



“No room in the inn” for Mary and Joseph in The Bethlehem Experience, a drive-thru nativity presented by Cartoogechaye Baptist Church. Due to the overwhelming response last weekend, organizers decided to continue the drive-thru this Friday and Saturday at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, from 6 to 9 p.m. nightly. For more photos, see page 12.

Photo by Betsey Gooder

School Board discusses Covid-19 concerns

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The monthly School Board meeting once again discussed concerns regarding school closures, due to increasing COVID-19 cases in Macon County. Macon Middle School suspended face-to-face instruction last week due to the number of teachers being in quarantine and Cartoogechaye Elementary School was forced to suspend face-to-face instruction for this week for the same reason. Highlands Principal Francie Jetter made the decision to suspend face-to-face instruction for Jan. 5, 6, and 7, due to concerns that there might be a COVID uptick resulting from travel and other celebrations during the holidays. Those days will be designated as remote learning days for students.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Chris Baldwin expressed

concern that the School Board might have to implement remote learning days in January for Franklin area schools also. The number of COVID cases has been rising steadily in Macon County. Macon County Health Director Kathy McGaha revealed some grim statistics at the board meeting.

“We had 45 new cases today [Monday] and we stand at 123 active cases in the community. The county is going to turn orange, if not red, soon. We are not heading in a good direction.”

– Kathy McGaha, Health Director

“We had 45 new cases today [Monday] and we stand at 123 active cases in the community. The county is going to turn orange, if not red, soon. We are not heading in a good direction.”

The colors represent the percentage of cases in a community. A community that has fewer than one daily case per 100,000 is green. One to nine is yellow; between 10 and 24 is orange; and 25 and above puts a community in the red.

“When you get into that orange and red zone it means, in

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Celebrate this Christmas with The Isaacs

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MCSO apprehends Florida murder suspect; shuts down heroin trafficking operation

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Last week, deputies with the Macon County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit and Special Response Team were involved in several operations that resulted in the dismantling of a drug trafficking operation as well as the arrest of a Florida man wanted for murder.

Authorities with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office contacted the Macon County Sheriff's Office seeking assistance in locating Brandon Martin in connection to the murder of Annette A Miller. Martin was suspected to have fled Florida and was in Macon County.



Brandon Martin

During the initial investigation in Florida, deputies determined that the victim's car was missing as well as the possibility that a handgun was also missing. A nationwide alert was issued for the stolen vehicle.

Alachua County Sheriff's detectives were able to identify a potential suspect and began to try to locate him. Based on information obtained during the initial investigation, a possible suspect was identified and contact was made on the morning of Dec. 3, with Macon County Sheriff's Office detectives to assist in locating that suspect.

The suspect, Brandon Martin, 31, was ultimately located in Franklin. Detectives conducted surveillance and subsequently located Martin at a Harrison Avenue home in Franklin. Members of the Macon County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team made entry of the residence and were able to take Martin into custody without incident.

Martin was taken into custody on two outstanding warrants from Bradford County (stolen vehicle & stolen firearm), unrelated to the Alachua County charges. He is currently being held at the Macon County Detention Center. On Monday, Dec. 7, Martin was formally charged with the Alachua County homicide and grand theft.

The following day, Alachua County detectives arrived in Macon County and conducted interviews. By the end of the day, the deceased victim's vehicle was located in Macon County at the Park & Ride located at the bottom of Cowee Mountain. The firearm believed to be that which was used in the Florida homicide was also located hidden under a home.

"This was outstanding police work by all involved," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "Officers with Alachua County Sheriff's Office and Franklin Police Department worked tirelessly throughout the day with the Macon County Sheriff's Office to locate Martin. The dedication and perseverance of these officers potentially saved the

life of another girlfriend and helped ensure that any bad intentions that he may have had would not be carried out."

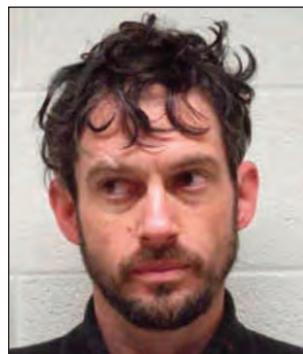
On Dec. 7, Macon County Sergeant Nick Loft-house and his K9, Diesel, conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle occupied by Donnie Gooding of West Virginia. Gooding had just left the Macon County Courthouse where he was in court for previous charges that had been pending. During the traffic stop, K9 Diesel immediately alerted on the vehicle, prompting deputies to conduct a thorough search. Inside the vehicle, deputies discovered several plastic bags suspected of containing heroin and a stolen Glock handgun. Gooding was arrested and charged with trafficking heroin, possession of a firearm by felon, and possession of a stolen fireman. Gooding was booked into the Macon County Detention Center on a secured \$200,000 bond.



Donnie Gooding

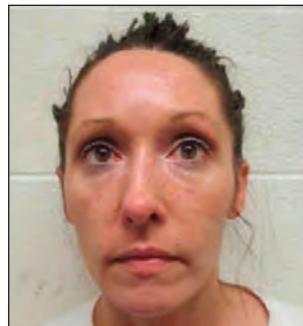
On Dec. 8, deputies conducted service of a search warrant following an investigation into a drug trafficking operation at a Macon County residence.

Following the execution of the search warrant, narcotic officers located evidence of heroin trafficking, which lead to the arrest of Ryan Finn for charges of trafficking heroin by possession, trafficking heroin by conspiracy, maintaining a dwelling for controlled substances, and possession of methamphetamine. Finn was booked into the Macon County Detention Center and held under a \$500,000 secured bond.



Ryan Finn

Megan Thomas was also arrested and charged with trafficking heroin by conspiracy, maintaining a dwelling for controlled substances, and possession of methamphetamine. Thomas was booked into the Macon County Detention Center and held on a \$50,000 secured bond.



Megan Thomas

SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 1

all likelihood, you're seeing a lot of velocity, a kind of fast upward trend," said Danielle Allen, professor and director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. Macon County has been holding steady in yellow for the past few months. McGaha also cautioned, "wear a mask, maintain social distancing and do Christmas differently this year."

"COVID-19 is definitely a presence in our schools; we will not hesitate to close schools if needed," said Dr. Baldwin.

Todd Gibbs, director of Secondary Curriculum and Auxiliary Services, spoke about other factors that could affect school closures. Inclement weather has a direct impact on whether busses can negotiate the Western North Carolina mountains on icy, wintry roads.

"We look at different areas of the county," said Gibbs. "Several bus drivers along with Dr. Baldwin and myself ride the roads to determine if it is safe for our bus drivers. We also rely on the Department of Transportation, Warren Cabe, Macon County Emergency Services, and our maintenance crew. It is impossible to travel the 2,300 miles of bus routes, but we do the best we can. We try to make a call by 5 a.m. Certain roads present certain problems, there are icy spots throughout the county between November and March. If we have to cancel face-to-face we will now be open to remote learning, which will prevent the county from having make-up days."

This year, due to additional equipment and students' iPads purchased in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district plans to utilize "remote learning" on certain school days that would have otherwise been cancelled and later made up due to inclement weather. Macon County Schools has gained experience with remote learning over the past year providing school personnel with the skills needed to operate school remotely on snow days. And while remote learning is not the ideal situation for students and staff but it does build flexibility into decisions and allows learning to continue without interruption. Utilizing remote learning days eliminates the possible need to have Saturday school, or to convert Spring Break days into school days, or add student days to the end of the school calendar.

Nantahala and Highlands are uniquely separate from Franklin area schools and may need to close due to winter weather conditions even when Franklin schools remain in session. Notifications of school delays and closures will be announced in a number of ways. Local TV and radio stations will be notified as soon as the decision is made. Macon County Schools (MCS) Facebook page, school websites and the MCS webpage will also have school delays or closing announcements. In addition, automated calls and text messages will be sent out to all persons with a phone number registered with the school system.

Dr. Baldwin had one final remark to make during the meeting: "I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas."

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State Bicycle Helmet Initiative is now accepting applications

To reduce bicycle injuries and deaths, the N.C. Department of Transportation is encouraging people to apply to receive free bicycle helmets as part of an annual initiative the agency conducts.

In its Bicycle Helmet Initiative, NCDOT's Integrated Mobility Division uses funds from the sale of "Share the Road" specialty license plates to pay for bike helmets that are given to underprivileged children. Since its inception in 2007, the Bicycle Helmet Initiative has given out more than 40,000 helmets.

Helmets save lives. While less than half of all children typically wear one while biking, helmets can reduce the risk of severe brain injuries by nearly 90 percent.

As part of the initiative, NCDOT distributes helmets to government and non-government agencies conducting bike safety events. Examples of partners include police and fire departments, parks and recreation departments, health departments, community centers, churches and non-governmental organizations.

Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Jan. 15. Applicants have the option of requesting 25, 50, 75 or 100 helmets, and awardees will receive them by April 30, 2021. Applicants are encouraged to partner with groups in the community to extend the outreach of bicycle safety awareness.

For more information or to apply, visit the NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative webpage

Union Academy teacher selected as finalist for NC Beginning Teacher of the Year Award

Union Academy teacher Emilee Higdon has been selected as a finalist for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) 2020 Prudential NC Beginning Teacher of the Year Award in honor of her dedication, innovation, and ability to inspire students to achieve.

One of the 27 talented educators selected finalists will be named the 2020 Prudential NC Beginning Teacher of the Year. The award will be presented on April 15, 2021, at the NCCAT Cullowhee Campus.

"We appreciate the enthusiastic response from all over the state for the Beginning Teacher of the Year Award," said NCCAT Executive Director M. Brock Womble. "These finalists provide a snapshot of the lasting impact great teachers have on our students from the first to the last day they step into a North Carolina public school. We are excited about this opportunity



Emilee Higdon

to honor teachers for the important work they do in our state."

The NCCAT Beginning Teacher of the Year award winner receives \$5,000 cash prize; the opportunity to participate in a GoGlobal NC trip; and instructional supply funds for the teacher's school.

The Runner-up receives \$2,000 cash prize.

All finalists receive travel expenses to participate in NCCAT professional development and leadership development.

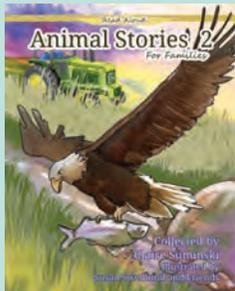
About NCCAT

Increasing teacher effectiveness is fundamental to improving public education. NCCAT provides teachers with new knowledge, skills, teaching methods, best practices, and information to take back to their classrooms. For more information about NCCAT's professional development programs, visit www.nccat.org or call 828-293-5202.

Suminski Family Books and the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center would like to thank these local story contributors and K & K Enterprises for their generous donation of honey. Together we raised over \$1100 for The Appalachian Animal Rescue Center!



