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The Bagosys, a Gold Star family, raise the American flag at Wednesday's Veterans Day ceremony held at the Special Liberty Project Farm. Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 994 co-sponsored the event with the Special Liberty Project. For more, see page 4. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Board grants hazard pay to county employees

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

November 12, 2020 • 24 Pages

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy," a quote by Martin Luther King Jr., is how Macon County Manager Derek

Roland began his proposal to commissioners Tuesday night asking for consideration to provide county employees with a one-time hazard pay bonus for work-Pandemic.

"We always talk about the

employees in this organization and how they are great at providing essential services to the folks of Macon County," said Roland. "During all this time, it has never been more truthful and has never became more evident to me personally than it has during the past eight months as Macon County, our state, and nation have continued to deal with the Covid-19 Pandemic. As Macon County manager, I can assure you that there is no department in this organization that has been

spared from the challenges and the challenging times that have been brought about by Covid-19."

Roland asked commissioners to consider providing all full-time employees with Macon County with a \$750 bonus and part time employees with \$150 bonus, to show their appreciation for working during the pandemic. The criteria to determine the holiday

"I can assure you that there is no debonuses provided by the county is the same criteria partment ... that has been spared from the used to determine eligibility challenges and the challenging times that for the hazard pay bonus. ing through the Covid-19 have been brought about by Covid-19." sioners that it would cost less than \$400,000 to provide all

– Derik Roland, County Manager

bonus, but the funds to do it would come at no added expense to county tax payers.

"We would be able to provide the bonuses to employees with a net zero impact on the county's budget," said Roland.

Roland explained to commissioners that not only have county employees remained working during the pandemic,

Roland informed commis-

eligible employees with the



Danny Reitmeier announces candidacy for mayor



Assistant DA serves double duty as JAG lawyer



NASCAR Cup Series crowns a new champion

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HAZARD

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they have seen a significant increase in services.

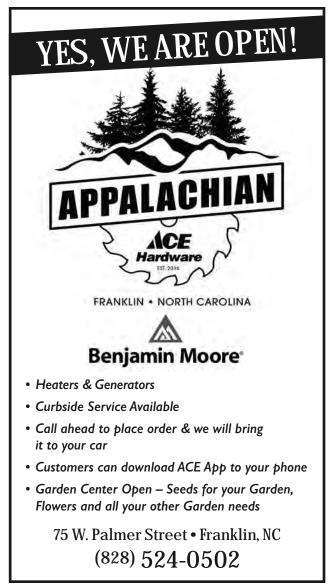
Referencing a sample of county departments, Roland said that the county permitting department collected \$236,000 receipts for recorded deeds and plats in the Register of Deeds office, a record number of building permits being issued through the inspections department, a record number of meals served daily through the senior service center and more homebound meal deliveries than ever. The Board of Elections conducted a record turnout presidential election; the IT department has had to learn new software overnight; finance has had to mitigate unprecedented budget challenges and funding changes on the state and federal level; transit has continued operating and providing transportation to the county's most vulnerable population, all while taking on substantial personal risk to continue operations.

Commissioner Ronnie Beale, who made the motion to grant employees the bonus without hesitation, noted that Macon County is one of the few governments in the state that did not close down and halt operations during the pandemic. Roland agreed and said that some county governments across the state have yet to continue essential services that Macon County never stopped providing.

"I've never been more proud to be a part of this organization and I've never been more proud of the employees in this organization who have chosen to stand in as leaders during the most challenging time that this county, state, or nation has ever faced," said Roland.

Commissioner Paul Higdon cast the sole opposing vote to the hazard pay, stating that when county employees are hired, they are hired to work in good times and in bad and they shouldn't get a bonus for simply doing the jobs they were hired to do.

"We hire you to perform in good times and bad times," said Higdon. "I work with people in the private sector and I'm not here



to represent the Board of Elections, or the Sheriff's Office, or the Board of Health. I appreciate those boards and those committees and respect them fighting to get more money, but the private sector employees don't have the same hazard pay and benefits so county employees shouldn't."

Higdon also argued that private sector employees weren't given paid leave if they had to quarantine when being exposed to Covid-19 like public employees were. However, Federal Cares Act provided funding for employees, both private and public, to quarantine if exposed to COVID19, which came at no cost to private employees. In fact, the Federal Cares Act funding specifically exempted public health employees and first responders from being able to have paid leave to quarantine as they were deemed as essential employees.

Despite saying he appreciated the work county employees perform, he voted against providing them with hazard pay.

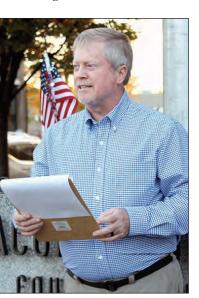
The Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 to award all eligible county employees with the bonus.

Reitmeier announces candidacy for mayor

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

Although the 2020 General Election is yet to be decided, local residents are already turning their focus to the next election. Franklin resident Daniel "Danny" Reitmeier, announced on social media last week that he would be seeking election as mayor of Franklin. Reitmeier also called a press conference on Monday on the courthouse square to make an official announcement.

Reitmeier is a native of Franklin and a United States Air Force veteran, having served during Desert Storm.



Danny Reitmeier

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

He said he decided to run for mayor because he wanted to take an active role in local government.

"My reason for running is simple," said Reitmeier. "I believe you can sit on the sidelines or choose to get involved and try to make a difference."

Reitmeier also said that he hopes to encourage change and find ways to make things happen rather than reasons why they cannot.

"It seems like lately it is always 'no we can't' but I would like to think that yeah, we can and I think we need more of 'yes,' while working under whatever current mandates are in place," Reitmeier said in referencing to recent town decisions made surrounding COVID19. "I believe we need to have more of a common sense approach. If something is broken, let's try to fix it."

Reitmeier, a Republican, would be running for mayor, a seat currently held by Bob Scott. While Scott has not made an official announcement that he plans to seek re-election as the election would not occur until 2021, he has said he intends to do so. Scott was re-elected to a fourth term as mayor in 2019 when he faced off against Town Council member Barbara McRae.

"I think it is time for a change, time for something new," Reitmeier said. "New thoughts, new ideas, different perspectives, new personalities, progressive thinking and most of all, progressive action."

Reitmeier went on to promise that he will be running a positive campaign with no personal attacks or smear tactics.

Officially filing for the 2021 Municipal Election will not commence until next June and the election is in November 2021.

N.C. still in Phase 3; indoor gathering limit reduced to 10

Governor Roy Cooper announced Tuesday that North Carolina's indoor mass gathering limit will be lowered to 10 people in an effort to drive down North Carolina's key COVID-19 metrics. Executive Order 176 will go into effect on Friday, Nov. 13, and will be in place through Friday, Dec. 4.

"This reduction in our indoor gathering limit aims to slow the spread and bring down our numbers," Cooper said. "It also sends a serious signal to families, friends and neighbors across our state. Success in slowing the spread will help our businesses."

The order does not change the reduced capacity limits for certain businesses that have already been laid out.

Cooper and NC DHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen also underscored the need for people to wear a mask any time they gather with people outside of their immediate household.

"Let's keep our friends, family, and loved ones safe this holiday season. If you are going to travel or get together, plan ahead to reduce the risk to your family and friends," said NCDHHS Secretary Cohen. "Remember, it's not how well you know someone when it comes to wearing a mask. If they don't live with you, get behind the mask."

New Phase 3 changes

The Phase 3 measures are extended for another 3 weeks, through December 4, 2020.

• The Mass Gathering Limit for indoor spaces is reduced from 25 to 10 people including indoor in-home gatherings, Indoor in-home social events, all other indoor gatherings not otherwise exempted from the Executive Order

• Gatherings or other events not subject to the 10-person indoor Mass Gathering Limit: Worship, religious, spiritual gatherings, wedding ceremonies, funeral services, and other First Amendment activities, gatherings for work or for receiving governmental services, and gatherings at places that are subject to other capacity limits stated in the Executive Orders. These include fitness and exercise facilities, restaurants, personal care businesses, museums and aquariums, movie theaters, hotels, conference centers, and reception venues.

Current limits that remain the same

• The outdoor Mass Gathering limit remains at 50.

• This Order does not change the reduced capacity limits set out for certain facilities and venues, including:

- Fitness and exercise facilities remain open, subject to stated capacity limits and other requirements.

- Restaurants remain open, subject to stated capacity limits and other requirements.

- Personal care businesses remain open, subject to stated capacity limits and other requirements.

- Museums and aquariums remain open, subject to stated capacity limits and other requirements.

- Movie theaters remain open, subject to stated capacity limits and other requirements.

- Arenas and performing arts centers remain open, subject to stated capacity limits and other requirements.

- Meeting spaces in hotels, conference centers, meeting halls, and receptions venues may host receptions, meetings, and other functions, subject to capacity limits and other restrictions.

• The outdoor areas of amusement parks may reopen, subject to capacity limits and other restrictions. Indoor rides at amusement parks remain closed.

• Bars' outdoor seating areas remain open, subject to reduced capacity limits and other restrictions. Indoor bar areas remain closed.

• Music halls, night clubs, lounges, adult entertainment, venues for live performances, and arenas with spectators where guests are seated remain open, subject to reduced capacity limits.

• Large outdoor facilities with a capacity of more than 10,000 guests remain open at 7% of the facility's total seating capacity, if they meet certain requirements.

• Face coverings are still required in public when it is not possible to maintain social distancing from non-household members.

• Alcohol sales are still required to cease from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE



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The Veteran's Day ceremony at the Special Liberty Project Farm and Retreat Center began with the presentation of colors. The Bagosys, a Gold Star family, raised the American flag followed by the simultaneous raising of the four flags of the U.S. military. Wesley and Charlotte Merritt led the Pledge of Allegiance; Dwayne Cabe sang the National Anthem; and VVA Chaplain Dale Cannon gave the invocation. Special guest speaker Kaleb Weakley, USMC Ret. and Special Liberty Project director spoke on "What is Veteran's Day?" Special music was provided by The White Sisters, who sang "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful" among others. Leigh Tabor Holbrooks with Veteran Services of Macon County and Jessica Merritt, founder and CEO of Special Liberty Project and military spouse, also spoke. Mickey Stockton and Coley Tyler attended the wreath laying ceremony; a 21-gun salute was led by Kaleb Weakley; and Bill Talbott played Taps. Vietnam veteran and county commissioner Gary Shields was moderator.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter













In honor of your service the following merchants are proud to be the founding participants of an annual fund for the continued upkeep of our local veterans memorial.

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Wayah Insurance Curtis TV - Radioshack A-1 Storage Law Offices of Russell Bowling In Memory of R.L. Crawford, USAF **National Communications Inc.** Mountain Septic In Memory of **Rufus Clyde Cox, US Army Rufus Clyde Cox Jr., US Army Rufus Clyde Cox III, US Army**

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation." - George Washington

Assistant DA does double duty as JAG Corp member

John Hindsman Jr. is leaving his civilian job for his military one, transforming from local assistant district attorney into Maj. Hindsman, U.S. Army Reserve judge advocate.

