was the son of the late Russell William Wood Sr. and Pauline Barrett Wood. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann Smalley Wood and siblings, Nancy Dixon and John Wood.

He proudly served his country in the Army. He moved to the area in 2005 and shortly after joined Holly Springs Baptist Church. He was a retired teacher, writer and coach. He was an avid sports fan, a great golfer and loved swimming and diving, in his spare time, he enjoyed painting and writing.

He is survived by his children, Elizabeth Lowell Truax (Scott) and Mike Wood (Dana) both of Franklin and Benjamin Wood of West Palm Beach, Fla.; five grandchildren, Taylor, Jordan, Lyman, Blake and Marleigh; and three great grandchildren, Emma, Harlow and Everett.

No services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to CareNet, 130 Bidwell Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.maconfuneral-home.com](http://www.maconfuneral-home.com).



**Russell William Wood Jr.**

## Wiley Alexander Cabe

Wiley Alexander Cabe, 86, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020. He was born in Macon County, North Carolina, May 14, 1934, to the late Harley and Ida Mae Elliott Cabe. He was married to Barbara Gail Tallent Cabe who died Nov. 30, 2008. He had worked in construction as a heavy equipment operator and attended Faith Baptist Church. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving during the Korean Conflict, and he loved fishing.

He is survived by a daughter, Kathy Gail Cabe of Franklin; a son, Keith Wiley Cabe (Pam) of Franklin; two grandchildren, Nicole Oberley (Daryl) and Justin Cabe (Carol); three great-grandchildren, Jaxon Oberley, Addalee Oberley and MaKynli Cabe. In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Margie Lee Hooper and Dora Garrett, and five brothers, Roy Cabe, Robert Cabe, Albert Cabe, Luther Cabe and Carl Cabe.

A funeral service was held Thursday, Oct. 15, in the chapel of BryantGrant Funeral Home with Rev. Roy Lowe officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery. Pallbearers were Justin Cabe, Daryl Oberley, Jaxon Oberley, Melvin Spradlin, Danny Hooper and Kenneth Vinson.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Macon County Senior Citizens Center, 108 Wayah Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

BryantGrant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Cabe family. Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).



**Wiley Alexander Cabe**

## Jane Ledbetter Brookshire

Jane Ledbetter Brookshire, 88, of Fairfax, Va., formally of Franklin, N.C., passed away Oct. 16, 2020. She was the daughter of the late Lawrence and Pearl Frazier Ledbetter of Franklin, N.C. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Brookshire; a son, Doug Brookshire; brother, Max Ledbetter; and sister, Geneva Stanfield.

She is survived by two sons, Dale (Eileen) Brookshire, and David Brookshire; four grandchildren; a number of great grandchildren, nieces and nephews; two brothers, Larry and Charles (Buck) (Margaret) Ledbetter; and one sister, Kathy (Andy) Hurst. Funeral services and interment will be held in Manassas, Va.

## James 'Jim' Russell Clemmer

James "Jim" Russell Clemmer, 84, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, Oct. 16, 2020.

He was born in Gaston County, North Carolina, the son of the late Adrian Brevard and Anna Mae Brown Clemmer. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Mack (Helen) and Lewis (Nollie) Clemmer and one sister, Faye Ray (Sonny) all of Gaston County.

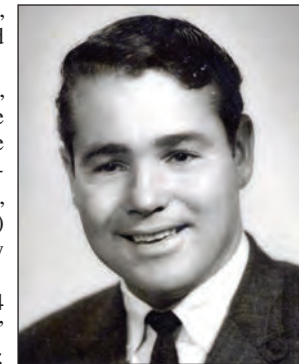
He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Mary Ernesteen "Ernie" Hopkins Clemmer of the home; one brother, Roy (Pam) Clemmer; four sisters, JoAnn Logan (Tommy), Sue Comer (Ernest), Gail Cabe (Ronnie), and Bobbie Quinn (Ethan) all of Gaston County; many nieces, nephews and special brother-in-laws.

He served in the U.S. Army. He was very versatile and had many interests, including traveling, camping, reading, Nascar (where he worked for several years), teaching, cooking hunting, fishing, the beach and spending time with his nieces and nephews. He was a professional machinist and computer programmer for different kinds of machinery and owned his own business at one time. He also drove a truck and worked for Duke Power at one time.