Claire Suminski



Marilyn Miller
The Short Stubborn Life of Hen-rietta



Martha Lind
The Brave Little Screech Owls of Brush Creek



Karl Gillespie
Eagle Express



Kathy Kuhlman
Flossie The Wonder Horse: Part II



Pat Mennenger
The Annual Pooch Plunge



Carean Kaso
From Zero to Hero



Sharon Archer
The Baby Possum Rescue



Mike Kurczewski
The Hungry Sea Lion

Our books are available at Books Unlimited, downtown Franklin and from our website.

www.SuminskiFamilyBooks.com 828.342.9071

Streets of Franklin, wishing one and all a Merry Christmas.

Shops will be open late on Main Street until Christmas.

Peace... joy... hope... health... happiness... harmony... Who says you can't have it all?

For all you have given us this past year, we are deeply grateful. Thanks, everyone!

Town chooses new Franklin Fire Chief

The Town of Franklin has announced the hiring of its new Fire Chief, Benjamin Ormond. Ormond began his career in eastern North Carolina with the Pactolus Volunteer Fire Department in Pitt County. As a second-generation firefighter, he transitioned to municipal firefighting with the City of Greenville where he also worked as a paramedic and was a founding member of the NC Task Force 10 USAR [Urban Search and Rescue] Team. For the last 16 years of his career his work has spanned the globe with various contract firefighting jobs in locations like Iraq, an international airport and an industrial facility in the U.S., and Diego Garcia located in the British Indian Ocean Territory where he served as Fire Chief for the U.S. Naval Support Facility.



Benjamin Ormond has been named the new Franklin fire chief.

"I have been blessed with a wonderful career that has allowed me to travel the world, and now I am excited to return home to North Carolina. It is my true honor to be selected as the Town of Franklin's next fire chief," said Chief Ormond. "Franklin Fire and Rescue has a rich history in delivering high quality service to the community for over 100 years. I look forward to being a part of this outstanding department and the town's leadership team."

Ormond has a Masters in Emergency Services Management and a Bachelors in Fire Science. He is also certified as a Fire Officer IV, Fire Instructor III, fire inspector II, and many other fire rescue related specialties. Most recently he obtained his cre-

dentials as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and member of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

"Many well qualified applicants showed interest in the position, both locally and from afar," Town Manager Summer Woodard said. "After careful consideration of the merits each applicant brought to the position and the needs of the fire department, Ormond was chosen to take on the role and to lead the department forward."

The Town of Franklin announced a search for Fire Chief in August when Chief Matthew Breedlove resigned from the position. A committee consisting of fire department members, town staff, and fire liaison and Town Council Member Dinah Mashburn reviewed applications, arranged interviews, and organized meet and greets with applicants and Fire Department staff.

"It was an honor for me to be involved in the selection process of the fire chief position for the Franklin Fire Department, and during those interviews we spoke to several great candidates," Mashburn said of the process. "Franklin Fire Department is a combination of volunteers and paid employees. It was very important for the search committee to select a new chief who understood the value that both the volunteers and paid staff bring to the Franklin Fire Department. We felt that Chief Ormond understood that value, and that he brought many other attributes to the job."

Chief Ormond's first day at Franklin Fire Department will be Jan. 4, 2021.

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Court proceedings delay

Chief Justice Cheri Beasley has announced Friday that only essential, in-person court proceedings would take place for 30 days, beginning Monday.

The decision comes as the number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in the Judicial Branch hits 291 statewide; additionally, 11 counties in the state (including Graham and Swain) were forced last week to close after coronavirus exposure.

District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch said COVID-19 continues to be a serious concern though there are safety measures in place, such as requiring face masks and practicing social distancing.

Welch and her 42 staff members work across the state's seven westernmost counties, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain.

"A few of employees in the 43rd Prosecutorial District have contracted COVID-19, though not necessarily through the court system," she said. "Others have experienced first-hand exposure."

Beasley halted jury trials in March, but resumed on a limited basis in October in five of the 43rd Prosecutorial District's counties: Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Cherokee and Clay.

Swain and Graham are scheduled to resume jury trials in the new year, the weeks of Jan. 11 and March 1, respectively.

"Throughout the pandemic, we have moved an unprecedented amount of court work online, including hearings. Those efforts will allow us to limit in-person proceedings for the next few weeks while making sure our courts stay available to serve the public," said Beasley.

Some traffic tickets and other infractions or citations can be handled online, as can some court filings, at online services.nccourts.org. Only North Carolina residents, not out-of-state residents, can use the service at this time.

Though operations will scale back, essential judicial functions continue, including emergency hearings to ensure protections for victims of domestic violence and certain hearings for in-jail defendants.



Pictured (L-R) are Suzanne Harouff, owner of Books Unlimited; Appalachian Animal Rescue board president Cathy Howman, Claire Suminski and AARC board member Carean Kaso. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

AARC benefits from sale of 'Animal Stories'

Claire Suminski, collector of "Animal Stories" has donated \$1,120 to Appalachian Animal Rescue. "Animal Stories" is a compilation of stories written by members of the community.

Involvement as a volunteer dog walker for Appalachian Animal Rescue led Suminski to designate the shelter as the recipient of the proceeds from the sale of "Animal Stories 2." Plus, two stories in the compilation books were by Appalachian Animal Rescue staff members.

Suminski explained that a focus of Suminski Family

Books, the umbrella under which are the Cowee Sam and Animal Stories book series, as well as other projects, is to "strengthen our community through helping local nonprofits." KIDS Place has also received a donation from sales.

All Suminski Family Books are sold online at www.suminskifamilybooks.com and at retail stores and other locations, such as the Smoky Mountain Visitors Center, throughout Macon County. The other Animal Stories books in the series will be released throughout next year and subsequent years as they are completed.

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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2017	Buick	Encore	43,236
2018	Cadillac	CT6	29,695
2020	Cadillac	Escalade	26,141
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	8,360
2014	Chevrolet	Camaro	104,018
1997	Chevrolet	Camaro	16,606
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado	4,769
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	40,758
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	13,389
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	37,779
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	3,987
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado	884
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	91,171
2019	Chevrolet	Cruze	14,078
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	26,234
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	21,036
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	48,398
2018	Chevrolet	Impala	8,465
2018	Chevrolet	Malibu	41,816
2017	Chevrolet	Malibu	66,094
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	11,584
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	41,705
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	51,696
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	85,479
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	34,952
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	9,139
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	11,559
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	123,077
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	6,147
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	71,489
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	4,832
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	12,105
2016	Chevrolet	Suburban	112,779
2015	Chevrolet	Traverse	101,068
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	91,551
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	17,683
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	37,692
2018	Chevrolet	Trax	10,745
2020	Chevrolet	Trax	1,156
2016	Dodge	Grand Caravan	102,307
2019	Ford	Edge	45,478
2018	Ford	Explorer	49,223
2000	Ford	Explorer	229,025
2020	Ford	F-150	23,354
2016	Ford	F-150	73,912
2018	Ford	F-150	27,491
2018	Ford	F-150	25,711
2014	Ford	F-150	130,566
2016	Ford	F-250	190,904
1930	FORD	MODELA	78,269
2019	Ford	Ranger	2,749
2017	GMC	Sierra 1500	43,356
2014	GMC	Sierra 1500	54,681
2020	GMC	Sierra 1500	16,220
2014	GMC	Terrain	82,762
2019	GMC	Yukon XL	37,969
2004	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	9,778
2018	HARLEY DAVIDSON	STREETGLIDE	2,693
2019	Hyundai	Elantra	36,506
2019	Hyundai	Tucson	36,252
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	9,020
2004	Jeep	Liberty	130,097
2017	Jeep	Renegade	48,579
2015	Jeep	Wrangler	69,479
2017	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited	88,737
2019	KAUFMAN	TRAILER	
2016	Kia	Sorento	73,214
2016	Land Rover	Range Rover Sport	55,302
2019	Mazda	CX-5	36,819
2017	Mercedes-Benz	Metris	57,091
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	49,313
2019	Nissan	Frontier	39,039
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	36,059
2019	Nissan	Rogue	39,871
2019	Nissan	Sentra	38,658
2004	Nissan	Xterra	162,506
2018	POLARIS	SLINGSHOT SL	1,502
2019	POLARIS	SLINGSHOT SL	
2020	RAM	1500	25,556
2020	RAM	1500 Classic	18,621
2017	Subaru	Forester	44,665
2017	Subaru	Outback	48,356
2019	Toyota	Corolla	35,775
2019	Toyota	Corolla	27,529
2002	Toyota	RAV4	133,819
2018	Toyota	Tacoma	35,770
2018	Toyota	Tacoma	13,859

Carolina Farm Credit award to benefit SCC's next Appalachian Farm School

To support training of area agriculture-centered businesses, Carolina Farm Credit recently awarded \$5,000 to Southwestern Community College's Small Business Center.

SCC is using the funds to support a pair of educational opportunities this winter. The first, an Agribusiness Summit, was completed on Dec. 7.

The second, SCC's annual Appalachian Farm School, starts on Jan. 11 and runs through March 1.

"This is the second time we've been awarded a grant from Carolina Farm Credit, and I am personally very thankful for their support," said Tiffany Henry, Director of SCC's Small Business Center. "Without the financial assistance we receive from community-minded organizations like this, we wouldn't be able to offer the quality of training that our area agriculture-based businesses need to succeed."

This will be the sixth annual Appalachian Farm School, which Henry launched with the goal of providing local farmers the skills they need to thrive.

There is no cost to participate. Registration deadline is Jan. 6.

This year's event will feature eight sessions covering the following topics:

- Business Planning
- Farm Evaluation & Goal Setting
- Marketing & Pricing



Tiffany Henry oversees the Small Business Center at Southwestern Community College.

- Understanding the Numbers
- Rules and Regulations
- Resources and Funding Options

Some of the sessions will meet in-person. "Even the most knowledgeable farmers need some help when it comes to business matters," Henry said. "We want to help our area ag-based businesses succeed and turn a profit. Even if you are only in the planning stages of developing an 'AgriBusiness,' this series will be a tremendous help as you get started."

Wedding venue and event center opens

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon ceremony to celebrate the opening of Double R Wedding Vows and Event Center to the Franklin business community. Located in the pristine Nantahala Forest on 20 acres just west of Franklin, Double R Wedding Vows and Event Center offers both indoor and multiple outdoor locations for weddings, anniversary parties and reunions for 75 guests, as well as accommodations for up to 16 guests.

The little white church was built to replicate an old fashioned country church but with modern design and sits next to the clear running water of Buck Creek. The babbling creek is visible from every seat in the church and is a tranquil and soothing backdrop.