As a member of Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, Hindsman deploys for monthly training to Puerto Rico with his unit on Thursday, Nov. 12. During the unit's battle assembly, soldiers will spend four days honing their military skills.

When at home, Hindsman works in the 43rd Prosecutorial District for District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch. Though his duties can take him into any of the seven counties that make up the district, he typically works in Macon, Clay and Cherokee counties.

The 38-year-old is a Clay County native who lives near Hayesville with his wife, Michelle, who is an interior designer. He is the son of Jane and Steve Hindsman.

"The district attorney has been exceptionally supportive of my double duties, as has my wife," Hindsman said.

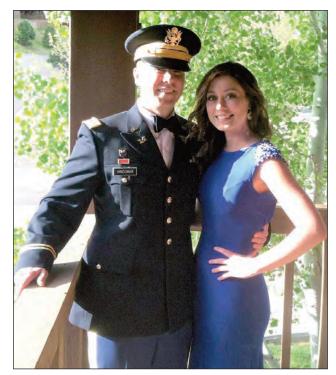
Hindsman frequently works on his military cases at night or on weekends, after his assistant district attorney duties end for the day. Additionally, he participates in the monthly training with his unit, as well as spends up to 30 days each year on active duty.

In 2013, Hindsman was mobilized to serve as trial counsel within 4th Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colo.

"While there, I worked numerous sexual assault cases, a high-profile murder case and an international child sexual abuse case in conjunction with the Colorado Springs Police Department," he said. "No one day was like another."

"You receive a broad legal education and learn how to be part of a team. I do not have a problem expressing my opinion, but within a command structure, you have to say it in a respectful way. And, ultimately, I know it is only my opinion and advice."

District Attorney Welch said Hindsman's experience as a military lawyer benefits the office. He and Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Harris, a Cherokee County native and veteran of the U.S. Army, add depth to her team's legal talents,



Assistant District Attorney and JAG lawyer John Hindsman Jr. with his wife Michelle.

she said, thanks to their military service.

Harris served four years on active duty as an intelligence analyst with Second Stryker Brigade.

Hindsman has a family history of military service. His father is a U.S. Navy veteran who served two tours in Vietnam. His uncle served in the Air Force.

"John cares deeply about giving back, and serving in the military is just one way he does that," Welch said. "I'm proud – our entire staff is proud – of his service. He puts a huge

amount of time and effort into both his assistant district attorney work and his military work."

Recruited by the Army and U.S. Marine Corps while in high school, Hindsman elected instead to attend Appalachian State University in Boone. He soon found himself in ROTC, his first step to becoming a judge advocate.

Hindsman holds two bachelor degrees, one in criminal justice and the other in political science, as well as two minors, one in business management and the other in military leadership. After college, Hindsman joined the Army as a signal corps officer, commissioned as a second lieutenant. He was granted an educational delay to attend law school and selected Campbell University.

He was recommissioned in 2009 as a judge advocate.

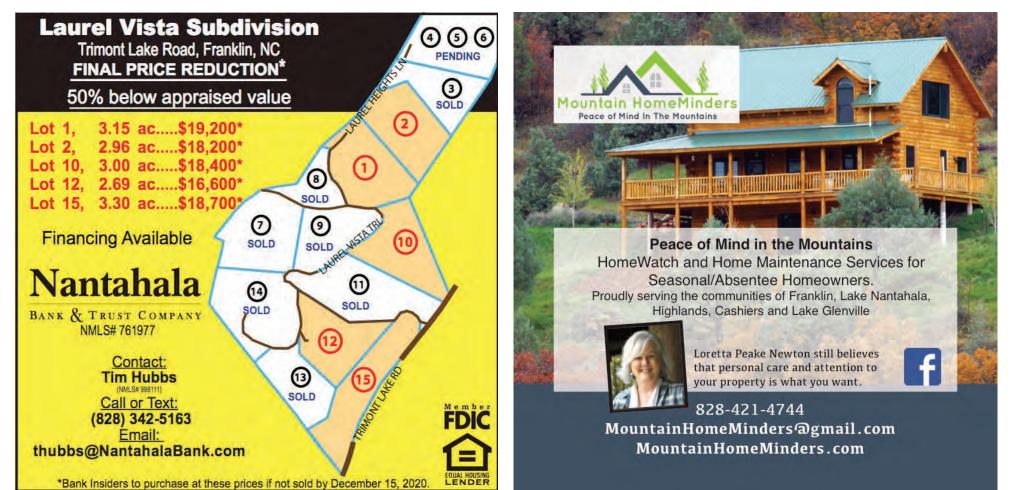
The JAG Corps typically selects only 10 to 20 percent of civilian applicants and junior officer applicants each year, according to information compiled by the Army.

During his years of service, Hindsman has worked in a variety of roles for the military, including helping service members with wills, powers of attorney, notarizations, income tax preparation and landlord/tenant issues.

Currently, Hindsman serves as judge advocate for the 1st Mission Support Command in Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, and as operational law attorney for 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion. The battalion conducts civil affairs missions in Central and South America with support from the 1st Mission Support Command.

In his role as a judge advocate, Hindsman advises his battalion commander on operational law. JAGs are encouraged to have a broad range of experience, and in the span of his military career, Hindsman has worked in civil, maritime and international law and served on the Rule of Law team for developing countries.

"I have a very strong belief in public service, as do my parents," Hindsman said. "When home, as a senior assistant district attorney, I serve the community I live in and the people I grew up with. When away, I'm proud to serve my country."



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WCU launches veterans, military alumni society

Melissa Metcalf Le Roy believes her father, the late Oscar William Metcalf Jr., would have been the first to apply for membership in Western Carolina University's new Veterans and Military Alumni Society. Metcalf, a decorated Vietnam War vet, died Oct. 18, at the age of 72 in Shelbyville, Tenn.

"He dearly loved Western," said Le Roy. "He was proud of his alma mater, the opportunities it gave him. He went to college while working full time and raising a young family. The university supported him, and (his bachelor's degree) really meant something."

With the nation's annual observance of Veterans Day upon us, WCU's Office of Alumni Engagement is launching a new alumni group designed to help former students with service in the U.S. Armed Forces connect with one another and with their alma mater.

The typical member of the alumni served or is serving in the military,

said Elizabeth Qualls, coordinator of affinity programs for WCU Alumni Engagement. Both in-person and virtual events are planned for participants to socialize and find common bonds and support.

"Since the society will be most successful when alumni are interested and participating, we will be taking suggestions from members for events and activities," Qualls said. "The opportunities are endless. Our main goal is to have an alumni society where they can build a community and have events tailored to their interests. WCU will also provide mentoring opportunities and different ways for alumni to engage with the university."

Metcalf had been looking forward to such involvement, Le Roy said. He had been scheduled for an honor flight to Washington, D.C., that was unfortunately canceled because of the pandemic. A special ceremony prior to Veterans Day was held at the Bedford County, Tennessee, courthouse Sunday, Nov. 8.



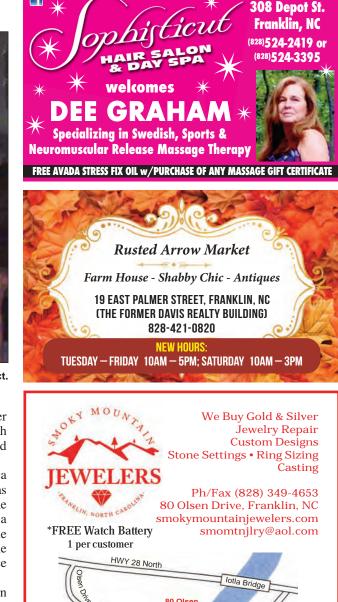
Oscar William Metcalf Jr. served in Vietnam in the U.S. Navy. Metcalf passed away Oct. society would be anyone who has 18, just weeks before the launch of WCU's Veterans and Military Alumni Society.

Even though Metcalf, an Asheville native, died from cancer prior to the ceremony, the event went ahead as planned, with his family being formally recognized. Among the medals and commemorative items presented was a Zippo lighter.

"That was special. Dad had an inscribed USS America Zippo lighter during the war," Le Roy said. "But when I was born, he was determined to quit smoking. So, one day, as he drove to Cullowhee for class and instinctively went to light a cigarette, he instead tossed the lighter and cigarette out the window. He successfully quit smoking, but later wished he done it without losing the lighter. This replica was to replace that keepsake."

A celebration of life for Metcalf's friends and family in Western North Carolina will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 22, at Jackson Park in Hendersonville.

For more information on the WCU Veterans and Military Alumni Society, contact Qualls at 828-227-7335 or equalls@wcu.edu.









Dr. Ingram joins orthopaedics team at Erlanger in Murphy

Dr. Dale Ingram, a board-certified, fellowship-trained general orthopaedic surgeon with the Erlanger Orthopaedic Institute, is now seeing patients at Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital (EWCH) on select weekdays. Dr. Ingram joins EWCH orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Stephen Purvis and nurse practitioner Jesse Mayo at the Erlanger Orthopaedics office located at 75 Medical Park Lane, Suite B, in Murphy.

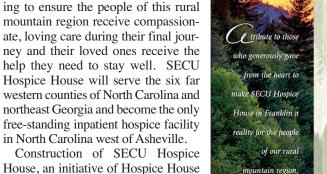
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Dr. Dale Ingram

As a general orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Ingram treats both adult and pediatric patients. Though he treats all orthopaedic injuries and disorders, his areas of expertise include arthroscopy of the knee and shoulder, joint replacement surgery, adult and pediatric fractures, sports medicine and hand and upper extremity disorders.

Dr. Ingram attended the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, Fla., for medical school. He completed his orthopaedic surgery residency training at Erlanger, which is affiliated with the educational institution where he now serves as an assistant clinical professor – the University of Tennessee College of Medicine at Chattanooga. Following residency, he completed a sports medicine fellowship at the prestigious Hughston Clinic in Columbus, Ga. After the establishment of a successful orthopaedic and sports medicine practice in St. Augustine, Fla., Dr. Ingram returned to the Chattanooga area in 2002.





SECU Hospice House of WNC will have on display a Wall of Honor recognizing donors of \$1,000 or more in the finished facility.

will operate this hospice inpatient facility once construction is complete. Hospice House Foundation of WNC's fundraising for construction of SECU Hospice House is also approaching the finish line, with just \$150,000 left to raise.

Hospice House Foundation of WNC will recognize on a Wall of Honor within SECU Hospice House those who gave to make this hospice inpatient facility a reality and whose donations total \$1,000 or more.