A memorial service will be held in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m., with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. A private burial will be at a later date at Maidens Chapel Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Cartoogechaye Baptist Church, 465 W. Old Murphy Rd., Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.maconfuneral-home.com](http://www.maconfuneral-home.com).



**James Russell Clemmer**

## John R. Moore

John R. Moore, 85, of Tipton, N.C., passed away on Oct. 16, 2020. Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the Moore family. Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneral-care.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneral-care.com).

## Joanne B. Baro

Joanne B. Baro, 74, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Oct. 19, 2020.

No local services are planned. Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Mrs. Baro's family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneral-care.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneral-care.com)



**Joanne B. Baro**





# Deaths & Funerals

## Dorothy Lee Sheets Cherwak (Ditty)

Dorothy Lee Sheets Cherwak, (Ditty) 95, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Oct. 11, 2020 in Gainesville, Ga.

She was born in the home at Shively, Ky., of Robert A Sheets Jr and Dorothy McConnell Sheets. She was pre-deceased by her husband, Richard Cherwak; her brothers, Samuel and Richard Sheets; and both her parents. She was the last of her generation in the family and lived a long and interesting life.

She is survived by her nieces and nephew, Janet (Jim) Sheets Harrison with whom she lived the last five years of her life and Kathleen Carleton (Jim), and Richard Sheets (Mary).

She worked almost 30 years for Alcoa Aluminum, a job which she loved and from which she retired and then she spent her years traveling and singing. She was a member of the Sweet Adelines International for close to 50 years in the Louisville, Ky., area.

Her loves were her church, and her sweet dog, Sheba.

There will be no service at this time.

She requested donations in lieu of flowers to be made to Bethany UMC, 6100 Moorman Rd, Louisville, KY 40272

Online condolences can be left at [www.bryantgrantfuneral-home.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneral-home.com).

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

## Jayden Anthony May-Gohn

Jayden Anthony May-Gohn, 16, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020.

Born in Macon County, North Carolina, he was the son of Brittany Powell and the late Brad L. May. He attended Grace Baptist Church. He was a sophomore at Franklin High School. He enjoyed listening to music and was a talented athlete who enjoyed basketball most of all.

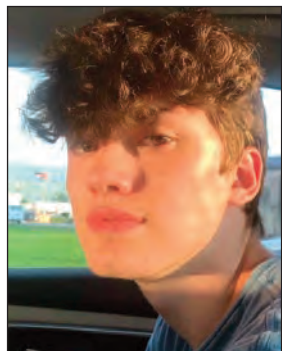
He is survived by his mother, Brittany Powell (Bobby Ensley) of the home; grandparents, LeRoy Gilmer of Michigan, Tina Powell and Mike Brooks of Hickory, N.C., and Lana Ensley; special aunt and uncle, Colleen and Daryl Gohn of Florida; brother, Bobby Ensley II, of the home; sisters, Jordan Gohn and Ashley Gohn, both of Florida; uncles, Brian May and Brandon Powell; as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Oct. 18, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with the Rev Frank Rodriguez officiating. Burial followed in the Zion Hill Cemetery.

The family served as pallbearers.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).



Jayden May-Gohn

## Bennett Jefferson 'Ben' Utley

Bennett Jefferson "Ben" Utley, 84, of Waynesville, N.C., passed away peacefully at his home on Oct. 12, 2020.

He was born on July 20, 1936, to Eugene Monroe "Gene" Utley and Addie "Lal" (Winstead) Utley Jefferson in Goldsboro, N.C. After graduating from Grainger High School (Kinston, N.C.) in 1954, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. In 1956, he returned to study Religion at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.



Bennett Utley

After graduation in 1960, he started a career in education as a teacher and coach in Goldsboro, N.C. In 1962, he met Judith "Judi" (Holloman) Utley, and they wed in 1964. They had two children, and his family meant the world to him. He often said his children were his heart.