Buck Creek Station is a multi-functional pavilion near the chapel and is a common area for receptions and gatherings. The interior boasts a large wood burning fireplace with plenty of room for a dance floor, food and bar area, music and tables. This building will be one of the most popular gathering areas for your guests.

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Quilt of Valor presented to local veteran dentist

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

The Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild, the local guild that carries out Quilts of Valor presentations in Western North Carolina recently presented Dr. Matthew Corbin with a Quilt of Valor in recognition of his service in the US Air Force from 2012-2019.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a national organization that works with local quilting organizations to donate time/materials in making quilts for veterans and active duty military. Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild member and Franklin resident, Terry Barr, hand stitched the quilt that was presented to Corbin. The project had to meet the Quilts of Valor standards of excellence and took three months to complete.

In 2010, Dr. Corbin completed his Bachelor of Science degree at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory where he played two collegiate sports. During college, Dr. Corbin met his wife, Charissa, and they married in the Spring of 2011 before beginning dental school at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During dental school, he excelled clinically and served as president of the American Student Dental Association and Student Representative on the North Carolina Dental Society Board of Trustees. He served as the dental school Representative in the Graduate and Professional Student Federation and received the James A. Harrell Citizenship and Leadership Award for outstanding leadership in dentistry, community, place of worship, and higher education. He completed research with the Graduate Operative Department and served at free dental clinics both locally and abroad, including directing dental mission trips to Guatemala and Peru.

After graduating dental school in 2015, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force and completed a one-year residency program where he furthered his



Local veteran and dentist Dr. Matthew Corbin is the recipient of the coveted Quilt of Valor. Franklin resident Terry Barr hand-stitched the quilt with the challenge to meet the Quilts of Valor standard of excellence. The quilt took three months to complete.

knowledge and skills in many advanced specialty aspects of dentistry. He then took an assignment to serve a three-year tour at a remote location in Alaska, where he practiced advanced surgical and cosmetic dentistry. Dr. Corbin led his team to multiple awards, including Air Force Small Dental Clinic of the Year. He and his wife have girls, Sadie Ann and Josie Lee.

After finishing his rotation as a Captain with the Air Force in Alaska, Dr. Corbin returned home to serve the Macon County community.

“We’ve been thrilled to be back home and serve our community,” said Dr. Corbin. “I’m thankful to Terry and the Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild for giving their time and talents to reach veterans here and around the world. This quilt is a display of exceptional craftsmanship, care, and passion. The amount of time she spent creating it is humbling.”

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Tonight [Thursday] is the December Town Board Meeting by way of Zoom. It will begin with public comment at 7 p.m. If someone wants to make a public comment call town hall at (828) 526-2118 before 4:30. Please give your name and a phone number or email address that can identify you at the Zoom meeting. Or, email comments to me at mayor@highlandsc.org, and I will read the comment to the other commissioners. The Zoom information is on the town website.

I had hoped that we would be back to in-person meetings by now, but with the continuing spread of COVID, I think it will be sometime this spring before in-person meetings resume.

In a related matter, I was on a Zoom meeting Tuesday morning hosted by county emergency services concerning the COVID vaccine distribution. The county's procedures follow a four-phase administration plan developed by federal and state governments. Phase 1 will get underway next week with the vaccination of frontline medical personnel and first responders, followed by folks in nursing homes and those who are very vulnerable. Phase 2 will focus on frontline workers such as teachers and police and people 65 and over. Phase 3 will focus on students, K-12 through college. Phase 4 will be for the remaining population. The county will be setting up a vaccination program similar to the existing testing program. More information will be released as soon as possible.

On tonight's agenda is a public hearing to refinance the Fiber Construction Loan. The refinancing is required because our potential contract with Hotwire may result in the town making a profit over the 25 year lease period, which impacts the tax status of the loan. To comment, call town hall or email me.

The board will also be reviewing a set of change orders for the construction of the network. The changes will not increase the cost of the project for the town, but they need to be made as soon as possible.

The board will also go into closed session to discuss with our attorneys several issues related to the development of the contract with Hotwire. The attorneys and staff are seeking board direction on several items.

Also on the agenda is a discussion of the Laurel Street Alley that connects Laurel to Spruce Street. For years the alley had been incorrectly located on the old funeral home property. In a survey by potential buyers of property, it was revealed that the alley should be relocated on existing town property between the funeral home and Mountain Findings. The board will decide whether to relocate the alley or close it to public traffic.

I want to send out Happy Hanukkah wishes. This Festival of Lights ends Friday. Whether we are celebrating Hanukkah or Christmas, we all need an abundance of light in our lives as we move toward what may be a dark winter.

Letters to the Editor

Ambulance shortage yields dire consequences

It was 10:45, Oct. 24.

My husband and I had just finished watching a movie in bed that ended at 10:00. I looked across the room and he was sitting in a chair. I asked what is wrong, he said call someone – hurry. I gave him a nitroglycerin pill under his tongue. I knew he was in a small heart attack. Called ambulance at Angel hospital in Franklin. They took him to the hospital. I rode along in the ambulance.

They began to try to stabilize him there. It was pouring rain so no helicopter could fly him to Asheville where his doctors were. 12:30 arrived. I asked when will you take him. Answer: We have to take some tests.

My husband was sitting up in bed teasing nurses but every so often, he would pat his chest and say my pains are back. They would give him something that would last only minutes. 1:30 arrived and I was getting impatient. What was going on? They said we have to take some more tests. 2:50 a.m., now the 25th, and I got upset with the staff making excuses. The doctor came in and said we do not have a cardiologist here and I can't do much only try to keep you stabilized. Meanwhile his chest pains are getting worse.

I demanded to know why they weren't transporting him to his doctor in Asheville and the answer knocked me over.

He said two of the ambulances were broke down and they sent the only one he arrived in to Asheville with a patient. I did not have my car. I went with him to Angel hospital. I cannot drive at night, I can't see. I panicked and begged anybody to take my husband to Sylva or get an ambulance from them or call the fire department. 3:30 a.m. arrives and no help and my husband is getting worse. They yelled at me and said be patient an ambulance will be back soon. It is one and a half hours to Asheville and my husband is dying before my eyes in Angel hospital with no help.

At 4:30 a.m., Oct. 25, they get their only ambulance back from Asheville and they start to load my husband. He begged me to go with him. He was very frightened but they would not let me go in the ambulance. I called the hospital in Asheville, Mission, to see if he arrived okay. The nurse said we are trying to bring him back. After working on him, the doctor called and he was gone. He threw up and keeled over and died.

This man was the guy that would write letters about the wrongs he felt was going on in his country. He loved his family and his 18 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren, and black lives was not the only ones that mattered.

Angel hospital and money killed my husband. His death was caused by lack of care. Can anyone imagine you would take your loved one to a hospital that would not have ambulances to transport them?

Ellen Young – Franklin, N.C.

The quiet whisper of nature calms heart and mind

With all the troubles of modern life that plague us and the never ending adjustments dealing with COVID, political and social uneasiness, not trusting what you see and hear from news and the media, the unsolicited phone calls we all receive, many seem unsatisfied with life itself and the complaints seem unending. Even for myself, I'm fatigued from all the bad news, misinformation, name calling and corruption, it seems any truth is hard to find, to the point I've stop watching most all news media. It seems we're all in need of a quiet place to settle, a place to calm the heart and mind and rethink a simpler life.

As with many, I connect so much with the world of nature. If it wasn't for seeing, touching, tasting, and feeling nature, I don't think I could make it in life. But this goes much deeper than what we feel; it's more of why we feel it. The wonder and awe of a beautiful green mountain forest, and deep within it, a clear cool misty stream, and the gentle breeze through whispering pines that softly touches the face. Birds that sing greetings to welcome you into their domain. It seems that it's all made just for you and you alone. Even within our backyards, we watch nature in puddles as tadpoles become frogs, birds gather grass and twigs to make their woven nest and squirrels play in bird feeders. You can get lost into another world just watching nature and how it can touch the heart within the beauty and wonder of what is before us. From the wonder of watching a spider intently weaving its intricate web, to the awe struck wonder of a warm spring morning and watching at every turn the renewal of new life coming forth after the deep sleep of winter.

The awe and wonder of nature seems to quietly whisper into our hearts and minds, which brings about deep felt questions of why do I feel this way and how do I react to this awe and wonder I see and feel? It's as though we are somehow in a different world and desperately want to interact in a deeper way, but yet seem unable. These breathtaking wonders of our created world which speaks and quiets the heart, are not just fleeting moments given in life but have a reason and purpose behind every awe and wonder that we are blessed with. God speaks, shares, and blesses us with his creation. We see God within the handiwork of what He's given us. He himself said it is good, and within his love He shares with us his goodness within every awe and wonder we find in life. I often sit within my own quietness looking out at nature or gaze into the heavens and absorb what I see and meet my creator in a unique special way, quietly observing and listening to all His wonder, and who He is, the great, "I Am."

"Many, O Lord, are the wonderful works you have done... If I should declare and speak of them, they are too many to be numbered." (Psalm 40:5).

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

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Now is the time to stand up, America

The election was a very important one. It's over, now is the time to stand up and be counted. Remember we are Americans, we need to be ready to make sure we have America on our minds and hearts, we must stand strong. Many of us fought for our freedom, some gave all and some gave a lot.

The next four years I think will be tough. We as Americans must not let those clowns in Washington take away your voice and freedom. Beware of the Famous Four, they came here from places with no freedom. It's been taught to love our country and respect our flag.

Now that the election is over, we're not Republicans, we're not Democrats, we are Americans! All of us! Respect each other, be strong, my brothers and sisters.

With respect,

William Trapani – Franklin, N.C.

UN a slow growing cancer eating away at our liberty

Our country or UNCountry? Can we keep it ours?

A lot has been said and done with respect to the United Nations [UN] over many years.

Actually, the meeting that put the United Nations together from its predecessor, The League of Nations, occurred at Dumbarton Oaks on Oct. 24, 1945, after then President Franklin D. Roosevelt first used that phrase on Jan. 1, 1942.

It is no accident that the headquarters is in New York City, a major financial hub not that the U.S. government joined and pays a majority of its operating costs and a lot of the Treaties bear directly on us.

One thing for all readers to consider and which is not taught in our Fool Systems is that that organization is a slow growing cancer eating away at our Liberty.

You might think you are a living, breathing, freedom loving citizen of our country, but in the eyes on the UN, you are something else entirely.

The UN published a book titled 1993 System of National Accounts, ISBN 92-1-161352-3, in conjunction with the Commission of the European Communities-Eurostat, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations, and The World Bank which can be accessed on the Internet for those who are curious and want to learn the truth.