About Hospice House Foundation of WNC

The town of Franklin will soon be

home to SECU Hospice House of

WNC. This new facility will provide

hospice inpatient and respite care, help-

Foundation of WNC, is more than 60%

complete and slated to begin serving

hospice patients this coming spring.

Four Seasons The Care You Trust, a

not-for-profit hospice care provider,

HHFWNC is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to raise funds for the construction of a 6-bed hospice inpatient facility for the far western region of North Carolina (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties and the Qualla Boundry) and northeast Georgia. The demographics in this geographic area speak to the need for a hospice inpatient facility – roughly 25% of this area's population is age 65 or older, more than 50,000 individuals, the age group most served by hospice, yet no Hospice Houses exist in this region.

Hospice Houses provide relief from physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering of people who are facing life's final journey and respite care so that caregivers can get the rest they need to stay well. Hospice helps people peacefully navigate the end-oflife passage with grace and dignity.

To learn more about this important regional initiative, an invaluable community resource that will fuel the local economy and touch the lives of many people, contact Michele R. Alderson, President Hospice House Foundation of WNC by email, micheleralderson@gmail.com; phone (828)524-6375 or visit www.hhfwnc.org.



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Funds awarded to prevent colorectal cancer in N.C.

Hospice House in final stretch toward completion

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has received five years of funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to partner with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to increase colorectal cancer screenings, particularly among underserved communities in North Carolina.

"Colorectal cancer is the fourth leading cause of all cancer deaths in North Carolina, but it's treatable and beatable if caught in early stages," said Dr. Susan Kansagra, Section Chief for Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention in the Division of Public Health. "Our aim is to remove barriers to screening and treatment for people in the higher-risk age range (50 to 75), including those who may not have access to health insurance, and move North Carolina further toward the national testing goal of screening 80 percent in every community."

This new funding, which includes nearly \$700,000 in the first year, will assist select FQHCs in improving their colorectal cancer screening systems and educating their communities on the importance of routine screenings for early detection. The funding will also be used to provide appropriate follow-up care for uninsured or underinsured patients who have abnormal test results.

FQHCs are community-based health care centers that provide primary care services in underserved areas, including for individuals without health insurance. FQHCs that have colorectal cancer screening rates of less than 60 percent and have at least two clinic sites will be considered for participation in the program.

Colorectal cancer particularly impacts historically marginalized populations, including racial and ethnic minorities, with African Americans having the highest incidence and mortality rates. In 2019, North Carolina FQHCs served more than 610,000 patients, 33 percent of whom were African American and 30 precent who reported Hispanic/LatinX ethnicity. However, only 46 percent of patients age 50-75 were screened for colorectal cancer.

With the coronavirus pandemic causing people to postpone some routine medical procedures, national colorectal cancer screening rates have declined 86 percent, according to an analysis by Epic Health Research Network. As the COVID-19 virus also disproportionately impacts historically marginalized populations in North Carolina, it is more important than ever to increase preventative screenings among the state's vulnerable communities.

The funding will be administred by the North Carolina Partnerships to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening (NC PICCS), which includes the NCDHHS Cancer Prevention and Control Branch, the American Cancer Society, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Regular cancer screenings are critical and can be done as safely as possible following CDC and NCDHHS guidelines for health care facilities. To learn more about NCDHHS initiatives to ease the burden of cancer in North Carolina, visit publichealth.nc.gov/chronicdiseaseandinjury/cancerpreventionandcontrol.

Vaya Health to holding virtual town hall Nov. 19

Vava Health is seeking input on North Carolina's publicly funded system for behavioral health and intellectual and/or developmental disability (IDD) services during a live virtual town hall on Facebook.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will host the online event Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. Vaya members, families and advocates are invited to attend. Participants will have a chance to share feedback, ask questions and voice any concerns as the state's public system for mental health, substance use disorder and IDD services undergoes major changes.

Vaya and DHHS want to hear about how the system is working or how they can help create a system that improves health outcomes and promotes recovery for North Carolinians. The town hall will focus on the needs of Western North Carolinians and will include remarks and presentations Kody Kinsley, DHHS deputy secretary; Victor Armstrong, director of the N.C. Division for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services; and Brian Ingraham, CEO of Vaya Health.

To join the live event - courtesy of UNC-TV and the Governor's Institute - visit www.facebook.com/GovInst/live. The link will be active 15 minutes before the event begins. Participants will be able to post questions in the live chat, record a video message beforehand or submit questions in advance to Suzanne.Thompson@dhhs.nc.gov.

For more information, including how to upload video questions, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-healthdevelopmental-disabilities-and-substance-abuse/virtualtown-hall-meetings.

About Vaya Health

Based in Asheville, N.C., Vaya Health manages public funds for mental health, substance use disorder and intellectual or developmental disability services in 22 western North Carolina counties: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey. Access to care and crisis assistance are available 24/7 at 1-800-849-6127. Learn more at www.vayahealth.com.

Southwestern's Nurse Aide program gets a boost

Enrollment in Southwestern Community College's Nurse Aide program just got a lot more affordable.

The North Carolina Community College's System has recently awarded grant money to support students enrolled in the Nurse Aide Program at SCC.

The North Carolina Targeted Assistance Program (NCTAP) is a state grant program designed to increase enrollment for high-demand occupations. This year, the grant will be providing scholarships to eligible students in SCC's Nurse Aide program to cover costs for their spring 2021 tuition.

Since its inception in 2002 NCTAP has aimed to increase the percentage of North Carolinians, particularly those in rural populations, pursuing and easily accessing education and

training through NC Community Colleges.

SCC's Nurse Aide program prepares students to become certified nursing assistants (CNAs). CNAs help care for physically or mentally ill, injured or disabled individuals in hospitals, nursing and personal care facilities and mental health settings. Working under the supervision of nurses, CNAs perform much-needed daily tasks such as serving meals, making beds and helping patients eat, dress and bathe.

"Local healthcare providers consistently express the need for qualified Nurse Aides," said Dr. Thom Brooks, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services at SCC. "We are proud to offer this scholarship opportunity to support folks who are interested in preparing for careers as CNAs."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand



SCC's Nurse Aide program prepares students to become certified nursing assistants (CNAs) working underneath nurses in skilled facilities. Pictured are, from left, Nita Harner of Whittier and Mary "Caitlyn" Gibson of Franklin.

for nursing assistants is expected to grow eight percent by 2029, a much faster growth rate than the average for all occupations. Many local employers, such as Harris Medical Associates, Skyland Care Center and Tsali Care Center, are constantly seeking CNAs to join their practices.

With today's number of people who require assistance with their healthcare needs steadily increasing, nurse aides are in even more demand than usual," said Donna Conner, Nurse Aide Instructor and Program Director. "This scholarship will aid in the educational and professional development of a number of students, which in return will benefit many people in our communities for years to come."

For more information on the Nurse Aide program, contact Conner at d_conner@southwesterncc.edu or by calling 828.339.4459.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor - Highlands Mayor

A picture is worth a thousand words, or at least 500. The photo of a overstuffed bear resistant garbage toter that was placed on the road Sunday afternoon illustrates a growing problem in Highlands (photo below). I suspect a VRBO group decided it was acceptable to just pile their garbage up on the roadside. I hope this was not the deed of a permanent resident.



Patrick Taylor

What is unfortunate is that much of the garbage in the photo could have been recycled. The toter was less than a mile away from our recycling trailer at the Highlands Recreation Center. The cardboard boxes, beer cans and wine bottles didn't have to appear in the photograph.

I have researched the issue of overloading toters. Many commercial companies, like Waste Management, have additional fees for overloading their trash toters. If the lid cannot be closed, the additional fees go into place. In lieu of fees, the town has fines for placing loose garbage on the roadside. It is a form of littering.

What is distressing about the image is the message it communicates about how people view this beautiful mountain environment. It suggests a sense of entitlement about just throwing away garbage.

As I have stated many times before, everything consumed on the plateau is trucked in and sold. It costs more money on average to purchase these products, but folks accept those prices as part of being in this beautiful, but



isolated mountain community. The flip side is that it costs more money to remove the trash generated on the plateau. It is intolerable to just throw garbage on the roadside. What is seen in the photograph increases the likelihood of trash being scattered. Caring citizens routinely participate in litter sweeps to keep our community beautiful. We are all responsible

See TAYLOR page 11



A letter to me from a gleeful foe

"We have been trying to get rid of Trump for four years, because he doesn't represent the sheep, or represent us, your Compassionate Helpers. So, this time around:

"1. We scared the sheep about a cold virus, so badly that they became hysterical and would do anything we told them to do, like wearing face masks and not touching each other and (the best) locking themselves down in their homes.

"2. We changed the emphasis on deaths from the cold virus to "cases," since there weren't enough actual deaths to keep the scam going; also, we exaggerated the number of deaths and cases by about 1,000 percent.

"3. Then we told the sheep that they would be killing others if they physically came out to vote, so they should vote by mail. We had our friends at the postal "service" send mail-in ballots to everyone. Then millions of mail-in ballots were harvested from the sheep; sometimes a few bucks were passed along.

"4. At the same time we had our friends in the national media maintain that the Democrat presidential contender was a shoo-in to win, no problem (thus, why bother to vote, non-sheep?); they also did a great job of keeping the virus hysteria at a high level. People were clamoring for an untested vaccine (more \$ billions for our friends).

"5. Then, when it was time to count the votes, our election friends (heroes) did what they had to do to keep Trump from winning (even though he probably did.) We made sure that if a state was too close to call, it was taken care of, by hook or crook, so to speak.

"6. As a bonus, we rid the country of thousands of probably millions of those nasty non-essential small businesses, and made ourselves hundreds of millions of dollars at the same time (thank you, taxpayers and the printing press). We also trimmed the old people population along with other use-less eaters.

"7. We found our how incredibly ease it is to get the sheep to do whatever we want. (Fear works.)

"And, there you have. Democracy in action."

Stephen Crosby – Franklin, N.C.

What should Christians pray for the most?

Your heart may be heavy and sometimes filled with fear these days. That seems to be true for most of us these days. When we fear though, we're not fully trusting God like we should. Believe me, me and my family know. Our daughter Rosea makes a trip with us in her car every three weeks to Newnan, Ga., below Atlanta. We both are cancer patients. I've finished treatments for a while, maybe a long while. My wife Darlene will be getting one every three weeks until next July, God willing. With all this stress in life, how do we cope? The answer is very simple. Prayer is the answer to all our problems We've gone backwards in America for too long. It's time to pray like the old days. We need to pray for each other. We need to pray for the leaders of our country. The Bible tells us, I think, if I'm not mistaken, to pray for "all those in authority."

I've never read and studied the Bible like I should have, I guess. I've listened to some great man and women of God, though. They've read and studied it most of their life. The Holy Spirit lets me know when they are right or wrong. Every Christian has that helper inside.