He was a leader and passionate about education, politics, and history. In 1968, he received an MA degree in Guidance and Counseling from East Carolina University. He continued his early career in the university setting where he served in admissions at Mt. Olive College and N.C. State University. In the mid-70s, he embarked on a career in politics serving as executive director of the Democratic Party and on the Ed O'Herron campaign for governor of North Carolina. He returned to education in the late 1970s, serving as vice president of development at Wesleyan College. From there, he went on to serve in admissions at Chowan College and at East Carolina University. He then served as high school principal in Ocracoke, N.C., and later returned to admissions at Elon College. Afterward, he spent several years as a consultant presenting workforce preparedness and training seminars at many high schools across N.C. and the southeastern U.S. offering guidance for students navigating post-high school opportunities in education and career.

He eventually settled in the N.C. mountains and opened N.C. Mountain Made in Franklin, N.C., a store promoting crafts made by artisans from across the Western North Carolina region. While in Franklin, he became involved in the local community, participating in both the civic and political arena. He loved the mountains, and he was deeply grateful for the friends he made in the area.

After retiring, he enjoyed spending time with his family, including his two grandchildren, Sam and Ben. He also enjoyed adventure, traveling around the region and overseas. From 2009 to 2019, he traveled to Germany, where he adopted Rothenburg as a second home and explored various regions across the country and Europe. He thoroughly loved the German culture and the German people, and he would spend up to six months out of a year there. He deeply cherished the many close friendships he developed across the country.

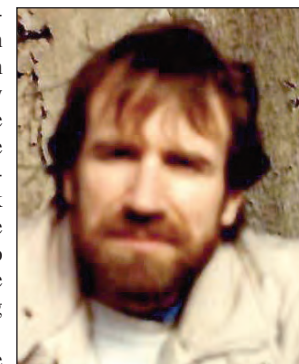
He was preceded in death by his father, Gene; his mother, Lal; and his sister, Lois Jean Utley. He is survived by his children, Elizabeth "Beth" Utley Bateman and Bennett Jefferson "Jeff" Utley III (Laura); and his grandchildren, Samuel Wyatt "Sam" Utley and Benjamin Asher "Ben" Utley.

The family has honored Ben's final wishes for no funeral services. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider a donation to your favorite charity.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Utley family. Online condolences can be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

## Brendon Whitham

Brendon Whitham led a wonderful, adventurous life. Born in Manchester, England, to William and Vivian Mary Charnley Whitham on Sept. 14, 1949, he grew up in Sydney, Australia. He was a born traveler who hitchhiked all through Europe and took an especially memorable bus ride across Afghanistan on the way to Karachi, India. From there he journeyed on, eventually ending up back in Sydney.



Brendon Whitham

During the Vietnam War, he was a member of the Australian Defense Force and was part of the military that supported and offered assistance in firing missions executed by the United States.

He always cheered for the Manchester United professional soccer team. His love for the game led him to become a part-time youth soccer coach during the time he lived in Austin, Texas. Sports, however, were not his only interest. He enjoyed reading poetry and history. A Bob Dylan fan, he played both classical and electric guitar for more than 45 years.

He will always be remembered as being generous and kind. If asked, he would have said his greatest achievement was his family. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

He passed from this life on Oct. 13, 2020. Surviving is his wife, Carole Ann Bonnell Whitham; his son, Gareth William Whitham (Julie) of Dallas, Texas, and stepson Thomas Dahl Petersen (Monica) of Seattle, Wash.; his grandchildren, Sophie, Cole, and Halden Petersen; and his sisters, Vivian Smith and Karen Whitham both of Sydney, Australia. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the Brendon Whitham family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com).

## Mildred M. Tallent Morgan

Mildred M. Tallent Morgan was born to Cecil and Effie Sarah Mashburn Tallent on Aug. 24, 1943. When she was only four years old, she became an overcomer. Stricken with polio and having to learn how to walk and talk all over again, she developed perseverance and a positive attitude that lasted throughout her lifetime.



Mildred Morgan

She was an ardent Atlanta Braves fan and stood by them in good times and bad times. She loved country music and solving puzzles. Her favorite ride had to include a five-speed manual transmission or it wasn't worth her time. She worked at the place she called "Wally World" where her co-workers became her close friends.