On Page 3 at 2.Activities and Transactions, 1.12 we find, "The accounts of the System are designed to provide analytically useful information about the behavior of international units and the activities in which they engage, such as production, consumption, and the accumulation of assets."

At C. The institutional sectors of the economy at 1.13 we read, "Two main kinds of institutional units, or transactors, are distinguished in the System - households and legal entities."

At Page 19, *Main Categories, 1. Institutional units and sectors, 2.19, it is revealed, "The fundamental units identified are the economic units which are capable of owning assets and incurring liabilities on their own behalf. They can engage in the full range of transactions. These units are called *institutional units*." (emphasis in the original text). And the text goes on to state "In practice some institutional units control others***".

How do you like being defined as an "institutional unit?" This entire UN defined system sees you as no more than an impersonal quasi worker bee.

What is really interesting is that on Page 169 at C. Taxes on production and on imports, 1. Introduction, at 7.48 is the big reveal: "Taxes are compulsory, unrequited payments in cash or in kind, made by institutional units to government units. They are described as unrequited because *the government provides nothing in return to the individual units making the payment*, although governments may use the

funds raised in taxes to provide goods or services to other units, either individually or collectively, or to the community as a whole." (emphasis added)

The implication is clear, you as an institutional unit get nothing and the other "units" get the fruits of your labor.

Draw your own conclusions, but I suggest that we should all be thinking about getting the UN off our soil and out of our lives.

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

Peter K. Stern – Franklin, N.C.

Trump a shooting star

Donald Trump can be likened to a shooting star. Today the talk is about his power/influence. Will he remain relevant? No! He has had four years to "Make America Great Again". He failed miserably because he refused to protect/unite Americans. "Loser"? Here's a short list of his losses/failures:

1. Political novelty and flamboyance
2. An incumbent who lost the 2020 election
3. The advantage of a hobbled opponent in 2016
4. Impeached by the House
5. Ability to hide classified information
6. Cannot handle a crisis
7. Attempt to overturn 2020 election
8. Claim to be the only "fixer" for America
9. Trust of many world leaders
10. Time on earth. Trump will be 78 in 2024
11. Protection from indictment and prosecution***This must hang very heavy over Trump.
12. Refusal to acknowledge Russian interference in 2016 election
13. His tweets will be merely personal (not presidential)

Reminds me of a haunting song by William Bell from 1969. The gist of the song: "Everybody loves a winner. But when you lose you lose alone."

Each shooting star makes only one streak across the night sky. Trump has made his.

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

Creators of sedition should be held accountable

Some members of Congress opine that the Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (who brought suit against four states citing evidence of voter fraud), the 18 GOP Attorneys General, plus 126 Republican members of Congress who signed on, and President Trump, may be guilty of sedition and should therefore be charged and held accountable. Yes, I do believe a case could be made to support that. Stop reading now, this is going to get awfully boring.

Sedition is defined as laws, deeds, or words that disrupt the authority of a government. In early common law, the scope of the offense was broad enough that it included prosecution for uttering a derogatory remark against the king. The Sedition Act of 1798 - - which stated that any treasonable activity, including the publication of "any false, scandalous and malicious writing," was punishable by fine and imprisonment - - generated so much controversy that no similar laws were enacted in the United States until the 20th century. Although there have been several statutes since the 1700's that forbid seditious statements and writing, the protection of speech and press that the First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees all individuals has made them difficult to enforce except during times of national strife.

Now we're left to decide what STRIFE means, and does it apply in this case? Strife: conflict, discord, controversy, struggle, unrest (the opposite of peace and harmony) as in

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility..." Bingo, I do believe we're onto something here.

More than a month after his defeat at the polls, President Trump (and his many enablers) have been actively engaged in an unprecedented, un-American, and unconscionable effort to overturn the election. Trump has openly and brazenly pressured duly elected legislators to ignore the will of the voters and declare him the winner. Many who object fear having their houses bombed, their families attacked. Republican election officials who've certified the vote in several states have received death threats.

Yes, I would say this situation constitutes the basic elements of unrest and strife and those who knowingly are taking an active participatory part in advocating for it are guilty of sedition and should be held accountable to the full extent our laws allow.

In my lifetime (and I go back as far as FDR) this is the first time this line has been crossed by a President of the United States. History will remember... and history will carefully record where our leaders and our people stood in this moment.

David L. Snell – Franklin, N.C.

What's on your mind?

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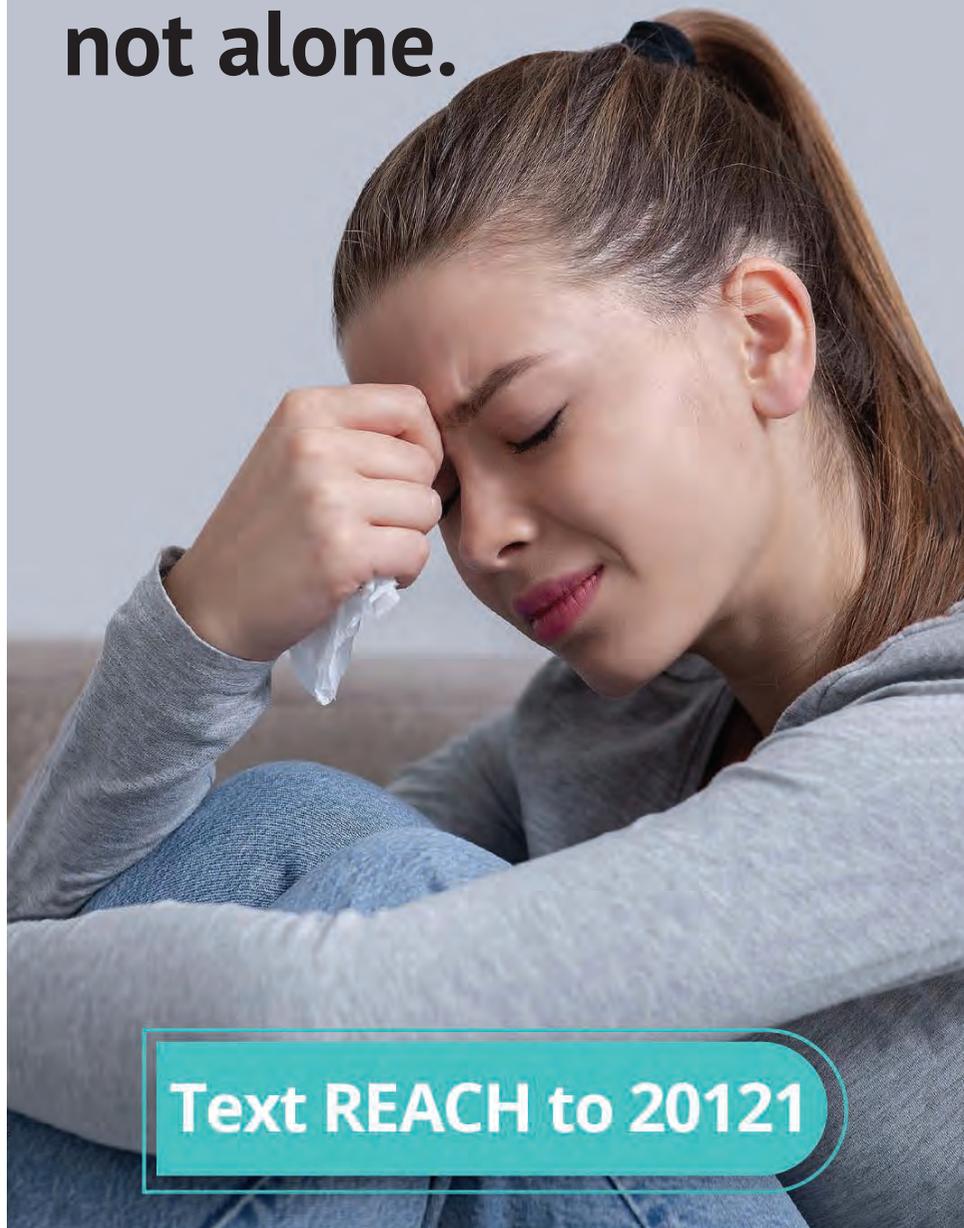
Bethlehem Experience Drive-thru Nativity

The Bethlehem Experience Drive-thru Nativity presented by the Cartoogechaye Baptist Church is being extended for two more nights this weekend, Friday, Dec. 18 and Saturday, Dec. 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. nightly at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. The journey begins at the main entrance of SMCPA, traveling to the front of the venue where twinkling lights dance to the sounds of the season. Passing through the gates of ancient times, visit the scene of the shepherds in the fields, the Wise Men, and the manger surrounded by the heavenly hosts. This event is a heart-warming celebration of the birth of Christ and the true meaning of Christmas. The event is free; donations will be accepted.

Photos by Betsey Gooder



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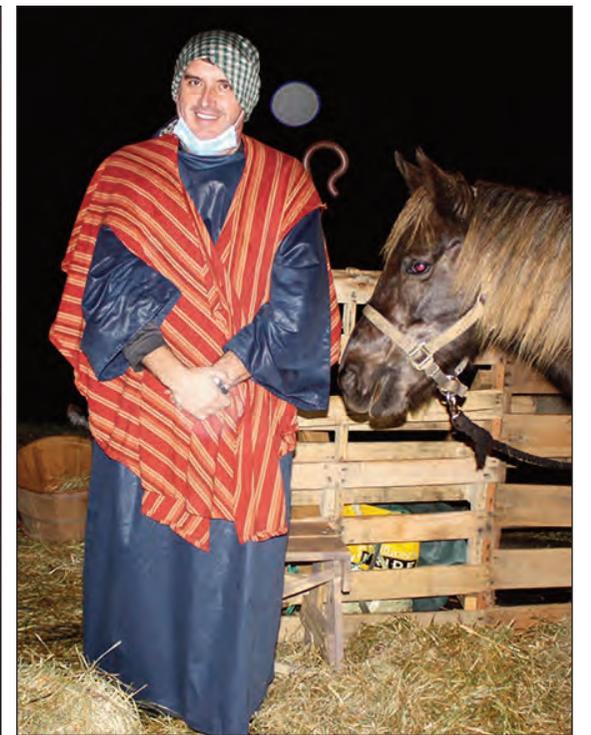
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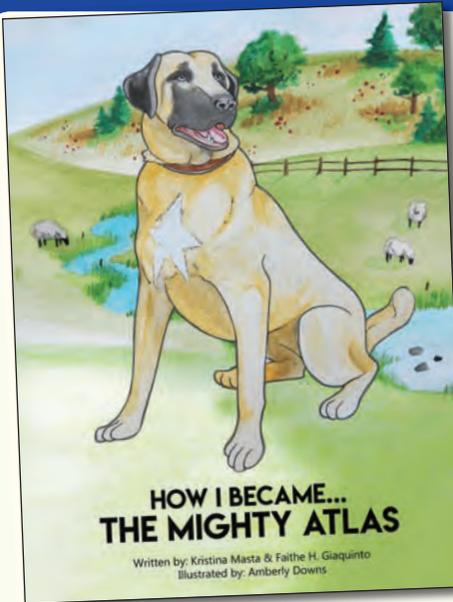
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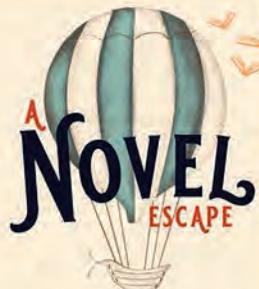
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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests December 3 - 13. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

December 6
Robert Tyler Shook, was charged with assault on a female. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

December 7
Dean Allen Kreis, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.
Derek Brandon Conley, was charged with communicating threats. Brent C. Ledford made the arrest.
Rickie L. Antes, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.
Donnie Dean Gooding Jr., was charged with trafficking opium or heroin, possession of stolen firearm. Nick Loft-house made the arrest.