Yes, we need to pray more these days. Most of all though, we need to pray for a Great Revival in America. Hopefully, I will pray more for this.

Jerry R. Holden – Franklin, N.C.



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"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

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Eighth Covid death recorded in Macon County

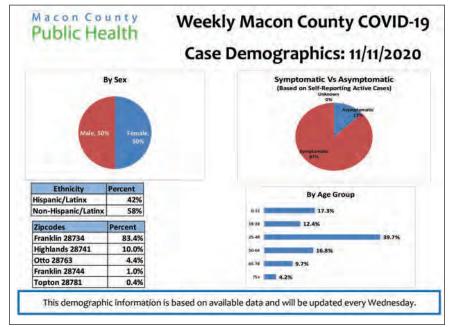
Macon County Public Health reported Monday that a Macon County resident diagnosed with COVID-19 has died. The person was over the age of 65 and had underlying health conditions. To protect the family's privacy, no further information will be released about this patient.

"The family and loved ones of this individual are in our thoughts and prayers. As we head into the holiday season and as more people gather indoors, please continue to practice the 3Ws [Wearing a mask, Washing your hands, and Waiting 6 feet from others and be mindful of those that are higher risk," stated Kathy McGaha, Macon County Health Director.

To date, MCPH report 811 total cases in the county, with 40 active positive, 763 recovered and eight deaths. Eighty-seven tests administered at MCPH are pending results.

On Wedneseday, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services reported the state's highest one day number of COVID-19 cases with 3,119 cases. Other key metrics also increased with hospitalizations at 1,246 and the percent of tests that were positive climbing to 7.9 percent.

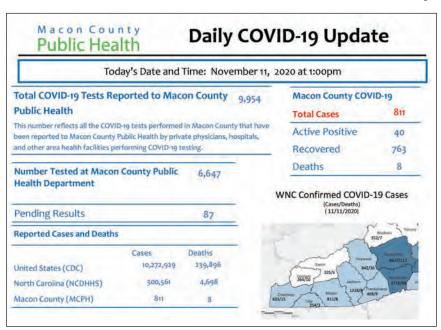
"This is not the milestone we want to be hitting, particularly as we head into holidays where people want to come together. We've had more time to learn about this devastating virus and study after study shows that these three simple actions can help keep our family, friends and neighbors from getting sick," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen,





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M.D.

On Tuesday, Governor Roy Cooper announced that North Carolina's indoor mass gathering limit will be lowered to 10 people in an effort to drive down COVID-19 metrics. Executive Order 176 will go into effect on Friday, Nov. 13, and will be in place through Friday, Dec. 4.

State health officials advise people to avoid travel over Thanksgiving and only gather with people in your household. For those that do plan to travel or get together with others, NCDHHS has issued guidance outlining steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, including getting tested three to four days ahead of time. A test can help someone

know if they have COVID-19 even if they do not yet have symptoms. However, a test can miss some infections. Furthermore, a negative test only gives you information for that point in time. Community testing events and other testing sites are listed online at ncdhhs.gov/testingplace.

People who have been recently diagnosed with COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been around a person with COVID-19, should not host or participate in any in-person gatherings until they complete their isolation or quarantine period.

For a full list of guidance about traveling and gathering during the holidays, along with a chart outlining low, medium and high-risk activities, see the NCDHHS Interim Guidance for Thanksgiving Holiday.

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TAYLOR

From previous page

11

for disposing the trash we generate in a conscientious and responsible manner.

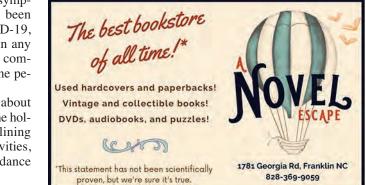
There are related issues that the town and the county need to address. One priority is to locate a site and build a convenience center in, or near, Highlands where folks can recycle and deposit excessive amounts of waste. The project will be challenging but has to be addressed.

Second, the community needs to examine policies on short term rentals, i.e., VRBOs [Vacation Rental By Owner]. I, along with some commissioners, are getting growing feedback about visitors coming to town to party and have a good time and then leaving garbage messes behind for town sanitation workers to haul off. I suspect this short term rental issue will be a major item in the Highlands Community Plan which will be coming out toward the end of 2021. It will be interesting to see how residents feel about the situation.

In the meantime, we can all continue to be good, environmental stewards of the plateau. Town staff and law enforcement are reviewing ordinances and polices to see if improvements can be made.

Now that I am finished writing this article, I going out to pickup bags of trash on US 64 that wonderful volunteers collected this past weekend.







John P. Hamlin, Agent 109 W. Palmer Street Franklin, NC 28734 Bus: 828-369-9696 Fax: 828-369-0099 john@johnhamlininsurance.com



Holiday Angels accepting applications for sponsors, eligible families in need

ing and what better way to invest in the wrapped gifts fo MPP administrative offices local community than by sponsoring a familv or an individual in need? Holidav Angels is a venture of Macon Program for Progress that helps facilitate the giving and support of community partners to provide for families during the Christmas holidays. Last year, the Holiday Angels project provided services to more than 300 eligible clients.

Macon Program for Progress will take applications for families in need and for sponsors during the month of November. Applicants must be low-income adults 65 and older, special needs adults on disability, or low income families with full custody of children birth through 12 years of age. Eligibility is based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines and applicants must provide valid proof of all household income. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Holiday Angels is self-supporting and operates with donations and sponsorships. All sponsors should receive their clients' information regarding their needs by the first week of December. Sponsors can then shop, wrap, and deliver gifts, arrange to take their mppnhc.org.

Christmas is known as the season of giv- sponsored children shopping or bring their no later than Tuesday, Dec. 15, so the families can be contacted.

> Holiday Angels accepts tax deductible donations. Checks should be made payable to MPP Holiday Angels. Monetary donations are expended for the Holiday Angels project and utilized toward food gift cards, gifts, and toys for children and families who are not yet matched with a sponsor.

Those who would like to become a sponsor or make a donation may call (828)524-4471, or email Felicia at froberts@mppnhc.org.

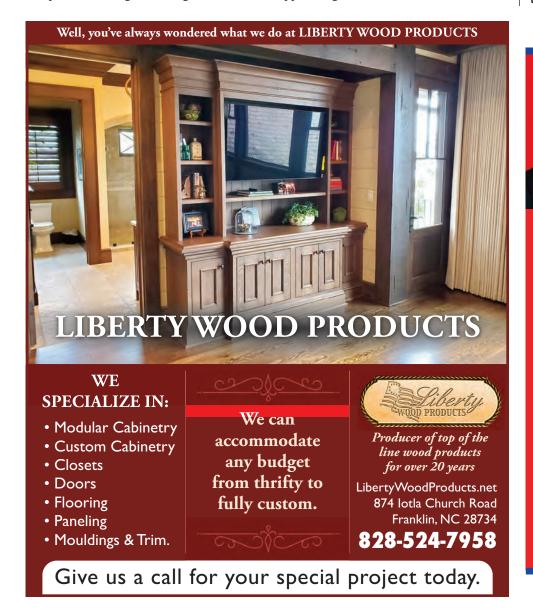
Applications are available at MPP main offices, located at 82 East Orchard View Lane, behind Lowe's of Franklin. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or visit MPP's Facebook page. All client applications and sponsor applications must be submitted by Monday, Dec. 1, at 5 p.m.

The mission of Macon Program for Progress is to increase self-reliance and improve the quality of life for individuals and families. For more about MPP, visit



Jeep club gives to AARC

Smoky Mountain Jeeps, along with Lil Sting Rays, recently donated funds and supplies to Appalachian Animal Rescue. Smoky Mountain Jeeps is a Franklin-based jeep club and meets the first Saturday of the month at Curahee Brewing Co. The club is a family friendly group and all jeep owners are invited to join. Members are able to view upcoming scheduled events and rides in the local area and abroad. The local club also participates in other jeep clubs in the WNC area with their events and rides as well. The goal of the club is to provide a fun, safe and exciting outdoor activity for jeepers and their families to attend. Members strive to give back to the community by creating events that help generate funds so they're able to make donations to worthy causes in the area. like the AARC, Pictured is Amber Hornbarger, treasurer of the club, Contact them through Facebook SmokyMountainJeeps or by email at smjclub2020@gmail.com.





Thank you volunteers. Without you this wouldn't have happened. I am so very honored for the opportunity to serve each citizen as your N.C. House District 120 representative. I will serve you with integrity and enthusiasm.

Thank you,

Karl Gillespie

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Karl Gillespie

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

Long before ransomware attacks on school districts and government offices were commonplace, Southwestern Community College launched the nation's first associate degree program in Cyber Crime Technology.

Two decades later, SCC remains at the forefront of this vital field in information technology.

Cyberdegrees.org recently ranked Southwestern at No. 2 in its listing of the "Best Cybersecurity Schools for 2020." SCC was one of only two North Carolina colleges to make the Top 25 (Stanly Community College was 24th).

"When (former Criminal Justice program coordinator) Mike Burnette and I started this program in 2000, we knew it would be relevant in the decades to come," said Kirk Stephens, program co-

ordinator. "But even I am surprised at how much the field has grown in 20 years. Cybersecurity is one of the fastestgrowing segements of the Information Technology sector. Every day, we see new stories about the serious problems resulting from poor information security. No government, no industry, no business sector is immune from cybersecurity threats."

Offered entirely online, SCC's Cyber Crime Technology program is a two-year curriculum. Graduates work in sectors like financial services, small businesses, healthcare and



Kirk Stephens oversees the Cyber Crime Technology program at Southwestern Community College.

education.

Students in Stephens' program get hands-on experience with security software, tools and operating systems.

"Cyber criminals have the ability to paralyze a government agency or public corporation," said Dr. Don Tomas, President of Southwestern Community College. "The threats to cybersecurity have escalated dramatically, especially with the rapid increase in teleworking brought on by COVID-19. The work that Kirk has done in preparing his students to be successful in the field takes on even more importance, and I'm very proud of this recognition for Kirk and our Cyber Crime Technology program." The Cyber Crime Technology pro-

gram's honor is the latest in a series of high national rankings for Southwestern

Community College, which was ranked No. 1 overall in the nation by BestColleges.com in August. It was the fourth time in the last 13 years that SCC has been included among the Top 10 colleges in the U.S. Washington Monthly placed Southwestern at No. 4 (in 2007) and No. 9 (in 2010), and WalletHub had SCC at No. 7 in 2015.

For more information about Cyber Crime Techology and the other programs Southwestern offers, visit www.SouthwesternCC.edu, call 828.339.4000 or visit your nearest SCC location.