The most important part of Mildred's life, however, was her dedication to her family. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother who was gifted with the ability to make each family member feel important and loved. She did her best to provide for her family, and it was always a treat to sit at her table and enjoy the delicious meals she prepared.

She went on to Glory on Oct. 12, 2020. She was predeceased by her parents; her husband, Larry E. Morgan Jr.; and her brother, James Tallent.

Left with many wonderful memories are her children, Denise Morgan-Napier (Tom), Teresa Morgan DeHart (Kelvin), Larry E. Morgan III, (Erin), and James R. Morgan (Stevie); her grandchildren, Tara, Felicia, Andrew, and Dylan; and her great grandchildren, Grayson, Destiny, Christopher, and Ivy.

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

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Mildred's family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com).

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# Joey Logano secures a place in Championship 4 with Kansas win

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

Joey Logano held off Kevin Harvick by a scant .312-seconds in a high speed duel to the checkered flag to win the Hollywood Casino 400 Playoff race at Kansas Speedway on Sunday and earn the first position in the NASCAR Cup Series Championship 4 that will vie for the season title Nov. 8 at Phoenix Raceway.

Logano's No. 22 Team Penske Ford beat Harvick's No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford off pit lane and then successfully held off the 2020 regular season champion for the final 45 thrilling laps – the two former series champions putting on a masterclass in pursuit and defense.

"You gotta want it man," an exuberant Logano said after climbing out of his car. "What an amazing team this Shell Pennzoil team is. Oh my goodness. Pit stops put us in position and got us the lead. The four (Harvick) was fast, he was real fast especially on the straightaways and I thought if I could hold him off the first 15 laps I had a chance and actually dirty air was best for us and as I caught lapped traffic I was able to gap ourselves."

Sunday's win marked Logano's 26th career NASCAR Cup Series win and third victory of the year, but his first since competition resumed under the COVID-19 pandemic conditions. Of note, the 30-year old Connecticut native's last win this season came at the upcoming championship venue, Phoenix Raceway in March.

Alex Bowman, Logano's teammate Brad Keselowski and Kyle Busch rounded out the top five at Kansas with Chase Elliott, Ryan Blaney, William Byron, Martin Truex Jr. and rookie Christopher Bell completing the top 10.

As with Logano and Harvick, Bowman, Keselowski, Elliott and Truex are Playoff drivers. The other two Playoff competitors, Denny Hamlin and Kurt Busch finished 15th and 38th, respectively. Hamlin's No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota had to rally after he hit the wall late in the race. Busch's No. 1 Chip Ganassi Racing Chevrolet blew an engine on lap 198 of the 267-lap race.

With the victory, Logano secured his place in the title race. Harvick is now second in the Playoff outlook with a healthy 41-point edge on fifth place Chase Elliott. Hamlin is third in the standings, 20 points up on Elliott in the first spot outside the Championship 4 cutoff. Keselowski, in the final transfer position, is eight points up on Elliott.

Despite his third-place finish, Bowman is ranked sixth, 27 points behind fourth place Keselowski. Truex, who made a valiant run up through the field to finish ninth after starting last, is now seventh, 31 points below the cutoff. Kurt Busch is in a must-win situation with a 73-point deficit.

"Just a really fast Jimmy John's Ford Mustang, all our guys



Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Shell Pennzoil Ford, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Hollywood Casino 400 at Kansas Speedway on Oct. 18, 2020 in Kansas City, Kan.



but scraped the wall and damaged a tire while racing inside the top five. He went a lap down after making a green flag pit stop but still managed to rally to that 16th-place finish.

Busch's No. 1 Chip Ganassi Racing Chevrolet blew an engine 198 laps into the race, putting the 2004 series champ in essentially a must-win situation at Texas and/or Martinsville, Va. Busch, who scored a Playoff win at his hometown Las Vegas track four races ago, had run among the top five at various times at Kansas.

"It's a shame for everyone at Chip Ganassi Racing," Busch said. "Having an engine failure in the Playoffs is like a huge parachute that slows you up. We'll pack that parachute up, throw it away and go to Texas to win."

"We knew we were going to have win either here or Texas and Martinsville we've got a shot at it too. The odds are stacked against us, but hey, we're in the top eight for a reason and I've got a great crew chief in Matt McCall. We'll bounce back."