December 8
Brandon Michael Martin, was charged with first degree murder, grand theft of a motor vehicle, destroy/altered/conceal evidence. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.
Kyle Jordan Jenkins, was charged with larceny, possession of stolen goods/property, larceny, failure to appear, probation violation. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.
Presley Nicole Cochran, was charged with failure to appear. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Jessie Lee Johnson, was charged with breaking and entering. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.
Ryan David Finn, was charged with trafficking in opium/heroin, conspire to traffic opium/heroin, possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a place for a controlled substances. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.
Megan Elizabeth Thomas, was charged with conspire to traffic opium/heroin, possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a place for a controlled substance. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

December 9
Jordan Marie Boecker, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.
Jesse Suttles, was charged with larceny of a firearm. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.
Stephanie Diane Evans, was charged with probation violation, school attendance law violation. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.
Jeremiah Noah Smith, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.
Tyler Lee Gilbreath, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen goods, obtain property by false pretense, felony probation violation. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.
Dustin Lynn Busby, was charged with failure to appear. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

December 3
Ronnie Lee Queen, 38, was charged with possession of

methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

Joshua David Shelton, 26, was issued an order for arrest for failure to appear for assault on a female. A secured bond of \$1,200 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

December 8

John Paul McCall, 37, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

December 9

Denise Kelley, 47, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set. Officer Evans and Sgt. Ashe made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

December 8

Blake Pearson Henry, 26, of Leatherwood Rd., was charged with larceny. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.
Stacey Cameron Hoyle Lowe, 28, of Leatherwood Rd., was charged with all other larceny. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

December 9

Jess Harvey Cagle, 48, of Macktown Dr., was charged with destruction/damage/vandalism of property, assault on a female, damage to real property. No bond was set. William K. Davis made the arrest.

Corinna Susan Degroff, 30, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. William K. Davis made the arrest.

Harvey Douglas Bumgarner, 35, of Floral Dr., was charged with felony possession of stolen goods, felony larceny. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set. William K. Davis made the arrest.

Robert Thomas Hoage, 72, of Old Settlement Rd., was charged with resist a public officer, indecent exposure. No bond was set. Ernest A. Scherman III made the arrest.

December 10

Christopher Allen Stewart, 48, of Timber Leaf Dr., was charged with larceny by an employee. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set. Scottie R. Holder made the arrest.

December 11

Courtney Leigh Hicks, 29, of Hicks Hollow Rd., Cherokee, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set. William A. Foxx made the arrest.

December 12

Brent William Berry, 48, of Tuts Terrace, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, simple assault. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. William A. Foxx made the arrest.

Jess Harvey Cagle, 48, of Allens Branch Rd., was charged with reconnect utility, breaking and entering. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set. Brandon D. Hooper made the arrest.

Peyton Ty Berry, 22, of Tuts Terrace, was charged with injury to personal property, simple assault. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set. William A. Foxx made the arrest.

December 13

Jeffery Spencer Green, 48, of Slabtown Rd., Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set. Robert E. Porter made the arrest.

Amanda Rae Santiago, 38, of Burbon St., Whittier, was charged with trespassing, larceny. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Ridge A. Parris made the arrest.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Christmas at the Hallers with 100,000 lights, lighted Trees, Animated Figures 6 to 9 p.m. nightly thru New Years. They are located at 607 Rabbit Creek Rd.

"Can't Coop Up Christmas" Party is planned for Thursday, Dec. 17, 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Smoky Mountain Event Center, 758 Crabtree Road, Waynesville. All Christian conservatives are invited to come out and celebrate Christmas with friends. Special guests speakers include local pastors, as well as elected representatives, including N.C. Senator Jim Davis, N.C. Representatives Mike Clampitt, Kevin Corbin, and others. The doors will open at 4 p.m., and there will be food, information booths, Christmas caroling, and Christmas cheer. No admission charge, but donations will be accepted. The event is co-sponsored by the Haywood County Republican Party and Smoky Mountain Republican Women. For more information, contact Charlene Hogue, President, Smoky Mountain Republican Women at (828) 371-8247 or Kay Miller, Chair, Haywood County Republican Party at (828) 246-9696.

Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies Graduation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. in the center auditorium, 336 Living Hope Way (formerly 336 AG Camp Rd.). Please wear masks until you are seated and when you leave. Chairs will be spread apart. For more information, call (828)524-2157 Go to www.livinghopeway.com for more information about out 12 month residential addiction recovery program for men.

Jackson County Branch of the NC NAACP Online Meeting will be held on Dec. 19, 10 a.m. The program topic will be "The State of the Movement for Equity." President Enrique Gomaz delivers his last report to the Branch. Members will also be electing officers to the National NAACP. Email jcnnaacp54@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online. The public is welcome to join this online meeting.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike on Saturday, Dec. 19, with an elevation change 700 ft., from Harrison Gap to Locust Tree Gap on a Forest Service Rd, returning on the Bartram Trail south with views on both sides of the ridge, north into Burningtown and south into Cartoogechaye. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 9:30 a.m., drive 25 miles round trip. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information or reservations, call Leader Gail Lehman, (828)524-5298.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike, on Sunday, Dec. 20, with an elevation change 300 ft., on Larry's Rd. (Forest Service Rd.7281) off the old Murphy Road. The road was named for Larry Jelley who first took the hiking group of Silver Striders there. There will be beautiful views into Cartoogechaye valley with the leaves gone. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 p.m., drive 22 miles round trip. Visitors and friendly dogs are welcome. For more information or reservations, call Leader Kathy Ratcliff, (828)526-6480. Visitors and friendly dogs are welcome.

Otto Garden Club has canceled their December and January meeting. For any information, contact Joan at (828)369-2801.

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

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 smccc.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 new hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Volunteer at Angel Medical Center Enjoy the reward of making someone else's day brighter by sharing your talents and time. Become a volunteer at Angel Medical Center. For more information, call (828)349-6639 or email Bonnie.Peggs@msj.org.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church's Sunday services begin at 9:30 a.m., with Sunday School for all ages. The worship service begins at 10:30 a.m., in the sanctuary. Pastor Scott Eichelberger will deliver the message. The music presentation will be from Dennis Henson and Pat Mennenger on the flute. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane, Franklin (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For information, call the office (828) 369-7977 or www.franklincma.com

Grace Baptist Church Christmas Service will be held on Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m. The Rankin Family will perform a Christmas Concert playing different instruments. Gregory will be preaching.

Victory Baptist Church will celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas morning, Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m. Brother Gary Crisp will be the guest speaker. Services will be in-person and drive-in at Victory Baptist Church or virtual at www.mountainvictory.org Everyone is welcome to attend. Victory is located midway between Dillsboro and Franklin on Highway 441. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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 us directly at admin@allsaintsfranklin.org or by calling (828)524-4910.

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 is 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.

Email church events to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

M	A	S	K	R	B	G	A	M	E	N		
E	C	H	O	M	E	O	W	H	B	O	M	
W	H	U	P	A	B	L	A	S	P	I	C	
E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	V	E	S	T	
C	A	R	D	S	E	O	N	E	O	N		
G	I	N	K	G	O	U	N	C	T	I	O	N
A	N	A	E	N	D	I	V	E	E	R	G	O
S	L	I	P	S	U	S	E	R	E	A	L	S
P	A	R	A	K	A	M	A	L	A	T	E	E
S	W	A	R	M	E	D	I	M	B	E	D	S
A	V	A	S	T	P	A	N	D	E	M	I	C
A	E	R	I	E	D	G	E	B	O	O	M	
S	T	A	T	S	N	A	R	D	E	W	E	R
K	O	B	E	D	R	Y	D	R	A	D	S	

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Celebrate Christmas with The Isaacs at SMCPA

The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts is very excited to once again welcome multi-award winning southern gospel family group, The Isaacs, to its stage. This phenomenal group will present their Christmas with The Isaacs show on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 3 p.m. This memorable occasion will celebrate the sights and sounds of the season and tickets start at just \$20 each.

The Isaacs have a unique style that has been influenced by many genres of music including bluegrass, rhythm and blues, folk, country, and southern gospel. They perform frequently at the Grand Ole Opry and are active participants on the Gaither Homecoming videos and concert series. They have won nearly a dozen Dove Awards in various categories and have earned several Grammy nominations as well. Some of their most popular songs include, "Stand Still," "From the Depths of My Heart," and "I Have A Father Who Can." Group members include siblings Ben Isaacs, Sonya Isaacs Yeary, Rebecca Isaacs Bowman, and their mother Lily Isaacs.



The Isaacs

Lily Isaacs was born in Germany after World War II to two Polish, Jewish Holocaust survivors and moved to the United States soon after her second birthday. She became a Christian in 1971 when her husband's brother was tragically killed in a car accident and she went to church with her husband Joe for the first time. Soon after that, Lily and Joe began singing Christian music and started building their ministry. Lily is a breast cancer survivor and was the inspiration for the hit county song, "I'm Gonna Love You Through It" recorded by Martina McBride. Lily's testimony has inspired people worldwide.

After Lily and Joe began having kids, their ministry became a family affair. Their son Ben began singing and playing bass at a young age. He is now married with three children and spends much of his time off the road in the studio producing for both The Isaacs and many other well-known artists including, The Gaither Vocal Band, The Oak Ridge Boys, Karen Peck, and many others. He has been nominated for multiple Grammys, has produced several Dove Award winning albums, and has been named Producer of the Year several times at the Absolutely Gospel Awards. He has also worked on numerous projects with artists such as Don Williams, George Jones, Merle Haggard, and Trace Adkins, to name a few. Ben accepted Christ as a young boy and

has always had a heart for helping and ministering to people.