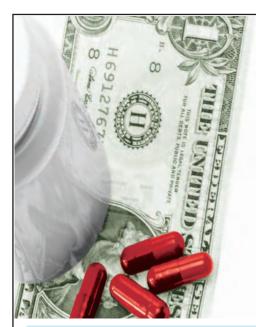


13



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The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests October 30 - November 5. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Macon County Sheriff's Department

October 30

Anthony Christopher Beaver, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

November 2

Adam Charles Klatt, was charged with felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

November 3

Todd Jay Parrish, was issued a warrant for indictment. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Esteban Vasallo Corteguera, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a place for a controlled substances. William R. Younce made the arrest.

Clarence Eugene Hanson, was issued an indictment for obstruction of justice. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Jessie Lee Cody Atcheson, was issued a parole warrant. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Justin Michael Connell, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

November 4

Amberly Lynn Crawford, was charged with harboring a fugitive, failure to appear. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

November 5

Valerie Sue Bierlein, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, probation violation. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

Wylene Elizabeth Wall, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, probation violation. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

November 7

Derek Brandon Conley, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Dylan Kyle Justice, was charged with injury to personal property. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

November 8

Christopher Ryan Craig, was charged with felony assault inflicting serious bodily injury, simple assault. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

November 9

Joseph Daniel Toneges, was charged with injury to personal property. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

October 29

Matthew Devon Perkins, 27, was charged with forgery of instrument, misdemeanor larceny, possession of drug para-

phernalia, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, fugitive probation violation. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

October 30

Ryan Emerson Spears, 30, was charged with attempted first degree murder, first degree kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, assault with a deadly weapon with a minor present, possession of a firearm by felon, assault with a deadly weapon, simple assault. Officer Dula made the arrest.

October 31

Richard Owenby, 49, was charged with possession of heroin. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set. Officer T. Chastain made the arrest.

November 7

Emmett Kameron Maurice Gentry, 21, was held with secured bond of \$1,000. Officer Cabe made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

October 28

Randall Eugene Fowler, 54, of Hive Rd., Glenville, was charged with maintaining a controlled substance in a vehicle or dwelling place, possession of a stolen firearm, receive stolen goods or property, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent ot manufacture sell and deliver controlled substance II, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000.

Jeanna Michelle Gates, 36, of Luker Branch, Tuckasegee, was charged with resisting a public officer. No bond was set.

October 29

Amanda Rae Santiago, 38, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass, misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$500.

Ericka Leigh Arkansas, 42, of Hallmark Lane, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear on a misdemeanor. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Jacob Nathaniel Bigwitch, 23, of Rocky Way, Cherokee, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of stolen goods/property, misdemeanor larceny, misdemeanor probation violation, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$6,500 was set.

MacKenzie Lee Mathis, 28, of Redwing Vista, Whittier, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Tarrell Lawshawn Williams, 39, of Greenville Hwy, Clemson, S.C., was charged with assault on a female, larceny of firearm. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

October 30

Amber June Franks, 21, of Cabe Rd., was charged with second degree trespass, protective order violation. No bond was set.

October 31

Russel David Camp, 42, of Switchback Ridge, Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Emma Marie Evitt-Harris, 26, of Walter Ashe Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, retail theft of more than \$1,500, conspiracy to commit felony larceny. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set.

Baron Houston Sutton, 34, of Levi Mathis Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin, attempt to obtain property by false pretense, breaking or entering, felony probation violation out of county, operate a vehicle with no insurance, cancel/revoked suspended certificate/tag, possession of a controlled substance on jail premises, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

November 1

Timothy David Kible, 36, Dumplin Flats, was charged with communicating threats, domestic violence protective order violation, domestic criminal trespass, probation violation. No bond was set.

Brandon Marsel Barker, 18, of Timber Leaf Dr., was charged with going armed to the terror of the public. No bond was set.

November 2

Timothy David Kibel, 36, of Dumplin Flats, was charged with domestic violence order violation. No bond was set.

Jackie Kevin Shelton, 47, of Calendar Court, was issued an order for arrest for felony probation violation, breaking and entering. A secured bond was set.

Dylan Keith Wahnetah, 34, of Tom McCoy Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of marijuana, possession of heroin, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Justice Lee Littlejohn, 26, of Jessie Littlejohn Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Tiffany Nicole Cantrell, 35, of Polka Trail, Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Ricky Carl Brooks, 57, of Grindstone Knob Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

November 3

Charles Robert Bumgarner, 31, of Too How Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for violation of court order, simple assault, injury to personal property, assault on a female. A secured bond of \$4,500 was set.

Jess Harvey Cagle, 48, of Winesap Dr., was charged with breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Megan Elizabeth Oldham, 22, of Cartage Hill Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault. An unsecured bond was set.

Gracie Jalene Green, 39, of Webster Rd., was charged with breaking and entering. No bond was set.

Chris Gordon Brooks, 57, of Garnett Rd., was charged with breaking and entering. No bond was set.

November 4

Tracy Brandon Hall, 46, of Ferguson Rd., was charged with second degree trespass, obtain property false pretense, possession of stolen motor vehicle, larceny of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Sandra Taylor Rhinehart, 45, of River Park Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen goods/property, misdemeanor larceny, communicating threats. A secured bond of \$3,400 was set.

Gregory Mark Thompson, 61, of Old Grasshopper Rd., Dillsboro, was charged with failure to appear for making false report to police station, animal control ordinance violation, second degree trespass. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

November 5

Shena Dale Standingdeer, 38, of Qualla Town Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny, habitual larceny. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Jasmine Danielle Arch, 29, of Rose Lane, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for willful destruction by tenant. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

William Garret Pannell, 20, of Cornflower Lane, was charged with failure to appear for possession of heroin, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Kimberly Ann Santy, 39. of Calendar Court, was issued a warrant for arrest for first degree trespass enter and remain. An unsecured bond of \$250 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.

Franklin's Mobile Museum will meet on the first and third Saturdays from 1 to 2 p.m., at the Wesley Park pavilion, at 573 NE Main St. Stop by to see the latest science museum exhibit. When there are enough exhibits they will travel around the region to area schools. Masks are required. For more information, go to franklinsmobilemuseum.com.

Macon County Convenience Centers will close at 5:30 p.m. through the winter. Highlands Transfer Station will close every other Saturday begining Saturday, Nov. 14. Call the Highlands Transfer Station for specific Saturday closings, at (828)526-2073.

Indoor Yoga Class at the Macon County Public Library will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Free to the public. Wear a mask and bring a yoga mat. Class size is limited. For more information visit https://beyondbendingyoga.punchpass.com/ classes/6871270

Jackson County Branch of the NC NAACP Online Meeting will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 10 a.m. On the agenda is the biannual branch elections and plans for MLK Day events. All dues paying members are encouraged to vote. Email jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online. All are welcome.

Macon County Solid Waste Management Department, Landfill and all Convenience Centers will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26, for Thanksgiving.

First Presbyterian Church Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This South Carolina-based non-profit is the primary supplier of blood products for the hospitals of Western North Carolina. Its donation center bus will be parked in front of the church's sanctuary at 26 Church Street. Each donor will receive a \$10 Visa gift card. Potential donors may visit the church's website (www.fpcwnc.org) to scan the QR Code to make an appointment and search for the Sponsor Code 24 HFD. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a Needmore Adventure on Sunday, Nov. 15, crossing a swinging bridge to walk along the Little Tennessee River and back, an easy 3 miles, with very little elevation change. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 p.m., drive 50 miles round trip. Call Leader Jean Hunnicutt, 524-5234, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Franklin First Presbyterian Church Community Thanksgiving Meal will be held on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, 12 noon to 2 p.m. Traditional dinners of turkey, fixings and dessert will be offered as takeout meals in a curbside pickup from volunteers stationed in front of the FPC Chapel on 26 Church St. Dine-in service will not be provided. Dinners will not include beverages or utensils and patrons do not need to call the church to reserve meals. Cars should enter Church Street from lotla Street and exit onto Harrison Avenue. The public is asked to stagger arrival times during the two-hour meal service to minimize traffic and wait times.

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 guestions.

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 smpcc.org

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

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

Uptown Gallery on Main Street is open Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Alzheimer's Association Western Carolina Chapter Telephone Support Group for Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia is designed to provide caregivers opportunities for sharing, education, and support through a telephone conference. Support group participants and a support group facilitator connect each month for onehour 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.

THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE 15

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

Grace Baptist Church Harvest-time Revival Nov. 15-20. On Sunday, Nov. 15, 10:30 a.m., Homecoming with speaker Carl Carpenter, special music by Blood Bought Quartet. On Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m., the speaker will be Pastor Chris Rumfelt with special music by Mountain Faith. On Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m., Pastor Chris Rumfelt is the speaker with special music by Face of Grace. On Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m., speaker will be Pastor Chris Rumfelt, special music by Teen Challenge. On Thursday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m., speaker wil be Pastor Ralph Sexton. On Friday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., speaker will be Pastor Ralph Sexton, with special music by The White Sisters. The church is located at 139 Setser Branch Rd.

First Alliance Church's Sunday services begin at 9:30 a.m., with Sunday School for all ages. The main worship service begins at 10:30 a.m., in the sanctuary. Pastor Scott Eichelberger will deliver the message from Revelation 22. Soloist Ina Enloe will sing. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane, Franklin (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the office (828)369-7977 www.franklincma.com

Spiritual Light Center will host Forrest Rivers Nov. 15, 11 a.m. Rivers will speak about "COVID-19 and Humanity's Spiritual Awakening." The center is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr.

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

Franklin First United Methodist Church meets on Sunday, at 8:30 a.m. for in-person worship or online on Facebook Live at Franklin First United Methodist Church. Note that COVID-19 health protocols will be followed 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

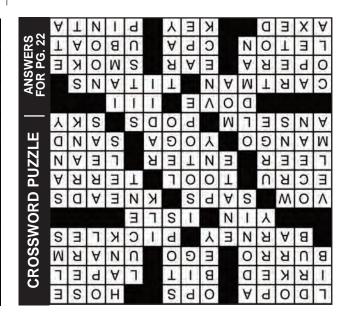
Lifespring Community Church is holding Sunday services beginning at 10 a.m. with social distancing observed. Brian Lamb in the pastor. The church is located at the intersection of Cheek Road and Addington Bridge Road.

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.



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Curbside drop-off sites to open for Operation Christmas Child

More than 4,000 locations will now offer a curbside drop-off option for the Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child. Volunteers are preparing to collect shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 16-23.

Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts—filled with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys—to children worldwide for more than two decades. This is a project that everyone can still be a part of, even with COVID-19 restrictions.

There's still time for individuals, families, and groups to transform empty shoeboxes into fun gifts. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need. To find a step-by-step guide on How to Pack a Shoebox, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ. "In the midst of the pandemic, the needs are greater than ever before," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "Children around the world need to know that God loves them and there is hope. A simple shoebox gift opens the door to share about the true hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ."