The series next race is the Autotrader EchoPark Automotive 500 at Texas Motor Speedway on Sunday (3:30 p.m. ET on NBCSN, PRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

**Briscoe secures Championship 4 spot with Xfinity win at Kansas**

Chase Briscoe led a dominating 159 of 200 laps to win his

did a great job and we moved all over the race track [in pursuit]," said Harvick, who led a race high 85 laps. "We weren't the best behind somebody but I had a lot of options as the team made the car better. Good run for us, wish we could have won, just one short."

"I needed the lapped cars to time out well, but Joey's a good blocker."

Elliott, who led 47 laps, won Stage 1, his ninth stage victory of the season and Hamlin won Stage 2, his 10th stage victory of 2020.

Hamlin led 58 laps and looked strong throughout the event

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record ninth NASCAR Xfinity Series race Saturday night, the Kansas Lottery 300 at Kansas Speedway. And while the 25-year old Hoosier turned in a dominating effort, the race – a crucial chapter in the 2020 Playoff run – was dramatic in multiple ways.

Briscoe's No. 98 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford ultimately edged Daniel Hemric's No. 8 JR Motorsports Chevrolet by 1.199-seconds to earn the win – his nine-trophy single season tally the most ever by an Xfinity Series regular. Just as importantly, the victory gives Briscoe an automatic position in the Championship 4 round to decide the season title on Nov. 7 at Phoenix Raceway.

"Super happy to lock into Phoenix, it'll be a lot less stressful the next two weeks," Briscoe said smiling. "That'll be nice. Can't say thank you enough to everybody at Stewart-Haas Racing, this Ford Performance Racing School Mustang was lights out."

Fellow Playoff driver Ryan Sieg, driving for his family-owned team, finished third, leading the race with 23 laps remaining and making a bold Playoff statement in his first appearance in this round of championship competition.

Justin Haley and Austin Hill rounded out the top five. Josh Williams, Brett Moffitt, Michael Annett, Brandon Jones and Justin Allgaier completed the top 10. It was certainly an overall impressive night for Moffitt, who won the NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series race at the 1.5-mile Kansas track an hour before the Xfinity Series green flag dropped.

While Playoff drivers such as Briscoe, Sieg, Haley, Jones and Allgaier turned in a productive opening race to the Round of 8, it was a much different night for fellow title contenders Ross Chastain (finished 12th), regular season champion Austin Cindric (finished 28th) and Noah Gragson (finished 36th).

Chastain's effort was inspired considering his No. 10 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet was dinged up in several incidents on the night. Cindric and Gragson were involved in a large multi-car accident while the field was racing three and four-wide at the beginning of the race. Cindric's Team Penske team was able to repair his No. 22 Ford Mustang enough to continue to turn laps, albeit well out of contention. Gragson's No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet was too heavily damaged to continue.

The result is a massive turnaround in the Playoff points standings. Cindric and Allgaier came into Saturday night's race ranked second and fourth among the eight championship-eligible drivers, but their misfortune at Kansas cost them significantly.

Cindric is now fourth, with only a slight two-point advantage over Haley. Gragson fell to eighth among the eight drivers and is now 33 points before the cutoff line as the series heads to Texas Motor Speedway for next week's O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 (4:30 p.m. ET, NBCSN, PRN SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

Allgaier moved to second place – just behind Briscoe and has an 11-point edge on fifth place. Jones, the two-time de-

fending Kansas winner, is now ranked third, nine points up on Haley. Chastain (-12), Sieg (-17) and Gragson (-33) round out the Playoff standings heading to the Lone Star state.

"We were in the middle, four-wide and it's tough," Gragson said after being checked in the track's Infield Care Center. "We all get crowded off Turn 2 on the restart. It's a bummer and definitely frustrating. But we were racing for the lead, just a racing deal."

"We've got good speed at Texas in the past so I'm confident about that and we are extra motivated," he added. "That's the good thing about these Xfinity Playoffs. You don't want to have a bad race but if you do, it allows you to rebound. We're going to have our heads held high this week."