Sonya Isaacs Yeary is Lily's oldest daughter. She has written songs recorded by Trisha Yearwood, Leann Rimes, Vince Gill, and many others. She has won several Dove Awards and has enjoyed singing background vocals for artists such as Reba McEntire, Brad Paisley, Dierks Bentley, and many more. Sonya had dedicated her life to spreading the gospel and shining God's light wherever she goes. She plays mandolin for The Isaacs and is married to singer and songwriter, Jimmy Yeary.

Youngest daughter Rebecca Isaacs Bowman plays the guitar for The Isaacs. She is married to singer, musician, and minister John Bowman. Becky started writing songs as a teenager and has written several number one hits. She has also sung background vocals for Paul Simon, Alabama, Dolly Parton, Jason Crabb, and many others. Becky has a passion for the Lord and loves to minister through her songs and personal testimony.

The beautiful harmonies The Isaacs are known for, and their devotion for telling the story of Jesus Christ, are the perfect accompaniment to Christmas treasures such as, "What Child Is This," "Winter Wonderland," and "I'll Be Home for Christmas." To purchase tickets or to find out more information about this or any other event at the theater, visit www.GreatMountainMusic.com or call (866) 273-4615.



Foley reaches milestone with Masters degree in nursing

The Overlook Theatre Company honored one of its own last week. Robin Michele Foley has earned a Masters of Science degree in Nursing from the University of South Alabama and is a Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner. Scotty Corbin presided over the event presenting her with gifts and creating a slide show highlighting her accomplishments. Pictured are (L-R) Taylor Foley, Dr. Kevin Foley, Robin, and Tyler Foley.

Photo by Betsy Gooder

Do-it-yourself centerpiece

Melinda Myers – Columnist

Dress up your holiday meals with a centerpiece crafted from greens, colorful stems and seed heads collected from your garden. Or purchase fresh materials you need from your favorite garden center or florist.

Start by gathering some greens. The fan-like sprays of arborvitae, blue-green sprigs of juniper as well as branches of yews, boxwood, pines and spruces can provide all the greenery you need.

Now look for items with interesting color or shape. Red and yellow twig dogwoods and paper bark birch add festive color to any arrangement. The interesting shapes of curly willow, contorted filbert and fantail willow provide intriguing form.

Next, gather cones, berries, and fruits. Look for orange and red rose hips, blue berry-like cones of junipers, sweet gum seedpods, and alder's cone-like fruit. Gather a few evergreen cones to include in or around your arrangement.

Look for potential adornments that are lingering in the perennial garden. Coneflower, rudbeckia, and allium seed heads can add a bit of structure to your arrangement. Gather a few milkweed, balloon plant and lotus pods. And don't worry, your milkweed plants will return for next year's visiting monarchs. Honor their natural color or add a bit of bling with some gold, silver, or red paint.

Include a few shiny ornaments as needed. Glittered stems, ribbons and candles can add festive color to nature's beauty in your centerpiece.

Visit your favorite florist or craft store for needed supplies. Pick up some floral foam to secure the stems. Cut it to shape to fit the size and shape of the container.

Moisten the foam before inserting fresh greens and cut flowers. Set the block of foam on top of a basin of water and let it sink. This allows all the air spaces to fill with water, ensuring your flowers and greens have the water they need. Use high density foam when working with evergreen boughs and branches. No need to moisten the foam when using dried and artificial material. This material makes it easier to create your arrangement.

Consider purchasing a few seasonal flowers for added color for your special event. These can be placed directly in the floral foam or water filled florist tubes set in the arrangement. Simply remove faded flowers and replace as needed. Or use miniature poinsettias, kalanchoes and cyclamen for longer lasting living color. Tuck them in the bed of greens or use them to decorate each place setting. Check the soil moisture frequently as the small pots dry out quickly.

The possibilities are endless, and the results are sure to brighten your spirits no matter how you are safely celebrating this holiday season.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



It is possible to create a festive holiday centerpiece crafted from materials found in winter gardens.

Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com



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- Green bean almandine
- Scalloped potatoes
- Mashed sweet potatoes/praline topping
- Apple cranberry salad
- Pomegranate orange salad

Choose one desert

- Chocolate ganache cake
- Tropical cheesecake

Orders must be placed by Sunday, Dec. 20.
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Deaths & Funerals

Carolyn Rice Stiwinter

Carolyn Rice Stiwinter, 75 of Cullowhee, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Friday, Dec. 11, 2020.

Born in Oconee County, South Carolina, she was the daughter of the late Grover and Doris Collins Rice. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas William Stiwinter; and a brother, Ralph Rice. She was a member of Yellow Mountain Baptist church.

She is survived by two sons, Darren Stiwinter (Jennifer) of Cullowhee, and Scott Stiwinter of Hendersonville; two brothers, GF (Ruth Ann) Rice of Brevard and David Rice (Cheryl) of Rosman; five grandchildren, one great grandchild and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service will be held at Stewart cemetery with Rev. Nathaniel Johnson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Stewart cemetery fund, c/o of Carl Stewart.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Vaughn Robert Hastings

Vaughn Robert Hastings, 77 of the Cartoogechaye community, went on peacefully to be with the Lord on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020, at his home.

Born June 8, 1943, in Macon County, he was the son of the late Lawrence and Lura Roane Hastings. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force. He was stationed in Germany and served two tours in Vietnam. He was proud to have served his country. He enjoyed buying and selling all kinds of vehicles.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by the love of his wife, Annabelle Alvarez Hastings in 2015, after 27 years of marriage. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Marshall Hastings and Dover Hastings; one sister, Kate Marie Hastings Baldwin Schmoll; and one stepson, Peter Kapinos.

He is survived by four sons, Tony Cutshaw (Katheryn) and Roy Cutshaw (Marcy) both of Pennsylvania, Jeffrey Hastings and David Hastings both of Tennessee; seven grandchildren, Michael, Kristina, Alexandra, Mason, Shea, Elizabeth, and Kerianne; and 12 great grandchildren; one stepdaughter, Karen Kapinos Swanson; step grandchildren, Christopher Swanson, Jeffrey Swanson, Jamie Tlaxcalteco (Enrique), and Katelyn Swanson; step great grandchildren, Josiah Tlaxcalteco, Tauriel Tlaxcalteco, Kalu Tlaxcalteco, Jesse Swanson, and Kayden Swanson all of California; numerous nieces, one nephew, and several great nieces, nephews, and great great nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Thursday, Dec. 10, at Maidens Chapel UMC cemetery with Rev Steve Reeves officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Carolyn Rice Stiwinter



Vaughn Robert Hastings

Mildred Taylor Turpin

Mildred Taylor Turpin, 85, of Franklin, N.C., died on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020.

A native of Rabun County, Ga., she was the daughter of the late Jesse Clayton and Jessie Marie Garland Taylor. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by two brothers, James R. Taylor and Denver C. Taylor. She loved working in her yard and caring for her beautiful flower beds.

She is survived by one son, Robert Kenneth Carpenter Jr. of Otto; two daughters, Patricia Carpenter Green (Jerry) of Franklin, and Wanda Carpenter Watts of Tiger, Ga.; sister, Eunice Emma Jean Billingsley of Scaly Mtn, Ga.; and one brother, Samuel Ruben Taylor of Tiger, Ga.; five grandchildren, eight great grandchildren; four great great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held on Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Black Mountain Baptist Church cemetery. Rev. Steve Reeves officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Black Mountain Baptist Church cemetery fund or Franklin Hospice House Foundation.

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



Mildred Taylor Turpin

Harold Bozeman Carter Jr.

Harold Bozeman Carter Jr., 89, of the Franklin community passed away on Dec. 3, 2020, in Maggie Valley. He was born in Charlotte on May 26, 1931, to Harold Carter Sr. and Allene Gertrude Harrison Carter. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Rowena Hughes (Scott), first wife, Jane Council Carter and sisters, Rowena Warren and June Votik.

He was an entrepreneur, owning and operating several successful businesses. He was a nuclear engineer, studying at NC State, and loved sailing on his sailboat, "Poppy." He also piloted private planes.

He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Norma Aycock Carter; daughters, Linda Lee Carter (Rick), Catherine Carter Hunter (Ivor), Christine Council (Brad) and Ashley Williams; brother, James Carter (Leslie); and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

Smoky Mountain Cremations and Funeral Service of Clyde is caring for the family. An online register is available at www.smokymountaincremations.com.

Jorge Armando Alvarez-Guzman

Jorge Armando Alvarez-Guzman, 41, of Cashiers, N.C., passed away Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, at his home.

He was born in Mexico, the son of Arturo Guzman Zavala and Leticia Guadalupe. Also surviving him is his wife, Maribel Medina; his son, Osviel Alvarez-Medina; brothers, Isaac Alvarez-Guzman, Alberto Alvarez-Guzman; sisters, Maria Alvarez-Guzman, Maria De Jesus Alvarez-Guzman and many other loving family members.

He was a man who never met a stranger. A very friendly person. He was a people person and loved to hang out. He was laid back and enjoyed cooking, spending time with his family and kept in contact with those in Mexico. He was a home painter by trade and spent the last 15 years painting homes in the Cashiers area.

A memorial service for Jorge was held Saturday, Dec. 12, in the chapel of Macon funeral home, Deacon David Ramsey officiated. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Jorge Alvarez-Guzman

Lorene Winnie Crail Stolp

Lorene Winnie Crail Stolp, 95, passed away Wednesday Dec. 2, 2020. She was born Oct. 29, 1925, to the late George and Ethel Stuart Crail.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, James Edwin Stolp in 2002; her son, Timothy Mark Stolp; a son-in-law, Bruce Thames; sister, Ada Jean Crail Kasa; and her brother, Orland Crail

Surviving is son, Tracy and his wife Yvonne; daughter, Jody Thames; daughter-in-law, Sally Stolp; sister-in-law, Nancy Crail; grandson, Justin and his wife Morgan Stolp; granddaughter, Tanya Thames; three great grandchildren, Madison and Mabry and Timothy; and a great, great grandson, Waylen.

She lived a full and wonderful life. She attended Coweeta Baptist Church, loved her family and raised her children at home. She loved to cook, she loved flowers and even worked at a florist. She and her husband enjoyed traveling and took many trips together making memories. James and Lorene opened a booth at a flea market. They sold housewares and RADA knives.

A graveside funeral service was held Saturday Dec. 5, in the Holly Springs Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Keith Ashe officiating.

Condolences can be sent to the family at www.Maconfuneralhome.com

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Lorene Winnie Crail Stolp

Mary Pauline (Polly) Rice Brooks

Mary Pauline (Polly) Rice Brooks, 87, of Franklin, N.C., entered into eternal rest to join our Savior in Heaven on Dec. 1, 2020.