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation as they make plans to drop off their shoebox gifts at samaritanspurse.org/occ/drop-off-locations. The online lookup tool is searchable by City or Zip code. Signs at each location will identify the curbside drop off. Macon County has two Drop-Off Locations and their scheduled hours are listed.

Holly Springs Baptist Church 366 Holly Springs Church Rd., Franklin (828) 524-5564 Coordinator: June Trull





Children all over the world are served through Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Mon, Nov. 16: 3 - 8 p.m. Tue, Nov. 17: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 4-6 p.m. Wed, Nov. 18: 3 - 8 p.m. Thu, Nov. 19: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 4-6 p.m. Fri, Nov. 20: 3 - 8 p.m. Sat, Nov. 21: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sun, Nov. 22: 1 - 6 p.m. Mon, Nov. 23: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

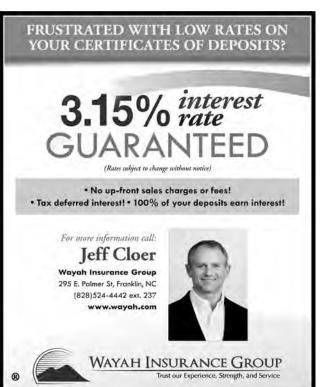
First Baptist Church - Highlands 220 Main Street, Highlands (828) 508-7466 or (828) 508-2695 Coordinators: Sergio Barranco, Angelica Garcia Mon, Nov. 16: 2 - 6 p.m. Tue, Nov. 17: 12: - 5 p.m. Wed, Nov. 18: 3 - 7 p.m. Thu, Nov. 19: 1 - 5 p.m.

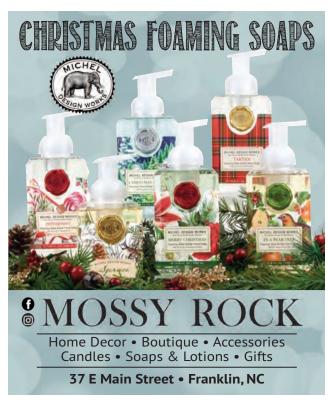
Fri, Nov. 20: 1 - 5 p.m.

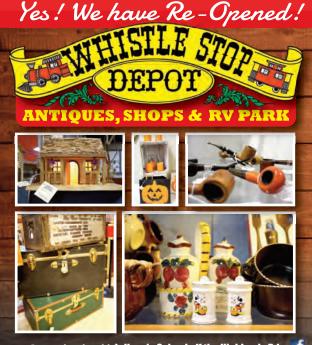
Sat, Nov. 21: 12 - 5 p.m. Sun, Nov. 22: 1 - 5 p.m. Mon, Nov. 23: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Those interested in more inform

Those interested in more information on how Operation Christmas Child is making adjustments during its National Collection Week can visit the organization's Important COVID-19 Updates webpage for the latest information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 178 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories.







Located in the old **Gullasaja School off the Highlands Rd**. 145 145 River Rd., Franklin, NC • (828) 349-1600 whistlestopantiquesnc.com

Winter greens topic of online HBS program

Look around at the greenery in this area. What evergreen plants are commonly seen in the winter? How do they survive the harsh conditions? Paige Engelbrektsson, Highlands Biological Foundation's Education Specialist, will answer these questions and more with an introductory talk and virtual exploration of the Botanical Garden Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 1 to 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this free online program, "Nature 101: Winter Greens Virtual Program." Watch the premiere on the Highlands Biological Station's Facebook page (@highlandsbiologicalstation) on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 1 p.m., or find it afterward on the "Highlands Biological" YouTube channel. For more information, contact Paige at (828) 526-2623.

Highlands Botanical Garden is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of WCU.



Live music at library with The Vagabonds Monday, Nov. 16

The Macon County Public Library is hosting The Vagabonds Monday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m.

The group will be playing old country, old pop and some gospel. Wild Bill Jackson plays the harmonica and sings and Jim Hite plays guitar flat pick, finger pick, rhythm, and vocals. June

Kirkland plays the guitar and sings.

Call the library at (828)524-3600 to reserve a seat; space is limited and masks covering nose and mouth are required to be worn at all times. The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin.

Yoga at the Library

The library will host a free indoor yoga class Wednesday, Nov. 18, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. The classes are perfect for newer yogi's and those looking to safely gather for an indoor practice. Participants are asked to wear a mask and bring ayoga mat. Class size is limited; register at: https://beyondbendingyoga.punchpass.com/classes/6871270





Dana Bowen Chandler Jr.

Dana Bowen Chandler Jr., 73, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020.

He was born June 5, 1947, in Charleston, W.Va., to the late Dana Bowen Chandler Sr. and Helen Hill Chandler. He was an insurance salesman and he loved to exercise. He was a bail bondsman in Florida and a U.S. Army veteran.

He is survived by his wife, Tina Dale Chandler; a daughter, Jamie Devose; sons, Jason Chandler and Robert B. Chandler; sister, Susan Worth; and brother, James Chandler.

No services are planned at this time. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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

Charles Lee Cassidy

It is with great sadness that the family of Charles Lee Cassidy announces his passing on Nov. 5, 2020. Known as Chuck by friends and family, he was a husband, dad, and grandad who enjoyed his family and encouraged large family gatherings for every occasion.

Born on Dec. 19, 1939, a country boy raised on a six-acre farm near Indianapolis, he knew the meaning of hard work. He was a tinkerer who valued a dollar. Many times his family heard, "I'm not cheap, I'm practical." Despite that practicality, he loved Corvettes

and boats and owned several during his lifetime. He was down to earth, outgoing, caring, and a friend to those he met. He led a life of servitude. He held several positions including being a deputy in Indiana as a helicopter pilot and in Florida as airport security. He was active in the Army Reserve and, as a hobby, a private pilot that especially enjoyed piloting the Stearman biplane.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Merle Lee Cassidy and Gladys Zoe Reed Cassidy, and a brother, Wayne Cassidy.

Left with wonderful memories is his wife, Maureen Patricia Mahoney Cassidy, who was the love of his life. Their shared values and mutual love never stopped giving Maureen butterflies when she looked into his blue eyes. He is also survived by his children, Steven Cassidy (Denise) of Beech Grove, Ind., and Melanie Allen (Robert) of Indianapolis, Ind.; two grandchildren, Katie Allen and Kyle Allen; and his sister, Maryanne Greeley, also of Indianapolis.

A funeral mass and celebration of life will be held Friday Nov. 13, at 11 a.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Franklin. Social distancing will be observed and face masks will be required. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St.

Jude's Research Hospital or Parkinson's Research Foundation. Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.

Dr. James Ernest Kitzner

Dr. James Ernest Kitzner, 69, passed away on Friday, Nov. 6, 2020, at the age of 69 with nary a gray hair on his head. He was so fortunate to enjoy 22 years of retirement and a wonderful 17 years here in Franklin with his wife Carol and many dear friends. He succumbed to the horrible ravages of Lewy Body Dementia and COVID pneumonia after an eight-year decline caused by Parkinson's Disease. It has been a long goodbye. We will all miss his wit and brilliant mind and his kind and loving heart.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Charles Lee Cassidy

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020.

being a Granny.

Roma Nell Mashburn

She is survived by her son, Alvin Mashburn and wife Vickie, of Franklin; siblings, Margie Gibson, Ruth Hooper and Olene Sanders, all of Franklin and Willa Faye Pendergrass of Nantahala; three grandchildren, Brenda Price (Bill), Tiffany McConnell (Matthew) f Franklin and Charles Mashburn (Kristy) of Clyde, N.C.; eight great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 9, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Travis Buchanan and Rev. Mike Chastain officiating. Burial will followed in the Sugarfork Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Charles Mashburn, Bradley Collins, Ryan Collins, Kyle Collins, Wesley Mashburn and Matthew McConnell. Honorary Pallbearers were Jenna Holden, Kadee Collins, Eli Collins and Levi McConnell.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Mashburn Branch Baptist Church, c/o Tony Angel, 2119 Lakeside Dr., Ste D, Franklin, NC 28734

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

John Lyndon Wiggins

John Lyndon Wiggins, 88, of Salem, Va., went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020.

He was born in Swain County, North Carolina, on June 5, 1932. to the late Conely and Mayme Wiggins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved brothers, Wayne and Clyde. He was the oldest of four siblings. He served his country with honor in the U.S. Army. He moved from North Carolina to Salem in 1964 and his career was spent working at General Electric,

John Lyndon Wiggins

retiring in July 1991. He served his community as a lifetime member in the Fort Lewis Volunteer Fire Department and was also active in his church, CommUNITY Church in Salem, Va. He was a very easygoing, amiable person who loved to tell stories about his family, friends and the time he spent growing up in North Carolina. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Mary Jo Waldroop Wiggins, of Salem; sister, Hattie Mae Potts, of Franklin; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Ann (Larry) Norris; nephews, Ricky (Cristy) Potts and Michael Wiggins; and a host of other cousins and devoted friends.

A service celebrating his life and honoring this gentle, kind person was held at Macon Funeral Home Sunday, Nov. 8, with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. Burial followed in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jimmy Wiggins, J.D. Sprouse, James Sprouse, Larry Norris, Furman Shook and Jackie Cook.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimers Association at www.alz.org or 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of the Virginia Veterans Center in Salem, Va.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Roma Nell Mashburn

Roma Nell Mashburn, 85, of Franklin, N.C., passed away

Born in Robbinsville, N.C., to the late Fred and Hester Gibson Hooper. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Cecil Lyman Mashburn; her siblings, Irene Carter, Fred Hooper Jr., Lawdy Hooper and Lloyd Hooper. She was a charter member of Mashburn Branch Baptist Church. She enjoyed quilting, sewing, cooking and spending time with family; Her favorite was

Sgt. John Wesley Murphy, 93, passed away Nov. 4, 2020. Born in Graham County, he was the son of the late Merritt and Belle Pilkington Murphy.

He proudly served in the U.S. Army 88th Blue Devil Division during1945-1947 in World War II. He was a member of Black Mountain Baptist Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and just being outside working.

He is survived by his loving wife of 73 years, Vada Hodgins Murphy of Franklin; and daughters Peggy Murphy Ashe and

Sgt. John Wesley Murphy

Cory of Whittier, Terry Murphy Stamey and Dennis of Highlands, Judy Murphy Silverstein and David of Franklin, and Sylva Murphy Sprinkle and Lamar also of Franklin; five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren all of Franklin. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Novella Murphy Sawyer, James "Arthur" Murphy, Odell Murphy, Burdell Murphy Brackett, Annie Mae Murphy Bradley, Frances Murphy Sanders, Paul Murphy, and Harold Murphy; and dearest friends Carl Prince, Theodore Chambers, and John McClure.