One of the most dramatic parts of the race involved a



Chase Briscoe, driver of the #98 Ford Performance Racing School Ford, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Kansas Lottery 300 at Kansas Speedway on Oct. 17, 2020 in Kansas City, Kan.

multi-car accident on a restart with 28 laps remaining. While racing among the top-10 for position RCR driver Anthony Alfredo's No. 21 Chevrolet took a tumble on track and ended up upside down. The race was red-flagged as the NASCAR safety crew immediately came to Alfredo's rescue, carefully righting the car and helping Alfredo out. He walked to the ambulance and spoke to reporters minutes later.

"That was the craziest thing I've ever experienced and definitely shows how fast things happen in racing," Alfredo said. "I'm just glad to be okay and first off, I've got to thank the NASCAR safety crew for being there immediately before I even realized it was [flipped] over."

"It was just racing hard. We had an extremely fast Chevrolet Camaro tonight."

"I'm very thankful for the safety team, our safe race cars and all the safety equipment that goes into keeping drivers safe in the race cars."

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**SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15**



**FREE!** Savings include an American Standard Right Height Toilet (FREE! \$500 Value)

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15**

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
THEME: HALLOWEEN

- ACROSS
- Bobby Fischer's game
  - Reggae precursor
  - Octagonal sign
  - Haile Selassie's disciple
  - Goose egg
  - Water-filled gorge
  - Blue eyes, e.g.
  - Jean of Dadaism
  - Pariah, for medical reasons
  - \*Pumpkin's Halloween precursor
  - \*Famous magician who died on Halloween
  - \*\_\_\_ mortuaire, or body bag in Paris
  - Nordstrom's outlet
  - "\_\_\_ Now or Never"
  - Good or bad and felt by others, sing.
  - Haiku, e.g.
  - Equal to distance divided by time
  - Post-it slip
  - Quickly fry
  - Type of mountain goat
  - \*Graveyard denizen
  - Heart of the matter
  - Tender spots
  - Bailing twine, e.g.
  - Icelandic epic
  - Boss
  - Greek muse's strings
  - Up and down nod
  - "Beware the \_\_\_ of March"
  - One of seven, in eponymous 1995 film
  - \*Dead one
  - \*Jordan Peele's scary 2017 film
  - Dodge
  - Freud's concern
  - Pertaining to hours
  - \*Funereal feeling
  - Swindle
  - Boredom

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 72 |    |    |    |    |    | 73 |    |    |    | 74 |    |    |    |    |



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- GRAVEL
- MULCH



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72. Adult elvers  
73. Human digit  
74. \*What vampire does in a coffin

DOWN

- TV tube in days of yore
- Wagner or Powers in a TV classic
- Isaac's firstborn
- Mixes up
- Geo-spatial positioning system, for short
- Ginger cookie
- Crème de cassis plus wine
- Top dog
- Musher's ride
- Language of Tupi people
- \*Black cat, possibly
- \_\_\_ wig or \_\_\_winkle
- Oopsie daisy moments
- Best part of cake?
- \*Halloween month
- Alters to be more useful
- Type of coffee with alcohol
- Forbidden
- Howard of radio fame
- Physicist Niels \_\_\_
- Preakness, e.g.
- Like cottage cheese
- Piano student's exercise
- \*Leatherface's state
- Biz bigwig
- ESPN award
- To the point
- \*Scary story-related sensation
- Lyric poem
- Choice word
- Upright
- Nary a soul
- Give up
- Skin soothing gel
- Boring
- Fusses
- Departed
- \*RIP pots
- Like a bow string
- Gunk
- Fleur-de-\_\_\_

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# The Classifieds

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**CLEANING PACKING** Organizing & Other Household Services. Great References. Mountain Area Property Services. (828)550-4585.

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

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**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.

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

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

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

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## Garage & Yard Sales

**SON RISE MISISTRIES** 462 Depot Street, Indoor Yard Sale, Friday, Oct. 23, Saturday, Oct. 24. Many New items. portion of proceeds benefit missions and remote Churches in Rwanda.

## Animals

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

## 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 and Thursda. 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.

**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.

## Misc. For Sale

**SILVER EAGLE SALE** Full Sets 35 Coins. (828)226-1501.

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