She was born on July 24, 1933, in Highlands, N.C., to the late Mr. and Mrs. William Herbert Rice. She moved to Florida at the age of 5 and later returned to the mountains to retire.

She was a wife, mother, grandmother, and a homemaker. She also worked as the daycare director and church secretary of First Baptist Church of Port St. Lucie, Fla. She loved to do needlework, work on crossword puzzles, and to cheer on the Yankees as they played.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Joseph Richman (Rich) Brooks Jr.; her brother, Rev. Herbert Warren Rice (Bette) of Locust, N.C.; her children, Joseph Richman Brooks III (Sharon) of Franklin, Christina Brooks Hoeffner (Raymond) of Fort Pierce, Fla., and Kathryn Brooks Hyams (Jimmy) of Charleston, S.C.; 11 grandchildren, Jacob Brooks (Misty), Elizabeth Padgett (Shawn), Jeremy Brooks (Kira), Cody Brooks (Lulu), Candace Wickham (Jay), Christina Floyd (Graham), Shari Orr (Brian), Adam Hoeffner, Clayton Hyams (Naomi), Amy Bearden (Hunter), Ashley Grace Hyams and nine great grandchildren: Kanisha Brooks, Ean Brooks, Kylie Brooks, Jonah Brooks, Nick Padgett, Tyler Padgett, Emma Wickham, Cole Wickham, and Grayson Floyd; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her great granddaughter, Macy Tate Brooks.

She was a devout Christian who served our Lord by being a Sunday School teacher, Sunday School Director, Women's Bible Study Leader, church pianist, and she sang in the choir. Her favorite Bible verse was 1 Peter 5:7 - He careth for you.

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Deaths & Funerals

Michael Alan Crane 'Whitey'

Michael Alan Crane "Whitey," 70 of Highlands, N.C., passed away Monday, Dec. 7, 2020. He was born Oct. 1, 1950, in Rabun County, Georgia, to the late James Crane and Estelle Talley Crane. He enjoyed spending time with his beloved family of nurses and staff members at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center where he loved to sing, play Bingo and greet visitors. His smile and laugh served as a fixture there that will be greatly missed. He was known for his buck dancing and won many contests in his younger days. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and was of the Baptist faith.



Michael Alan Crane

He is survived by two sisters, Sandra Baty of Highlands and Marie Bowie of Liberty, S.C.; two brothers, John Crane of Easley, S.C. and Tom Crane of Pickens, S.C. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Jim Crane and Bill Crane.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Dec. 9, at the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. Ralph Campbell officiating. Burial followed in Scaly Mountain Methodist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jimmy Baty, Gerald Hedden, Wesley Hedden, Jimmy Ferreyra, Roger Baty, Henry Bowie and Timothy Hughes.

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

Carroll L. 'Chuck' Childers

Carroll L. "Chuck" Childers, 85, of Atlanta, Ga., passed away Monday, Nov. 30, 2020. He was a native of Franklin, N.C., a son of the late Herman and Josephine Snyder Childers.



Carroll L. Childers

He was a graduate of the Franklin High School, Class of 1953 and was awarded a football scholarship for Western Carolina College. He later studied at Georgia Tech and graduated from Georgia State University.

He worked many years at Lockheed Martin Aircraft Corporation in Atlanta, as well as Florida, New Jersey, and Panama. After retirement from Lockheed, he enjoyed a successful career as a Real Estate Broker in the Atlanta area.

He was a happy person, always smiling, and felt that he had been blessed with a good life. He was always ready to participate in conversation and laughter. He was an avid golfer, especially enjoying playing the courses in Scotland. He was a longtime member of the Atlanta Athletic Club.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Naomi Elliott Childers (2014); a sister, Mildred C. Cunningham (1974); and a brother, Bruce Childers (2017).

He is survived by a daughter, Cindy Childers Brooks of Knoxville, Tenn.; a son, Steve Childers and wife Cindy, of Atlanta, Ga.; a grandson, Dr. Matthew Brooks and wife Elizabeth of Falls Church, Va.; and great-grandson, Wesley Brooks (age 3); three sisters, Barbara Childers Simmons of Cypress, Texas, Patricia C. Saffo of Franklin, and Kathryn C. Teem of Waynesville, N.C.; a brother, David P. Childers of Lake City, Fla.; and numerous loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

No services are planned.

Patricia 'Pat' Ann Peavy

Patricia "Pat" Ann Peavy, 67, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020, in Asheville, N.C.

She was preceded in death by her father, Franklin Robert Turnbach; and sister in-law, Mary Turnbach.

She was a school bus driver for Macon County for 35 years, in fact, she recently drove the grandchildren of some of her first student riders. One of the best joys of the mornings on the bus, was to get to see the sun rise in the mountains. She loved to garden and enjoyed flowers very much, as the old wives' tale says, she had a green thumb. She read in Proverbs every morning of every day. Her favorite Bible verse was Isaiah 40:31 which she recited as her prayer to her own children each morning as they boarded their bus. Fernandina Beach, Fla., was the beach she enjoyed the most and made memories with her family. She loved walking on the sand and looking for shark's teeth in the surf. She enjoyed the sunrise and sunsets at the beach as well. She was passionate about seeing red tailed hawks and cardinals and she would always say "seeing a cardinal was God's way of showing her He was near."

Surviving are her husband of 49 years, Merrell O. Peavy; mother, Eleanor Letcher Turnbach; sons, Craig and wife Jennifer Peavy, Chad and wife Elizabeth Peavy; sister, Charlotte and husband Bill Balmer; brothers, Joe Turnbach, and Mike and wife Marcia Turnbach. She was beloved "Nana" to Jesse and wife Katelyn, whom Pat raised Jesse as one of her own sons, Cody Peavy and fiancé Deaven Golding, Alanna Peavy and fiancé Clark Dillard. Other grandchildren include Justin and wife Merinda Ward, Emma Peavy, Hailey Bass, Paige Bass, Sydney Bass and Aiden Bass. Her very first great grandson, Sawyer Peavy will arrive in April 2021. Also many nieces and nephews and many wonderful friends; she will be sorely missed.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, at Macon Funeral Home from 2 until 4 p.m.

Visit www.maconfuneralhome.com for updates on the service. Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Patricia Ann Peavy

Jessie Lee Welch Southard

Jessie Lee Welch Southard, 87 of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord with her children by her side on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Ed and Myrtle Brendle Welch. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Charles Robert Southard; brother, Dubois Welch; and half sisters, Gladys Henry and Louise Parker. She had lived most of her life in Macon County and had worked for many years as a nursing assistant at Angel Hospital. She was a member at Windy Gap Baptist Church and was very active in the Windy Gap Care Team ministry and her adult Sunday School class, as long as she was able. She could often be found tending to her beautiful flowers and watching and feeding her birds.

She is survived by her daughter, Debbie Pendergrass (Johnny); her son, Bobby Southard (Lesa); brother, Ray Welch; sister, Carol Angel, all of Franklin; five grandchildren, Angie Raby (Steve), Jamey Pendergrass (Jennifer), Julie Cochran (Jamie), Chris Southard (Cierra), and Kyle Southard (Amber); ;10 great grandchildren; one great great grandchild; and umerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A private funeral service will be held with Rev. Mark Bishop, Rev. Brian Browning and Rev. Brian Southard officiating. Special singing will be provided by Coleman and Audrey Buchanan. Graveside services will follow at Woodlawn cemetery.

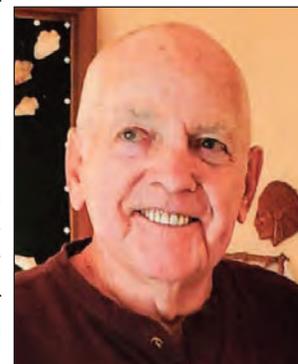
In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Grandview Manor, Attn: Memory Care Unit, 150 Crisp St, Franklin, NC 28734 so that others can continue to have the outstanding and compassionate care that Jessie received.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Rev. Billy Neal Rogers

Rev. Billy Neal Rogers, 79, of Cashiers, N.C., passed away Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020. He was born Sept. 11, 1941, in Haywood County, North Carolina, to the late Roy Melburn Rogers and Annie Mae Cloer Rogers. He loved studying God's word and was a pastor at Ray Town Baptist Church in Georgia. Deer hunting, fishing, and being a mentor to young children was a big part of his life. But above all, God and his wife Annie of 60 years, his children and grandchildren were his main reason for life. He was member of the Yellow Mountain Baptist Church in Cullowhee.



Rev. Billy Neal Rogers

He is survived by his wife, Annie Locust Rogers; a daughter, Virginia Hill (Tim); four sons, Eugene Rogers (Tina), Jimmy Rogers (Sandy), Juan Edwards (Deborah) and Larry Edwards (Debbie); a brother, Brenton Rogers; seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a sister, Relda Stepp; and three brothers, Junior Rogers, J.L. Rogers and Joe Rogers.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m., at the Yellow Mountain Baptist Church, Cullowhee, N.C., with the Rev. Carl Stepp officiating.

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

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

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NASCAR announces start times, networks for upcoming 2021 season

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – NASCAR, in collaboration with FOX Sports and NBC Sports, has announced 2021 race start times and networks for the NASCAR Cup Series, NASCAR Xfinity Series and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series seasons.

Twenty-three total races will air on FOX and NBC this year, a two-race increase over 2020. Eleven of those will air on FOX, including the first seven NASCAR Cup Series

races of the season beginning with the DAYTONA 500 (Sunday, Feb. 14, 2:30 p.m. ET). The first premier series race on dirt since 1970 will also air live on FOX when the Cup Series rolls into Bristol Motor Speedway (Sunday, March 28, 3:30 p.m. ET).

Another 12 races will air on NBC, including the debut of the NASCAR Cup Series at Road America (Sunday, July 4, 2:30 p.m. ET). The NASCAR Cup Series Championship

from Phoenix Raceway (Sunday, Nov. 7, 3 p.m. ET) highlights five NASCAR Cup Series playoff races airing on NBC.