He was survived by siblings, Vonore Murphy Carpenter, Phil Murphy, Glen Murphy, and Dorothy Jean Murphy Tilley; many nieces and nephews, a special brother-in-law, Jack Hodges; and several hunting and fishing buddies.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Nov. 7, in the Chapel of Bryant Grant Funeral Home. Burial followed at Black Mountain Baptist Church, Franklin. Pallbearers were Lee Talley, William Shannon, Johnny Murphy, Lamon Brown, Rodney Cook and Jake Stamey

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the North Carolina State Veterans Home located 62 Lake Eden Road, Black Mountain, NC. 28711.

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

Robert 'Doc' Roger McMahan

Robert "Doc" Roger McMahan, 85, of Franklin, N.C., died Friday, Nov. 6, 2020.

A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late Kelsie and Loreena Greene McMahan. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Carl, Clarence and Ted McMahan; and his sisters, Opal Sanders Brown, Marcella Wykle and Ruth Sult.

He retired from General Motors and was a member at Grace Baptist Church. He loved working at the flea market for many years.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Linda Conger McMahan; children, Roger Dale McMahan (Sandy), David McMahan (Cindy), Donna Shears (Randy), James "Dink" McMahan (Jan Rameriz), Jeff McMahan, Brenda Munger (Kelly) all of Franklin, and Carolyn Morgan (Gene Barry) of Tawas City, Mich.; sister, Tammy Lee of Clyde, N.C.; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Robert Roger McMahan

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 9, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Wesley Price and Rev. Frank Rodriguez officiated. Burial was in the Watauga Baptist Church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Ronnie Collins, Blake McMahan, Michael McMahan, DJ McMahan, Austin McMahan and Josh McMahan. Honorary pallbearers were Justin McMahan and Bradley Collins.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Watauga Baptist Church cemetery fund.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Sgt. John Wesley Murphy









Robert Mitchell Shepherd

Robert Mitchell Shepherd, 81, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Nov. 2, 2020.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Perry Soloman Shepherd and Lola Mae Messer Shepherd. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a sister, Minnie Talley, and a brother, John Shepherd.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army, stationed in the Panama Canal Zone during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Upon his discharge from the service, he was awarded a "Letter of Commenda-



Robert M. Shepherd

tion," commending him for his outstanding performance of duty, for accomplishing any assigned task with a maximum degree of efficiency and always being the first to volunteer for a task. His supervisors had nothing but praise for his performance and stated it was a pleasure to have an individual of that caliber serving under him and would welcome the opportunity again. He was a supervisor with General Motors before his retirement. He was a member of Liberty Baptist Church, the American Legion and the VFW. He enjoyed NASCAR and hanging out with the other Shepherd men at the fruit stand.

He is survived by his loving wife, Judith King Shepherd; daughter, Dori Coakley of Tiger, Ga.; step-children, Bob King, of Franklin, Mike King, of Omaha, Neb., Randy King, of Texas; siblings, Roger Shepherd of Candler, Kenneth Shepherd, Raymond Shepherd, Ray Shepherd, and Steve Shepherd all of Franklin, Betty Tallent of Greenville, S.C., and Jan Yonce, of Murphy, N.C.; 12 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews

Funeral services were held Friday, Nov. 6, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Andy Cloer, Rev. Steve Reeves, Rev. Davis Hooper, Rev. Wesley Hooper and Randy King officiated. Burial followed in the Shepherd Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Trevor Mason, Blake King, Bob King, Josh King, Ken Shepherd and Mike Shepherd. Honorary pallbearers were Darrell Carter, David Yonce, Jerry Jennings, Harold Barrett, Paul Shuler, R.V. Shields, Mike King, Randy King, Landy Pendergrass, Bruce Giles, Chandler Bryant, Bob King, Don Brown and Mitchell Owenby.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Shepherd Cemetery C/O Josephine Jennings, PO Box 781, Franklin, NC 28744 and the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

Randall H. Jones

Randall H. Jones, 76, passed in his sleep on Nov. 4, 2020, at Angel Medical Center, Franklin, N.C., after a lengthy illness. He was born and raised in Tampa, Fla., but was a frequent visitor to the Franklin area and has been a permanent resident of Burningtown since 1998. He was an ardent salt-water fisherman and a retired HVAC technician both in Florida and Franklin.

He leaves behind a daughter, Lori Jones-Keck of Tampa, Fla., and Franklin.

No services are planned this time and a private family memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

Elinor Metzger

Elinor Metzger, 96, beloved mother, grandmother and greatgrandmother, who inspired others with her grace, strength and love, returned to her Creator, Savior and Lord Friday evening Oct. 30, 2020, at Eckerd Living Center in Highlands N.C. Her daughters Kathleen Shuford and Laura Doonan and son Harrison Metzger were at her side when her spirit departed this world.

She was born Dec. 2, 1923, in Atlanta, Ga., the only daughter of the Rev. Elton and Lois Sauls. She was raised in Atlanta and graduated from the Washington Seminary. She at-

tended Agnes Scott College for a year and then attended the Arts Student League in NYC. While she was in NYC and later in Panama City, Fla., she worked as a nurse's aide due to the shortage of nurses during World War II. Her love of art inspired pursuits throughout her life, including drawing, photography, gourmet cooking, and singing and worshipping with her family at All Saint's Episcopal Church in Atlanta. That family had its genesis when Elinor as a young woman worked in a wartime factory with a striking redheaded woman from Rhode Island, whose husband and son were serving in World War II. Dorothy MacKaye Metzger told Elinor stories of her brave and handsome son, Earl H. Metzger Jr., who was then manning anti-aircraft artillery in North Africa and Sicily. Elinor agreed to meet Earl upon his return from the war, and thus began a romance that lasted more than 53 years. They were married Feb. 22, 1947, and raised their three children in Atlanta where Earl served as director of Model Cities for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. They had many friends, and she loved to entertain with her warm hospitality and culinary artistry. They traveled to France and the UK many times and instilled their children with a love of nature, people and social justice. They were supporters of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. Elinor served as a volunteer and supporter of numerous civic and church organizations including as a board member of the Georgia Conservancy and president of the Atlanta Fulton chapter of the League of Women Voters. She went to work as the director of the VISTA program (Volunteers in Service to America) during the 1960s. In 1981, they retired to Highlands, N.C., where they built a home surrounded by gardens that Elinor planted and tended. She helped found and was the first president of The Laurel Garden Club in Highlands. They continued to enjoy traveling and entertaining and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a glorious party. Even after his passing on Nov. 12, 2000, Elinor continued to live a vibrant and joy-filled life. She was active in her church. The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, as a licensed Lay Reader and Eucharistic Visitor, taking communion to seniors who were unable to attend services. She was a graduate of the University of the South, School of Theology's Education for Ministry program, a four-year program of theological education that she enjoyed so much she participated another four years. She was beloved by her many friends for her sweet and affable nature, wit, intelligence, wisdom and loving care for those in need. She lived for several years at Chestnut Hill of Highlands before declining health required her to move to Eckerd Living Center. She passed away peacefully, surrounded by her three children who sung to her, read her poetry, and laid hands upon her on her final day.

Survivors include children, Kathleen and the Rev. Carlton Shuford of Augusta, Ga., Laura and Patrick Doonan of Atlanta; and Harrison and Jeanne Metzger of Mills River, N.C.; grandchildren, Josh and Laura Shuford of Marietta, Ga., Andy and Julie Shuford and Kevin Doonan of Los Angeles, Calif., Kristan and Paul Makl of Seattle, Wash., Charley Doonan of Denver, Colo., Anna and Daniella Metzger of Mills River, N.C.; four great-grandchildren; and beloved friend Helen Moore of Highlands, N.C., who ministered to the family with the same sort of grace and hospitality that Elinor shared her entire life.

The family thanks Eckerd Living center for their loving care of Elinor, and asks that in lieu of flowers donations in her memory be made to Jubilee Partners, P.O. Box 68, Comer, GA 30629; Cashiers Highlands Humane Society, 200 Gable Drive, Sapphire, NC 28774; or MountainTrue, 121 Third Avenue West, Suite #1. Hendersonville, NC 28792.

Services will be announced at a later date.



Elinor Metzger

and three sisters. alcare.com. Tanya Lee Blanchard Bryson

Tanya Lee Blanchard Bryson, 45, passed away Saturday, Nov. 6, 2020. She was born Oct. 6, 1975 in Plattsburgh, N.Y., to Clayton Blanchard and the late Cathy W. Blanchard.

She worked as a CNA in the home health field. She loved the outdoors, sunflowers, fishing, football, and her dogs. Her greatest love was her children, grandchildren, family, and friends. She was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone in need. She was a member of Wells Grove Baptist Church.

Tanya Lee Bryson

Survivors include her husband, Timothy Allen Wells; three sons, Anthony Bryson, Trey Bryson, and Kendrick Bryson; father, Clayton Blanchard; three grandchildren, Kayson Isaiah Bryson, Myra Lyriq Bryson, and Isaiah Hilburn; and a sister, Lisa Blanchard.

In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by two siblings, Nathan Blanchard and Bobbi Joe Vanhook; and a grandbaby, Kayden Isaiah Bryson.

A celebration of life service was held Wednesday, Nov. 11, in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

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



Ruth Helen Pruett McLean

19

Ruth Helen Pruett McLean, born to Willie and Clara Turner Pruett on Aug. 19, 1928, passed from this life on Nov. 3, 2020. Voted on by grandchildren and great grandchildren, she held a title she cherished more than anything-World's Number One Nonna.

Known for her huge heart and generosity, her kindnesses and giving spirit did not stop with her family but extended to those in need who happened to enter the clothing stores she owned in both Wrightsville, Ga., and Valdosta, Ga. She was a successful businesswoman, but she never lost the quality of caring about and helping others. She was also an animal lover who gave a multitude of dogs a wonderful life. Even though she was sweet and kind, no one would have ever called her a pushover. She was strong willed and did not mind giving her opinion when she thought it was necessary.

She was one of God's children. Church was very important to her, and she faithfully attended First Baptist Church in Wrightsville as long as she was able.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her spouse, A.D. Bracken: her first husband, Frank E. McLean: and four brothers.

She is survived by her daughter, Tryvonne McLean Morgan (Bill); three grandchildren, Kelli, Andy, and Greer; six great-grandchildren, Deyton, Greylyn, Locklyn, Paiton, Pennley, and Hank;

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to CareNet Food Bank, 130 Bidwell Street, Franklin, NC, 28734.

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

Chase Elliott wins at Phoenix, takes 2020 Cup championship and adds to family legacy

Holly Cain - NASCAR Wire Service

Chase Elliott won the biggest race of his life – rallying from a last place starting position to cross the Phoenix Raceway finish line first in the Series Finale 500 - earning his first career NASCAR Cup Series championship at the age of 24 – the youngest champion in NASCAR's premier series in 25 years.