Five NASCAR Xfinity Series tilts will air live on broadcast television in 2021, highlighted by the series' first visit of the season to Talladega Superspeedway (Saturday, Apr. 24, 4 p.m. ET, FOX) and three consecutive playoff races: the Charlotte Roval (Saturday, Oct. 9, 3 p.m. ET, NBC),

2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series Schedule

Date	Location	Network	Start Time
Saturday, Feb. 13	Daytona	FS1	5:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 20	Daytona Road Course	FS1	5:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 27	Homestead-Miami	FS1	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 6	Las Vegas	FS1	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 13	Phoenix	FS1	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 20	Atlanta	FS1	5:00 p.m.
Friday, April 9	Martinsville	FS1	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 24	Talladega	FOX	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 8	Darlington	FS1	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 15	Dover	FS1	1:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 22	COTA	FS1	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 29	Charlotte	FS1	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 5	Mid-Ohio	FS1	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 12	Texas	FS1	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 19	Nashville Superspeedway	NBCSN	3:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 27	Pocono	NBCSN	Noon
Saturday, July 3	Road America	NBC	2:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 10	Atlanta	NBCSN	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 17	New Hampshire	NBCSN	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 7	Watkins Glen	CNBC	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 14	Indianapolis Road Course	NBCSN	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 21	Michigan	NBCSN	3:00 p.m.
Friday, August 27	Daytona	NBCSN	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 4	Darlington	NBCSN	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 11	Richmond	NBCSN	2:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 17	Bristol	NBCSN	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 25	Las Vegas	NBCSN	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 2	Talladega	NBCSN	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 9	Charlotte Roval	NBC	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 16	Texas	NBC	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 23	Kansas	NBC	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 30	Martinsville	NBCSN	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 6	Phoenix	NBCSN	8:30 p.m.

2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series Schedule

Date	Location	Network	Start Time
Saturday, Feb. 13	Daytona	FS1	5:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 20	Daytona Road Course	FS1	5:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 27	Homestead-Miami	FS1	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 6	Las Vegas	FS1	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 13	Phoenix	FS1	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 20	Atlanta	FS1	5:00 p.m.
Friday, April 9	Martinsville	FS1	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 24	Talladega	FOX	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 8	Darlington	FS1	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 15	Dover	FS1	1:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 22	COTA	FS1	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 29	Charlotte	FS1	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 5	Mid-Ohio	FS1	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 12	Texas	FS1	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 19	Nashville Superspeedway	NBCSN	3:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 27	Pocono	NBCSN	Noon
Saturday, July 3	Road America	NBC	2:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 10	Atlanta	NBCSN	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 17	New Hampshire	NBCSN	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 7	Watkins Glen	CNBC	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 14	Indianapolis Road Course	NBCSN	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 21	Michigan	NBCSN	3:00 p.m.
Friday, August 27	Daytona	NBCSN	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 4	Darlington	NBCSN	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 11	Richmond	NBCSN	2:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 17	Bristol	NBCSN	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 25	Las Vegas	NBCSN	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 2	Talladega	NBCSN	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 9	Charlotte Roval	NBC	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 16	Texas	NBC	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 23	Kansas	NBC	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 30	Martinsville	NBCSN	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 6	Phoenix	NBCSN	8:30 p.m.

Texas Motor Speedway (Saturday, Oct. 16, 3 p.m. ET, NBC) and Kansas Speedway (Saturday, Oct. 23, 3 p.m. ET, NBC).

Martinsville Speedway will host a pair of primetime events in the spring with both the NASCAR Xfinity Series (Apr. 9, 8 p.m. ET, FS1) and NASCAR Cup Series (Apr. 10, 7:30 p.m. ET, FS1) taking the green flag under the lights on consecutive evenings.

The NASCAR Camping World Truck Series will be primetime viewing 13 times in 2021, highlighted by the first-ever NASCAR race on the dirt at Knoxville Raceway on Friday, July 9 (9 p.m. ET, FS1).

Additionally, the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and NASCAR Xfinity Series will take part in six Saturday day-night twin bills, including Atlanta Motor Speedway (March 20, 2:30 and 5 p.m. ET, FS1), COTA (May 22, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. ET, FS1) and the penultimate playoff races in both series at Martinsville (Oct. 30, 1 p.m. ET on FS1 and 6 p.m. ET on NBCSN, respectively). A Saturday Camping

Wood Brothers Racing Honored with Prestigious FIA Heritage Cup

For 70 years Wood Brothers Racing has excelled in – and transformed – the world of motorsports. As the longest tenured team in NASCAR history, the Wood Brothers have compiled a literal Hall of Fame resume both on and off the track. Beyond their countless trophies and accolades, innovations including the modern pit stop continue to define the Wood's legacy in racing series across the globe.

For their accomplishments across seven decades, Wood Brothers Racing has been named the 2020 recipient of the FIA Founding Members Club Heritage Cup. The award is presented to an individual, institution, entity or object in recognition of exceptional or outstanding achievement within or contribution to the historic vehicle world.

"It truly is an honor to win this award," said Eddie Wood, Wood Brothers Racing president and co-owner, and son of team founder Glen Wood. "The fact that it's a worldwide honor makes it even more special. We're mainly known in American motorsports, but this is much bigger than that."

Wood was a child when the team helped Jim Clark win the 1965 Indianapolis 500, but recalls the attention it brought his father's team.

"I was young when Indy was going on, but I remember him talking about the worldwide recognition they received," Wood said. "He was honored for people around the world to have heard of him and his brothers and what they were doing."

Glen also lent his expertise to the Ford factory team at Le Mans in 1966 when the GT40 Mark II teams swept the top three finishing positions in the iconic 24-hour event. The team's affiliation with Ford Motor Company continues to this day, seventy years strong.

In support of their nomination for the prestigious award, NASCAR Chairman and CEO Jim France wrote, "Having worked with them for almost 60 years, I can personally attest to their great character and dedication to motorsports. I can think of no group more deserving of the FIA Founding Members Club Heritage Cup Award."

Wood Brothers Racing has always had a knack for attracting the greatest racing talent in the world. Ten NASCAR Hall of Famers have taken the wheel for the team (Glen Wood, Curtis Turner, Junior Johnson, Joe Weatherly, Fred Lorenzen, Cale Yarborough, David Pearson, Buddy Baker, Dale Jarrett and Bill Elliott) as well as some of the biggest names in open wheel racing – A.J. Foyt, Dan Gurney and Parnelli Jones. The team remains committed to the preservation of motorsports history. Its one-time shop has been converted into a museum that traces the Wood's time in motorsports. They have also built replica cars for the NASCAR Hall of Fame and The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich.

2021 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Schedule

Date	Location	Network	Start Time
Friday, Feb. 12	Daytona	FS1	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 19	Daytona Road Course	FS1	7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 5	Las Vegas	FS1	9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 20	Atlanta	FS1	2:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 27	Bristol Dirt	FS1	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 17	Richmond	FS1	1:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 1	Kansas	FS1	7:30 p.m.
Friday, May 7	Darlington	FS1	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 22	COTA	FS1	1:00 p.m.
Friday, May 28	Charlotte	FS1	8:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 12	Texas	FS1	1:00 p.m.
Friday, June 18	Nashville Superspeedway	FS1	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 26	Pocono	FS1	Noon
Friday, July 9	Knoxville (IA)	FS1	9:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 7	Watkins Glen	FS1	12:30 p.m.
Friday, August 20	World Wide Technology Raceway	FS1	9:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 5	Canadian Tire Motorsports Park	FS1	1:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 16	Bristol	FS1	9:00 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 24	Las Vegas	FS1	9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 2	Talladega	FS1	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 30	Martinsville	FS1	1:00 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 5	Phoenix	FS1	8:00 p.m.

World Truck Series and Xfinity Series double dip in Texas (June 12, 1 and 4 p.m. ET, FS1) will set the stage for FOX Sports' NASCAR Cup Series finale, which will be the debut of All-Star festivities under the lights at Texas Motor Speedway (Sunday, June 13, 6 p.m. ET, FS1).

Finally, CNBC will be home to the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Watkins Glen International (Saturday, Aug. 7, 4 p.m. ET) as NBC Sports wraps up its coverage of the 2021 Olympics.

Complete times and network schedules are all times eastern and schedule subject to change.

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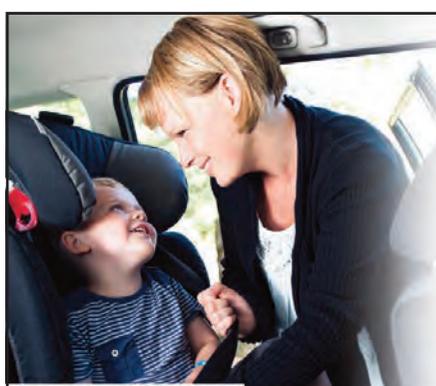
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	9				4	3		
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: YEAR IN REVIEW

ACROSS

1. *New wardrobe accessory
5. *RIP, ____
8. Flock's echo
12. Reply from a tunnel?
13. Feline noise
14. Edward Teller's "baby"
15. Beat
16. Competently
17. Savory jelly
18. *Blue vs. red competition
20. One third of a three-piece suit
21. Mailed greetings
22. Long time
23. ____ biloba
26. Anointing oil
30. Nurses' org.
31. Leafy vegetable
34. "Cogito, ____ sum"
35. Mooring spots
37. Bring into play
38. Old Brazilian coins
39. Prefix with 'graph'
40. *Joe's running mate
42. PGA peg
43. What bees did
45. Fixes firmly
47. Summer mo.
48. R in NPR
50. Widespread
52. *WHO's March announcement
55. Cliffside dwelling
56. Drop-off spot
57. Sonic sound
59. Sports figures, e.g.
60. Persian backgammon
61. Water carrier
62. *Late basketball legend
63. * ____ lightning, cause

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| <p>of California wildfires</p> <p>64. X-ray units</p> <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copy cats 2. Flu symptom 3. Synagogue 4. 1/100th of a ruble 5. Bid again 6. Western neckwear, pl. 7. Gwyneth, to friends 8. *Like a vote during lock-down 9. What Joy Mangano does on TV 10. Do like exhaust pipe 11. *"Transplant" network | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. ____ of honor 14. It's often wreaked 19. Zoo enclosures 22. Compass dir. 23. Labored breaths 24. *Jared Kushner to Donald Trump 25. Nigerian money 26. Part of an eye 27. About to explode 28. Looked at, amorously 29. Smelling organs 32. Two of the same 33. Philosopher's study 36. *Best Picture Oscar-winner 38. China grass | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 40. Party barrel 41. Having a cover 44. *What Zoom host does to guests, sometimes 46. Type of jacket 48. "M*A*S*H" character 49. Ticked off 50. *President Trump used this power in 2020 51. United ____ Emirates 52. Be undecided 53. *Caucus state 54. Like most universities 55. Pose a question 58. Robinson or Doubtfire |
|---|--|---|



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Although our 2020 season was met with many challenges, cancellations, and postponed events, we appreciate the continued support of our loyal patrons. Theatre creates family from friends and joins together people of different backgrounds and interests into one community. We look forward to the coming days when we can all gather once again and enjoy the company of one another. But until then, our prayer is for blessings to you and yours during this precious Christmas Season and well into the New Year.

With much joy and gladness,
Phil, Sharon, Scotty, Nikki, Logan,
Adam, Joel, Beka, & Faith



*And the angel said unto them; "Fear not, for behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy."*

Luke 2:10

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