Ultimately Elliott won by 2.74-seconds over former fellow title contenders, Team Penske teammates Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano. The fourth championship-eligible driver, Joe Gibbs Racing's Denny Hamlin, finished fourth.

Seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson, 45, was fifth in his final race as a fulltime driver, congratulating his young Hendrick Motorsports teammate Elliott on-track and later on pit lane - a fitting symbol of the sport's "passing of the guard."

"Awesome, awesome, awesome," Elliott screamed into his team radio after taking the checkered flag. "We are the champions!"

Three of the four title contenders led laps on the day at the famed one-mile desert oval. Logano was out front 125 laps and Keselowski led 16 laps, but Elliott's 154 laps led were indicative of his motivation, talent and the No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet team's preparedness for this race. He only earned his place in the fourdriver championship field with a clutch victory last week at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway and made the most of that work on Sunday.

Ultimately Elliott wrestled the lead away from Logano for good with 42 laps of the 312-lap race remaining. It was the result of a determined driver and team after the car failed pre-race inspection Sunday morning and had to start last in the 39-car field.

His focus was evident, however, from the drop of the green flag. Elliott's Chevrolet was 15th by Lap 15. He took the lead for the first time at Lap 79 and led seven different times on the afternoon.

Once Elliott rallied to the front, the four title contenders were predominantly the top four drivers on track the remainder of the race – truly settling the championship among themselves.

"Obviously when you don't win it hurts, it definitely stings," Logano said. "I told the guys before the race, you can't lose. You either win or you get stronger. Unfortunately, we got stronger today."

With this championship, Elliott and his father Bill (the 1988 series champion) now become only the third fatherson NASCAR Cup Series championship combination in the sport's history joining Lee and Richard Petty and Ned and Dale Jarrett. Elliott's father stood trackside for the race and joked afterward that he had given his son some simple advice for the big day. Advice Chase readily admits went



——— NASCAR News





through his head as he challenged for the life-changing trophy.

"He told me, 'all you have to do is beat three people'," a smiling Elliott said of father's pre-race advice. "He said all week he felt confident that we could come out here and do this. And he was right.

"This is a moment I've dreamed about. This is all I've wanted to do is be a race car driver and race in NASCAR. To be honest, I'm humbled."

Elliott's good friend Ryan Blaney finished sixth followed by regular season champion Kevin Harvick, Matt DiBenedetto, William Byron and Martin Truex Jr.

Clint Bowyer, who is moving to the FOX television booth,



Chase Elliott, driver of the #9 NAPA Auto Parts Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Season Finale 500 and the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series Championship at Phoenix Raceway on Nov. 8, 2020 in Avondale, Ariz. At left, Elliott celebrates with team owner and NASCAR Hall of Famer Rick Hendrick, his wife Linda Hendrick and his parents Cindy Elliott and NASCAR Hall of Famer Bill Elliott.

and former series champion Matt Kenseth, who is returning to retirement, finished 14th and 25th, respectively in their final race. Crew chief Chad Knaus, at the helm for Johnson's seven titles, led Hendrick driver Byron to that ninth-place showing.

Stewart-Haas Racing's Cole Custer, who qualified for the Playoffs with a victory at Kentucky Speedway this summer, finished 28th officially wrapping up the 2020 Sunoco Rookie of the Year honors.

"I'm at a loss for words, this is unbelievable," Elliott said. "Oh, my gosh. We did it. I mean, we did it. That's all I've got to tell you. Unreal.

"Crew chief, Alan Gustafson, is now a NASCAR Cup Series champion, and very deserving. I felt like we took some really big strides this year, and last week was a huge one. To come out of that with a win and a shot to come here and have a chance to race is unbelievable. This is unreal."

Austin Cindric wins 2020 Xfinity championship in overtime at Phoenix

After establishing the pace most of the afternoon, 22-year old Austin Cindric ultimately relied on raw determination to



claim the 2020 NASCAR Xfinity Series championship. The Team Penske driver pulled off the most clutch lap-pass of his young career to take the race victory in Saturday's Desert Diamond Casino West Valley 200 and earn his first NASCAR title.

After pitting for tires just before a final overtime restart, Cindric was able to work his way forward at the final green flag and got around Noah Gragson on the last lap - driving away to a .162-second victory for his sixth win of the season, easily the most celebrated of his career.

After celebratory donuts in his car, Cindric pulled himself out of the driver's window, climbed on top of his bright yellow No. 22 Team Penske Ford and flashed No. 1 victory signs on both hands before waving a giant champion's flag.

"There was a lot of work put into this race car," a grinning Cindric said, carefully taking the time to thank everyone from his team owner, NASCAR Hall of Famer Roger Penske, to his sponsors, his team, pit crew, spotter and ultimately his mom and dad.

"I'm speechless, I can't believe it. You know the equipment you're in is the best of the best and the people you're working with are the best of the best," he added.

Certainly as exuberant as Cindric understandably was, the other three members of the Championship 4 felt disappointment and dismay. Veteran Justin Allgaier, who led a race high 77 laps – five more laps out

<text><text><text>

Avondale, Ariz.

Jeremy Clements round out the top-10.

done, that's all you can really ask for."

"So close but so far away," Allgaier said. "First of all, hats

off to Austin and the entire Team Penske group, they've been

strong competitors all year. To have the race they did tonight,

they were obviously the best car and they deserved to win.

I'm proud of my guys, proud of everybody at JR Motor-

sports. We had a shot at it at the end and when it's all said and

For most of the race the title contending quartet ran up

front. In addition to Cindric and Allgaier, the Stewart-Haas

Racing driver Chase Briscoe showed the speed that had made him the winningest driver in the series this year. He won a career-high and season-best nine races and led 41 laps on this championship night, but a struggle to get his car comfortable, a late race spin and the loss of track position was a setback he ultimately couldn't overcome.

"Just a frustrating day, this is by far not my best race track," said Briscoe, who will move into the SHR team's No. 14 NASCAR Cup Series

ride next year. "Definitely frustrating to finish fourth in the championship after the year we had, but overall to win nine races, it's been a phenomenal year."

Haley, a three-race winner in 2020, didn't lead any laps in his No. 11 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet, but he rallied from a slow start and kept his car competitively among the top 10.

"It's been awesome," Haley said of his Playoff berth. "Just the growth of this Kaulig Racing team from when I stepped into it last year and were out in the first round of the Playoffs.

"Just the courage and the faith and everyone at Kaulig Racing, we bet on each other. I love it. I love everyone there. Super excited and super blessed to have another year. Doesn't sting as much because I know next year I get another chance at it."







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front than Cindric – was in position to try and secure his first NASCAR title.

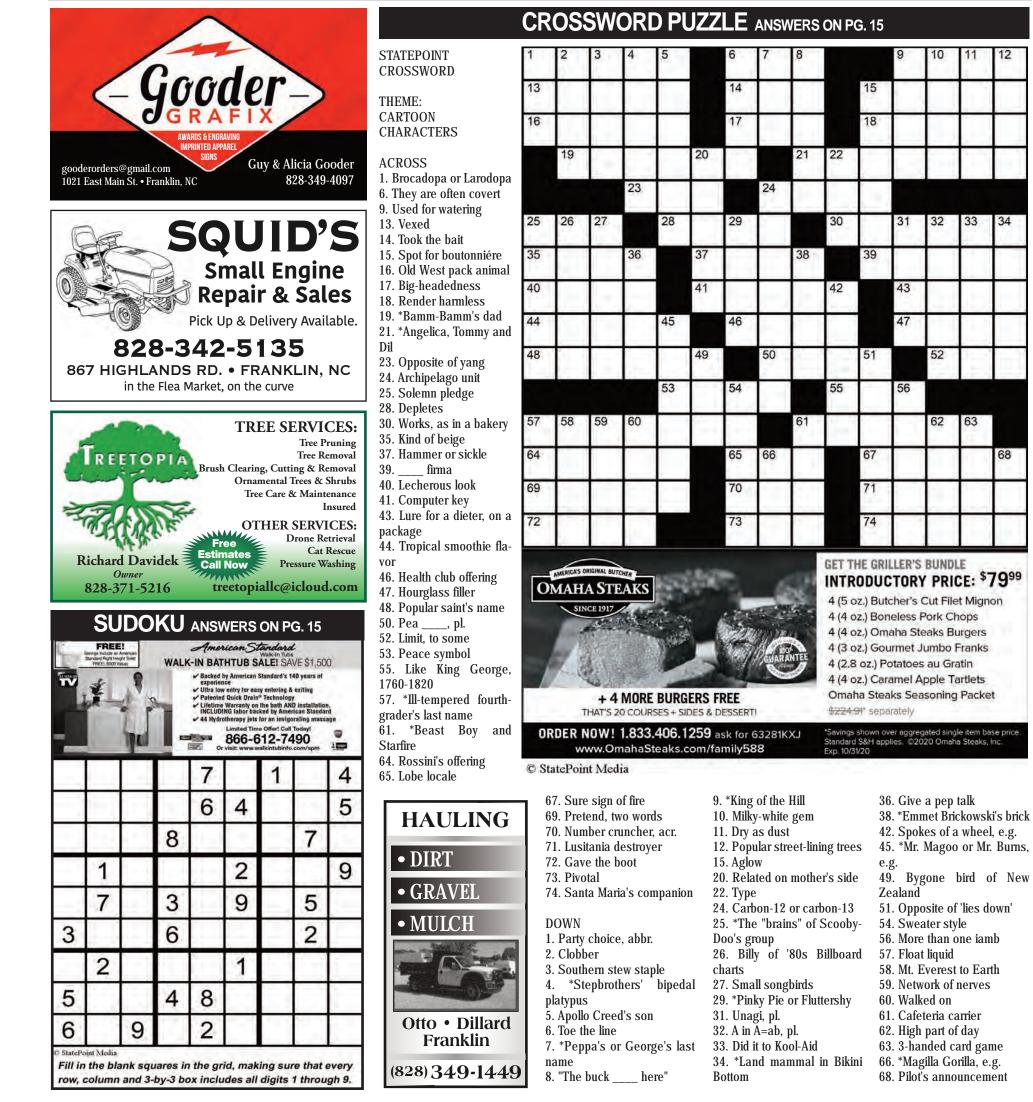
The 34-year old driver of the No. 7 JR Motorsports Chevrolet kept the field honest consistently throughout the evening but ultimately on that last restart Allgaier was unable to hold off Cindric who had fresher tires and was able to muscle around Allgaier and Allgaier's JR Motorsports teammate Gragson.

Allgaier finished fifth and the other Championship 4 drivers: Justin Haley and Chase Briscoe finished eighth and ninth, respectively.

Gragson (second), Brandon Jones (third) and Michael Annett (fifth) were the non-Playoff drivers to finish in the topfive. Harrison Burton, Ross Chastain, Haley, Briscoe and



THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE



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